

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH: ^{Miss} Elva Rossi at her home in Beaverton Oregon.

October 26, 1982

INTERVIEWER: Shirley Tanzer

TRANSCRIBER: Rosalie Wakefield (5-22-83)

TAPE #1, SIDE # 1

SHIRLEY TANZER

Miss Rossi, where did your family come from?

ELVA ROSSI

Well, my father ^{August} Rossi, came from Italy. ~~and~~ They came from Tuscany, which is where Florence is, you know. ~~and~~ They didn't live in Florence, but they lived out in the country. ~~and~~ My grandfather Rossi came to this country in the early 1870's because my father was ~~born~~ born in 1870, the 13th of March, and my father was just a small baby and he left Italy to come here because conditions were, you know, bad in that country and he was gone about ten years before he could send enough money to bring my grandmother and the two children. They had a daughter Rosalina, who was older than my father, and my father, whose name was August Rossi. ~~and they got into New York in 1832.~~ My grandmother and her two children couldn't speak a word of English and how they got here on the train, I don't know. ^{But} they came directly here to Beaverton.

TANZER

How had ^{your grandfather} ~~come~~ come to Beaverton?

ELVA ROSSI

Well, he had come to Oregon in 1870, and he had first gone to San Francisco where he had a brother and he didn't like it there. Things didn't work out. Then he went to Tacoma where he had another brother who was ~~in the truck garden, truck farming,~~ truck farming, and that didn't work out very well. ^{So} he had another brother who was with him ~~and I don't know how this~~ ^(Reynaldo was his name) ~~got in.~~ he and my grandfather came to Beaverton in the early 1870's. ~~and~~ I think the abstract ~~that~~ my brother Albert ~~had~~ ^(Did he show it to you at all?) ~~shows~~ shows the years that the property was bought. You know how the old abstracts were. They had so much historical records on them. ~~He~~ ^{He} paid \$1,000 an acre for property where the outdoor theater stands and some of the other property ~~because~~ because he owned the property which is right behind the Valley Newspaper, down ~~here~~ here on Canyon Road -- that's the coffee place now. And it went over to where the outdoor theater is. ~~and~~ Most of that was ~~in~~ in truck garden and onions. They had a large planting of onions and they used to send onions to Denver and San Francisco but I have seen years when they couldn't sell the onions and they would just drive the wagons up to the onion house and shovel the onions into the wagons and take ~~them~~ them down and dump them.

And then they bought the property where the Safeway store stands, and part of that parking lot was home property. ~~was~~ That property went back to what is now Broadway, back across the Tualatin Valley Highway clear down to ~~beyond~~ (across from where Plush Pippin is. That old property goes down below there, down to what they call the ditch. ~~Now~~ The ditches were boundary lines along the property, ~~and they -- I don't know whether he~~

TANZER

Wasn't \$1,000 an acre a considerable amount?

ELVA

It was, but you see, it was truck ~~and~~ garden beaverdam and it had a wonderful market in Portland.

~~TANZER~~

(Question unclear)

~~ELVA~~

Elva:

~~was~~ I think ~~that~~ property that borders on Broadway and the Safeway property, whether that house was standing on there or ~~was~~ not, it was a regular little old farm, ~~kind of~~ long farmhouse, and it had an upstairs ~~and it was~~ divided in two bedrooms, ~~and~~ Then there was a bedroom downstairs ~~and~~ a quite large kitchen and a pantry, ~~and~~ They ^{also} had a big dining room table in the kitchen, and that was where they spent most of ~~the~~ their time. But they did ~~not~~ have a parlor or living room in the front part of the house and I don't remember whether Grandma had a table in there or not, ~~but anyway they had an old-fashioned lounging(?) and//~~
Now that was your Grandfather and Grandmother Rossi?

TANZER

ELVA

Yes. I'm talking about the Rossi's now, my grandparents. And my grandfather's name was -- they called him Joe. His name was ~~Joseph~~ ^{Gusepio} (sp?) which in Italian is Joseph, and it's G-u-s-e-p-i-o, I think.

~~and~~ My ~~grandmother's~~ grandmother's ~~name~~ name was ~~Teresa~~ Teresa; ~~and~~ her father died when she was quite small and a ~~Jewish~~ Jewish family ~~in~~ (loghorn?) took her, ~~and~~ She was ~~of~~ sort of a maid, but they treated her just like family and they used to take her to operas and all sorts of things. ~~But anyway, let's see now, I said~~ My father and my grandmother and his sister Rosalina (came (in 1882 to Beaverton) from New York, because he said and I think I'm correct, because that's the year the Brooklyn Bridge was ~~opened~~ opened, I think. ~~and~~ Then ~~when~~ they moved to Beaverton ^{to} where the Safeway parking lot is (and where the Beaverton School stood). I think it was ~~there~~ there because as far back as I can remember it was. ~~but~~ My father went to school for about four years until he was about 16. And then he quit ~~school~~ school to help his father on the farm because at that time my grandfather had, and his brother, were not getting along very well and both of them had their wives living there in the small house and the two women didn't get along very well. So my grandfather and my father arranged to buy his share and then the brother went up to LaCenter, Washington, and bought an acreage up there and started his own little farm. Let's see, his wife's name was Maria. ~~Well, then, let me see.~~ But that ~~was~~ was the beginning and ~~our~~ our family has been in Beaverton over a hundred years.

