

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with

MRS. IVY LIVERMORE BANY

17260 S.W. Bany Road, Beaverton, Oregon

INTERVIEWER: SHIRLEY TANZER

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TANZER: How lucky they are.

DAUGHTER: She says she feels right at home when she comes because of all her furniture there.

IVY: Grandma's (that was my mother's) fruit jars, green ones, that we had. Oh, Janet wanted those. And she built a shelf in her kitchen for all those green fruit jars. (Laughter)

TANZER: Those are very expensive if you go out to buy them. They really are antiques and she's very fortunate that she has them. Was your father able to leave any money to the family?

IVY: Oh, yes. I got the Nut Loft, but I didn't sell it for many years. That was mine.

DAUGHTER: That was the F. W. Livermore building materials it had on the front of it, until they painted it, of course. And it's been many things. We call it the Nut Loft.

IVY: Because Mr. Jack, he rented it for a long time and he had people coming there -- the reason it got the name of The Nut Loft -- they cracked nuts there for years -- three or four. He hired people to crack nuts. A lot of ladies worked there.

## PART 2 AUDIO RECORDING BEGINS BELOW

TANZER: We've talked about the fact that you married Mr. Bany and you met him through your uncle and aunt. Where did you live after you married Mr. Bany?

IVY: I was living in Longview, Washington. I took up a nursing course down there; I trained at Longview Memorial Hospital for a year and got my license as a Licensed Practical Nurse. Then I came back to Washington County after I married Wes.

I met him over to my uncle's one Sunday and, of course, I'd known him all my life. He said, "Can I come down to see you some day?" And I said, "Yes, but be sure and phone me ahead of time so I'll know when you're coming down." Well, he didn't miss any time. The following Saturday night he found me and he says, "Will you be home tomorrow?" and I said, "Yes." And he said, "I'm coming down to see you." I had told him where I was living and how to get there. I said, "About what time will you be down?" He said, "It will take me an hour or two."

TANZER: Where were you living at this time?

IVY: I was living out in Kelso, Washington, with a friend of mine. She took up nursing and that's how I come to take it up. We trained in the Longview Hospital.

TANZER: After you married Mr. Bany, did you move and live in Longview?

IVY: Oh, yes.

TANZER: What year did you move back to Portland?

IVY: I moved right away.

DAUGHTER: I think they talked it over and decided they'd known each other since she was eight and he was 16 years old and they were both getting older, so they figured what was the use in waiting if they wanted to marry. They got married in one month from the time. And he was 60 and she was 52.

IVY: He was running the Durham Rock Crusher. He was the boss. There was snow on the ground and he thought he would be laid off while they had the snow and he said, "I'll come down tomorrow morning." And I said, "All right, I'll put the coffee put on; you tell me what time you'll be here."

When he walked in, I'll tell you -- he came in and oooooh! we went in and sat down and started to talking and he said, "Ivy, I've been thinking all the way down here. Would you marry me?" He proposed to me before he drank his coffee.

TANZER: And what did you say?

IVY: I said, "What are we waiting for?!" (Laughter)

TANZER: And you got married right away!

IVY: Yes, we got married, and Oh! I made him go home that night. I said, "Do this for me. You go home and think this over." And I said, "Now you think it over and I'll think it over and then tomorrow morning you can come down and if you're not working," and I called Florence and said, "I'm going to be married tomorrow. Would you like to come to the wedding?" And she said, "Good Griéf! Who are you going to marry?" And I said, "Uncle Wes." She'd called him Uncle Wes all her life.

TANZER: You knew him all along.

DAUGHTER: Oh, yes. Of course. I'd known him all my life and I called him Uncle Wes. I said, "Well, Mother, you haven't been going together very long." And she said, "I was 8 and he was 16 when we met, and time's getting away from us." She was 52 and he was 60.

IVY: We decided we'd get married right away. So the next day we got married in Vancouver. She came over and Nancy came with her (her husband was sick and he took care of the two other children.)

DAUGHTER: And this friend of hers, Thelma Reis, from Kelso, drove them down in her car.

IVY: She was up to her sister's place and I called her up and said, "Thelma, I'm getting married tomorrow." "Oh, My Heavens! What am I going to do?" she says, "I can't go on a living without you down here." "Oh," I said, "I'll tell you one thing you can do; I want you to come over and be our witness."

First you applied and you had to go to the judge in his office. We went in and told him we wanted to get married. The funny part was he'd been a neighbor close to where I was living and I knew him and his wife very well.

He said to Mr. Bany, he says, "What's your hurry in getting married?" We told him we'd just decided to get married and this was an old friend of mine.

TANZER: Now, did Mr. Bany own this property?

