

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with

HARVEY WILLIAMS

at his home in Beaverton, Oregon

INTERVIEWER: SHIRLEY TANZER

Date of Interview: November 1, 1982

SUMMARY OF TOPICS DISCUSSED

INTERVIEW WITH: HARVEY WILLIAMS

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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3. Working with his father in the woods
4. Quitting school to work; driving truck for Lewis Bros.
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(Where unknown, phonetic spellings are used)

INTERVIEW WITH HARVEY WILLIAMS

for

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Place: At Mr. William's home in Beaverton, Oregon

Interviewer: Shirley Tanzer

HARVEY WILLIAMS: ... at 12770 S.W. 8th Street in 1909.

SHIRLEY TANZER: Well, I suppose the joke has been, "Well, you haven't gone far!"

WILLIAMS: Well, no, and I haven't. (Laughter) Well, I've moved around a little bit. I used to live three or four different places after I got married, but we finally settled right back here. This used to be part of the folks' property. They sold it to a Mrs. Harris and she built a house here. She passed away at the Christian Nursing Home, and we bought the property from them and have lived here since.

TANZER: How much property did your father have?

WILLIAMS: He had five lots. There are two lots next door with a house on, and then he had this lot here and now there's two lots with the old home place. He used to farm that. He'd get out there after workin' all day, and he'd make a garden and raise potatoes and beans and corn and the necessities of helpin' keep us through the winter.

TANZER: Did you say he farmed?

WILLIAMS: Well, just this spot here. He'd done different types of work. He worked firing boilers and he worked for a Clement that used to live on Lombard Street there raising chickens. He worked for him for a while and then he split wood. He split wood for Albert Hansen. He used to cut quite a lot of wood. That's when you had to use the old crosscut saw and it was all hand work in them days.

TANZER: Did Mr. Hansen have a lumber mill?

WILLIAMS: No. He used cordwood in them days; well, he used to sell a lot of wood to the school and to practically everybody else in town around here. They had woodpiles; they'd get, oh, eight, ten cords of wood to carry them through the winter. At that time you could get wood for about \$4.00 a cord. He got \$12 a cord for sawin' and splittin' it and rickin' it, and they'd haul it in and charge \$4.00 for that and then -- a fella, Henry Nelson, used to come around with a buzz saw and saw it up in 16" lengths or 12", whichever you wanted. And then us kids got our chores of puttin' it in the woodshed.

When I was younger, I remember one time Dad was going back to logging camp and he stayed out there and split the whole thing -- that whole pile of wood and I

helped him throw it in some and he had it all split, so Mom would have split firewood while he was gone. He told me my job was to keep that woodbox full, and I tried to pretty well.

TANZER: How old were you at that time?

WILLIAMS: Oh, I must have been about six, seven, eight years old. I was kind of a young fella then.

TANZER: How long did he remain in the lumber camp?

WILLIAMS: Well, he'd just go up to there and work, oh maybe six months or maybe three months and he'd come home. It all depends on how long the job there would last. He used to fire donkeys. He liked to fire around steam engines.

TANZER: What does that mean, to fire donkeys -- is that what you said?

WILLIAMS: The donkey engine was where they got the power to pull the logs in out of the woods. To fire a donkey, you put wood in it to keep the steam up. If the engineer ran out of steam, he got chewed out. (laughter)

TANZER: What were the names of the lumber camps, do you know?

WILLIAMS: Oh, I don't remember for sure. He was up around Scofield and Buxton. He also worked in sawmills where they fired the engines to run the mill. In the olden days they used wood for their heat, to make steam to run the engines.

TANZER: What years are you talking about?

WILLIAMS: Oh, about 1918, 1919.

TANZER: Was he able to earn a good living by doing these various jobs?

WILLIAMS: Yes. We always seemed to have plenty of stuff on the table. Mother was an excellent cook. She could take a pot of water and set it on the stove and come up with a full meal out of it, (laughter), which helped out a lot in them days. They didn't have the things like they do today, and she had to make things stretch just as far as they could go.

I remember about the beans. She used to raise bunch beans, and she'd pull them and lay them on a canvas and we'd get out there and run up and down on them stompin' and then she'd go through to see for sure that every bean was out of the pod before she'd throw it over in another pile. Then when the wind started blowin', why she'd get out there with a bucket and dip them up and let them pour out and let the wind blow the chaff out. And that's the way she got the beans cleaned. Oh, we'd have about a half a sack of beans, maybe a sack of beans we could use through the winter.

