

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with

ALFREDA AUSTIN WOODEN

At her home

INTERVIEWER: SHIRLEY TANZER

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SUMMARY OF TOPICS DISCUSSED

INTERVIEW WITH: ALFREDA AUSTIN WOODEN

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1. Family from Wisconsin to Beaverton and farm on Canyon Road
2. Dr. Robinson, Beaverton  
& Mrs. Weisenpflug, mid nurse
3. Mother worked as seamstress for Walker family
4. Discussion: Will Walker  
    Laura Walker's marriage  
    Archie Walker
5. Grandpa Walker killed by train
6. Open House at Weed home;  
    Their iris and peony plants
7. Canyon Road families; Smith, Johnson,  
    Kennedy, Schufflin, Lease
8. Summer vacations in Rockaway
9. Family traditions
10. Downtown Beaverton Businesses
11. Chinese in Beaverton

(Where unknown, phonetic spellings are used)

INTERVIEW WITH ALFREDA AUSTIN WOODEN

for

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Place: At her home

Interviewer: Shirley Tanzer

SHIRLEY TANZER: Alfreda, where did your family come from and how did they come to Oregon?

ALFREDA AUSTIN WOODEN: They came by train from Delevan, Wisconsin. My mother inherited some property here from her father and they came out here. The first six months after they came, they had to rent a house on 1st and Stott Street because the man who was the executor of my mother's estate had rented the land to Mr. Hunter in Beaverton. And Mr. Hunter had a year's lease on it so they had to wait until his lease was up before they could move into the house. So they lived down there -- right across from the old Congregational Church.

TANZER: Who was Mr. Hunter?

ALFREDA: Well, the Hunter's house used to set right up where the swimming pool is now. And I knew all the Hunter girls and the boys. Then they tore down the old home there (it was a farm, too).

TANZER: What was his first name?

ALFREDA: I think it was Bill. Bill Hunter. Because he had a boy by the name of Bud Hunter. Then there was a girl who I think is still living, Lottie Hunter was her name.

TANZER: But the executor had leased the farm.

ALFREDA: The farm, yes -- 17 3/4 acres.

TANZER: Now that 17 3/4 acres was your grandfather's farm? Where was it?

ALFREDA: Yes. He bought that. It was on Canyon, and it went clear back to Walker Road. And there was a little -- they called it a flatiron piece -- that was across from the road, but he never took that. The man that owned that, he just turned that over to them because it wasn't worth anything anyhow.

TANZER: It extended from about where on Canyon Road? I know the streets were not numbered then, but tell me.

ALFREDA: 103rd to 106th. And then when my mother passed away, my sister got half of the front and I received the other half. Then I have a brother who is 94 years old and he got part of the back. My mother had sold

on Walker Road. Then we sold that for him. He didn't want to come back from Wisconsin at the time and he lived in Wisconsin since he was 17 years old. He went back and lived with his grandmother. He liked it back there, he thought, and so he went back there and married and had his family in Janesville, Wisconsin.

TANZER: Let's go back a bit. I have a question. How was it that your mother lived in Wisconsin and your grandfather had this property here?

ALFREDA: When they first came from Sweden, my mother was two years old. And they went to Chicago. He was a shoe cobbler and had his own business there. When they had the Chicago fire, he made up his mind to come out here. He had a friend by the name of Nelson that came from Sweden with him and Mr. Nelson had relatives right out here in Beaverton so he come right out and bought the 45 acres where Nendel's is today. Then he persuaded my grandfather to come out and buy that 17 3/4 acres. So after that, my grandmother didn't want to come. She said she was afraid of the Indians and she took my mother and went to Delevan, Wisconsin, then and lived.

TANZER: What was your grandfather's name?

ALFREDA: Charles Johnson.

TANZER: And what was Mr. Nelson's name?

ALFREDA: K.C. Nelson.

TANZER: Are there any Nelsons still around?

ALFREDA: No. No. He and his wife had no children. His wife died, and then he married again, but he never had any children. I think he sold the land that he had before he passed away. But the Bilsteen's were his cousins. There was Abby and Charlie and Mattie. There was the two girls and the boy, and they lived right across the street from my folks where the Spa is now. That was their farm, the Bilsteen's.

TANZER: And they were also from Sweden?

ALFREDA: They were from Sweden but they had come earlier, before Mr. Nelson did. I think they wrote to him and wanted him to come out. That's why he come with my grandfather.

TANZER: So your grandmother remained in Delevan, Wisconsin. What were the circumstances of your family then coming out here?

ALFREDA: Well, my father and mother was married there in Delevan, Wisconsin. He was a carpenter and he had built a nice home there on Delevan Lake and they'd only lived in it two years when she received this notice one Sunday. My father's brother come to the house and he said to her, "Frieda, you have your picture in the paper." And she kidded about it. And he said, "Well, here it is. They're advertising for you. Your father has passed away. And you're heir to a farm out there in Oregon."

TANZER: What were their expectations when they came to Oregon?

