

LOH 86-662.7

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with

MRS. LOUISE MERLO BOTTERI

Beaverton, Oregon

INTERVIEWER: SHIRLEY TANZER

Date of Interview: November 1, 1982

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BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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(Where unknown, phonetic spellings are used)

INTERVIEW WITH LOUISE MERLO BOTTERI

for

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Place: Beaverton, Oregon

Interviewer: Shirley Tanzer

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

LOUISE MERLO BOTTERI: From a town called Campomorone near Genoa, Italy. They came to this country in 1910.

TANZER: Why did they come?

LOUISE: Because my grandfather (my mother's father) was a pioneer and he hadn't seen his daughter since she was a little girl, so he sent for her to come. He wanted her to come here because he had his wife and his other daughter here. They had come earlier.

TANZER: Mrs. Botteri, your grandfather came in the 1850's, is that right?

LOUISE: Yes, I'm pretty sure it was the 1850's when he came to this country. He first went to California, Petaluma.

TANZER: What did he do there?

LOUISE: For a while I think he worked on a chicken ranch and then he also had a saloon, they had in those days.

TANZER: When he came, did his wife come with him?

LOUISE: No. He was here before his wife. And then he sent for my grandmother and our aunt.

TANZER: Why did your mother not come at that time?

LOUISE: Because she was married and already had us children, like Mrs. Biggi. Quite a few of us were already born. And my dad had a business in Italy so they didn't leave right away.

TANZER: Why did your grandfather come to Oregon?

LOUISE: Well, I guess he was just an adventurer. There wasn't much work in Italy, I think, in those days and people would go to either America or South America.

TANZER: But why did he pick Oregon in this country?

LOUISE: Well, with Mr. Fanno, I understand. But I don't know how

they met. They might have been friends in Italy. I'm not sure how it happened.

TANZER: So he came here to Portland, and do you know why he settled in the Beaverton area?

LOUISE: No, I don't. But I think Mr. Fanno settled around here, didn't he, up in Sherwood, that's where most of them settled. What is the name of that town -- Cipole. Yes, that's where they settled -- which means "onions." They grew onions there. Onions and onion seed.

TANZER: Is that where your grandfather settled, in Cipole?

LOUISE: He stayed there for quite a while and then moved to Beaverton. In Cipole they raised onions and onion seed.

TANZER: Now when your family came, how old were you?

LOUISE: I was six months old.

TANZER: Oh. So you don't remember very much about that?

LOUISE: (Laughter) No, I don't remember.

TANZER: But did your family come to Cipole?

LOUISE: No, we came right to Beaverton.

TANZER: Do you know why your dad settled in Beaverton?

LOUISE: Well, Mother wanted to come here to see her folks, so he came along.

TANZER: What are your first recollections of Beaverton?

LOUISE: As a little girl? Well, it was just a little town. There was no one around but us girls. We played among ourselves. There were so many of us. There weren't very many children around Beaverton.

TANZER: How many girls were there?

LOUISE: Seven, and I was Number 6 in line.

TANZER: Let me ask you about the family name. Your mother's maiden name was:

LOUISE: She was Annunziata Reghitto. And my father was John Merlo. My grandfather was David Reghitto.

TANZER: Did the Merlos ever come here?

LOUISE: We had an uncle who came here, Joseph Merlo. He came to Beaverton before my father came. So we were actually joining both families when we came. He had his brother here; and then his brother passed away not very long after we came.

TANZER: Did Joseph Merlo have a family also?

LOUISE: Yes, he had a son, Louie Merlo, and two daughters. There's only one living. The others all passed away.

TANZER: Are they close with your family?

LOUISE: Oh, yes. We're very, very close.

TANZER: Tell me about your own family, what it was like.

LOUISE: Well, we were a large family. We had a lot of fun. We always played among ourselves and, of course, Mother was a good cook. Of course, we didn't realize it in those days, eating all that good food at home. And that was it. We just had a lot of fun among ourselves.

TANZER: What kind of food did she specialize in?

LOUISE: Well, lasagna and spaghettis and raviolis and all that good Italian food.

TANZER: And what was your father like?

LOUISE: Well, my father was a very nice man. And he had a lot of patience with us children. Mother would spank us but then we'd all go running to Daddy because he was real nice. He was the type that would forgive us (laughter) everything. He loved all his little girls.

TANZER: Was he disappointed that he didn't have any sons?

LOUISE: Well, if he was, he never said so. He used to say he was very proud of all of us and he used to line us all up and ask us to sing a song or do something that we had learned in school or perform for him. And he loved that.

TANZER: Did you have regular times together with your family?

LOUISE: Oh, yes. We had a piano. We used to play the piano and sing songs. I played the piano (laughter). And everybody sang and we had a real nice time.

TANZER: Were any of the other children musical?

