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BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with

ROSE MERLO BIGGI

INTERVIEWER: SHIRLEY TANZER

Date of Interview: November 1, 1982

SUMMARY OF TOPICS DISCUSSED

INTERVIEW WITH: ROSE MERLO BIGGI

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

1. Family from Campomorone, near Genoa, Italy
2. Father to South America
3. Beaverton Commercial Hotel
4. Her father (Merlo) farms on the beaverdam
5. Grandfather Reghitto named town of Cipole
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 - Horseradish from Klamath Falls area
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15. Her children and grandchildren
16. St. Cecelia's
17. City politics
18. Chinese farmer, Ching Chow

(Where unknown, phonetic spellings are used)

DAVID
REGHITTO

JOSEPH
MERLO

Annunziata	Mary (?)	John	or Joseph David (?) = x
		Anna	Louise
		Strauch (Merlo Road)	Sauber
		David Merlo (d)	Louis
			Merlo(d)
			Daughter
			(d)

.....Annuz + John

- (85) Rose Biggi
- (82) Eva Stiavelli (S.F.)
- (80) Theresa Pienovi
- (77-78) Leona Cereghino - Portland
- (75) Ada Barsuglia (S.F.)
- (72) Louise Botteri
- (69) Dena Garavaylia (Redwood City, CA)

REGHITTO's (Parents of Annunziata)

1. Father, went to California, Stockton and Santa Rosa, 19th Century in Santa Rosa. Met Fanno, who recommended Beaverton.
2. Father brought mother and sister to Oregon

MERLO

1. John marries Annunziata R.
2. David - wife dies - moves to Oregon. Eventually marries sister of Annunziata
3. Annunziata and John move to Oregon, 1910, with first six daughters. Dena born in Beaverton.

REGHITTO came from Nenno, village in mountains near Genoa

MERLOs came from Cassaleggio, village in Piedmont region.

After marriage, John & Annunziata settled in Campomorone, large town near Genoa.

INTERVIEW WITH ROSE MERLO BIGGI

for

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer: Shirley Tanzer

SHIRLEY TANZER: Mrs. Biggi, tell me about your family. Where did they come from?

ROSE MERLO BIGGI: We come from a town near Genoa; its name is Campomorone, big long name, and it's all suburb of Genoa now; it's all Genoa.

TANZER: When did your family come to the United States?

ROSE: We left there on June 2, 1910, and we came right straight to Beaverton. We arrived June 26-27. You know where the Spaghetti House is? My Grandma had a little house there -- two bedrooms upstairs, bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen downstairs. All that low land there where the Paint Store is, all that lowland, Grandpa used to raise no horseradish -- raised onion seed mostly.

TANZER: How old were you at that time?

ROSE: I was almost 15.

TANZER: Why did your parents come to Beaverton?

ROSE: Because my Grandpa was here. See Grandpa and Grandma over here. When Grandma came to this country in 1898, Grandpa was in this country already 18 years. Let me see if I get that straight.

TANZER: So he came about 1881?

ROSE: Yes. And then after all those years, he sent for his wife. In those days when you took out from Europe on little, small vessel, it took a lot of courage, a lot of money. Finally after 18 years, he sent for his wife.

And my Grandpa had two daughter. One was not married. She came with Grandma. My mother was married already; we lived in this little town. I remember like a dream my aunt and my grandma. I must have been about two, three years old, I don't remember -- like a dream, when they came.

TANZER: Now did your grandmother and aunt live in that town, too? Did the whole family ...

ROSE: No, they live in the old town where they were born, a town near Genoa.

TANZER: That's where your father had taken your mother to live?

ROSE: Yes. Going back, my uncle and my dad (they were two brothers) they lived way out in the country past these mountains. They had oxen. And they were start to built this famous bridge made of rocks and bricks. We got all kinds of pictures of that and it still stands.

So my dad with these oxen, got a chance to make some money and they were coming down and they carried these bricks and stuff. The bridge is made out of granite and Oh! It was a famous bridge! It took several years to finish the bridge. When the bridge was finished, my uncle passed by this town and opened a little store with everything from pots to pans to cheese, everything. And my dad came to America, and he was in South America in Argentina.

My dad went first to South America. He was there five years while Uncle opened this little store in this town right there in Italy. The store is still there, just the way they left it. Because that's it; they don't fix things up. They might give it a coat of whitewash.

So then when my Daddy came one day -- my uncle was already married and had two children. His wife was not feeling so good and he had to go in Genoa to some lawyer's for some papers. There was this little old lady (which was my Grandma) -- she came from the country, and he said to her, "You know where I could get a young girl to come and help me? My wife's not too strong and I got two little children." And she said, "Maybe you can get my daughter." Well right away there, my mother went to work for my uncle in this town here as housekeeper. In the meantime, my papa come from South America. Then two, three months later, they get married.