ALFREDA: Well, I guess my father expected to farm out here. He had the 17 acres and he figured that he could make a living on it. But when they got here, they found out that the property had been rented; the farm had been rented for a year to a Mr. Hunter, so they couldn't get possession of it for a year. So they moved down in Beaverton on 1st and Stott right across from the Congregational Church and they stayed there then for a year and he did carpenter work around Beaverton.

TANZER: Now what year was this? Let's see, how old were you?

ALFREDA: I wasn't born. My sister was two years old and my brother was four.

TANZER: Your grandfather died in 1894, so it was about 1896 when they came out here?

ALFREDA: Yes.

TANZER: And so your father was able to make a living doing carpentry?

ALFREDA: Well, yes, and then when they did get back up there, they moved into this little three-room house which was moved from the Stitt farm. Mr. Stitt wanted to build a larger house and my grandfather bought that little three-room house and they hauled it up with a team on logs up there where my grandfather was living. He got that fixed up for himself and then, of course, when the folks came, they stayed on it for about 12 years, and then when I was born, why my father built on to the house and made it larger.

TANZER: What was the house like?

ALFREDA: You mean the little house? Well, as I remember it, it was a two-story house. He made a two-story onto the smaller part and there were a lot of square nails in that house because when my husband and I moved that house off the property onto another lot there, it came apart. The two parts come apart when the movers was moving it. And there was square nails in the thing.

TANZER: So. Hand-forged nails?

ALFREDA: Yes. But I was born there in that house and the doctor that brought me into the world was Dr. Robinson. And his house is still sitting there in Beaverton right next to the Bakery. And where the bakery is today, that was his drug store. It was attached to his house there. Then there was a lady by the name of Weisenpflug who lived down the hill from us. She was the mid-nurse. Her daughter is still living and she's 98 now. She lives at Clackamas. She is now in the convalescent home, but her home out there was at Clackamas.

TANZER: Where did the midwife live?

ALFREDA: She lived down where the re-alignment place is, just below the hill, by Dodie's. It was a big house in there.

TANZER: What is her daughter's name?

ALFREDA: Her daughter's name was Rose Smith.

TANZER: Do you ever remember her coming with Mrs. Weisenpflug?

ALFREDA: No. My sister and brother told how my mother wasn't feeling very good, so they just sent my sister, brother down to her house and told her to come right up and that they should stay down there. But then when Mrs. Weisenpflug came back to the house, they told her they could go home and find a new sister there (laughter).

TANZER: So she delivered you?

ALFREDA: Yes. Her and the doctor.

TANZER: Who helped your family get settled in Beaverton?

ALFREDA: Well, there really wasn't anybody that I can remember. I never heard my folks really say anything.

TANZER: What about Mr. Nelson? Who was the executor?

ALFREDA: Well, I imagine he helped them with everything.

TANZER: Do you remember Mr. Nelson?

ALFREDA: Oh, yes. Little, short Swedish man with a mustache, dark hair. He looked a good deal like my grandfather.

TANZER: But you showed me this picture of your grandfather and you said that that was the way your mother had identified herself. Tell me a bit about that.

ALFREDA: Well, they had written and said that she should come -- she had a tintype picture and my grandfather had one of him. And she had to send that out here to Mr. Nelson to identify that she was the daughter of Mr. Johnson and that's how she happened to get the property. Then there was another picture, too, that I have somewhere of my grandmother and my mother -- not on a tintype. It was taken, and I have that somewhere. I thought I had everything segregated, but I don't think I have.

TANZER: You don't remember your grandparents?

ALFREDA: No. When my grandmother took sick back east, my mother did go back to see her before she passed away, but money at that time was a little bit scarce so my father wouldn't let me go.

TANZER: Tell me about your father. Where was he born?

ALFREDA: In Wisconsin. In Delevan.

TANZER: And what type of childhood did he have?

ALFREDA: Well, it was a large family. There were five boys and one girl, and they were Christian people. My grandmother was Pennsylvania Dutch

and my grandfather was English. He came from England, but I don't know much of their history at all. Never did.

TANZER: Did your father have a good deal of schooling?

ALFREDA: Well, I don't think any of them did. I think eighth grade was as far as they went at the time. Because he learnt carpentry work and he went right to work as a carpenter.

TANZER: Well, I noticed the list that you showed me of the medical record your father kept of his family. By his handwriting and by the way he wrote this medical thing, he must have been well read.

ALFREDA: Yes, he was. He was a great one to read everything that he could get a hold of. The youngest boy was a jeweler back there. I don't know what the other boys' occupations were at the time.

TANZER: It is interesting that he was so farsighted that he kept medical records of his family.

ALFREDA: There was a family Bible but his sister-in-law got that when the grandparents passed away. I was back east one time and visited with her and her daughter and I saw that Bible up there and I said, "Is that the family Bible?" and she said, "Oh, yes, yes it is." But when my cousin passed away, I didn't get it. I wanted it but my brother never got over there to see if he could get it. The niece had a will and everything went to the Church. We girls were notified; we were heirs to the estate, but she had a will. She'd never married. So we never got anything from it. It went to the Church.

TANZER: What church was that?