LOUISE: Well, Theresa Pienovi, I think was. She always used to organize little plays. We used to have our own plays and it was always Theresa who organized little things for us to do.

TANZER: Did she dance, too?

LOUISE: Well no, but ballroom dancing. I don't know how she got involved in all that other, but she always liked things like that.

TANZER: What about the other girls?

LOUISE: Well, there's Eva who married a jeweler, Henry Stiavelli, a Beaverton man. Her interest was jewelry. She's very artistic and right now she's 80; she designs jewelry and is very good at it. Although she's retired, people still go to her at her home. She lives in San Francisco and she's very, very clever and very artistic. She met her husband here in Beaverton. They were married here and then moved to San Francisco as young people. She's the second, right next to Rose.

TANZER: Rose Biggi is the oldest? Was Rose's husband also from Beaverton?

LOUISE: Yes, uh huh, he used to work for my dad on the farm and that's how she met him.

And then the second is Eva Stiavelli. Third is Theresa Pienovi. Her husband was a shoemaker here in Beaverton for many years and now he's retired. That's Anita's father; he was Mike Pienovi. I don't know how he came to Beaverton but anyway she met him here in town.

The next sister is Leona Cereghino. She lives in Portland, is married to Angelo Cereghino, who is a farmer on Sandy Boulevard.

Next one is Ada Barsuglia. Her husband was from Half Moon Bay, California, and they raised artichokes. --A very wonderful person, and he passed away. When she was widowed, she moved in with Eva. She met her husband in San Francisco, and I believe she met him at a Sons of Italy banquet there.

And I'm the next one; I'm Louise Botteri, yes. I met my husband in San Francisco, too. My brother in law knew my husband's family. He used to go hunting up in Davis, and they were from Davis, California. That's how we met, through my brother-in-law, Mr. Stiavelli.

The next one is Dena Garavaylia. She met her husband in San Francisco, too. We moved there in San Francisco after a while. Mother didn't operate the hotel any more; she rented it and we all went to San Francisco and found work there. It was during the Depression; there was no work in Beaverton or Portland.

TANZER: Now that's interesting. We haven't talked about that. Let's go back, then, to the hotel. Your mother ran the hotel?

LOUISE: Yes. My father passed away in 1922. I think he was 60 when he died. So Mother was left a widow with us girls. Rose was the oldest and we all helped, cooking and doing whatever we could. But then during the Depression, there wasn't much business. I think we moved to San Francisco in 1932 or 1933. Things were better there. We all found work in San Francisco, all of us.

TANZER: Where did you live?

LOUISE: We lived where my sister is still living now, on Collingwood Street just above Castro Street in San Francisco.

TANZER: Did you become active in the Italian community there?

LOUISE: Well, yes. My brother-in-law belonged to the Sons of Italy lodge and my sisters all belonged. I never did belong. But it was a lot of fun living in San Francisco, going to work every day on the cable car.

I worked for a company called Gettner & Mattner; they had swimsuits. And the people who made Levis, Mr. Levi was a wonderful little man. He was our boss.

TANZER: Was that Levi Strauss? Tell me about him.

LOUISE: Yes, Levi Strauss. He was a wonderful person. He was very kind to everyone. Even now, the people who worked for him for many years are remembered. A lady friend of ours is retired from Levi Strauss. Once a month somebody goes to her house with a basket with eggs, and potatoes and things that you really need every day -- milk, butter. He left that in his will, that people who had worked for him years ago and worked a long time, something like 25-30 years, would have that all the time as long as they lived.

We worked in the stockroom, in different departments. My sister Dena worked there, too.

TANZER: But you do remember Mr. Levi Strauss?

LOUISE: Yes, he was a very nice man. He had two sons, Mr. Levi did, that I remember coming through. They would come through the factory, and they were always very nice to everybody.

They made bathing suits and sweaters. Then they went in with Gettner & Mattner, swimsuit people, too. They were all joined together.

TANZER: When you started working, did you start working for Levi Strauss or did you --

LOUISE: Yes. Levi Strauss, yes. And then they merged. I worked there quite a few years, maybe about six years I think.

TANZER: Were you married while you were working there?

LOUISE: Well, the first year; after that the children were born. I have a daughter in San Francisco, Richard's sister, Marlene. I moved back here in 1956. So I was actually gone for about 25 years.

TANZER: When you moved to San Francisco, who remained here in Beaverton?

LOUISE: Mrs. Pienovi and Mrs. Biggi remained here. Everybody else went to San Francisco with our mother.

TANZER: Did your mother die in San Francisco?

LOUISE: She got very sick in San Francisco but she moved here in Beaverton and lived with Rose, and she died here in Beaverton. She really wanted to come back to Beaverton because she had all her friends here and her cousins, and people she knew. So she came here and lived here for three years. She was very sick, never had surgery, and then she died. It was 1949 when she died.

TANZER: While you were in San Francisco, then, you and your sisters were a close family?