IVY: Yes, since 1926.

TANZER: So while he was in Longview, somebody else was farming it?

DAUGHTER: He didn't. He lived in Longview.

TANZER: Yes, but then when he drove the truck --

DAUGHTER: No. That was my father.

TANZER: Oh, now I see. So that was your father, and then when you were divorced, you remained there.

DAUGHTER: No, she came up here.

IVY: I lived with my folks in Huber. I was ten years running the beauty shop.

DAUGHTER: She worked in the beauty shop then in Kelso.

TANZER: Then you worked in the beauty shop there, and then after you married Mr. Bany, did you come back here?

IVY: Oh, immediately. And do you know what the judge said? He said, "Well now, Mr. Bany, I've known Ivy for quite some time. What's your hurry?" (Laughter)

DAUGHTER: That was because they had to get this special dispensation because of the three-day waiting period, and they wanted to be married right away.

IVY: Wes told me that he was the boss of this rock quarry and he had to get back on the job after the snow was gone and he said, "Oh, I guess there's no reason I can't sign that." We were married right that day -- she come over and met us and then Mrs. Revis drove us up to Vancouver. That was a bad night. There was a freezing rain, a silver thaw, and we just about didn't get back to Kelso.

It was on February 1. And her car went this way and that way after we crossed that river. It's a wonder we didn't topple over. It gave us an awful scare. She took us back home and we stayed about two days in Kelso and started figuring out how I'd get things packed to move because he wanted to get back to work. I said, "Oh, I know how I'll handle it. I'll hire a great big moving truck to move us. Give me a day or two and let me pack."

TANZER: So you came back here, though, early in February, and you've lived here ever since.

IVY: Ever since.

TANZER: Did Mr. Bany farm?

IVY: No, he wasn't a farmer. He just had this little piece of property, a cow and a horse.

TANZER: What did he do for a living?

IVY: Well, he was working at the rock quarry, and he continued working for the County until he was 65 years, when he retired.

And then, oh, we had been only a week or two married and there was an ad in the paper for Practical Nurses. It was training for the Home Health Care for Medicare, which was going to start July 1, 1966. So I said, "I would like to go to work nursing. Would you care if I did that?"

"Well," he said, "You really don't have to. But I'll tell you what. I'll make you a bargain. Now," he said, "When it comes time for me to retire, would you let me go fishing? If you will, I'll be home every night and have your dinner ready." He loved to fish and hunt. (Laughter)

DAUGHTER: I think that was when you were working for the Jenkins family. At the Jenkins estate, she took care of him for about a year and a half before he passed away.

TANZER: Tell me about the Jenkins family.

IVY: Oh. Mr. Jenkins had a real bad time. The first case I was on was him. As soon as they heard about me being trained in Washington, they wanted to hire me, so I went out and was their day nurse. That was 12-hour shifts. I went early and they had a night nurse. I got along with them just fine.

TANZER: What was the matter with him?

IVY: He had diabetes, and he was almost blind; and he had one leg amputated. So he was bedfast.

TANZER: Who were the other members of the family at that time; who lived in the house?

IVY: There were no children. She was an Ainsworth and they didn't get married until in late years. They rode horses. Maybe you've heard about them.

TANZER: Well, I knew they had horses.

IVY: They had a beautiful home. And, of course, she was the money. (Chuckle) He took care of the horses for the Ainsworths.

TANZER: Oh. Did she marry the hired hand? Oh, I didn't know that. That was frequently done. The same thing happened to the Walkers. That's not unusual.

DAUGHTER: Oh, I guess he was a tall, handsome man. I remember pictures of Mr. Jenkins.

IVY: He was an awful nice man to work for. He never hollered or crabbed about anything.

TANZER: So yours was a 12-hour day shift?

IVY: Yes. And they had a cook and a gardener. And they had a dog. They didn't have a cat but they had a dog. We've got two cats. He was a person that was very well educated and he never crabbed. She was a little hard for some of the people to get along with but she was never crabby with me. She was always nice.

TANZER: So you took care of him for a year, and did he then pass away?

IVY: Yes. So then I went to work on this Home Health Care.

TANZER: Tell me about Health Home Care.

IVY: We went in the homes. I was trained in Washington and licensed there. Then I took training that they were giving the nurses up here.

DAUGHTER: You might say that because it was connected with the government, you were covered with paperwork, along with all of the working in the home.

IVY: Yes.

TANZER: How long were the cases? How long did you stay on one particular case?

IVY: I just went from one to another. Only with Mr. Jenkins did I stay on his case.

TANZER: How long did you do Health Home Care?

IVY: I stayed with that until I was 73.

TANZER: Meanwhile, when you were working, what was Mr. Bany doing?