ALFREDA: I think it was the Lutheran Church. There was a rocking chair there I'd love to have had. It belonged to the Austins but I didn't get it.

TANZER: Now, tell me about your mother. You've told me where she was born. What type of schooling did she have?

ALFREDA: Well, I think she had just about the same kind of schooling. They didn't go to high school very much in her time, but she was a wonderful seamstress. She could just sew anything. And, of course, I tried to learn to sew but I was lefthanded and she just couldn't teach me to sew. She'd start it out one way and it would be backwards to me, so that was why I didn't learn to sew until after I was married and then I got down and started sewing and I could do my own sewing.

TANZER: Did she do this work out of the house?

ALFREDA: Yes. There were different people in Beaverton who had her sew for them, Mrs. Spreyner -- they had the meat market in Beaverton there on Farmington Road.

TANZER: Farmington and what?

ALFREDA: Well, let's see, the Grange Hall was just across the street

from the meat market. And then there is a tall white building there and then there's the drug store. You see the drug store's on the corner and then you go west. They had their home there and the meat market all in one.

TANZER: Who were some of the other people she sewed for?

ALFREDA: Well, the Walkers. The Walkers on Walker Road, yes. Laura Walker. She did a lot of sewing for them.

TANZER: Tell me about the Walkers because Walker Road is named for them and they had one of the big, original land grants.

ALFREDA: Yes, they did have, yes. Well, they were great people. They were lovely people and, of course, I always called Mrs. Walker "Grandma" Walker, and Aunt Larua. And there was Mary. I didn't know Mary because she passed away before my time, and then there was Archie and Will. And Will Walker was an invalid and was in bed. He had TB. Mr. Walker was quite a businessman, and also Will. Will had some property and he was a well-educated man. He did all of his business right there on the phone in his bed. He would know everything that was going on -- stocks and stuff.

TANZER: Now how old were you at this time?

ALFREDA: Well, I was about 10, 11, 12 years old.

TANZER: Did you accompany your mother when she went to Walker's?

ALFREDA: Well, once in a while. Of course, if she went, she generally would go on maybe Monday and not come back until Thursday or Friday and I would stay home and go to school. My father would do the cooking and the housekeeping.

TANZER: Oh! Tell me about that. So she would move in with the family?

ALFREDA: Well, she had to stay there and do all that sewing. That would be maybe in the spring and in the fall. They had to have spring clothes and they had to have fall clothes. She sewed for Mrs. Walker and Luara.

TANZER: Tell me what the process was. That's very interesting. Would they buy the fabric, or would she?

ALFREDA: They bought the fabric and their patterns and she would go there. She made Laura Walker's wedding dress. Laura married the hired man. They had a hired man and she fell in love with him and she married him. And Mother was there and helped take care of the wedding and everything, made her wedding dress, so it was quite an event.

TANZER: Do you remember the wedding?

ALFREDA: Yes.

TANZER: Tell me about it.

ALFREDA: Well, it was a nice wedding. It was a home wedding. They were married in the big old parlor in the big old home there and then they went

away. They went to Portland. He worked for the streetcar company then. He quit there after they got married. He worked for a while but he finally thought he could make more money in Portland and he was the conductor on the streetcar in Portland for, oh, quite some years and then finally she didn't like it in Portland, so he decided he'd come back to the farm. So he did and he worked there until he passed away. Grandpa and Grandma Walker was gone and they stayed right there in the house and did the farming, and then he took sick and passed away and she stayed there for I imagine five or six years and then she got so bad that they had to put her into a convalescent home in Hillsboro. And she passed away there.

TANZER: How old was she when she died?

ALFREDA: Oh, she was at least 75, maybe almost 80.

TANZER: Are there any Walkers living?

ALFREDA: Well, there are two boys, I know. I know they live -- one of them is named Robert Walker. He was named after his father, so I don't know whether he is living in Hillsboro or not. Don't know what ever happened to the two boys.

TANZER: There was a story about one of the Walker boys drinking too much and the horse bringing him home from Portland. Can you tell me that story?

ALFREDA: Well, my mother was over there at the house at the time doing sewing. She had got up that morning and she looked out and there stood the horse all hitched up to the buggy and a pair of pants hanging over the wheel of the buggy. She called to Laura and said, "What's out there?" "Oh," she said, "That's Archie. He was in Portland and he probably got drunk, and the horse brought him home." And he was curled up in the seat in the buggy. So that was that. It was a great thing. But he was quite a drinker.

TANZER: What was the Walker home like?

ALFREDA: Oh, it was a lovely home. It was a beautiful old home. They had a parlor; they had a red rug in the parlor. It had roses on it. And she had an old-fashioned piano there. And she had all her flowers there. She had lots of plants. The windows went out, oval in front, and she would always have plants there. And they had nice furniture. Old-fashioned settee set in there; and they had a heater in there and when people passed away in the family, that was where the casket was brought for overnight before the funeral.