TANZER: Oh, so your father, actually before he came to the United States, he had already been five years in South America. So was he much older than your mother?

ROSE: Yes, he was quite a bit older, fourteen years older than my mother. So he came to there; they got married. They got along very nice and there we had on the third story which is still there, the apartment. There was one, two, three living room, dining room, big kitchen and big bedroom.

TANZER: Was this in the house that's still there?

ROSE: Yes. Still there but it's a big building. We were third floor. It was five story high. We live on third story.

TANZER: And that house is STILL there?

ROSE: Still there, intact, only they had a marble step and you can see where the marble from using, there is a place worn out, a place for the shoes, after all these years. The little store is still there, and it was when we went to Italy five or six years ago. I took my boys. Of course, Louise went twice before. But then I took my two boys and Louise and we all went to Italy in this town. Louise is the one that was here. And her husband came, too. But they stayed only a month. Then they joined a tour from the United States. They toured in Europe. And my two boys stayed there and they went to look all over; they were so interested. They were so happy to see where I was born, where their dad was born; they went to see everything. And so everything is standing just the way we left it.

TANZER: Not like Beaverton!

ROSE: NO! (Laughter) Back there you see now all around the beautiful five, ten, fifteen story high building; but the old town is preserved. Isn't that funny?

TANZER: That's wonderful!

ROSE: And you know, my son is a schoolteacher and it was very interesting. Right there where you see the church steeple, oh, a block from there, is an old building. When Napoleon Bonaparte came down with his soldiers from those hills, they went to this big place. People live above it and they think NOTHING of it! Down there where Napoleon made the horses drink, the place where they tied the horses is still there. EVERYTHING.

TANZER: Amazing! Tell me, when did your father decide to come to the United States?

ROSE: My Grandpa started to write to my mother, "Why don't you come? I just got two daughter." He was pretty well established here in Beaverton; he had quite a bit of property around. They hated to sell their store, but my mother was anxious to be near her mother and dad and she had never met her dad because she was only two years old when he left. She was anxious to meet him, and so we decide to come. We came right here. The first night we slept right there where the Spaghetti House is now. There was Grandma's house. We stayed there three, four nights. Then right here on the corner where the medical building is, right next to the gas station, there was a great big square house that belonged to Grandma and we all moved in there because it was two story.

TANZER: How long did you live in that house?

ROSE: We lived there quite a few years. I don't remember just how many. --Until we bought the hotel, something like that. We bought the hotel in 1915. They sold their little store in Italy and they got a pretty nice little money in those days and, of course, they changed the Italian money into American money.

I'll never forget, my mother she used to take me into her room and say, "Rose, you're the oldest of seven sisters," and she says, "If something ever happens to me or your dad, remember (and in those days there was no bank -- but in this great big old trunk in the corner, she had all those American/Italian money, you know) this is all the money we got from selling our store. You're the oldest; take care of your sisters," and this and that, you know.

Then it happened there was the Beaverton Commercial Hotel. And we bought it. It was right there next to that Anita's Dancing Studio. It was two-story high. We bought that and Mama was cook and there was seven of us girls, we grew big. So we went there; we stayed there quite a few years. One got married, the other got married, you know.

TANZER: So they ran a hotel.

ROSE: Ran a boarding house/hotel. There was the Southern Pacific Car

Shop, and we had six, seven boarders; that was a big family of us. Mama was a good cook, so we ran that for quite a few years.

TANZER: What did you girls do for the hotel?

ROSE: Well, we got all busy. I used to go do the shopping. My mother and one sister used to do the cooking. We all had our jobs.

TANZER: And you went to school?

ROSE: Went to school at St. Mary's. I only went to school 18 months all together. I had a lot to do and I used to go to school in wintertime when there was not much to do. Then in summertime, I had to help the folks. But my sisters all went to school. Theresa, I think, went to college a couple of years. My baby sister went to Marylhurst.

TANZER: Now, your Grandfather Merlo lived here?

ROSE: No. My Papa was a Merlo.

TANZER: Your grandfather was Reghitto.

ROSE: Yes.

TANZER: And Grandpa Reghitto, did they continue to live on Beaverdam Road?

ROSE: Oh, yes. Then they move up here on the corner; there was an old, little house, and they both passed away there.

TANZER: Did he continue to raise his onions and onion seed?

ROSE: When he died, he was about 80 years old. But for a few years he did. Then Papa farmed on this land here. My dad's farm was 14 acres. He farmed there. And so between the hotel and helping Dad, we kept busy; there were seven of us.

TANZER: What did your dad farm?

ROSE: Oh, he just mostly raised beans. The land in Beaverton is very good for beans, cabbage, something for the Farmers' Market.