LOUISE: Oh yes, all of us, we've always been very close.

TANZER: Did you keep very active in the Catholic Church down there?

LOUISE: Yes. We always did. San Francisco and here, too. In San Francisco we were affiliated with St. Peter & Paul, the Italian church. The children all went to parochial school, St. Francis School.

When we moved here, Richard went to St. Cecelia's and my daughter went to St. Mary's.

TANZER: Tell me about your schooling here. What was school like then?

LOUISE: We went to St. Cecelia's. It was very nice. They had four grades in one room. It was upstairs above the church.

TANZER: And that was approximately where Damerow Ford is?

LOUISE: Yes. Well, where Damerow Ford is, right there. The Dark Horse Store was Father's house, the priest's house. And the church was right next door, right where Damerow Ford is, right through there.

TANZER: Did you walk to school? You lived pretty close.

LOUISE: Oh, yes. We lived at the hotel so we didn't have far to go. I remember once they put up a flagpole in Beaverton, right about where the Rossi Building is, where that red brick building is. There's a jewelry store there and there's like a little space there with some garden there now. There they had a flagpole. Sister said the town was going to raise the flag, it was Flag Day, and all the schoolchildren would march from the school to the flagpole and we would all sing songs. I was the shortest one, I guess, so I had to lead the whole school. I'll never forget, I was a nervous wreck when Sister told me I had to do that. I didn't think I'd ever be able to do that march from St. Cecelia's School over there by the building.

TANZER: Were you always shy?

LOUISE: I think so, yes. But I finally made it. I was glad when I reached the flagpole because Sister impressed on me that everybody was depending on me to go to a certain street that I had to cross and everything.

TANZER: Well, at least you didn't have to cross Canyon or Farmington as it is now! (Laughter)

LOUISE: No, in those days there weren't any cars. We used to roller skate up and down Canyon Road. My sister Dena and I, we got roller skates for Christmas. We had a cousin, Ida Reghitto, who could tell you an awful lot about Beaverton. She lives in Portland now. We used to roller skate up and down, well from where the Kentucky Chicken is now. We'd go up that far and then back clear to St. Mary's. We'd hardly ever meet a car. And we would just roller skate all the way. We had the whole street to ourselves. We did that

many a time on Sunday afternoon or Saturdays when there was no school. And it was a lot of fun.

TANZER: It was probably a comparatively narrow street.

LOUISE: Well, yes, but then they widened it when they made the canyon road. We were here. All the people who laid the cement lived in the hotel.

TANZER: Were there farms along the side?

LOUISE: Yes, there were farms all over. The Lease family lived up there. I guess some of them are still there, where the Buick Company and Sizzler's are. That's where all the Lease farm was.

I also remember the Rigert family up on Cooper Mountain; they all went to St. Cecelia's. We knew them.

TANZER: Yes. We interviewed Sister Beatrice.

LOUISE: Oh, did you? Uh huh, yes. They used to walk from Cooper Mountain to St. Cecelia's.

TANZER: She said a little later they had a horse and buggy.

LOUISE: Yes. Yes. We did a lot of walking, I still do.

TANZER: Did you go to Portland very often.

LOUISE: Not very often, but when we went to Portland, I used to remember everything I saw for DAYS. We used to have to take turns to go to Portland. Mother would take one or then the other. That was quite an adventure; it was a wonderful ride from Beaverton to Portland on the Red Electric Train. It was nice because the seats were all velvet and they were very pretty.

We caught the train right across the street from the hotel. But then this Oregon Electric over here on Cedar Street was even nicer. It was a black train and very beautiful inside, I thought. The depot is still there by Holland Feed. That used to be part of the depot.

TANZER: Oh, I see. And that was called the black train.

LOUISE: Yes, the Oregon Electric. And the other one was the Southern Pacific and the Red Electric because their trains were red.

TANZER: Well, tell me about the trip. What did you do?

LOUISE: Well, it was just wonderful. I used to just sit there and look at everything as the train went by. When we reached Portland, everything looked so big and beautiful.

TANZER: What did you do on the days you went to Portland.

LOUISE: Well, Mother probably had shopping to do and things like that. I imagine we went to Meier & Frank and some Italian stores that sold Italian spaghetti, like the Oregon Macaroni Company and things like that.

TANZER: So how often did she go into town?

LOUISE: Not really too often, no. We did our shopping right here in Beaverton, or Hillsboro. That's about it.

TANZER: Did your father raise the produce that you used at the hotel?

LOUISE: Yes. For a while he did but then he didn't feel too good. He was kind of lonesome. He always missed Italy. He never did like America. He left his business there and when I went back I could see why Daddy was lonesome. In that little town he was near the church and all his friends lived there. And when he came here, he couldn't speak English. He did learn to speak English a little, but not too much. He spoke very good Spanish because he lived in South America, but he was very lonesome for his home town, so he didn't have too much interest in Beaverton.