They used to have fruit trees, too. I remember one year they had two rows of potatoes along that other side over there and that was practically new ground, and I never did see so many potatoes come off of one piece of land in my life. I got the job of pickin' 'em up. Dad dug 'em and I had to pick 'em up and we had quite a few potatoes that year.

TANZER: Did he sell them?

WILLIAMS: I don't think he sold any then. I think we ate most of them. Doing the hard work like Dad used to do, cuttin' wood and firing them boilers, throwing wood into the boilers, you had to be pretty skoo-kum in order to keep up with that kind of work. He could eat quite a few potatoes, it seems to me, and we kids put 'em away, too, pretty good.

TANZER: There were just you and your sister?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

TANZER: Did your mother work outside the house?

WILLIAMS: No, other than around in the yard. She used to go on quilting bees and things like that for a day but not to earn money. And she was active in church affairs. Whenever she could help out that way, she did. But as far as working out to make extra money, I don't think she ever did. She used to be a milliner back in Illinois. She might have helped make a hat for some lady, but not for the money.

TANZER: Were her interests of one particular kind, political, social or church?

WILLIAMS: Well, it was a lot of church; she never got into the political field much. When the kids was doin' something, she'd tell us and if we didn't have enough sense to listen to her, that was our fault. She was usually right in what she told us, too. (chuckle)

TANZER: Was your father involved at all in local politics?

WILLIAMS: No. He never got involved in politics but they always voted at election time.

TANZER: Your sister had mentioned that he was a Democrat.

WILLIAMS: So was my mother and so was my sister. And I had to change it. I'm a Republican.

TANZER: How did that happen?

WILLIAMS: I was first registered as a Democrat and a friend of mine, Jim Lewis, was gonna run for County Commissioner. I wanted to vote for him so I went down and changed my registration and it's been that way ever since.

TANZER: Have you ever thought of changing parties at all?

WILLIAMS: Oooh, it don't make too much difference. You've got some good ones, some bad ones on each side, so it doesn't make too much difference. In a general election, you can vote for any of 'em. I generally vote for the man and not the party. I'm not what you call a good party man.

TANZER: Alpha mentioned that at one time your father belonged to the Ku Klux Klan. Do you remember that?

WILLIAMS: Yes, I remember him saying something about belonging to the Ku

Klux Klan. I think he only attended a couple of meetings, though. He saw what it was and quit. He didn't believe in their method of operation. I heard him talking with some of the other people who had joined and then dropped out right quick. But I don't think that he attended over a couple of meetings. It was just something that come along and you thought, well, this is the way things is gonna be now, and with a lot of pressure on joining, and after they got in it, why it wasn't their style of living.

TANZER: Alpha said at that time, it was proposed to him like it was a service club and he didn't really understand until he got into it, what it was. Did you spend a lot of time with your father?

WILLIAMS: Not what you'd call a lot, no. We hunted some and I used to work out in the woods with him some, when he was cutting wood. I remember one time that he'd cut wood out there for Hansen's and I was going to school and I'd go out after school or on weekends and help him pull enough timber so he'd have wood to saw on the rest of the week. And he bragged that he sawed, split and ricked an average of two cords a day for sixty days. Now, that's an awful lot of wood to pull a crosscut saw through -- two cord. But they had some awful nice timber there that they was a cuttin' through. They'd run around a cord, a cord and a half to a tree, and he always tried to keep his saws nice and sharp.

TANZER: Where were these woods?

WILLIAMS: It's about where Fir Grove School is, out in that district there. It used to run from 145th back over here to 130th that way, and it used to go in off of Allen Avenue and then go back out, oh, just about where the city of Beaverton Reservoir is out there. There was quite a stretch of timber in there. Hansen had acquired the stumpage and cut the wood.

TANZER: When you say stumpage, they were not the full trees, just stumps?