TANZER: When did he take his produce to market?

ROSE: Oh, my goodness. He used to leave 11:00 at night -- that old Canyon Road that was steep like this, and long, and they used to leave 11:00 at night to get on the Farmers' Market early in the morning about 5:00.

TANZER: So how long did it take?

ROSE: Well, you see, 11, 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 -- four or five hours to get on the east side. The Farmers' Market was on the east side. By the time they sell, you know, they had to sell other stuff, and then he would come home.

TANZER: But this area between Cedar Hills Boulevard and where Damerow Ford is (where the Dark Horse is) was that all your father's property? Was that all Merlo?

ROSE: No. No. No. No. It was farther down, farther down. The low land right in the back of the Spaghetti House, that low land there, where they got the Paint Store -- then on the other side of the railroad.

TANZER: I see. Now tell me about your Grandfather. I understand that he came to the United States and went to Petaluma.

ROSE: When he came to this country, he and a friend from his home town went to Petaluma. I think they were raising chickens. Then he heard that Oregon had beautiful ground for onions.

When he came to Oregon, he went to Sherwood where that low land is still; that's where Grandpa was. And the family is still there, three generations on the old land. Grandpa lived next to them and he start to raise onions. That's where he got those big onions he raised there, see. After that, I don't know what year, he moved to Beaverton.

And you know the funniest thing. He raised lot of onion, they shipped it by carload. One day the Southern Pacific told Grandpa that one of those little stop stations, where the freight train stopped, needed a name. So the fellow from the Southern Pacific said to Grandpa, "What would they call onion in Italy?" And Grandpa said, "Cipole." And they said, "Well, we got a name of Cipole." So that was the Cipole Station for a while, and now they have Cipole School, Cipole Town, that means "onion" in Italian. And that was Grandpa that put that up. Isn't that something?

TANZER: Your Grandpa Reghitto?

ROSE: My Grandpa, yes. They asked him what you call onion in Italian, you see, Cipole.

TANZER: Tell me about your Grandpa Reghitto. What was he like?

ROSE: He was quite old when we came to here; I don't remember him young. He was already quite old. When he did this house, we weren't here. When we came to Beaverton, he was already here, semi-retired.

TANZER: Did your aunt ever get married?

ROSE: Yes, finally she got married, yes.

TANZER: Is her family still here?

ROSE: No, my aunt passed away long time ago. They had just one daughter; she's very, very sick now, but otherwise they all passed away. We're the only family that's still kicking. (Laughter)

TANZER: And you really are, bless you, all seven of you.

ROSE: All seven of us. Down in California, they look better than all of us here.

TANZER: Tell me about the Merlo family. Louise mentioned you had an uncle who was here, your father's brother Uncle Joseph. He came here before?

ROSE: Yes, but then he passed away a long time ago.

TANZER: Do you remember who met you when you came to Beaverton?

ROSE: Grandpa came at the Union Depot to meet us in downtown.

TANZER: And how did you get from downtown to Beaverton?

ROSE: I think we came on the wagon with our trunks.

TANZER: Do you remember that trip from the Union Station here?

ROSE: I don't remember too much. I remember Grandpa came. We were all excited. When we arrived here at the house, we were very lonesome. Back in that little town there, you know, I had girlfriends, school. When you're 15 years old, you got your girlfriends, you play games, and there was nothing here -- just two, three houses. This big square house across the street was Mr. Alexander. Mr. Alexander had the Alexander house; then after a year, he built another little house. There was four houses across the street. And the road there was gravel -- two big ditches on each side.

TANZER: That's Cedar Hills Boulevard.

ROSE: Yes, Cedar Hills. All gravel, two great big ditches. And then, of course, we moved right away from the house. Papa came over and worked on this farm here, and there was the old house over where the paint building was. There was an old building there we fixed up but finally they put up the paint building.

TANZER: Now, you live at the house where you lived when you moved from the big house?

ROSE: Yes. And then we moved over here where the paint building is; we used to call it the bunk house -- all the working people lived there. We had to fix that up and we moved in there.

TANZER: And how long did you live in that house?

ROSE: Oh, well, after a year, then I got married and I lived there. We lived there quite a few years, about 15 years or something, and then in 1940, I built this house.

TANZER: When you went to school, you lived in this house?

ROSE: No. We lived in the big square house. In wintertime I used to walk up the railroad track to St. Mary's and then back, see.

TANZER: Tell me about school at St. Mary's then.

ROSE: Oh, I liked it. It was nice, you know. I liked it at St. Mary's. But I couldn't speak a word of English, you know. I used to board there. Even

though I didn't understand a word, according to what they have, I did the right way because in Italy I went to a nice school.

TANZER: Did you have a favorite nun there at St. Mary's?

ROSE: No. They all liked me and I liked them.