And then they had this long hall to go into a living room. There was nothing but baskets -- real woven baskets, Indian baskets, and Indian heads, pictures of Indians. And then you went upstairs and, of course, there was three big bedrooms up there and they built on over for one big room for Will to be in because he had TB and they had to have the air for him, and it was just solid with windows. And you'd go up there and it was as cold as ice -- that's the way they believed in getting rid of it, the TB. But then they had this living room, the dining room, and there was two lovely bedrooms. She had one room that she made into a -- she had her loom in there.

TANZER: Now, who? Was this Grandma Walker?

ALFREDA: Grandma Walker.

TANZER: She was a weaver?

ALFREDA: Yes, she could weave. Yes. This big loom, and I don't know whatever went to it, where it went. They had a melodian, and I used to play that every time I had a chance to go in there and I'd work that melodian. They did have an inside bathroom. They put that in later. And then this big bedroom down there. And then they had the big kitchen and a big fruit room in the back and from the back of that, there was a woodshed where they had the wood, and I remember lots of times that they'd butcher and they were fixing their meat -- they always gave my mother a big piece of beef to bring home or something.

TANZER: How many in help did they have?

ALFREDA: Well, they had this one man to help, when they could keep Archie busy there as much as they could before he married and left there for a while. That wasn't a very happy marriage, I guess, and then they separated. But they had the two children. I think there was just the two boys. And there was no girl that I can remember of.

TANZER: But did they have household help, people who helped in the house?

ALFREDA: Oh, yes, there was people -- a lady would come in and do the cleaning every week, and then their laundry was always sent out to a launderer. And of course, they always called up and ordered their groceries and the groceryman would come and bring their groceries. They had a lot of food for themselves. They had a big place where they raised a lot of their own food.

TANZER: Who did the cooking?

ALFREDA: Laura. Oh, yes. Grandma Laura did all the cooking, and then they had a big table in the kitchen. The kitchen was pretty good size and they had a big square table there, and then they had another table in the dining room. Company would come, they'd eat in the dining room. But they would eat in the kitchen if there was just the four of them there.

TANZER: What happened to Mr. Walker?

ALFREDA: Grandpa Walker was killed out at Orenco. He was walking there along the road and was going across the track to catch the train to go to Portland and he was going to change his will, and he never got there. He was far-sighted, thought the train was farther away than it was, and then it killed him. It hit him and killed him.

TANZER: What kind of changes was he going to make?

ALFREDA: I don't know. I really don't. Just all I know, I was a child and my mother and I had started to walk over. Mother was going to go there for one day and then I was going to stay with her and we got up there, almost up to where Ernie's Market is, and here come Sam, the husband of Laura, down with the horse and buggy. He was coming after my mother, and so my mother just had me turn around and go home. Then she went with them and was with them during that sadness. It seemed like, I don't know why, she was always like their own daughter, and she was there for over a week.

TANZER: You have some jewelry that was given to you. What was it?

ALFREDA: Well, Laura gave me a ring that was -- She was engaged once before and she gave me this ring which has two rubies in it and some little diamonds in it. She gave me that, and then she gave me another ring -- a cameo ring with little pearls all the way around it, and then she gave me her cookbook that she received for a birthday gift in 1861. I still have that, and then I have the third publication of (Oregon, On Oregon, History of Oregon?). I've got that, and I'm going to give the cookbook probably to Beaverton's history when I'm through with it. I want my daughter to see that they get it. And maybe the Oregon book if they'd like to have it.

TANZER: So you kept up this relationship with Laura?

ALFREDA: Oh, yes, yes. I kept up the relation.

TANZER: What was her married name?

ALFREDA: Olds. Laura Olds. His name was Sam Olds. O-L-D-S.

TANZER: How did the family react to her marrying the hired man?

ALFREDA: Well, they wanted her to marry this doctor but, I don't know, she just wasn't interested in him. I think moving into Portland... I think Sam just kind of threw her off her feet when he come. He was a nice-looking man and he was a nice man, but they seemed to think she ought to have somebody that was more educated, but she couldn't see that. She was a homebody there and, of course, when they moved to Portland and had their home in Portland, why she saw what the city was like and she'd rather be back on the farm. So then they came back on the farm.

TANZER: And they never had children?

ALFREDA: No. No children.

TANZER: Did you keep in contact with her until she died?

ALFREDA: About two weeks before, but she got so she didn't know any one. No, I went up there and was up there, tried to get up there every week to see her. Sometimes it would be two weeks, but I always caught the dickens when I missed a week (laughter). She'd say, "I was lookin' for you. You haven't been here for a long time!" But she was a very nice person. Both Grandma and Grandpa Walker. I didn't know him as well, although he always used to kid me and say, "Well, you're not calling me 'Grandpa.' You always call 'Grandma' but you don't say 'Grandpa' very often." But they were lovely people.

TANZER: What other families did your mother work for?

ALFREDA: Well, she did do some sewing for Mrs. Weed. Yes, she did sewing for Mrs. Weed. Of course, the Weed family was very nice people. We knew them. --With their irises and their peonies. Mr. Weed started out with peonies first and then they went into the iris gardens.

TANZER: Your mother used to help Mrs. Weed with the openings, you told me.