WILLIAMS: Well, they were the full tree. Then you fell them and he'd cut them in four-foot lengths and split them and rick them up. It was four foot wide, four foot four inches high and eight feet long. That's a cord when you're cutting it. Now when you get it in here, it's just four by four by eight. They gave four inches of wood on you out in the wood for cuttin'. But I used to ride on the wagons with Hanson when he was haulin' wood and he'd go out there and load on two cord of wood and he had a nice team there. They'd really get in and pull when they started to come out of the woods with a load of wood. I can remember at the schools, they used to have the yard there with three or four long ricks, ooh, a hundred feet long, maybe a little longer, and eight feet high. There'd be three, four, five of them that was used during the winter to keep boilers warm. When it got to freezin' why they'd have to keep them boilers goin' day and night.

TANZER: Did you spend much time with your sister?

WILLIAMS: No, we never spent much time together. She was schoolteachin' and she was away at school. After she got through school, she taught down in Salem and then she was teaching in Portland, and then she was living in Portland, so we never got to spend too much time together. There's five years difference in age; little brother don't need to be following around the older sister (laughter).

TANZER: Where did you go to school?

WILLIAMS: Here in Beaverton. The school building is tore down now but it was where the high school gym is; Beaverton Grade School. I quit before I got to high school. I got through the 7th grade. Oh, I'd rather work than go to school. When I was 16, they gave me my choice of either having a steady job or going back to school. I had a steady job; I was driving a truck for Lewis Bros. They had the livery barn and transfer and later on they had a lumber yard here in Beaverton.

TANZER: Tell me about the Lewis family.

WILLIAMS: Jim Lewis and Hugh Lewis were brothers; Jim Lewis was the County Commissioner and Hugh Lewis had property where Pegg, Paxson, Springer's Mortuary is, where their parking lot is now. That's where he lived. The old livery barn was there on the corner of 1st and Watson. That was quite a hangout for us kids. We'd get to hear some choice stories that way; some that we wasn't able to tell at home. (chuckle)

TANZER: How many people would gather around there?

WILLIAMS: Oh, in the evening after supper, why there'd be some folks come down there, there'd be five or six or seven. They had an old stove in there with the hearth stuck out in front, ashes in it; some of them were sittin' there chewin' tobacco and would spit in that, and there was cigar butts and cigarette butts in there. Heh. Heh.

TANZER: Where was the livery stable?

WILLIAMS: It was on the northwest corner of 1st and Watson. It's across the street from the bank. See that's Farmington Street there where the, wait a minute.

TANZER: The beauty school was the bank.

WILLIAMS: It's a block further up, and then on the other side of the street.

TANZER: So it's where the Liquidators are now, and on the west side of the street?

WILLIAMS: Yes. It was just Beaverton Livery Stable. Lewis Brothers owned it and run it, yes.

TANZER: Who put their horses there?

WILLIAMS: Oh, different ones had teams and would keep 'em there. George Wolf had a nice big team that he kept there, and then they had a team that belonged to the Livery Barn. They had one mare that was a wild one. She'd get excited about something and run away. One time she run away and come down Farmington Road there. She was headed for the Livery Barn but turned a little bit short and one went on one side of the telephone pole and one went on the other and they bumped heads. (laughter) Ah, there used to be quite a little excitement goin' on.

TANZER: See. People don't know that there was that much excitement in Beaverton. What did you do for excitement?

WILLIAMS: I used to fish a little bit and hunt and go down there and listen to stories, ride on the trucks. When I got old enough to drive one, why I started drivin'. When I got a little older, and more or less on my own, we used to go to dances on Saturday night.

TANZER: At White's, the dance hall on Main Street?

WILLIAMS: Well, I was up there a few times. I didn't used to go up there too much. By the time I got old enough to go to dances, why they'd quit giving them up there and we used to go up to Aloha and Huber, and up to Kinton and up at Fairvale. We used to go into Portland, sometimes to McElroy's.

TANZER: Did you go in with your friends? Who were some of your boyhood friends?

WILLIAMS: Yes. Jake Schmidt, Bob Holland, Albert Rossi, Leo Bernadini, Ogie Fredrickson (he's gone now), Cecil Barnes. We used to have quite a get together and have a good time. It wasn't so paired off in couples like it is now. There was more of a group. I remember when I was married the first time, I was living over on Tucker Street and we used to chivaree people in them days, and so we had a planned chivaree. I had a keg of beer. Albert Rossi had a restaurant and we got it through him. We had it up there. And they'd come up and rattle the tin cans outside and come on in and we had a keg of beer and danced.

TANZER: Now you said a chivaree. What is it?