TANZER: Did he make friends here? Tell me about the other Italian families.

LOUISE: He did, yes. There were a few Italian families that he met, like the Rossi's and the Orselli's, people like that. Orselli's were farmers and so were the Rossi's.

TANZER: Well, the Rossi's also had the saloon.

LOUISE: Yes, then they had the saloon. I remember once a long time ago, going in there with my grandfather. He took me in there and I'll never forget there was a bar and there was men drinking. I could remember, I guess it was the beer that fascinated me. I went in there with my grandfather as a little girl, in the saloon. It's just like a dream.

TANZER: Did you spend a lot of time with your grandparents?

LOUISE: I did, yes. Somehow I seemed to be a favorite of Grandpa's. I don't know why.

TANZER: Have you ever seen any family pictures. Sometimes when there's a good, large family then perhaps you resembled his mother or ...

LOUISE: Well, they say I resemble one of the grandfathers. I don't know if it was on my Grandfather's side. I think I did look something like him -- the eyes, or something, and I think that's what Grandpa connected. I know he used to give me candy and then I'd go home and all the other girls knew I had candy and I was so stingy with it. I hated to give it to the rest of them.

TANZER: Did he ever talk very much about Italy?

LOUISE: Not very much. He used to tell me, "You be a good American citizen, learn to speak good English and don't forget when you grow up to register Republican, and don't marry an Italian. Marry an American." And I did everything wrong. I didn't obey my grandfather. I'm a Democrat and I married an Italian (laughter). He used to tell me, "Don't forget to vote Republican" and I was just a little girl.

TANZER: Why was he such a strong Republican?

LOUISE: Well I think the Democrats weren't very well liked when he came to the United States. It wasn't too long after the Civil War and I think the Democrats had left kind of a bad impression on the country. At least he used to say that. And if there was an Italian family that arrived in Oregon from Italy, he would go right away and have them register and get their citizen papers, the first thing. He used to see to it that they became American citizens.

TANZER: So actually your grandfather was very much American in contrast to your father.

LOUISE: Oh, very much. Oh yes, yes. My father was more in love with Italy. My grandfather used to tell me all the time, even before he died (I remember my mother sending me there with something for him to eat. He was in bed; he was very, very sick) -- I remember him taking my hand and saying, "Now don't forget, when you grow up, you learn to speak very good English and register and vote and be sure you register Republican." Poor Grandpa!

TANZER: What a wonderful story! But did he talk about Cipole or Petaluma at all?

LOUISE: No he didn't, he really didn't. He might have, but I was just a little girl and I didn't remember.

TANZER: But he did tell you that story about how he named Cipole. Tell it to me again.

LOUISE: Well, they were growing onions there in the lowland and the train wanted to put a little stop there where they switched the freight trains; they asked him what onions were called in Italian. Well Italians called onions "chi-pola" -- In English it would be Cipole.

I think there still is a stop and there's a sign there, "Cipole." It's on the map as well. For many years the little house Grandpa and Grandma lived in was standing, too. It was a little, tiny house. But we drove by there and there was nothing there any more.

TANZER: Is the land still owned by the family?

LOUISE: No it isn't. It was sold many years ago. But all of the land was originally my grandfather's.

TANZER: This land right here was your grandfather's. And your father farmed it?

LOUISE: Yes, a little bit. My father didn't do too much farming, but he grew a few vegetables, like lettuce, beans, carrots and things. But this was all my grandfather's and many, many years ago he had Chinese come in from San Francisco to work on this land. My grandfather did. I remember he used to take me down where the Beaverton Car Wash is now; where the Chinese lived. He would go in there and talk to them. I think they came up from San Francisco,

the Chinese, to work here. There was a Chinese man that used to tell me to go and help myself to these nuts that they had in a little barrel. They were kind of a soft-shell nut, very good -- litchi nuts. They were delicious. I remember he used to give me a whole handful to take home.

TANZER: Did they have families?

LOUISE: Yes, they did. There were quite a few of them. Most of them were men. A few of them had families. But most of them looked like single men. They lived in a great big, what they call a bunk house. It was right there by where the car wash is and where Damerow Ford is and all those places.

TANZER: Do you know who ran that boarding house?

LOUISE: Well, the Chinese did themselves. They had their own cooks. It seemed to me like there were quite a few of them. I don't know just how many there were.

TANZER: Would you say twenty?

LOUISE: Oh, yes, I think there were at one time, maybe more, because they grew a lot of vegetables there.

TANZER: Do you know what happened to them?

LOUISE: Well afterwards, my grandfather didn't do that too much. Other people started taking over this land. One family, Mrs. Ching Chow, was here for quite a while, but the others I guess went back to San Francisco. Their children went to school at the Beaverton School, Merle Davies. Because we went to Merle Davies when the Ku Klux Klan closed St. Cecelia's.