~~and then~~ the other side of the family ~~was~~ the Wolf side. ~~and~~ My grandfather Wolf and my grandmother came from Essenhein(sp?) in Germany which is not far from Meinsk(?). ~~and~~ My ~~grandfather's~~ grandfather's name was Henry Wolf. He was 19 when he came to this country and he had a brother, ~~and~~ I think an uncle that lived in Pennsylvania in ~~_____~~ Erie County. ~~and~~ He settled there first and that's where he and my grandmother were married. ~~and~~ Then they moved from there. He and his older brother Jake were very close and they made a lot of moves together. ~~and~~ They moved from there to ~~Illinois~~ so first they moved ~~not to Illinois, they moved to Missouri,~~ and They bought property in Missouri, ~~and~~ but I don't know just where it was. I've never known. But it was wonderful peach country and they were going to have lovely peaches and all but they soon discovered that whoever sold them the property didn't own it. It was rail-

road land and they lost that. # ~~and~~ So then another uncle or cousin was in ~~Illinois~~ Effinham, Illinois, and they went there. ~~and~~ I just don't know what my grand^father did, but they lived there several years, because my oldest uncle, Henry, was born there; and also, the second children ~~who were~~ (a set of twins) John and Elizabeth, were born in Illinois. ~~and then~~ From there the two brothers decided they'd homestead in Nebraska. So they settled on the Republican River in a place which is now called Alma. ~~and~~ We have many cousins and relatives all through Nebraska, who ~~are~~ ^{are} descendants of all the brothers that he had. ~~and then~~ But/ It got so bad -- the grasshoppers would just destroy the crops and that must have been about -- Oh, let's see, my ~~brother~~ brother was born in 1872, and it must have

been about that time, and they lived in ~~_____~~ they used to call them dugouts, but they were sod houses, ^(they used to call them dugouts, yes, and then dugouts) ~~and~~ my grandfather ^{was} a great hunter ~~and~~ he was a wonderful marksman. ~~and~~ He used to take hunting parties out from England and Europe and go up ~~_____~~ toward Wyoming and do that buffalo hunting ~~and~~ ^{the} old prairie was just fall of buffalo at that time. But the grasshoppers just practically ate everything they planted and my mother said that if they'd hang clothes on the line, the grasshoppers would eat them.

So then he went into Wyoming and I think he worked on the Union Pacific railroad when they were building it. ~~and~~ How he got to Oregon, I don't know. ~~_____~~ It has been said that he walked from Wyoming to Oregon, but ~~and~~ I never heard that for sure and I never did ask my mother. But he came to Oregon and he went to Woodburn and worked for Sam Brown, ~~who was~~ a very well known pioneer, you know, in that part of the country. ~~and~~ ^{then} he sold their homestead to my Uncle Jake (his brother Jake) for the railroad

fare for my grandmother and six children. ~~and~~ At that time ^{there was no railroad into Oregon. The Union Pacific was not completed.} So they ~~went~~ went from Nebraska; ^{to San Francisco;} my grandmother with six little children, ~~and~~ The oldest one was Uncle Henry and I think he was about ^{10 or 12} 12. My mother was 6. ~~_____~~ But she got on the train with these six little children and a baby about three months old, I think it was. ~~and~~ The relatives back there had ~~baked~~ all kinds of bread and they ~~had~~ had bread in flour sacks and food that they took with them to eat on the train. And my mother said that when the train would stop, ~~_____~~ why my

Uncle Henry ^{who} was very adventuresome, ~~and he~~ would ~~get~~ get off the train and walk around, ~~and~~ Sometimes the Indians would come and get on the train and my grandmother would give them a loaf of bread. But my mother said the younger children were so afraid the train would go away and leave Uncle Henry because they were always so afraid he wouldn't get on the train in time. ~~But~~ When she got to San Francisco, ~~she~~ she got passage on the Great Republic to Portland. ~~It was~~ It was ~~just~~ very reasonable to go; It was just \$5.00 for grandmother and I don't know how much for the children -- the passage to Portland. ~~And~~ they came up on the Great Republic. It was an amazing trip that it made and they got into Portland I think June 19, 1888. ~~and~~ My mother said it was just nice and the docks were just loaded with people to welcome the Great Republic and she said, Oh, they were so frightened because the people were cheering and everything. But my grandfather was there to meet them and I think they stayed at a hotel or ~~boarding house~~ ~~boarding house~~ rooming house in Portland and then he took them to Woodburn the next day. Probably they went on the boat, I imagine. ~~4~~

TANZER June 19, 1878. Just fascinating! Well, it's fascinating to think your family has been here over a hundred years. Now the Merle Davies family was the oldest. She was the oldest person living in ~~Beaverton~~ Beaverton. How old was she?