WILLIAMS: Well, what we'd used to do. When you go out and chivaree somebody, you'd get a bunch of tin cans and maybe some shotguns to rattle and make noise with and go up and keep a poundin' and rattlin' and chivareein' till they'd come out and we'd wanta collect some. They'd give us \$5, \$10 something like that and then we'd go on to the next one; we'd have three or four of them lined up.

TANZER: You made so much noise, until they paid you off.

WILLIAMS: Until they came out and paid us. (laughter)

TANZER: How old were you at that time?

WILLIAMS: Oh, I must have been 17, 18 years old.

TANZER: Were there any other pranks that you can remember?

WILLIAMS: Oh, I remember one time we had a chivaree (I forget how many we chivareed that night); there was an old fella out here, Ike Hazeltine, and he had a couple a gals livin' with him out there, and Ike had a little wine and whiskey to sell once in a while, so after we got through chivareein', why we said, "Well, let's go out and chivaree Ike. If he isn't married, he should be." So we went on out and chivareed him and he got quite a kick out of it and we come in and spent our money on wine and whiskey. (laughter)

TANZER: What about Halloween pranks??

WILLIAMS: Oh, yes, we had a few of them, too. I remember one night a friend of mine went out to push one over. We was gonna get there early; come to find out the guy had moved it, and the kid with me, he went through some thin boards and went right down in the hole. (laughter)

TANZER: Is that moving the outside toilets?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

TANZER: Somebody told me that every year somebody would move a toilet out, I guess it was down Main Street.

WILLIAMS: Well, this was on the Methodist Church where this one was. Mr. Watts, I think, is the one that moved it.

TANZER: Did you ever get into trouble for any of these tricks?

WILLIAMS: Oh, no, not to speak of.

TANZER: The police didn't bother you when you chivareed?

WILLIAMS: Oh, no. Might even be along with us. (laughter) When I was with the fire department, they used to go out and keep peace and order in the city on Halloween. They'd see a whole big bunch of kids kinda standin' around, not doing much, and said, "What the heck you guys doin' here? Why aren't you out havin' a good time? How about that toilet up the street there? That hasn't been worked over yet." And --Oh, Fun! -- they'd go up! Pretty soon they'd have that one turned over and they'd come back and, "What's somethin' else for us to do?"

One time a boxcar was there on the railroad tracks and they pushed it out across Watson Street. If a train would come along, why it would of hit it. So we got all these kids together and talked to them a little bit, "How about helping us push this back?" Fine. They all got together and helped push it back up where it belonged, and we blocked it so it wouldn't come out any more. That was just an example of trying to work with the kids instead of giving them a bad time.

TANZER: Did you develop those attitudes within your own family?

WILLIAMS: Well, yes, quite a lot; work with each other and help out whenever help was needed.

TANZER: How important was churchgoing to you as you grew up.

WILLIAMS: Oh, I kind of hit and missed.

TANZER: What denomination were your parents?

WILLIAMS: They belonged to the Christian Church. They helped build the one that was on Second and Stott or Second and Main.

TANZER: Did you go to church with them?

WILLIAMS: I used to go some. I never joined the church there, but I

used to go. My wife goes to the Foursquare Church on Walker Road. They sure have some large gatherings. They have three services a day and in the morning on Sunday. And the church is pretty well filled up. I think they can handle about 400, and it's packed -- all three services.

TANZER: What are your activities now?

WILLIAMS: Oh, I don't do a great deal of anything. I watch TV, raise a little garden. I was fishin' up until here lately where I get so my health don't permit me to get out.

TANZER: How long ago did you retire?

WILLIAMS: It will be ten years this month.

TANZER: And you were Fire Chief.

WILLIAMS: Well, I was in the early days, but in the last I was Assistant Chief and Fire Marshal.

TANZER: When did you start to work for the city of Beaverton?

WILLIAMS: Well, it will be 30 years from now. 1952.

TANZER: So what did you do in between your driving a truck for Lewis Brothers in that time?

WILLIAMS: Oh, I worked for Lewis Brothers and then I worked for the Hawthorne Dock Sand & Gravel in Portland driving a truck. During the war I was in the shipyards about five years, and then I went to work for Service Auto Freight, a freight line that hauls between Portland and Astoria. Then I quit and went to work in the Fire Department.