TANZER: Do you remember any of them particularly?

ROSE: Well, one's still there.

TANZER: Which one?

ROSE: Sister Michael. She's still there. She looks pretty good for that age. Why, that woman must be 90! She looks pretty good. She's still there. And Sister Raphael, she was a young girl and then she became a nun; she was there. They were two sisters. Sister Raphael became a nun a couple of years after, and they're both still there.

TANZER: Tell me about your parents' activities in the community. What did they do in the community?

ROSE: Well, I don't know what they did. When they moved to the hotel they cooked, you know, and kept boarders. There was nothing much going on. The only excitement was the dancing. They had a dance hall there, and that's all. My folks were so strict we never went to no dance no place.

TANZER: They were strict?

ROSE: Oh, yes. Well, we were young. We couldn't speak a word of English. What would we do in the dance hall? And in those days, you know, they were all couples, which I think was wonderful. They were just man and wife, all couples, the old music, and they had a really good time. The White Hall -- you got the pictures.

TANZER: Did you go there at all?

ROSE: Once Grandpa took us, and we sat there on the bench to look. Grandpa was a good sport. He liked music and he wanted to go see what they were doing and we sat there. We were young. There was three old couples. They had a good time on themselves.

TANZER: Were you a close family?

ROSE: Oh, yes. Very close, yes. We are very close yet, still are.

TANZER: Were you when you were younger?

ROSE: Oh, yes.

TANZER: What kind of things did your mother do? Did she work out of the house at all?

ROSE: Oh, no. No. She was busy with seven kids and cooking and keeping

clean and sewing. Mama was a wonderful sewer. And you know, you didn't go buy a dress. You didn't go buy a dress every four, five months like now. I had a dress and then when it was growing a little small, my sister got it, and then a third and a fourth. By the time it got to the end, it was pretty worn. We got along with so little, but we were happy.

TANZER: So she made your clothes?

ROSE: Mama made our clothes. She was a good sewer.

TANZER: How would you describe yourself economically? Were you comfortable?

ROSE: We were very comfortable. Mother was a wonderful cook; she would get a piece of roast and make it nice. Oh, Mama was a wonderful cook! And in those days the chickens were really good chickens. I remember when Mama used to put a chicken in to boil, you could smell the chicken broth and that chicken -- not any more, like that. No, not no more. Mama was a wonderful cook. As far as eating, we had plenty to eat.

And THEN (Not me because I was older, I helped Mama at the hotel), my little sister used to walk clear from here to Butner Road. We had a friend there in the low land where now there is the lake on Butner Road where they raised onions. They used to like Louise. Dena was too small, but two other girls used to walk clear up there to pick onions. Then when they came home, in our house there was only one purse. Mama had the purse. We came home and everybody handed Mama some little cash, some little envelope with the cash inside. So it was very nice. Mama kept the money. But we were lost because we didn't have no friends. We couldn't speak English. But we never knew what hardship was.

TANZER: Were you accepted in the community?

ROSE: Well, yes and no. At the school the kids gave us a hard time. They called us bad names. We had a little hard time but we stuck by, you know.

TANZER: But when you say you had a hard time, what was so hard about it?

ROSE: Getting started, fixing the hotel. Then we had the boarders. We were friendly with the boarders, and Mama was a good cook. But at first, if it wasn't for the boarders -- people like the railroad people used to stay in Beaverton. They went back to the old house to eat, when Mama had that wonderful dinner, and so it was kind of hard to get started.

TANZER: Was that because they didn't want to patronize you?

ROSE: Well, you know, I think in this country there's always been that race -- like it is right now. We have it right now.

TANZER: But did you feel that in Beaverton that it was against you because you were Italians?

ROSE: Yes. But Grandpa was in this country many years. He was well known, but that was still... a bunch of little girls coming from Italy. Of

course, we all dressed nice, used to go to church -- we were the best dressed kids in church. But we had a hard time with the kids, you know. They all call us a bad name.

TANZER: Did all the sisters have a difficult time or were there some who didn't?

ROSE: Oh, yes, we all did. I'm the one that got the most. Oh! I got into a fight with a boy.

TANZER: Tell me about that.

ROSE: I don't like his name on the tape.

TANZER: You don't have to say his name; just tell me what happened.

ROSE: There was two real good-looking boys, two brothers, but they were two little rascals, you know, and especially one when I learned to write. I couldn't write so I didn't know what they were doing. I couldn't understand. He used to make faces at me all the time. And I tell the Sister, "So-and-So makes faces at me." But she never paid any attention.