TANZER: When did that happen?

LOUISE: I don't remember the date but I must have been about 3rd or 4th grade when we all had to go to Merle Davies because the Ku Klux Klan closed St. Cecelia's. I remember that we were all very sad and the teachers, the sisters had us all march to Merle Davies. They took us there.

TANZER: Why did the Klan close it?

LOUISE: Well they wanted to close all religious schools, not only Catholic -- any religion. Then there was a priest at St. Mary's, Father Hesacker, he went to Washington, D.C. to fight for this bill in the legislature and they finally got that all settled.

TANZER: What year would that have been, Mrs. Botteri?

LOUISE: I don't know. I think Richard knows.

TANZER: You were about eight? So how long did you go to Merle Davies?

LOUISE: Oh, about two years or so. Then they opened up St. Cecelia's again and we all came back.

TANZER: So while you were at Merle Davies, you got to know a good number of the other children?

LOUISE: Oh, yes, like the Cady's and the Barnes and people like that. Merle Davies was the only Beaverton Grade School. It wasn't Merle Davies then, it was Beaverton Grade School. That's all they called it then.

TANZER: Were there any Chinese, Japanese or Black in the school?

LOUISE: No I don't think so. I don't remember any at all.

TANZER: Do you remember any of the other Klan activities?

LOUISE: All I remember is when they used to meet in what we called the Manning building, there where Dean's Drug Store is. From the hotel window we could see them meeting up there in the hall, and Mother used to make us kneel down and say the rosary. She'd draw the shades and we'd see them up there parading around in those ... and we kids would of loved to look, but she'd draw the shades and make us all kneel down and say the rosary. She knew what was going on. She used to tell us that those people didn't know what they were doing; they were just very ignorant.

TANZER: Why did she make you kneel down and say the rosary?

LOUISE: She felt the Klans were bad and if we prayed to God maybe He would protect us from them, I imagine, because everybody knew what the Klans did. She was frightened. She just knew some things about what they were doing and that they didn't like certain people.

TANZER: Did you see them?

LOUISE: We did see them. We could see them parading around up there in their room. We saw people with white hoods just walking around that hall and, of course, Mother would take us away from the window and we didn't see any more.

TANZER: What about your father? Did he ever explain to you?

LOUISE: No he didn't. He was just kind of a quiet man. I think my folks were bothered by them especially after the school was closed; I think they knew a lot about it but didn't say too much to us children.

TANZER: Were you concerned about growing up an Italian Catholic in Beaverton?

LOUISE: No. We were always kind of proud that we were Italians. Our parents impressed that on us, to be proud of our race, and we were. That's why we fought at school. In fact, I broke my umbrella over one boy's head for calling me a Dago.

TANZER: How did that happen; tell me about it.

LOUISE: He used to call me "Dago" every day after school when we were coming home. I guess he didn't dare in school because the Sisters would of heard him. So one day I had my nice new umbrella and I just hit him with it. It dented my umbrella.

TANZER: Have you ever seen him since?

LOUISE: I see him sometimes on Sundays at church and it makes me laugh when I think of it. Now he seems to be such a nice man (Laughter). Maybe I'd better not tell you his name. He's kind of well known here in Beaverton. He probably wouldn't care but... It was funny.

TANZER: What if I interview him (Laughter)? Did the Sisters intercede on behalf of the children?

LOUISE: Some Sisters did. Some really didn't like to see anybody calling anyone names. That wasn't the thing to do. There was a lot of that name calling. They didn't like people of another race; just like now we have these Cambodians working here and they're wonderful people, but some of the employees really resented them at first.

The Barnes family (that's Rose Treharigan), their church brought them here from Cambodia and sponsored them. They came here to work and they're just wonderful employees and wonderful workers. The other employees kind of resented them because they were Cambodians.

When they first came, at coffee break I would bring the man some tea. He came first. I knew he must drink tea but, of course, he didn't speak any English. He'd only been in this country two months and all the other employees would say, "Why do you want to bring him tea?" And I said, "Well the poor man, he doesn't know, and he didn't have anything to drink." But now they've accepted him; but it takes time to accept other races.

TANZER: Was your family eventually accepted?

LOUISE: Oh, yes. I think so. They almost had to accept us. My other sisters also experienced this. We talk about it all the time when we get together.

TANZER: What kind of perspective are you able to put it in?

LOUISE: Well, I think people are just very ignorant to do that. I don't mind working near colored people or any nationality, it doesn't make any difference to me. I think they're just as good as I am if not better. I work with a little Cambodian lady and she's a very nice person.

TANZER: What do you do here?

LOUISE: Well, I work only part time because I'm retired, but I help out wherever they need me. Right now I'm working with Oriental Spices. It comes in from Singapore and we put it into two-ounce bottles and pack it to send out.

TANZER: That's part of the horseradish operation?