TANZER: Tell me how you became involved with the Fire Department.

WILLIAMS: Well, there was a fire years ago down where the Dairy Queen is. There was a house in the middle of the block and Otto Ericson had a garage that faced Main Street, and well this is advanced a little bit. I was interested in it a little before that but I was more or less going to refer to the time that I was appointed Chief. And this house had a fire. I went to get the fire truck and Bob Johnson had locked it up in his garage. He was a mechanic with a garage that worked on automobiles and the city evidently had the truck down there to have some work done on it. But nobody was responsible for the fire department. Rather than leave it set out in the rain, he put it in the garage to keep it from getting wet.

TANZER: Was there a fire department at all?

WILLIAMS: Well, it was like the old fire department used to be. You'd have a meeting and appoint a Fire Chief. Then the next time you saw somebody, was if there was a fire. There wasn't any really gettin' together and organization to speak of. It was all volunteer then.

TANZER: So tell me what happened to the fire.

WILLIAMS: They finally got the truck out and brought it up there and hooked it on to the hydrant, hooked a 2½" line on to the hydrant and they took the nozzle around through Ericson's garage and extinguished as much as they could. But you take a 2½" line and you do a lot of damage with that, too. The building was later tore down. It was damaged that bad.

TANZER: When you say you took it through Ericson's Garage, the house was behind Ericson's Garage?

WILLIAMS: Yes. The house was just about in the center of the block. You know where that tin building is that they tore down here just about a year ago? Well, that building was on the back end of this front part of Ericson's Garage. After this fire, they moved that building up in front to take the place of where the other building was. There's been several different things in there. Ericson, he went out of the car business. Hugh Lewis had International Tractors and had his offices in there for a while.

TANZER: Ericson was Guy Carr's stepfather?

WILLIAMS: Yes. And he was a mayor of Beaverton for quite a while. He wasn't the mayor when I took over.

TANZER: Well, tell me how the fire department developed. That came after this fire?

WILLIAMS: Yes. Well, the insurance rating bureau told them they was going to have to do something. At this caucus, somebody got up and nominated me as the Fire Chief. I declined it, and then the banker Dory Gray, got up and gave me a pat on the back and said, "We need somebody bad." So I says, "Well, O.K." Then after I got to investigating into it, you couldn't be appointed fire chief at a caucus; the mayor is the one that appoints the fire chief, not a group of people at a caucus or anything. So I went over and I told Mayor Wilson what had happened and asked him about it and studied a little bit and he says, "Well, I'll appoint you fire chief!"

TANZER: What was the mayor's name?

WILLIAMS: Wilson. I don't know his first name. His son was Homer. Can't think of his first name.

TANZER: What year were you appointed?

WILLIAMS: That was about in 1932.

TANZER: Had you been interested in firefighting?

WILLIAMS: Oh, yes. I'd went to fires and I'd volunteered quite a few times before that. In my counting of years that I'd been in the service for pay and fire, I didn't go back that far because I didn't know exactly what time to start, so... I just took it from 1932 on, which is 20 volunteer and 20 paid.

TANZER: So from 1932 to 1952 you volunteered. And was your position Fire Chief from '32 to '52?

WILLIAMS: Well, not all that time, no. I was chief for a while and then

I was working in Portland. The Beaverton Volunteer Fire Department formed a social group and we met every week or month, to go over things, and we had this social organization that kept things active. That was one of the reasons that we could hold the fire department together and make a group out of it.

TANZER: Who were some of the people in that group?

WILLIAMS: Oh, there was Archie Olson, Guy Carr, Cecil Barnes, Bob Johnson, Clarence Buffam, oh, gosh, I've got a whole list of them. I just can't recall all their names offhand. I think I've got some stuff around here some place that would give me the names of a lot of them.

TANZER: Fine. I'd like that. So tell me, what type of things did you do with that social group?

WILLIAMS: Well, we had card games, poker games; we usually had a keg of beer and maybe a little bourbon, and we used to have the old Kiwanis Hall. They let us have that for our meeting place and we'd just have a good stag party. That's the old building there on Farmington between Stott and Main. It's still there.

TANZER: Did your wives ever join you?