Then one time I was going home from the church way down the Beaverdam Road -- my grandpa lived there, at the Beaverdam Road, and I was crying. He said, "What are you crying for?" And I said, "So-and-So, they always making faces at me and that," you know. And of course Grandpa, he bought the church bell. Grandpa was a hustler, you know. He did a lot of things, you know. So pretty soon, we all went to school and I heard the door knock, here came the priest and Boy! he let that boy have it. In those days, you could lick a kid; now you can't. Boy, he could! He said, "Never, never again that you bother anybody to school." And he never did. I stayed in my place, you know. We never looked for no trouble. And Louise said one time she didn't want to go to school. It was because they were calling us Dagos and Wops, because we were Italian, or Spaghetti Eaters. You know how the little kids are, you don't want to go back to school when you're third or fourth grade. A couple of my sisters were in the eighth grade -- five of us.

TANZER: Where were you at school?

ROSE: We went to school at St. Cecelia's. I went to St. Cecelia two, three years; then I went to St. Mary's. I graduate from St. Mary's. I think the last couple of years I went to St. Mary.

TANZER: What did you do after St. Mary's?

ROSE: Well, I went home and helped Mama. When there was seven kids and wash all by hand -- I can still see that tub full of clothes. And my mother was so fussy. The clothes had to be perfect white -- scrub board, oh, yes! Oh, my goodness! She had a job for everybody.

TANZER: You helped your Mama for how long?

ROSE: Well, till I got married. I got married when I was about 23. We all stayed there, we didn't go out of the house, until we got married.

TANZER: So, Mrs. Biggi, you helped your mother after you graduated from school, at the hotel. And what did you do at the hotel for her when you helped?

ROSE: Well, we all did something, help Mama cooking. We had boarders in rooms upstairs. The other children were going to school but after school they come in to help. We all had a job. I did this from 1915 until I got married in 1920 when I was 23 years. We were in the hotel seven years.

TANZER: Who did you marry?

ROSE: I married a young man that was working for my dad. His name was Louie Biggi. He was also Italian and then he passed away a short time after.

TANZER: So how old were you when you were widowed?

ROSE: I was about 30. And then we had this place full of vegetable and every year we also had an acre or two or three of horseradish. But that was our winter crop. So when we got all that horseradish ready, I didn't know what to do with it. That's when I started to grind horseradish and I start to peddle around, you know.

TANZER: When you say you started to peddle, you went out with it?

ROSE: I went out. Mama still had the hotel. And there was a retired friend of the family who had an old Ford coupe and we ground up this horseradish. I ground it on top of the table in my kitchen with a grinder.

A friend of ours (these people from Sherwood) made this little grinding machine. I had this nice fellow help me. The kids went to school. Then the next day we start out, he drove me and he carried my basket. Then I went to Portland, to every store in South Portland.

TANZER: Did you sell to places like Calistro and Halpern?

ROSE: No. I went inside the store and asked them if they wanted to buy any horseradish, I make it myself. No, at the time, they had Blue Bell Potato Chips. I can see potato chip and horseradish, and everything, they couldn't be bothered with a little lady with a basket with a few bottles in it. --And the first day, I made 10¢. And I came home. We were both tired. Then we went up here in Beaverton. There was a butcher; his name was Albert Banz. Everybody knows Mr. Banz.

TANZER: Where was the butcher shop?

ROSE: Right were Rossi's building is, on Broadway -- where the red brick building is. Albert Banz -- everybody knew him. He died only a few years ago. And he said one day, "Rosie, I hear you grind those horseradish. Bring me some." In those days, everybody knows everybody, there was only a few. And people say, "Give me a couple of bottles," you know. We sold a couple dozen. So that kind of encouraged us. So next time we went to Hillsboro. In Hillsboro, I introduce myself, say, "I come from Beaverton and I make this homemade horseradish." And they were all willing to buy.

TANZER: Was it hard to make, the horseradish?

ROSE: It was hard ... It was not hard -- the fumes would burn your eyes. I didn't know we had to have an electric fan. Finally I bought me an electric fan, but Boy! It was tough! So I opened doors, windows, you know, and it was tough. But then from there I went into business because I had more room. I had a place fixed so I could have my pan practically outside the window, with the roof. And outside there with the big fan, it wasn't really too bad. Now we got all kinds of exhaust fans.

TANZER: Down there I've seen the big vats and they are clean. Now how did you clean them?

ROSE: Oh, we used to wash it the best we could; scrubbed it. Well, we didn't have the big pan. We had a pail like this, filled up the pan. We had two of them.

TANZER: Did your children help?

ROSE: No. They were too little. But I had a girl that boarded and is still working for us. Now the boy I knew, he is 68-69, he retired. And then his wife she said, "Please get my husband a job because he is between my feet. I can't do nothing." So he was glad to come back and he's still working. He doesn't show his age a bit. Of course, we let him do what he pleases, but he's a good worker. And the girl, just the same. She got into an automobile accident and broke her knee. She was home a couple of years and then she came back and said, "I want to work or I'll go crazy." We let her do what she pleases. But she's a good worker. So they're both still working for us.