ALFREDA: Yes. They would have once a year in the summer, when the irises were in bloom, they would have an Open House and my mother would go up there a couple of days before they had this Open House flower show and help Mrs. Weed cook baked ham and fix salads and cakes and things, and people from Portland would come out and look at all the irises.

I'd go up and help at the Open Houses. I helped them take the paper plates out -- they would put tables out underneath the trees and then they would bring the food out there and then after the people had looked at all the irises and got the orders, (They would take orders that day for irises for delivery in the fall.) they'd come and have their eats and go home. Lots of cars would come up there -- all the old-fashioned cars. They were nice cars. But they were all from Portland. That was his advertising. That's the way he advertised the irises. And he had peonies, too -- had beautiful peonies there.

TANZER: What was that neighborhood like? Well, first of all, they lived in -- did they live in the big house?

ALFREDA: No. They lived in the log house.

TANZER: Who lived in the big house?

ALFREDA: Well, the big house wasn't there. They built that later.

TANZER: What did the rest of the neighborhood look like, Alfreda?

ALFREDA: Well, it was just large farms -- well, not large, but they were pretty good size.

TANZER: But I mean up in the area that is now Vista Hills, which was all the Weed property?

ALFREDA: Mr. Weed had that all cleared. That was nothing but woods -- big trees and everything clear back. We used to go up on the hill up there and pick lilies and trilliums in the Spring. Of course, I knew Wilbur Weed and Thurlow and also the sister, Edith.

TANZER: Did the property go clear up to where the Sinclairs lived? They live on Imperial Drive which is the hill above.

ALFREDA: Well, it was pretty level after you got up on the hill and it went straight back.

TANZER: Where were the iris and peonies planted?

ALFREDA: There was a different road there. And it would be that whole side east and then clear back, back of the house.

TANZER: You've mentioned that the irises were all on the east side.

ALFREDA: On the Canyon Road, going east, yes.

TANZER: And up on top were the irises?

ALFREDA: Up in front of the old house, and they made a circle around there, and then where the new house was, that was irises, too. There wasn't a road next to the new house at that time.

TANZER: Now, where were the peonies?

ALFREDA: Peonies. Well, first he put the peonies in there, and then gradually he went out of the business of peonies and went into the iris business, and then they replanted where the peonies was to start with iris, and the back of their house, clear back, way back in the field, was irises --lots of irises.

TANZER: So the portion that went north and east as you're on Canyon Road and looking kind of up the hill, the portion that went north and east was irises?

ALFREDA: First they were peonies and then they transferred and went into the irises.

TANZER: And all the rest was just woods and ...

ALFREDA: Woods, you had that all cleared in the back and as they cleared it they put in the irises -- peonies to start with.

TANZER: Did your mother move in with the Weeds and sew for a few days?

ALFREDA: No. No, she walked home, because she was only just a little ways, you see, from them. She used to sew for the girl, Edith.

TANZER: Any other families that you recall?

ALFREDA: Well, of course, there was the Johnsons that lived down the hill where the Pontiac people is. There was an old house there; it was painted grey, a two-story house and it had a lion's head -- the porch come down, you know, and that lion's head was up there. I often wondered what happened to that lion's head when they tore the house down. Mr. Johnson tore it down and built a new home there, and it was a very nice home. When it was sold, that house was torn down. And there were two big oak trees there between the sidewalk -- on each side of that sidewalk was these mammoth, big oak trees and Mrs. Johnson had put in her will that those trees was never to be cut down -- and I guess there was quite an argument about it when it was sold and the Pontiac people put that in, but the trees was cut down.

TANZER: Now who is Mr. Johnson?

ALFREDA: Well, they were people that come from Iowa. His brother -- the house where this Mrs. Weisenpflug who brought me in the world -- they sold that house to this Mr. Smith. And they came out -- the Johnsons came first-- Mrs. Johnson was a Smith girl, and then they got her brother to sell their big farm (they were farmers back there) and they bought that place down there. It ran from Canyon Road to TV Highway. It was a large farm, and their youngest girl and I was very good friends. I was the same age. I know I got the mumps from her! (laughter)

TANZER: What was her name?

ALFREDA: Cecille. Cecille Smith. She passed away many, many years ago. There were three girls, Pansy, Marguerite and Cecille. They were great people. Mrs. Smith used to take the girls down to the White Hall to dance. We'd go down there and Mr. Smith used to go down and play pool. Once in a while he'd get a little more than he ought to of drink, and one time we was down there and this Mr. Johnson was a small man, and Mr. Smith was a pretty good-size man, and so we started to walk home and we was walking on these planks -- well, it was dark, and you couldn't see hardly, so they got in the middle of the road -- well, the road was muddy -- and just before you got to their house was that creek, and so the water was coming up over the bridge there, so Mr. Johnson picked Mr. Smith up, carried him across the water so he wouldn't fall down in the mud puddle (laughter).

TANZER: What was the creek?

ALFREDA: You know where Dodie's is?

TANZER: Yes.

ALFREDA: Well, there's a creek down there, and there was a little bridge. When we went to school, we never went on those planks because we didn't know; they were floating, because in the wintertime, that water would come up over that, and of course, we'd have to walk down the middle of the road, and sometimes we had wet feet when we got to school.