WILLIAMS: Oh, once in a while, we'd have a fireman dance. I remember I used to sell tickets to the fireman dance for 15¢ and some of the boys would go out and start selling tickets. They'd go around to some of these beer joints, and they'd sell one ticket and drink two beers, which cost 20¢. They was out a nickel and when they got home, they was out tickets and some money, too. They caught hell for it.

TANZER: Do you ever have reunions?

WILLIAMS: Oh, once in a while. Since it's all paid, they don't have the get togethers. The other day we had a get together up at the Elks for one of the firemen that had been there 20 years.

TANZER: What about a reunion of the volunteer group?

WILLIAMS: No, I don't think we've had one of them for a long time. We used to. The money we raised from dances and things like that went into a volunteer fire department fund. We'd use that money to put on these parties and stuff like that or buy equipment for the fire department or something we wanted and the city didn't see strong enough to give it to us.

We used to get lots of donations, too. I was thinkin' of one the other day; a fella wanted some information on the building he was going to build. He went to the building department and was so disgusted that he was about ready to quit. So I talked to him a little bit. Dave Nelson was working in the fire marshal office then. I had him talk with Dave and Dave went through his plans and told him the fire department regulations he would have to follow and he was real happy about it.

Later on, he had some tall grass on the lot that he had and I'd give him a notice to clean it up. He wanted to know if I knew anybody that would do that. Well, Henry Mayfield did that kind of work, so he went down there and it was so rough in there that he couldn't go in with his mower, so he went home and got his little

Cat. He brought that down, dug a hole and buried a lot of this concrete and tin cans and things like that, smoothed it all off and it was just nice dirt on top there then. And Dolph Tacky (he was the one I'm talking about) was so pleased about it that he give the fire department a check for \$25.

Another one, I can't recall his name right now, but he had an electrical fire. A backhoe slid off a truck, hit a power line and knocked the high powered lines down on the 110 lines. It burnt the fuse box in there and set the house afire. We got a call on it and went up there. This lady had a cabinet there with fancy dishes and cups and glasses. Well, where that was, some water was coming down, so some of the boys got a hold of it and moved it over to another part of the house and covered it up. When they come home why she was just really upset. She wanted to know how her cabinet got out there. She recognized it by the legs. We took the canvas off of it and she looked at it. I think there was only one cup or saucer that was broke and she said, "I don't see how you could of moved that like that." She was sure happy no more than that was damaged and we got a check from them for \$25 or \$50, something like that.

TANZER: How long did it take you to mobilize the volunteers?

WILLIAMS: We got the call by telephone and in about a minute and a half, the truck would roll out of the station. That was when it was on 1st and Main, and Hugh Lewis, when he heard the siren, would pull his watch out and check to see how long it took us to get out. He'd say it was a minute and a quarter, a minute and a half. Some of the fellas lived right around there. Clarence Buffam, he was in the Post Office. That was when the Post Office was right there close. They used to come runnin' from every which way.

TANZER: Did they have time to get into their gear?

WILLIAMS: Oh, our gear didn't amount to much in them days, maybe a coat, if you was lucky. It was just what you had on. I don't recall whether we had much turnout gear then. It was not until we got up into the paid part of it that we got turnout gear. Leo Bernadini worked up at Mt. Calvary Cemetery and he was usually dressed pretty nice; and he's ruined many a pair of slacks and suit.

TANZER: Do you remember any emergencies in the community? I'd like to hear about fires that you remember, but I also heard about a couple of train wrecks. Were you called upon for that or were those closer to Portland?

WILLIAMS: When the Southern Pacific had a wreck on the passenger train, that was up about Dosch Station and Bertha Station, up there. We didn't get into that. At that time, all we had was this old Stutz, and for a wreck of that size, why it would have just been in the way.

TANZER: Do you remember anything about the wreck of the red train?

WILLIAMS: Oh, yes. They had a head-on up there. A friend of mine, Homer Allen (his dad was the station agent) and his brother, Vern Allen, were on the train. They got hurt some. Bert Rose, the engineer on one of the trains, got killed. I didn't have transportation then like we do now, but I never got up there where the wreck was. I was pretty young then.

TANZER: How did you get into Portland?

WILLIAMS: They had the Red Electric Train that came through Beaverton, went up by Raleigh Hills, Glencullen, Pertha Beaverton, and on over the hill there into Portland, and there was pretty good service. You knew what time the train was going to be here and if you wasn't there, why you wasn't going to catch that one. You were gonna have to wait for the next one.