TANZER: So these are people that started originally?

ROSE: Yes. Esther helped me with sending the children to school and grinding the horseradish. I had very little, you know, maybe fifty pounds.

TANZER: What year did you start the Beaverton Horseradish Factory?

ROSE: I started grinding in 1930. We moved in here in 1940. In 1940 when we started, we had the Blue Bell, a few boarders, and Fred Meyers. Then I moved in here, built this house and half of that building where the Gift Box is now. I thought, "My! It was so big!"

TANZER: And now how many buildings -- are you in different buildings?

ROSE: No, we just here, but it's way big. Did you go in the back?

TANZER: I have been in the back once. Is that where the vats are?

ROSE: Yes. It went way back. Oh, now we got lots of room. We been building every year.

TANZER: But you were not in the business while your husband was alive?

ROSE: No, I started after his death.

TANZER: Are you still active in the business?

ROSE: Oh, I go there, see what goes on. I want to know all about this and that. And now we got a machine that packs all kinds of spices. So I go down and find out, is the machine coming in yet, and this and that, you know. I'm curious, you know, what goes on. But I don't work no more.

TANZER: Who runs the company?

ROSE: Well, I have a daughter Louise and she works in the office with two other girls. Then I got two boys, Johnny and Gene. Dick is our wonderful manager who helps Gene -- he is a very good man, and then we have a manager in the back. We got about 25-30 people working for us now.

TANZER: Do you do your own marketing?

ROSE: Well, we ship it all over. On Monday there's a great big truck that picks it up and goes clear to Florida. Last year, what did Gene said, we sold over \$4 million worth of horseradish! You never believe it. Of course, most of it is expenses. There's a lot of expenses, but four million of them little bottles -- that's a lot of bottles!

TANZER: Now where do you raise your horseradish now?

ROSE: We don't raise no more now. We have the farmers near Klamath Falls, in Tulalake. We have a big farm that raises for us.

TANZER: What kind of soil does it take to raise horseradish?

ROSE: Well, I don't know. Beaverton is so very noted for. It was very good, the low land -- was so white. Now there at Tulalake, is not as hard as our Beaverton horseradish, and is stronger and more yellowish. But in Beaverton, we didn't have enough ground, you know. Beaverton horseradish was very white, strong, very nice.

TANZER: So this that's being raised in California is not as strong?

ROSE: Well, it's just as strong, is just not as pretty as our Beaverton. Now Beaverton, of course, there is no more, it's all built up.

TANZER: Most of your property then, is built up on.

ROSE: Well, down there where El Torito is down there on that street, way in the back is all ours yet.

TANZER: Did your property extend all the way from Cedar Hills to ...

ROSE: Well, from here down you know, every time I had a little money I thought, "Well, I'll buy the piece next to us," and I saved my money you know. And every time I had a couple, two, three thousand dollars, I said, "Well, I'm going to see if they want to sell the place next door." And they was tickled to sell, and I bought that. When I bought that 20 acres, I made a good deal. I call him up and they were glad to sell.

TANZER: Now where is this 20 acres?

ROSE: Where all those buildings are, the Anderson Restaurant and all that. That was about 20, 25 acre. I bought that all in a lump.

TANZER: But you didn't have anything where the airport was?

ROSE: No, no. My property is all on this side; all on this side, all nice, you see and then after that we bought where the El Torito is, and then we bought the nine acre there. Then we bought the Orselli's place and when my kids got older, you know, they helped. Orselli's property was kind of low and we raised horseradish there.

TANZER: Now who is Orselli's. Are there any Orselli's still in Beaverton?

ROSE: Their children. Well, I think they still own the building, the Rossi building. We call it the Rossi building but it really was the Orselli building. They still own that. I know the mother very well; she's about the same age as Louise. She comes down from Seattle quite often, but she has two grown up boys that come down here and take care of that. So she retired from the land and we bought their land. We still got that ten acre, about $11\frac{1}{2}$ acre there, right next to our place, a little farther down.

TANZER: Now which place, this place?

ROSE: No. You see our place go cleeeaaar down on the other side of Hall. We own on both sides there of Hall Street.

TANZER: I see. And you also own the property where the restaurants are?

ROSE: Yes. All this is all ours. From here clear down. But of course, I give it to my two boys, you know, and they'll take care of it.

TANZER: So they do all the investments?

ROSE: Yes. Well, John's got a boy who will be 30 this week, is it. He's taking full charge of everything. He went to college; he's a very good student and he's doing a very good job. And then Mike, the second son, is helping Louise in the office. Of course, I got two other girls in the office -- Mike, Louise and two other girls; there's four. They all get along nice. They all got their jobs to do.