IVY: Oh! He went hunting and fishing.

DAUGHTER: That was one person who really enjoyed his retirement!

IVY: And I want to tell you, his former wife, she didn't like for him to go fishing. She fussed about it. Well, she was sick and having a bad time, but he'd say, "I think I'll go fishing today." "Oh, do you have to go today?" She didn't want him going, but me -- I just said, "Fish every day. I'll pack your lunch."

DAUGHTER: He commented so many times, "I think I'm the luckiest man alive." He really enjoyed his 25 years of retirement. And he lived to be 90. They enjoyed life.

TANZER: Did you travel when he was retired?

IVY: Oh, yes. We went to the beach, that's about the only place.

TANZER: Were you active at all in any of the Beaverton organizations?

IVY: Oh, in the Rebekah's as an officer several times.

TANZER: In any political groups?

IVY: No.

TANZER: I notice that your father was a very strong Republican.

IVY: Yes. I am, too.

TANZER: Well, I'd like to ask you a few questions about that. Was there a strong Republican party in Beaverton.

IVY: Oregon was strongly Republican.

TANZER: Did I ask you about the Ku Klux Klan. Do you know if your father ever belonged to the Ku Klux Klan?

IVY: No, he never did.

TANZER: Well, the reason I ask is there was an active Klan in Beaverton. Did you know about it?

IVY: Yes, I knew about it.

TANZER: A number of people have told me that their fathers and their husbands belonged. It advertised itself as a service organization.

DAUGHTER: Oh, really?

TANZER: And they joined, but many of them quit then once they found out what it was. It used to meet directly across from where the Commercial Hotel was.

IVY: I remember.

TANZER: Did you ever see them marching, the Klan? Do you remember?

IVY: Yes, I saw that. They marched in Longview or Kelso one time.

TANZER: Do you remember seeing the Klan in Beaverton?

IVY: Oh, maybe once or twice.

TANZER: Do you remember anything about it?

IVY: No, I don't. I didn't know enough about it to really tell you anything about it. But they had it there.

TANZER: Did you ever hear where their activities were directed?

IVY: No.

TANZER: Well, it would have to have been anti-Catholic, because there weren't any Blacks and there weren't any Jews and there were only a few Chinese men. Did you know any of the Chinese who worked in this area?

IVY: No, but I knew a Japanese. He worked for my folks as the cook. He was a real nice Japanese, and he cooked for the folks when they had the mill. His name was Hulie Kuramoto. He would go to town once in a while and do the shopping and he'd always bring us all a gift home.

DAUGHTER: He brought back that corner cabinet in there.

TANZER: Where did the cabinet come from, the one the Japanese cook brought for you?

IVY: Oh, the Lewis & Clark's World Fair.

TANZER: Do you remember the Lewis & Clark Exposition?

IVY: Oh, I remember everything.

TANZER: Well, tell me about it.

IVY: We went through the Forestry Building. That was just beautiful. The way we did it was my father laid off all the men in the mill for three or four days and we all went to Portland. We drove horses to Portland and put them up in this stable. That sounds funny now to tell that, but we had a big hack with two seats. The horses and the buggy and we went to Portland and we stayed for three or four days.

TANZER: That was in 1905. So you went to Portland?

IVY: As we went down the Canyon Road, they had planks on the road; I remember that. Then we put the horses in the stable and went to a nice hotel to stay and we went every day to the Fair. I think the family stayed in three, four days. We took everything in. I was about eight years old.

TANZER: Do you remember the hotel where you stayed?

IVY: If I remember right, it was called St. Charles Hotel. My! We thought we was swell, entertained, go out and have our breakfast, and then we drove to the Fair. Then we went out to some old friends of my parents and they went with us one day and this is what I did. She brought a lunch for the children. There was I and my brothers and she had two children, so she had a big basket and she brought it along with lunch in. I was carrying it after dinner (I'll never forget this) -- we got on the streetcar and come back over to town and (they was helping me on) I gave the basket to the conductor and she turned around and said, "Where's the lunch basket?" "Oh," I says, "I gave it to that conductor." (Laughter) So she went back and asked them if they had found it. Yes, they got it. But here I was carrying the basket and I handed it away.

TANZER: How long did it take you to get from Portland to Beaverton?

IVY: Well it would take us, I'd say about an hour and a half if you had a good team. We had good horses. My father prided himself in keeping up his horses. Only one person stayed home and they didn't want to go to the Fair. They milked our cows and took care of things.

TANZER: I did want to ask you something, Mrs. Bany. What has happened to your family home and the property in the Beaverton area?

IVY: Well, it's been all sold now, over a matter of time.

TANZER: The first house -- you've never told me on the tape and we should have that. The first house is where?