ELVA Ninety years old, exactly. She was 90 years old the 6th of December and she died on the 6th of January.

TANZER Had she been sick for a long time?

ELVA ~~Well, she hadn't been well, no, but she had lived along almost up to the time she died. Let's see, Oh, when~~ ~~Before~~ Before Grandma Wolf and the family came to Oregon, my grandfather had built a cabin for them to live in. And Mr. Sam Brown, who ~~was~~ ~~is~~ ~~well~~ ~~known~~ ~~around~~ ~~the~~ ~~area~~ ~~there~~ (he was one of the early pioneers) told him he could build on the property there.

TANZER Was Sam Brown the one for whom Brownsville was named?

ELVA I don't know about that. Where is Brownsville? Is it ~~near~~ near Woodburn?

TANZER Yes.

ELVA Well, it probably is.

TANZER Absolutely. The fact that one of the first woolen mills was at Brownsville was just.....

ELVA Well, I don't know too much about Sam Brown but he is a very well known Oregon Pioneer. The Oregon Historical Society ~~has probably all kinds of~~ *probably has more information.*

TANZER I have some information on Sam Brown and I'm almost certain he's the one for whom Brownsville was named.

ELVA Well, ~~When~~ ^{When} my grandfather built this cabin, he did not put a floor in the cabin, because in Nebraska, it was so cold -- the ground was so hard and everything that they just put buffalo skins ~~down~~ ^{down} on and lined the sod house with ~~it~~ ^{them} and ~~he~~ ^{so} he wouldn't put a floor in, and Sam Brown said, ~~and~~ "Mr. Wolf, you'll all be sick. It's so wet in Oregon that you'll all be sick if you don't have a floor. You've got to keep dry." Well, my grandfather was a very stubborn old German and, the Wolf Family was really famous ~~for~~ ^{for} being stubborn, and I always said a pair of mules

should have been on the family coat of arms. But, well, he brought them and the first thing that happened that winter -- my grandfather got typhoid pneumonia and nearly died. And here he was, a great big husky man over 6' tall; and after that his health he was just lucky to survive. ~~that his health was never very good.~~ He was never able to do real heavy work or anything like that again. And the baby, who wasn't even a year old then, died of pneumonia, too. ~~and she was buried~~, Dolly Cora was her name, and she is buried in what's that famous cemetery? Bell pack Cemetery -- in Woodburn, or French Prairie, ~~out of ...~~ But that's where she is buried, ~~and then I don't know just when my grandfather left Woodburn but they went,~~ he went down to the Columbia River ~~and I think it was near~~ ~~Cathlamet that they~~ ^{to} either Cathlamet or Kalama -- aren't those two towns on the Columbia? Well, he went to work in the sawmill, and my grandmother took sick and they ~~she~~ took her and put her in the hospital at Vancouver ~~where~~ she was ~~there~~ a patient for a whole year. ~~and~~ My oldest ~~was~~ aunt was about 12 years old. She was one of the twins, ~~Elizabeth~~, Elizabeth, or Lizzy as they called her, and she tried to keep house, ~~for the~~ Well, I think my grandmother, if I remember correctly, had had another child. She had 12 children; they were about 2 years apart. ~~and~~ they were at Woodburn, And my grandmother had taken sick and there was a family ~~and~~ (I can't remember their name now) down there that ~~she~~ took the baby. They had a crippled son and he enjoyed having the baby so much. But then when they came up to Washington, up to Cathlamet, I think it was, why Grandpa put my grandmother in the Sisters' hospital at Vancouver. ~~was~~ I suppose that was St. Joseph's, ~~I suppose~~ ~~But~~ anyway, Lizzy as they called her, kept house for Grandpa, ~~and he~~ ~~they were~~ They lived ~~was~~ across the river from where the sawmill was that Grandpa worked in, and every morning and every night he would go across the river, ~~and~~ He'd walk on the logs on the log ~~was~~ rafts. ~~and~~ Finally I think they ^{took} put the ~~the~~ baby, ~~they had taken her~~ Aunt Minnie, with them to Cathlamet. But it was just too much work for my aunt. She tried to keep house and cook and Mamma said they had a great big old chest -- of oak chest and she used that for a table, and she'd roll her biscuits out on that. And then if Grandpa didn't come home in the wintertime, it would be dark he wouldn't come home, when he'd get home all the children were crying because they were so afraid he'd fallen into the river and been drowned. ~~and~~ I don't know just when he ~~was~~ decided to come to Portland, but he came ~~to Portland~~ ~~and~~ he worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad as section foreman. ~~and~~ The first section house was a ~~at~~ ~~Bertha~~ Bertha Station, ~~and~~ They had a great big water tank there and there was a huge ~~was~~ spring there, ~~and it's right about~~ under where that overpass is where the highway is. ~~and~~ I don't know how many years he worked there, but ~~my~~ my mother and her sisters used to walk into Portland on the railroad tracks. ~~and~~ They became acquainted with many Portland people, ~~and~~ where the Portland Hotel stood, there was a German school and I think the man who ran it was Dr. Menner. ~~and~~ Some of my older ~~was~~ aunts and my mother went to school there for a year or two. ~~and~~ They were much interested in the Turn Verine((???), my grandfather was, and it was on Fourth Street. And they met many German people through the Turn Verine(?). ~~and~~ And then I ~~don't~~ know how many years my grandfather ~~was~~ they lived at Bertha, ~~but~~ then he was transferred up to Raleigh and the section