LOUISE: Yes, yes, yes it is. It's something new. It's very nice. It's five spices, they call it. We carry just the spices that are really different. We also have garlic powder and onion puree.

TANZER: So you've really gone far beyond in other products besides just horseradish. Is it still called Beaver?

LOUISE: Yes, it's still Beaver.

TANZER: Did the Beaverton Horseradish Company get its name because of Beaverdam Road?

LOUISE: I think so, yes.

TANZER: Do you remember the beaver dam?

LOUISE: Yes. Mr. Fisher, one of our mayors here in Beaverton, used to have lots of beavers and beaverdams around here. Yes.

TANZER: How would you describe the changes?

LOUISE: I think they're almost fantastic. Years ago when we were here, there was really nothing here in Beaverton at all. Our hotel was the only business place outside of the White Hall and the White Hall Restaurant.

TANZER: Where was the White Hall Restaurant?

LOUISE: It was across the street. You know, you have the picture where there was that little dance -- there was a restaurant right into the White Hall downstairs. Upstairs they danced. The restaurant was just a little coffee shop with sandwiches and things like that.

TANZER: What else was downtown?

LOUISE: That was about all, and our place.

TANZER: Was there a drug store?

LOUISE: Yes. There was Dean's Drug Store. We used to go in there and get an ice cream cone for a nickel and Mr. Dean would dip it in chocolate for us - 5¢. He was a very nice man.

There was the feed store, with Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Berthold. She started it all, Mrs. Berthold did. I believe she is Mrs. Holland's mother.

TANZER: What about general merchandise.

LOUISE: There was the Cadys and then there was an old store called Pinder's Market. I remember they had stepladders and I used to be fascinated going in there. They'd climb up to get things on the shelf and the stepladders would go on rails all around. I used to live to go in there and see the man go around on the rails and get merchandise.

TANZER: What about the Cady Store?

LOUISE: That was a hardware store and I think they had all kinds of things in there. But the peddlers used to come to town with the yardage and

thread and needles. They came, I guess, to Beaverton from Portland. I don't know how they got there; they must have had horses. They'd come in and open up their big suitcases with all these very interesting yardages and handkerchiefs and thread, which was very interesting. Mother would buy her yardage from them. She used to wait for them to come because that's the only way she could get her materials and thread. I think they were Armenians that came up with their baggage. I don't remember their names. I know they came regularly. Everybody would wait for them because they had needles, thread and materials.

TANZER: And you said your mother made all of your clothes?

LOUISE: Yes, so she used to wait for these two men that came. Then the other man came with soap -- the soap man. He had a little suitcase with soap of all different colors, reds and green. Mother always bought oatmeal; and we girls wanted her to buy the pink and green and different colored. I think she thought the oatmeal was healthier. (Laughter) And he was very interesting. I think he liked to entertain people. He was kind of funny and he was cheerful; just a little man with his soap. He was very interesting. Once he gave us one of those phonographs with the round records. We used to have about three of those records. I don't know what happened to the little discs. They went round and round.

TANZER: Do you remember the songs?

LOUISE: "Come Away With Me In My Automobile."

TANZER: Oh, yes! Yes!

LOUISE: And "Come With Me In My Flying Machine" and "Sophie Had 25¢, Goodbye My Lover, Goodbye." because she was rich! I remember those. And that's all.

TANZER: You were telling me about your family life and that you spent a good deal of time with the family. Did you have close girl friends?

LOUISE: Well, our cousins. One of our cousins, when their mother died, the four children came to live with us, so then we had a lot of fun with them. There were two girls and two boys.

TANZER: Which cousins were these?

LOUISE: My father's niece, Mary Merlo, passed away. Her husband was a cook at the Benson Hotel in Portland, and he was left with four children. It would have been Joseph Merlo's oldest daughter. Her husband's name was Mr. Guiso and he was a cook at the Benson Hotel. When his children were left without a mother, he brought them and Mother took all four children and raised them with us. We had a lot of fun with our cousins and we will hear from them. One passed away but there are still the two girls and a boy.

TANZER: So there weren't just the seven girls; there were eleven of you!

LOUISE: Yes, but we had a lot of fun. Mother would set a long table in

the kitchen and we'd all eat there and we'd do nothing but laugh all the time we were eating, the whole bunch of us. Yes. We got along fine with our cousins. We still do.

Then my sisters, Rose, and Eva, they got married. And then later on, Mrs. Pienovi was married.

TANZER: So you all were living here when that happened, and it wasn't until those marriages that you left, after they were married?

LOUISE: That's right, yes.

TANZER: And did your cousins move to San Francisco?

LOUISE: No, they all live in Portland. When we moved to San Francisco, they went back with their dad and an aunt came in and helped take care of them. They're still living there. Their name is Guiso -- G-U-I-S-O.

TANZER: Mrs. Botteri, tell me about your neighbors.