IVY: The very first house was over on Weir Road. The second house was down on what I call the farm now. My dad had the two, you see. That house that's over there ...

DAUGHTER: Still in existence, isn't it?

TANZER: And was that land your land to dispose of?

IVY: Yes, all of that.

TANZER: But did you sell it or was it sold before it came to you?

DAUGHTER: I think it was sold back in the 1930's.

IVY: Yes. My father sold that before he passed away.

DAUGHTER: Before he was gone, yes. That was part of his estate that he left, but I don't remember the details about it. For years and years there was a Japanese family that farmed. They put strawberries in. I don't remember their names. Do you, Mother?

IVY: No, I don't.

TANZER: What happened to them?

IVY: They got up and left because the crop wasn't very good. And my brother and I had to take them to court to get the rent out of them. They was renting the place. We went to Mr. Hare and he put it plain to them what they had to do. I remember sitting in his office and they didn't let it go to court.

TANZER: But you still owned the property then, so the property hadn't been disposed of?

IVY: Yes. So they paid up their rent and then we had the property for quite some time, until after Father and Mother passed away. And then we sold the farm.

DAUGHTER: And divided the place on Blanton Street.

IVY: Yes, down to Huber, we divided it out.

DAUGHTER: That was among the three children, Francis and my mother and her brother John -- but that's been a long time ago.

IVY: We got together ourselves and talked it over, how to divide it up and what was equal.

TANZER: And what about Mr. Bany's properties?

DAUGHTER: We're still on it. This is it. It's just less than 2 acres.

IVY: A little less than two acres now. But we had wills made, him and I both, and then we had after he passed away, what was it we went through, you are the trustee. Now it will come to her, if I was to pass away, if we don't sell it. But we have no idea of selling it. We want to stay here.

DAUGHTER: She made that clear, you notice. (Laughter)

TANZER: (Laughter) That's fine. I'm not in the business of buying or selling. I just want to find out what happened to the land that people owned. That's just interesting. I have a couple of personal questions to ask you about your own philosophy. What have you learned through your personal experience which might help the rest of us out?

IVY: Oooh! That's a vague question.

DAUGHTER: You've always said that everything that I give out in this life always comes back to you. And that's true.

IVY: Yes, that's what my theory is.

TANZER: That's a very good attitude.

IVY: And I want to tell you this. I have neighbors that's lived around me up here, our old neighbors, and they always worked with my husband. They all worked together. Now when I married Mr. Bany, the Wolds and the Davies up here -- they had acreage, you see, this was the Wold place and Davies had acreage and Wes did. They all worked together and if they put hay in, he went over there and helped them, and when they put hay in our barn, they came over and helped.

No matter what happened, if we needed help or when he got sick, they were there helping me and doing things. I would say we've got wonderful neighbors. Now I'm acquainted with the neighbor here and the neighbor over there. I haven't gotten around. They're my new neighbors. I haven't had time, but all of our neighbors helped and did for the others.

TANZER: I have another question and that is, you have a wonderful relationship with your daughter. That is very obvious. What is the secret to that?

DAUGHTER: A sense of humor! I think that's what we live by. I kid and joke with her and she returns it.

IVY: Yes.

TANZER: Well, how did you develop that relationship?

DAUGHTER: I don't know. I'll tell you a story, though. My daughter Janet is 34 years old. She lives in Salem and her new neighbor asked her who her best girlfriend is and she said, "You know, Mother, I thought about it and I told her it was my mother who was my best friend." And the girl was quite astounded that I was Janet's best friend. So I guess it's a little something we passed on in the family.

IVY: Oh, yes, and Janet was born on my birthday. And all of our family worked together. If anybody is in trouble up there, she runs up and jumps in the car.

DAUGHTER: It's just something that has come down to us from our forefathers.

IVY: We always helped each other. That's as much as I can tell.

TANZER: Well, then I'm going to ask you a question because you're very young at heart. I'm going to ask you what your goals are for the future.

IVY: Welll, (Laughter) I hope to live here and be of help if anybody needs me. I want to tell you what I told my neighbors. Any time somebody is sick, now this is the way they did when my husband was sick. When I'd have to leave him and go shopping, some of my neighbors would come and stay with him. And I told them all, "Now I'm not too able to come in and do nursing, but I want you to remember any time you need somebody to sit with the sick, you call on me and I'll come over." And I said, "If I'm not able to walk over, bring the car and I'll go with you."

TANZER: Mrs. Bany, were do you get your energy and your productivity? Where does it come from?

IVY: Well, I consider it comes all through my family. That's the way my parents were. They was always helping somebody; if anybody needed help, they was there to help them. That I get through my family.