TANZER: How old were the children when your husband died?

ROSE: Oh, about 8, 10, 12, something like that.

TANZER: So you really did raise them in the business?

ROSE: Raised them in the business by myself.

TANZER: And this property was the original property -- your father's property?

ROSE: Yes. When he retired, my husband and I bought it; then I was left here with 14 acre with the kids. But then I got on my feet and bought the little place next door, and the next piece and the next, so I thought, well, I could have bought more. But even though taxes were cheap, it was hard to make money.

I could have bought the property across the street, 17 acres, for the tax. In those days it was \$200 tax, and this \$200. And now am I going to pay all the other with empty land? I said if I could keep all the land on this side, I'm all right.

TANZER: You were very smart. And you probably worked very hard.

ROSE: Oh, my Gosh! I worked day and night!

TANZER: Tell me what your days were like?

ROSE: Well, you know, when you love to work and you start from nothing and go up a little gradually, it gives you such a satisfaction. I love to work. When I was making a few dollars (because we never had nothing, just a few pennies), I could see that I was getting a little money and then I could see that I was able to put together two, three thousand dollars and buy a little piece of land -- I enjoy it. Working was my life.

TANZER: So you're telling me that you enjoy working when there's some compensation?

ROSE: Yes. I know one time during the war, I had 21 mortgages, all \$1,500. Then with that, I start to buy a little piece of property, see. There was a real estate (agent) he used to call me. When he need \$500 over \$1000, he used to call me. And then I'd put a mortgage on a property for \$1500, or \$1000.

TANZER: Did you deal with a Beaverton real estate company?

ROSE: Yes. I don't remember his name, a fellow who had a little real estate company.

TANZER: Did you enjoy living in Beaverton?

ROSE: Oh, of course, I enjoyed it. I don't know any other town but this, you know, after I got used to it. I could never go no place else.

TANZER: Well, had it changed from the time you were a girl?

ROSE: Yes, a big change from there to here. Then after I got customers here, began to know the people and people began to know you, the people were nice to me. Then I loved Beaverton. I loved to stay. And my children are like me; I don't think you'll ever get them away from Beaverton.

TANZER: Did you feel as you got older that the same, oh, resentment because you were Catholic, or ...

ROSE: As we got older, no. When we were a kid, fist, fist, for a few

years, you know. But then we got on our feet. We began to buy the hotel, this and that. In fact, I think the people kind of admired us after a while, you know.

TANZER: Well you have all of you certainly kept your Italian heritage, and all your children married Italians ...

ROSE: No, no, no. I don't know. They're English, Scotch, Irish, there's everything.

TANZER: But all the seven sisters did?

ROSE: Yes, we seven sisters, we all married Italians. Yes, that's right. But in those days, that's all we knew, just Italian families. Now my kids, there's all kinds of mixtures in the family, just like any other kids. You know, they go with a girlfriend, they don't care whether they are Italian, Irish or what they are.

TANZER: How has Beaverton changed?

ROSE: Oh, my goodness! They are building all over and I think it's beautiful -- those yards and those trees. I look for Beaverton to be a beautiful, big city.

TANZER: Have you noticed a difference in the attitudes of people toward Beaverton?

ROSE: I think that people who live in Beaverton like to live in Beaverton, don't you think so?

TANZER: Do you see your old friends?

ROSE: What old friends?

TANZER: The friends that you had when you were going to school?

ROSE: Well, (laughter) we're so old, every year there's one missing. Now Dena, she's my closest friend, we used to go to school together, but there's very few of those girls we went to school with. We're all so old that we don't go out of the house very much.

TANZER: Do you ever go over to the Elsie Stuhr Center?

ROSE: She goes all the time. I don't. She goes every day. I've been there, but I keep busy in the office, you know, up and down, I keep busy. Now I don't feel so good, I don't go no place. I don't work no more. I just go in the office and see what goes on, if they buy something. I only want to know what goes on.

TANZER: Are your children and grandchildren interested in the company?

ROSE: Very much, and Johnny's children, like Steve, are doing a wonderful job. Steve is taking care of all the buildings, and Mike is taking over the office, bookkeeping. Gino's children, they're too young now. Both are

in school. They are 19 and 20. Now the 19 one goes to Beaverton High School and he play football. They all take interest.

TANZER: How often do you get together with your sisters?

ROSE: We were together last week for my 85th birthday. They all came over here, but then we go to California with my sister quite often. And we call each other up all the time.

TANZER: So you still keep a closeness.

ROSE: Oh, yes. I was the oldest sister. There were seven of us. Now that I haven't been feeling good, every other day one calls, "Rose, how do you feel?" See there's three over there (in California), they all call. They call the others and say, "Well, don't call Dena, because we won't call until you feel better." See?