house was ... well, let's see would it be back? There used to be a big trestle on the railroad and they were on the west end of the trestle -- the Raleigh end, ~~and~~ (it was called Raleigh then) ~~and~~ They lived there and my grandfather had Chinese section workers. He had ~~had~~ a crew of Chinese men who worked and I think that his section ran from there to Reedville. ~~It~~ My mother tells about ~~and~~ (I don't know ~~the~~ year) ~~it was~~, ~~but~~ a great forest fire ~~came~~ ^{that} through. ~~and~~ It came down, well you know where Oleson Road is, yes, along that creek and all in through there, and she said the Chinese protected the house from the burning embers, and they made squirt guns and would get water out of the creek and would squirt it on and saved the section house. ~~They lived there~~, I don't know how many years they lived there ~~but~~ I know that in '82, my Uncle Lawrence was born there, so I know they were living there in '82. ~~and~~ Then they moved to Beaverton which was probably in the later '80's. And he was section foreman here for a long time, and I think it was probably the same section. I don't know how they happened to transfer him. ~~and~~ He worked for ~~me~~ (I don't know how many years) ~~for~~ the Southern Pacific Company, ~~and~~ where ~~there used to be~~ the Chamber of Commerce building, ^{was} there was a big water tank there and they had a well, and my grandfather or one of my uncles would ~~take~~ take one of the mules or a horse and go down there and they had a pump where you fastened the horse up and he went around and around ~~and~~ pumped the tank full and they'd always pump it so that the water ran over the top, so they'd have a full ~~water~~ tank of water.

TANZER

Tell me about their move to Beaverton.

ELVA

Well as ~~near~~ ^{year} as I can remember of what my mother told me, when they moved to Beaverton they located on Beaverdam Road, ~~and it's probably as near as I can understand~~ It was probably at the end of Hall Street. ~~and~~ I have an idea it was about where the Plush Pippin is, ~~but~~ ^{it was} they didn't live there very long. ~~and~~ ^{and} One of the first winters they were here, ~~in~~ November ^{and} my mother said it was a beautiful autumn day, and so they decided they would do a lot of washing, she and her sister. ~~So~~ they hung all the clotheslines full and then they didn't have enough space so they hung the rest of the clothes on the fences. ~~and~~ They didn't dry during the day, but they thought, well it's such a lovely day, the next day it would probably be nice, and they would all dry. That night a terrible snowstorm came up in the night and of course, the wind and all, ~~blew~~ ^{blew} the clothes off the lines and the fence and everything. ~~so~~ (the snow ^{She said} stayed on the ground practically all winter, and early in the spring the next year, my Uncle John went out with a long pole and fished a lot of the clothes and things out of the beaverdam ditch. ~~and~~ Then they moved ~~to~~ on Canyon Road just ~~to~~ east of where ~~is~~ Guy Carr's garage is. ~~and~~ I think, I'm sure that Guy Carr has some of that property where he parks his cars in the parking lot on the east side of ~~their~~ their garage, ~~and~~ They had a big two-story house there. ~~now~~ ^{I don't know} whether my grandfather built that or not. Somewhere I have a photograph of ~~it~~ ^{it}, and that's where I think my youngest aunt, Grethhen, was born ~~there~~ in 1890. (tape stops abruptly)

TAPE #1, SIDE 22#2

October 26, 1982

CONTINUATION OF INTERVIEW WITH MISS ELVA ROSSI, Beaverton Oral History Project.