LOUISE: The only neighbors we had were the Mason boys, Dr. C. E. Mason's children. He had two boys. I believe they both were doctors later on. They were the only neighbors we had (Everybody else was out on farms.) and they were very nice. They lived right in back of us, right there where the hotel was. Right in the back there's Watson Street. They lived on Watson, and then their mother passed away and Dr. Mason was a widower. But they were a nice family. We used to go pick berries with them and things like that. Some of the boys were the same age as my sisters. One of them, I believe, was a little younger.

TANZER: Do you remember Dr. Mason? Did he take care of you?

LOUISE: Oh, yes, I remember him very well. He removed everybody's tonsils but mine. I never did have my tonsils out. But I think everybody called Dr. Mason. He was about the only doctor around.

TANZER: Were there any other neighbors?

LOUISE: No, that's all there was. There were no other neighbors. I know once an airplane landed near where Nendel's is. We all ran up there and the Mason boys ran up there with us. We went up there to see this airplane come in. It was a small airplane. I don't know why he landed there. There was no airport there. Everybody was so happy to see that the pilot could get out of there and talk to the different folks. And then he took off again. We were there for a long time. We all ran up there from Beaverton where the hotel was, way up there to around where Nendel's is, because that was a big open field.

TANZER: Oh, that was an open field? Part of that must have been the Kennedy property.

LOUISE: It might have been, yes.

TANZER: Because there were 20 acres going west that belonged to Mrs. Kennedy. Weren't there some houses that were a bit west like -- didn't Dina Classen...

LOUISE: Well, they moved in there later on. Yes. I remember her as a married woman. I don't remember her with her first husband. He was a tailor and she used to dress so beautiful. I never did remember her as a child there, so I don't think she lived there as I child.

TANZER: She didn't live there, but her father had greenhouses and they were north of there. I saw pictures of her and she really did dress well. What did you do for recreation?

LOUISE: Since our mother was an Italian cook, when the soldiers were in Ft. Lewis in Washington, somebody heard about it and the soldiers who were Italian soldiers, I guess, came from New York and all over, the Red Electric put a train in so the boys could come from there to here in Beaverton and eat at Mother's.

Later on they brought their own music and sometimes on Sunday, the soldier boys would dance there. So there was dancing there and the girls like my sister Eva and Rose, they danced and had a good time there. We have some old pictures up in the attic of the orchestra and the dancing they did there in the hotel. We danced in our dining room. That was a lot of fun because the younger ones used to sit there and watch them dance.

TANZER: Had the hotel been built as a hotel?

LOUISE: Yes. They say that was a pioneer hotel. It has been torn down. There were six rooms upstairs and then downstairs there was a large dining room and a kitchen and what we called the parlor and an office, and then there was a little house next door where we lived.

TANZER: Did you all share rooms?

LOUISE: Yes, we did. Sometimes there were two at the head of the bed and two at the foot. (Laughter)

TANZER: Oh! (Laughter) How many bedrooms did you have?

LOUISE: I think we had three bedrooms in the little house. At one point, there were eleven children and Mother and Dad. (Laughter) I don't know how we all fit in there, but we did.

TANZER: How did you enjoy when you had the two boy cousins living there?

LOUISE: We had a lot of fun with them. They were younger than us. And the younger one was almost like a baby brother; everyone was happy to have him.

TANZER: Did your father ever have a car?

LOUISE: No, never had a car. He had a wagon because he needed it for his vegetables and horses. We would go into Portland with him on the wagon.

It would take forever to get there. Of course, I think we fell asleep before we got there. You wanted to stay awake but you never did. They started the night before and got there when the markets opened at 5:00 in the morning. They would arrive just in time. It was six hours on the Canyon Road. Isn't that something?

TANZER: Do you remember the Canyon Road?

LOUISE: I remember some parts of it. It wasn't paved or anything like it is now at all. When we roller skated on it, it was paved.

TANZER: So you helped in the hotel?

LOUISE: Yes, we all washed dishes. In fact, my youngest sister was rather short and she had a little box that she stood on so that she could dry the spoons and things; because she couldn't reach the sink. We all had to do something. Mother kept us all busy. We did pretty good at the hotel. We always earned a living, but we didn't get rich off of it. We were comfortable. There was always enough money for extras. There were always boarders there and there was enough to eat. I guess Mother knew just how to manage.

TANZER: What did your father do at the hotel?

LOUISE: Not too much. He went to work for the section on the railroad after doing a little vegetable farming, and that was it. He helped around the hotel, but he wasn't too interested in it.

TANZER: So it was a good thing that your mother had it.

LOUISE: Yes, it was a very good thing, because she was a good cook, and I think she knew how to manage very well.

TANZER: It's an interesting tradition that your sister Rose has, too, of women taking over. My grandmother did that, and there's a real tradition in South Portland of women who were widowed or abandoned or divorced, and at that time who had no resources, and they -- Mrs. Neuchon started making pickles.