TANZER: So that creek must have been diverted.

ALFREDA: Yes.

TANZER: Is that Fanno. Is that part of Fanno Creek?

ALFREDA: Well, it would have run off from Fanno, yes. Then it comes down where this creek is down in the lower part down here by Beaverton, so we had to laugh about him having to carry that Mr. Smith across there, because he was afraid he'd fall down in the creek.

TANZER: So you really had a very nice neighborhood feeling. How far would you say your neighborhood extended?

ALFREDA: Clear to Beaverton.

TANZER: And then to West Slope?

ALFREDA: No. Well, there was -- talking about the Kennedys -- the Kennedy place was down below the hill there. There was a log house down there and the Kennedys had that, and that was Mr. Kennedy's.

TANZER: That was Mr. Kennedy's on that side?

ALFREDA: Well, this was a Kennedy that lived across on Canyon Road. That was another Kennedy. But I think it was a brother. It could have been Mr. Kennedy's brother. My sister could tell you more about that.

TANZER: No, there was another Kennedy but it was no relation.

ALFREDA: She spoke on that? Yes. Well, they lived in that log house.

TANZER: The other Kennedy, not Agnes's family.

ALFREDA: No. I went to a wake...

TANZER: You went to a wake there in the log house? Tell me about it.

ALFREDA: Well, it was quite a wake. My father and mother went and took me. They used to have wakes, and the coffin was in the parlor, you know, and it kind of scared me. You know, you get scared when you're a child. I never will forget it. It was quite a wake.

TANZER: Who was it that died?

ALFREDA: Mr. Kennedy.

TANZER: What other members of the family were there, of that Kennedy family?

ALFREDA: I really can't tell you; I was awfully young at the time, but I do remember that there was two or three girls -- one girl, I know, married a Jones, and they lived across the road from there. And there was the Leases and the Schufflins.

TANZER: Now where was their property?

ALFREDA: The Leases property was up -- there was a big prune orchard there in front of the place. The old house is still back there -- the Lease place.

TANZER: Was it north or south of Canyon Road?

ALFREDA: It was north, on the left-hand side going up towards Portland, and the Schufflin place was right next to it.

TANZER: So that would be between Walker Road and West Slope, is that right?

ALFREDA: Yes, it was on Canyon, you go down the Hill -- the Kennedys, and the Leases property was next to the Kennedys, and then the Schufflin. And that was three farms all in that one strip there.

TANZER: And they were all north between Walker and Canyon Road?

ALFREDA: Well, they were on Canyon Road.

TANZER: They faced Canyon Road, and they went back. That must have almost been to West Slope then.

ALFREDA: It was. The Schufflin property was right up there at West Slope.

TANZER: Did they have children that you associated with?

ALFREDA: The Lease girls, yes, a couple of the younger ones.

TANZER: Now tell me where you were in the family, and let's name your family members.

ALFREDA: Well, my brother George, and he was 93 in June.

TANZER: So he's 14 years older than you are?

ALFREDA: Yes, and he lives in Janesville, Wisconsin, and my sister Hazel Stricker, she was 91 in July and she is in California. She lives with one of her daughters now. She comes here and lives with the other daughter in Beaverton, Mabel, about three months and then she goes down to Auburn, California to Alice's -- Alice Morgan's place. So she keeps flying back and forth on the plane.

TANZER: So you must have had a close relationship.

ALFREDA: Our family is all close.

TANZER: And you must have had a particularly close relationship with your father because he took care of you while your mother was gone.

ALFREDA: Oh, yes, my mother could leave for a week and you'd never know that she was gone because he was so particular about everything. He always put my lunches up in the morning and had my breakfast and I was gone. And he'd go out and do the work he had to do on the farm.

TANZER: What did he farm?

ALFREDA: Well, he raised strawberries and lots of potatoes and we always had a big garden, always had our own cow. Of course, in the summertime, when I was about 10, 11, we used to go down to Rockaway to the beach for a week, get on the train and go down through Buxton, go down to Rockaway and be there a week and then come back; that was our vacation every year.

TANZER: Where did you stay?

ALFREDA: At Rockaway? Well, there was a place right there at Lake Kleidel that we stayed with some people. They had the little houses with tents, you know, that's the way we stayed for the week. We were there on the lake.

TANZER: The whole family went?

ALFREDA: Just my father and mother and I. Of course, I was alone, I was really raised alone because my sister got married when I was six years old. I just started school when she was married. And my brother was gone, so I was really a loner.

TANZER: What kind of traditions did your family observe?

ALFREDA: Well, they made quite a bit of Christmas. My sister had moved up to eastern Oregon at one time. When she was married and on her honeymoon, my brother-in-law had a farm up at Antelope. That's where she went to live for

five or six years and then they came back. They'd have one year of good crop and the next year, why they wouldn't have, and they just got sick of having that go on, and they came back here and he worked at a creamery in Portland, my brother-in-law did.

TANZER: Which creamery?