INTERVIEWED: Shirley Tanzer

ELVA ROSSI: Of the children, ~~there was~~ Gretchen, ~~and~~ Etta, ~~and~~ Emil and Martha, were all born in Beaverton. ~~and~~ Uncle Lawrence, who was born at Raleigh in the old section house up there, but now I'm trying to think what year Aunt Martha was born. I could look it up in the old family Bible. ~~But that would be probably about the time...~~ She may have been born down on Beaverdam Road, too, I don't know. I don't know how long they lived there, but my mother said they didn't live there very long.

SHIRLEY TANZER: How long did they live in the house on Canyon Road?

ELVA: ~~Well, they lived there, my grandfather died~~ oh, My grandmother died in ^{December 28} 1895; ~~and she~~ that was in that house. ~~And she died in December, I think it was December 28, 1895,~~ And my mother's oldest sister, one of the twins, Elizabeth, died in ~~November~~ the preceding November, ~~and my mother~~, I can always remember that at Christmastime my mother would cry because it was such a sad Christmas for them, ~~my~~ such a sad year. ~~The 1895.~~

TANZER: ~~So~~ how old would she have been at that time?

ELVA: My mother? Well, Mama was born in '72; that would have made her 23.

TANZER: How did she meet your father?

ELVA: Oh, well, I ~~just~~ guess through ~~maybe~~ going to school or ~~maybe~~ community affairs, because they were practically neighbors, ~~not too far away~~ ^{just} down the road. You see, ~~our house stood where~~ the house we built in 1912 stood where the Safeway store now stands; ~~and our old family home where we were all born was built in~~ ~~1893 or 1895~~ ^{1893 or 1895.} ~~or something like that and~~ it would have been ~~on~~ where the parking lot is.

TANZER: So your parents likely met somewhere in Beaverton?

ELVA: Oh yes, through social affairs, school or something.

TANZER: And when were they married?

ELVA: Well, they were married in 1894. I think that was the year they were married.

TANZER: How compatible were your families?

ELVA: Well, I don't know. ~~Because of~~ My grandmother ^{died} dying so young, she was in her 40's. I think she was 45 or 46 or something like that. And the younger children ~~after~~ my aunt died. ~~She died~~ just before my grandmother did. ~~So~~ all the younger children came to my mother because they had no one to consult after Grandma died. ~~and~~

~~She~~ ^{she} one of the oldest aunts, Aunt Martha, was going to high school in Portland, ~~and~~ ^{and} she was working for board and room with a family by the name of ~~Miss (or) Leike. (spelled out)~~ ^{and} He was an architect or something that had to do with the lighthouses. ~~and~~ They lived down in South Portland close to Bancroft or somewhere in that part of town. ~~and~~ So she was going to Lincoln High School; ~~and~~ it was her last year and she did graduate from high school, but because of my grandmother dying, ~~my grandfather~~ ^{she} had to come home to help with the family. ~~and~~ So she stayed there until she was married. I've forgotten just what year Aunt Martha married. Let's see.... Well, it was probably ~~after 1905~~ sometime after ~~that~~, ¹⁹⁰⁵ and all the younger children ~~and~~ (there were more girls than boys; there were two younger boys Emil and Lawrence) ~~and~~ they would come to my mother for help, ~~and~~ ^{and} her mother ^{had} taught her to sew and she was a very good seamstress, ~~and~~ she made clothes for all the children ^{as well as} ~~besides~~ for her own children, so they just depended on her as if she was their mother. ~~and~~ My grandfather died in April, 1912, Henry Wolf. And after that, my Aunt Kate who was just younger than my mother ^{came home} ~~and~~ (she had married one of the Hawkins boys, Will Hawkins, and she came home -- I think he had died by that time) ~~and~~ she came home and helped take care of the children, too, ~~and kept house for my grandfather until after his death,~~ ~~and~~ I think Uncle Lawrence was married to Edna ~~Oleson~~ Oleson, who was one of the pioneer families here, you know Oleson Road, yes, and their big old house is still standing there, you know.

TANZER Is somebody living in it?

ELVA Well, one of the older aunts, Olive Oleson, who was a registered nurse, and never married and is 91 or 92, is now in King City Nursing Home, ~~and~~ ^{Thelma (who was in her late 70's)} one of her younger sisters ~~died just a few months ago,~~ ~~Thelma, who was in her late 70's,~~ ~~died~~ in the nursing home there. But there are other Olesons alive -- the one they called Polly (I can't think of her last name) ~~she~~ lives not too far from the old Oleson home.

TANZER So the home is still in the family?