LOUISE: Yes. Wasn't she wonderful? Yes.

TANZER: And Mrs. Heileman started with the catering and some of the women ran grocery stores.

LOUISE: That's right. They just rolled up their sleeves and went to work. And there was no welfare, no food stamps, nothing.

TANZER: Do you remember the Depression hitting Beaverton?

LOUISE: Oh, yes. There used to be men coming up on the train. We lived across the street from the Red Electric and people would jump off the freight train and ask Mother for something to eat. She always gave them a bowl of minestrone, you know, Italian soup. I can still see those men sitting out on the porch. They would ask to chop wood for their soup. You used a lot of wood in those days -- all wood stoves, and they would chop the wood and they

ate their soup. One man once had very shabby clothes, and Mother had some men's clothes that someone had left there, one of the boarders. She gave him those clothes and gave him some soup. He was a very nice person. A lot of those people just couldn't find work but they were professionals or whatever. Years later, he sent her a beautiful rose bush with a note saying, "I stopped in Beaverton once. You gave me some clothes and something to eat." I think he had a nursery or a business of some kind in another part of the United States. So that was very wonderful. He never forgot.

TANZER: Did you ever keep track of that name?

LOUISE: No. I don't remember. Some of my sisters might have known who it was. But sometimes it was two or three times a day, we would give them something to eat. They were really hungry and desperate, and some of them were just so thankful. Some of them were so hungry, and then of course they had the soup kitchens in Portland.

TANZER: I wonder why they were on the Red Electric Train?

LOUISE: Well, they'd catch a freight train, because they were going from town to town. Those were very sad times.

TANZER: So that was the time your mother decided to sell the hotel?

LOUISE: We didn't sell it. We rented it, we leased it to someone. It was leased until the war in 1942 or 1943 when the government took it over for war housing, and they kind of remodeled it into apartments. After the war, the family got it back. The family sold it to my youngest sister.

TANZER: So your grandfather's estate was really divided up among seven girls?

LOUISE: Well, not my grandfather's; my mother and dad's. Just a hotel was left. My grandfather was a very intelligent man, but he wasn't educated in English language and I guess he didn't know how to handle his business too well. He could have been a very rich man. He knew how to buy land, had an idea of it, but wasn't educated and somebody a little sharper got in there and I guess, took over.

TANZER: What were the reasons that you decided to come back to Oregon?

LOUISE: Well, I came back because Mrs. Biggi had work. She said she would give me work and, of course, Richard was only in the fourth grade. All the time he went to school, I had to work to help support him. So I've lived here with Mrs. Biggi all these years. I have a room upstairs.

It's nice, and we've never had an argument. She's Republican and I'm a Democrat, but outside of that, well...

TANZER: Well, you seem to respect one another.

LOUISE: Oh, yes we do, yes.

TANZER: Do you still keep in close touch with any of the others?

LOUISE: Oh, yes. I was there this summer because my daughter and grandchildren are there. I visited with everybody there for three months. My daughter married Mr. Moretti, an Italian, yes. They live in Redwood City and she teaches the mentally handicapped. We enjoys it very much and just loves those little children.

TANZER: So Richard was really raised in Beaverton?

LOUISE: Yes, and he always went to Catholic Schools, even the University of San Francisco, which is a Catholic college. But then he went to the University of Chicago Law School, and that is the only school that wasn't Catholic. Then he went to Rome for one year and enjoyed that very much. He'd just finished his junior year of college at Loyola University, Rome. He enjoyed that very, very much.

TANZER: How strongly do you identify with Beaverton?

LOUISE: Quite strongly. I feel right at home. I think I'd rather live here than any place else. And although I went back to Italy and saw where I was born, I was very happy to come back to Beaverton.

TANZER: What did you think when you saw your father's roots?

LOUISE: Oh, I almost cried when I saw my father's little store. I knew then why he was lonesome, because there was his little store and he was a very religious man; and his church was just down the street from the front door of his store. He could see the front door of the church and I think that's why he was always so close to his church; he missed it very much and all his friends. So I felt very sorry that he never did get to go back. It was too bad.

TANZER: How did your background and your training prepare you for what you are doing now in your life?

LOUISE: Well, I think just wonderful because my father and mother were both very good people, and if they had quarrels which they might have had, misunderstandings, they never let us kids hear anything. They were always very kind to each other. I don't think there was ever any fighting or argument. Mother never allowed anyone to use any cuszwords or any slang or anything. If we came home and said we didn't like our teacher for something, we got scolded very much. They would say, "That's the teacher and you have to respect her and that's it." And we were never right. The teacher was right.

TANZER: How did they encourage this very close family relationship that you have?

LOUISE: Well, they used to tell us all the time that the family was very important, that brothers and sisters were important.