In the mornings, they run some pretty good-sized trains. I think some come through from McMinnville and some started out at Forest Grove. They used to go down 4th Street there in Portland. And we used to go across the trestles and you'd be up there in the air and lookin' out and wonderin if that ole trestle was going to hold or not.

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

WILLIAMS: Oh, it didn't take too long. I imagine about 30 minutes.

TANZER: Was the Red Train the major form of transportation between Beaverton and Portland?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

TANZER: Did you take it when you worked in Portland?

WILLIAMS: Well, I have taken it when I worked some in Portland. I worked at an office equipment place there as shipping clerk, and I used to take it then. But later, we had our own car that we went over the canyon road in.

TANZER: What was Canyon Road like at that time?

WILLIAMS: Crooked. Two lanes of traffic. It was crooked. Some of the old road is there yet on this side. If you go up the old part, you can get an idea of how we used to swing around on the curves and come up the hills there on the other side. I remember I used to come home kind of late, or early in the morning, and I'd meet some of my friends coming out at the same time. We'd race out -- old Model T Fords. When you get going down this side, maybe we'd get 'em up to 45 mph. When we'd come up the grades, why it'd be about 25-30 mph. We had the old throttles way back giving it everything we could get out of it.

TANZER: A number of people who lived in Beaverton said that their neighborhood extended down to Canyon Road, almost to West Slope.

WILLIAMS: Yes, the city has annexed an awful lot of property around. They've got some people mad at them about it, especially the rural fire district. Whenever they annex, it takes property away that would pay taxes into their district, and oh, they're squabbling back and forth all the time. It would be nice if it could become one district, but the city has an obligation to have a fire department, and the rural district don't want to give up their obligation as a rural district, so...

TANZER: The West Slope Fire District has their own district, too.

WILLIAMS: Well, they're all in the Washington County Fire District #1 now, but Beaverton is on their own. West Slope, Cedar Mill, Progress and Aloha are all together now in Fire District #1.

TANZER: Is that what used to be referred to as "rural fire district."

WILLIAMS: Yes. We used to protect that a certain amount. It didn't amount to much protection. We had an old tanker that we'd built up -- I think 500 gallons of water, and we'd go out and do what we could. We done some good once in a while.

TANZER: How far east did the Beaverton Fire District extend?

WILLIAMS: Any part of the Beaverton city limits is in the Beaverton Fire District.

TANZER: Now from 1932 to 1952 you were a volunteer fireman, you were chief and then who took over from you?

WILLIAMS: What it was, I was working in Portland and couldn't be here during the day so they thought it would be better if there was somebody else. So they appointed Archie Olson; he was chief then until '61 or '62 when he retired. In 1952 they started putting paid firemen on. Archie Olson was the first paid man, and he worked days and took care of the equipment. Cal McGann and Archie and me worked then for pay, 24 on and 48 off. We'd take care of the phone calls coming in. When we got an alarm, se'd set off the siren.

TANZER: Where was the siren?

WILLIAMS: It was on the top of city hall on 1st and Main; later it was moved up to the fire station.

**PART ONE AUDIO RECORDING ENDS HERE**

TANZER: Mr. Williams, you were telling me about the starch factory. Was it another factory before it was a starch factory?

WILLIAMS: It was a feed mill. I think they made flour there, too. It was on the northwest corner of Cedar Hills and Farmington along the railroad tracks. They used to make potato starch. They'd buy up potatoes from the farmers.

TANZER: Who owned it when it was a feed mill?

WILLIAMS: I think Mr. Musik. He was the one that owned it when it was a feed mill. They've got a son, Joe Musik, who lives up on Cooper Mountain. He could probably give you a lot of information on that, too. I don't know too much about the feed mill part of it. My dad used to fire the boilers there when they were making potato starch, and that's how I remember, from that. They had vats of this starch and it was real white; they'd run it through a dryer and it would come out potato starch. They eventually moved from here up to Toppenish, Washington. When it was a starch factory, I think Bill Gifford was one of the owners and Fred Carslund had some money in it, too.

TANZER: Who was he?

WILLIAMS: A fella that just wandered around town most of the time when he was here. He lived in Beaverton some, but I don't think he was born and raised here. He was one that come in. Bill Gifford had a son that lived in Hillsboro for a while.