ELVA Yes, it's still in the family and I think Olive owns it. I'm pretty sure she does. And there's another Oleson, Lillian. She's one of the younger ones. Thelma, the one who died recently, was the youngest. ^{But} Lillian lives in California. There were, let's see, the oldest sister, Visa (?), and Olive and Lillian and Thelma ^{who} all finished nurses training at Good Samaritan Hospital. ~~and~~ They were all RNs, but this Polly worked for Kienow's down on Beaverton Road for a number of years as a checker. ~~But~~ She's retired now and I understand she's quite ill. ~~But~~

TANZER I asked you about ~~the family~~ ^{parents'} your ^{family's} marriage ~~and~~ whether the Wolf family and the Rossi family got along well.

ELVA Well, they certainly did. They depended on my mother and father for an awful lot of help, ~~and~~ ~~when~~ ^{we} built ~~our~~ our big house in 1912 ^{and} when anyone was out of work or if anyone came out here from Nebraska or anywhere, they'd just move in with us until they either found work or decided to go somewhere else.

TANZER So you constantly had boarders?

ELVA Not boarders, just ~~guests~~. (laughter)

TANZER Name the ages of ~~your family~~ your immediate family, brothers -- you're the only girl and you're the oldest.

ELVA: Yes, then Albert's the only other remaining one. ~~and my~~ brother Frank died four years ago, and my brother Raymond died 25 years ago the 18th of January.

TANZER Tell me about your father. What kind of person was he?

ELVA My father was a very generous person and ~~was~~ very agreeable. He never argued much with people. He was a very patriotic American and if anyone would criticize the country, he'd say, "Tell 'em to go back. Tell 'em to go to Europe ~~for somewhere~~. They'll find out how wonderful they have it here." He said, "There's no country as wonderful as the United States." And, of course, he had become a naturalized citizen and he always voted. He was very active in ~~public~~ campaigning for people and he was a very good friend of Bill Hare (sp?) who was attorney at Hillsboro. ~~And~~ when he would run for the legislature or even when his son ran, why my father ~~would~~ always contributed to the election fund, ~~which~~ ^{it} wasn't much in those days like it is now. ~~and he~~ always electioneered for them; ~~got~~ people out to vote.

TANZER Now, Tell me your father's name.

ELVA August Rossi. And my mother's name was Hattie.

TANZER ~~and did your father's~~ what was his political persuasion?

ELVA Oh, he was a Republican from the day he registered - Oh, he was a STRONG Republican.

TANZER Did he talk about why he was a strong Republican?

ELVA Oh, I don't know why, but I think he would have disowned us if we weren't Republican. ~~But let's see --~~

TANZER Did he spend much time with his children?

ELVA ~~Well, he wasn't the kind that....~~ I think with the boys he was probably more chummy with ~~them~~ than he would have been with me. But he was a very strong disciplinarian; and it was nothing for him to turn us over his knee and paddle us good. ~~and~~ There was a time when we were living there on Broadway in Beaverton that he went into the chicken business. ~~and~~ we had a great big, long chicken house where the Safeway parking lot is now, and the highway in the back came through about the time, after we built the chicken house. And on the place we had a ~~very~~ great big barn and there were ~~I don't remember~~ four or five stanchions and in the barn. They had a watering ~~trough~~ and a well under the barn and a big pump, you know, a pitcher pump, ~~and~~ they would pump water for the horses, and in the wintertime they didn't have to take them outdoors to water them. ~~and~~ At one end, in the main part of the barn behind the stanchions was where they kept the hay, and then there was another section to the west of that where they had a place where they kept the straw. And it was easy to get the straw and the hay into the stanchions for the horses, ~~and~~ then back of where the straw storage place was, he had a buggy shed. And we had ~~what do you call~~

~~these two wheeled buggies? -- Well, we had a surrey with fringe on top. and then he had this buggy. We had a regular four-wheel buggy and then he had, well, he was great for horses, he loved horses, and he had gotten a hold of a young horse and it was called Lovelace Something.~~

TANZER

Like a chariot, kind of thing with the two wheels?