ALFREDA: Hmmm. The Raven, I think.

TANZER: So you had a big observance for Christmas.

ALFREDA: Yes, and of course, my brother-in-law quit there and they built a house on Walker Road on my folks' place there. It still stands and the barn is still there. He had a milk ranch there.

TANZER: Now where is it on Walker Road?

ALFREDA: Right back of my folks' place right there; it's a square house where the roof goes up like this and the barn sits way back. You know where you come around that sharp curve and come towards Portland, well, that corner there that comes down 106th -- that was the end of my folks' place there, and he had that and then the house is right up -- there's a house on the corner now, and then the next house is where they lived. One niece was born there, the youngest girl.

TANZER: Do you know who owns the house now?

ALFREDA: No, I don't.

TANZER: Have you sold off all that property?

ALFREDA: My mother sold that part of it off before she passed away.

TANZER: But of the property that was there, have you sold it all?

ALFREDA: Yes. My sister sold, and the Beef & Brew is on that corner where her house was. And then I hung on to my property until two years ago and then I sold that.

TANZER: Well, you're smart, Alfreda, for holding out as long as you did.

ALFREDA: Yes. I really didn't have to sell it, but my children they wanted me to build on for the man that rented it, and I didn't feel like I was up to worrying about building and everything, so he wanted to buy it, so I sold it.

TANZER: How did you spend your holidays?

ALFREDA: At home. They always had a Christmas program at the church in the evening and so Mother and I would always go down. Dad never went very often. But once in a while he'd go with us. We always had a big Christmas party down there and Mrs. Cady used to have a big basket of oranges and they'd have Christmas candy in little bags and that was our big Christmas, you know.

TANZER: Why didn't your dad go?

ALFREDA: Well, in the wintertime, he was always afraid of fire. And you know, we had a wood stove to heat and he was one that would rather stay home and see that things were taken care of. Of course, at Christmas he'd always bring out the Christmas gifts for me and everything was set up in the parlor when I got home. I still have my last doll that I got. She was 21" long. I wish she was here. If I'd of known that you were going to be here, I would have brought her home. I was up there the other day.

TANZER: Well, let's bring her here, and I'd like to take a picture of you with her.

ALFREDA: Oh. Well, I can probably get her Sunday and you can take it Monday. But she's a beautiful doll. I had her in my cedar chest for years. All the rubber in her arms and legs were loose, you know, and I just had her restored. She has her original hair, which I bobbed (cut).

TANZER: Did your mother make clothes for her?

ALFREDA: Yes, but they wore out, and then when I got her restored, why then my daughter and I started making clothes and we couldn't find a pattern for her.

TANZER: How old were you when you received this doll, Alfreda?

ALFREDA: I was six years old. That was the last doll. My aunt worked for Meier & Frank's in the doll department and she bought that doll for me for Christmas. So I received that doll. It was quite a shock because my mother and I had gone down to the Congregational Church to the Christmas party and that was always a big thing because Mrs. Cady always had lots of oranges and Mr. Cady was there with bags of candy and we looked forward to that Christmas. We came home and I walked in and said to my father, "Has Santa Claus been here yet?" and he said, "Oh, yes, he's been here and gone," he said, and I said, "Well, what did he bring me?" and he said, "Well, I don't know, I was busy in the kitchen and he was in the parlor," and he says, "You go in and look." And I went in and there was a little round table and the rocking chair and what sat in that rocking chair was a nice, great big doll. And I still have that doll. So I had her all restored. The rubber in her joints -- they were too old, and this last year I had her all fixed up. She's up at my daughter's yet, but I'm going to bring her down. I would really love to see her. You'll get to because I'll go up Sunday and get her.

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

ALFREDA: Well, that was one thing that my mother was always very staunch about, was for us to go to Sunday School on Sundays and we did. We walked that mile down there and back, and Mother generally went with us. There was other girls on the way down that would go, too; two girls who were friends -- Frieda Amell -- her name was Zimbrick at that time. They lived right next door. She was the one that I met when I was six years old, and we used to go to Sunday School every Sunday together. Well, we always had a religious life, and my sister and brother both always went to Sunday School. I remember Mrs. Cady very well, and her daughters.

TANZER: The Cady's had the General Store.

ALFREDA: No, that was a different Cady. Mr. Cady, that was her brother, the picture's in the paper. His brother -- and they was together.

TANZER: They had the store downtown in Beaverton. Is that where the Cady Building is? That's the building that is still there.

ALFREDA: Well, it wasn't a brick building at the time. It was made of wood, and I think the Cady that belonged to our church that run the church there, he bought his brother out and then his brother moved to Hillsboro, as I recall, and then over on the other side where the bakery is, across the street from there was another grocery store and the man's name was Hedge, Mr. Hedge.

TANZER: That's on the same side as the present Holland Feed Store?

ALFREDA: Well, no, it's up farther towards Beaverton -- about where that restaurant is in there.

TANZER: You mean where Giovanni's is?

ALFREDA: Yes. It's down just a ways from there. He had his home there and a grocery store.

TANZER: What other stores were there in downtown Beaverton?