TANZER: Now, tell me how important was your religion to you as you were growing up?

ROSE: Well, I always kept my religion.

TANZER: But was it important in the family to your mother and father?

ROSE: Oh yes, yes. My papa, my mother were religious.

TANZER: But how often did you go to church?

ROSE: Every Sunday, to St. Cecelia's. First they had that little tiny church over here. Then they made the new church over there, so every Sunday we go to church. My children go, too.

TANZER: And did your children go to parochial school?

ROSE: Well, yes they did, all went to parochial school. They all went to St. Cecelia's School.

TANZER: Have you continued with your interest and involvement with the Church?

ROSE: Well, every Sunday I go to church, but then I don't take interest because it's too much for me -- you know, Altar Society and different things, you know. Some of our women got just their housework to do, you know, but I go to church every Sunday.

TANZER: Have you ever been active in political organizations? Are you interested in politics?

ROSE: My sister is. When I was young I had to work, and now at my age, I don't, but my sister is interested in politics. She knows everything.

TANZER: Well, she takes after ...

ROSE: Her son. He's a real nice, smart lawyer. Very smart. You know him?

TANZER: Yes, very well.

ROSE: You know, I think he's very smart, of course, because he's my nephew.

TANZER: And I think he is, too, and I'm not even related to him. He and I are good friends. He did a whole family tree for me. He came to my office and he did a family tree of the Reghitto's and of the Merlo's and all the seven sisters. I just saw him; we were at a luncheon last week. Are your children involved politically at all?

ROSE: Well, John is at the City Hall all the time, about different things, about going through the street, you know, the Zoning Commission. He's got a lot to take care of, that. See, we donated Hall Street to the city and that's a lot of land. We gave it to the city for nothing! All that stretch of land, so we made a big present to the City of Beaverton.

TANZER: When was that?

ROSE: When they opened Hall Street. Now my son is busy with the city because -- at that time, they wanted to have Hall Street through and we were glad because we had all that land and we were willing to donate the land since we had the property on both sides. They promised my son they would let him have the sewer, they would let him have this -- but then after it was all over, we had to fight. Of course, with different people coming, too, you know ...

TANZER: Is there any of your land where Beaverton Town Center is?

ROSE: No. My land is all here.

TANZER: Do you think the development of the Beaverton Town Center will affect the development here?

ROSE: I don't know. I think it's helping business, don't you think so? I think business helps Beaverton.

TANZER: So you like the growth?

ROSE: I like to see things grow. I love to see things grow. Yes.

TANZER: What do you project Beaverton will be like in the next ten or twenty years?

ROSE: Oh, Gosh! I have no idea, but I tell you I think Beaverton right next to the city; I think Beaverton will be a beautiful city next to the city of Portland. I don't think there'll be a nicer spot than Beaverton. Now you see our place; I'm quite proud of it, I think it looks pretty nice. The city will put up a nice building and then across -- that big project is going to be there. They're going to put something nice there, that Arab that bought that place.

TANZER: What are they going to put there?

ROSE: I don't know exactly; they got money to burn, and they say they

going to have a restaurant. They going to have to spend a lot of money there, and I think Beaverton is so pretty. You go out ... I just LOVE Beaverton. You go out in the country -- those pretty little homes among the trees. I don't think you can find any prettier sight no place.

TANZER: Isn't it possible with all the good farmland west of here toward Banks and Hillsboro, that you could raise your own horseradish out there?

ROSE: No, no. Now we buy an awful lot of horseradish. Oh, my goodness, yes.

TANZER: But you don't buy any from this area?

ROSE: No, no. The farm is too small to raise horseradish. You need a lot of room. How many ton we bought? Well, last fall, one check alone, we gave him \$105,000 for just horseradish -- one check alone. They were a big, big farmer, that's where -- the place where the Japanese used to be -- and is very, very good ground.

TANZER: Do you remember the Japanese in Beaverton?

ROSE: Chinese. They used to have Chinese. Ching Chow. He lived down there where the Plush Pippin is. He had a little farm there. I remember him.

TANZER: Did he have a family?

ROSE: Yes. They lived there maybe six, seven years; then they went to Portland and we lost track.

TANZER: Were there any Blacks living in Beaverton?

ROSE: No, I've never seen any Black.

TANZER: Do you remember the Ku Klux Klan?

ROSE: Well, I remember the time they were talking, we were scared, us kids were scared, but that's as far as it was.

TANZER: Did you ever see them?

ROSE: No.

TANZER: Was your father concerned about them?

ROSE: Well, no, Papa didn't speak much English. But my daughter, Louise, bought a house (she still owns it) on the corner of 6th & Lombard. When she bought it she went up to see the attic; there was all kind of Ku Klux Klan things, and I think she took it to Portland.