ELVA

Two wheeled. It was a racing or training ~~buggy~~^{cart}, but anyway that's what we had in there. ~~and~~ On Sundays it was quite the thing for my father to ~~put~~ harness up the horses and take us out for a ride in the surrey. I just often wonder what became of it. Of course, the barn was torn down in later years. ~~and then~~ ~~we~~ ^{He} ~~also~~ had a big onion house. ~~that~~ ~~now~~ These buildings were all where the Safeway store now stands, or was part of the highway behind it. ~~and then~~ ~~we~~ had a big onion house that had tiers built in it ~~so~~ for ventilation, ~~and~~ they would store the onions in there for drying and in order to keep them, ~~because~~ ^{because} if they were stacked too high they would ~~not~~ sweat and rot. ~~and~~ Some years they did ~~not~~ very well with the onions and then again ~~there~~ if there would be a big crop there wouldn't be any market. They'd just bring the wagon up to the onion house and take shovels and shovel it out and take it down to the beaverdam and plow it in. ~~He~~ ^I in about 1898, my mother ^{who} just loved fruit ~~and she~~ begged my ~~own~~ father to buy fruit trees. So they bought a lot of fruit trees that were planted all around the house where the Safeway store is. ~~and~~ ~~we~~ had apples. ~~We~~ had King apples, ~~we~~ had Cravenstein apples. ~~We~~ had cherries. We had Black Republicans. ~~We~~ had Royal Annes. We had ~~some~~ plums and pears and then ~~back of, well I would say it would be~~ (about where the Tualatin Valley Highway is), ~~back~~ through there they had a lane where when they went to work on the farm below they could drive the horses and the wagons and take the plows and things down. And they planted two rows of trees all along ^{down} there -- oh, I don't know how many feet it was, probably 100 feet or more. ~~and~~ ~~there~~ were apples ~~and~~ ~~plums~~ ~~but~~ no cherries that I remember. Oh! We had all kinds of fruit. And ~~finally~~, I guess because they didn't want to bother with taking care of it and everything, most of those trees in the back were pulled out. But the trees around the house we kept until we moved from there in 1962.

TANZER

Was it ~~1962~~ it 1962?

ELVA

In 1962, I built this house and came over here, and the Safeway ^{way} bought the property there at that time.

TANZER

Wasn't there another Safeway?

ELVA

Well, the original Safeway. They had bought that property from us, too, ~~where~~ where the parking lot is.

TANZER

Oh, that's right. That's what I remembered.

ELVA

And you see, ~~this~~ Beaverton Grade School was on that lot, ~~and then~~ My father owned some property (Albert would probably know where that was) ~~was~~ on ~~the~~ Farmington Road and, I think, just west of where the U.S. Bank is now. ~~and~~ Mr. Tucker bought it and put a lumber yard on it. ~~and he had had~~ ~~he~~ had bought the old school property and had a lumber yard on it, so my father traded that property for the property where the Safeway parking lot is and that's how we happened to get that. That's where the old school property was.

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TANZER Your father was a very smart businessman.

ELVA Well, I don't know. ^{Maybe} ~~he~~ he should have ~~probably~~ kept the other property, too. ~~But now I don't remember, but~~ ~~In~~ ~~the early 1900's~~ ~~must have been~~ about 1900, he bought that property where Guy Carr is and the corner ~~was that~~ and ~~It~~ ran clear back to what is Center Street now. And he bought that from a man by the name of ~~well, it may~~ come to me later. And then you see, ~~We~~ ~~owned~~ ~~already~~ ~~quite~~ a bit of property from where the coffee place is back over to the outdoor theater, ~~is~~ ~~well,~~ The outdoor theater was part of our property, too. ~~and where the~~ ~~where the~~ ~~home place is~~ ~~it~~ ran up to ~~there.~~ And at that time, I think -- I've forgotten who owned that, I think Reis; ~~they~~ they built a lovely home ~~on~~ there in about 1912 or 1914 or somewhere in that time period. It was ~~built~~ after our house was built, which was in 1912.

TANZER Tell me about your mother. ~~What~~ ~~kind~~ of person ~~she~~ ~~was~~?

ELVA: Well, she was a very kind, generous person and she was a very hard worker. ~~and~~ ~~As~~ I said before, I don't know what her brothers and sisters would have done without her after her mother died. And she ~~was~~ a very fine seamstress. ~~and~~ She had learned to sew when she was quite young. She said she used to stand up at the sewing machine, because she couldn't ~~was so~~ ~~sit down~~ small ~~she~~ couldn't reach the pedal. ~~so~~

TANZER Did she ever work out of the home?

ELVA: Not after she was married, no. But when she was a girl, she and my Aunt Elizabeth (one of the twins ~~she~~ ~~died~~) in ~~1895~~ 1895) ~~they~~ used to go out and work for the farmers around here on the beaverdam and weed onions and things like that.

TANZER Oh, was that for 10¢ an hour?