ALFREDA: Well, on Farmington, of course, there was the bank and Dean's Drug Store. That's been there many years. And then right next to Dean's Drug Store, that would be where the Cady's was. And then there was the Sprenger's Meat Market right next to that, and across the street from that would be the Grange Hall which was a landmark.

TANZER: That was the Grange Hall, and then the old Grange Hall.

ALFREDA: Yes. Now, there's a tavern right next to it. But that corner there was our Grange Hall.

TANZER: And then the Commercial Hotel was ...

ALFREDA: That was way up. There was, were the beauty school is on the corner, that was a bank, and then right up from there was the hotel. Commercial Hotel, yes.

TANZER: Was race important at all to you as you grew up -- or different races?

ALFREDA: Well, there were only just the Chinese there. Where Guy Carr's building is, there was an old home there that belonged to the Rossi's, and they rented it to some Chinese. They raised onions and all kinds of vegetables. But I was scared to death of those people. And if I had to walk home alone from school, I'd climb up the fence and go clear out in the Gaskell's field and go past their house and around because I was afraid to go up the road past that house. And when I'd start out at school in the mornings, if I saw that wagon coming up the road, I went right back home, I was so scared of them.

TANZER: What were the reasons for that?

ALFREDA: I don't know. I was just -- just their looks scared me. So one time I came back and my father said, "Well, this is it. There's gotta be some change here. You've got to get acquainted with those Chinese men, and they won't bother you. They won't hurt you." So he made me go right out there, and when the wagon come up, why he stopped them and he told them that I was afraid of them. And the man stuck his hand out to take a hold of my hand, and I was just petrified. I didn't want to touch him at all. But my father made me shake hands with him and after that, why I was all right. And they used to bring us some kind of Chinese candy, maybe once a week would bring me a bag of this Chinese candy from Portland.

TANZER: What were they like?

ALFREDA: Well, it was a good deal like this roped licorice. But it was cut up in little squares. And they would bring that to me every week, because they knew I was afraid. And then after that, I wasn't -- I'd go by there and if there was some of them out there in the yard working, I'd wave, and that was all right.

TANZER: Did they have any families with them?

ALFREDA: No, they seemed to be just all Chinese men working there, renting the property. I never did see a lady there. And then we had the people by the name of Wolf, lived next to them. He made sauerkraut and dill pickles and they had big barrels of them and I used to beg for a nickel to get a couple of pickles from them. Dill pickles. Oooh, they were so good! And their sauerkraut was so good.

TANZER: Now, that was right on Canyon Road just about where Carr Chevrolet is now?

ALFREDA: Yes. A big old house there, and they never painted those houses for some reason or other, or the paint wore off of 'em. But Lawrence Wolf was his name, and he lived there. And every Fall, why they'd make this sauerkraut in these big barrels and their dill pickles, and they were just out of this world.

TANZER: Now where did you go to school?

ALFREDA: Well, of course, I went the first six months down in the old schoolhouse there by the Safeway. And then I went to school up where they built the new one, and that's right at one end of where the high school is now. I have that picture.

TANZER: Now that is Beaverton School. And you went there through the eighth grade?

ALFREDA: Yes, and started high school and I took down with the flu. And that was in November, and I was so sick. If it hadn't been for Dr. Mason, I wouldn't be here today. And I didn't get to go back. So then in the summertime, I decided I'd go to work at Meier & Frank. Some of the girls were going to work; some of them didn't go on to high school. So I proceeded to go on and

go to Meier & Frank's and go to work. I never got back to high school. I studied my high school, some studies, typing and things like that at home. My father finally bought me a typewriter and I've still got that old typewriter.

TANZER: How did you get to school?

ALFREDA: Walked. With my friends. I had two girls who lived over on Walker Road and they used to come up over the hill by another Nelson's and come down and meet us and we'd all go to school together. There was Mary Roh and Ernestine Beeler (her name now); her name was Masters at the time. And we used to all walk together.

TANZER: Did you have some chores?

ALFREDA: Oh, yes, you bet. When I got home I changed my clothes and got the woodbox full every night. That was one chore that was a "must." And I always helped my mother wash and dry dishes and get out and study, both my father about arithmetic. He used to get so disgusted. I couldn't figure out just what that was all about, but I finally would get it. He was good at arithmetic; he liked arithmetic and history. To this day, reading books now on history -- every state.

TANZER: Did your father make a good living from the farm?

ALFREDA: Well, modest. And of course, Mother always helped out, too, with her sewing. Of course, they didn't get paid what they get today for sewing, I can tell you that.

TANZER: What did your father raise?

ALFREDA: Well, he raised strawberries, potatoes and then we had an orchard there and in later years, we had a fruit stand out in front of the house and people used to come on Sundays and Oh! we'd just sell all kinds of apples and he used to raise pumpkins and melons and watermelons.

TANZER: Where was the fruit stand?

ALFREDA: Right out in front of the house, on the piece of ground there. He tore that fence down in front of the house and then he put our fruit stand there.

TANZER: Until what year was that?

ALFREDA: Well, I think about 1924 was when he quit.