ELVA Yes, something like that. Oh, she went out and did housework and she worked for the Deacon family in Portland. NO! she didn't work ~~for~~ the Deacon's. My Aunt Elizabeth worked for the Deacons. She was an upstairs maid and I was ~~named~~ named for one of the Deacon girls. There were two ~~of them~~ ~~two~~ daughters. I think one of them was Arvella and the other was Elva. And my aunt said, ~~well~~ they should name me for one of them. ~~and~~ ~~at~~ ~~Christmastime,~~ they would pool ~~that~~ ~~their~~ money they had and go into Portland ~~to~~ get Christmas gifts for the family. Usually it ~~was~~ something useful like clothing. ~~and~~ One Christmas, ~~when~~ ~~think~~ my mother ~~was~~ about 16, she and her sister Elizabeth ~~had gone~~ ~~into~~ Portland and ~~she~~ ~~did~~ quite a bit of shopping. ~~and~~ ~~when~~ they got ready to go home, they only had enough money to buy one ticket on the train, so my mother said, "Well," she said, "Lizzy, you go home with the things and take them down. And I'll go up to Mrs. Wannars." ~~and~~ ~~Mr.~~ ~~Wanner~~ was a barber in Portland on 4th Street ~~and~~ ~~They~~ had come from Baltimore. And I think that Mr. Menner, who had the German School where the Portland Hotel later stood, was Mrs. Wanner's father. ~~and~~ They lived up on what they called "B" Street, which was Burnside. And whenever my mother and ~~one~~ ~~of~~ them would come into Portland, Mrs. ~~Wanna~~ ~~would~~ always ask them to stay overnight. She ~~was~~ very good

to them. So my mother said, "I'll go up to Mrs. Wanner's and when Lawrence comes in, ~~she said~~ ^{she said} "I'll get a ride home with him." But she was going to miss Christmas at home. So they were sitting there in the waiting room, I think it was on ~~South~~ ^{4th} Street ~~that's~~ where the train ran. ~~and~~ The station at that time was at 4th & Yamhill, I'm not sure. And she said ~~they~~ they were sitting there tearfully ~~and~~ ~~consoling~~ consoling each other, and they saw a piece of cardboard on the floor there in front of them. ~~and~~ They picked it up and it was a ticket to Beaverton!

TANZER Oh, my goodness! Isn't that something?

ELVA ~~And so they thought, well~~ My mother said it was one of the happiest Christmases she ever ~~spent~~ spent. And when we were on the train, ~~and~~ ^{and} the conductor came ~~through~~ ^{through}, there was a young man who couldn't find his ticket. But we never told them that we had found the ticket on the floor (laughter). He had to pay.

TANZER That's a wonderful story! So what kind of schooling did your mother have?

ELVA Well, she had gone to grade school, but she'd never gone beyond that. I don't know whether she finished the 8th grade or not?

TANZER What about your dad?

ELVA Well, ~~he~~ ^{he} went to school about four years after he came here. He was about 16, and he always enjoyed reading the papers and he could write fairly well. He was quite an intelligent man. ~~So~~ ^{Well}, My father, I think I told you, died in ~~1927~~ 1927, March 24th, and he was 56 years old.

TANZER After he died, was your mother able to manage the business?

ELVA Well, at ~~the~~ ^{the} that time my father ~~died~~ ^{he} was building the building in downtown Beaverton across on the corner of ~~that is~~ that street, where the pharmacy is -- across the street from the Beaverton pharmacy, on that corner. ~~and~~ ~~well~~ -

TANZER The Resale Shop.

ELVA Yes, in there, and ~~fixed~~ the fabric, and my mother had quite a struggle in getting it completed. She had to borrow money from the bank to help pay for it, because it was during the Depression and everything was in a very bad condition. ~~And~~ ^{And} she had quite a few problems trying to rent the stores. There were three store buildings in there. One was Mr. Thyng's; ~~and~~ he had a Confectionary and Pool Hall there. ~~And then~~ ^{And then} the other ~~two buildings~~ ^{two} stores, ~~they~~ were rented by different tenants. Maybe Albert told you about them. ~~And~~ ^{And} Finally, ~~we~~ ^{since} decided we had such a big house and the school teachers were having such a time, especially high school teachers, finding a place to board and room, ~~so~~ my mother decided some of us would sort of pile up together. ~~and~~ ^{and} She had a sewing room downstairs and she fixed that up for a bedroom for my brother Raymond, and then most of the bedrooms upstairs we rented out to school teachers. ~~and later~~, At that time the Beaverton School Board required that its teachers had

to be living in Beaverton. ~~And then~~ After they did away with that ruling, ~~why then we~~ rented the rooms to different men who worked at the Safeway or some of the businesses in Beaverton.

TANZER And did your mother do all the cooking...?

ELVA No. She would only furnish them breakfast and then there were restaurants in downtown Beaverton. ~~and I think~~ My brother Albert had a restaurant at that time ^{where} the Grayhound bus station was across the street from the pharmacy -- in there. So that's the way she managed.

TANZER Who was living at home at that time?

ELVA Well, Raymond and I were the only two. And Frank had been married. I've forgotten what year he married. He was in the First World War. Didn't my brother tell you that? And he was one of the youngest men in his outfit and he was stationed at Ft. ~~Munson~~ ~~what's the name of that~~ → up at Astoria.

TANZER Oh, ~~that's not Meximether, that's~~

TAPE ENDS