

LM

INTERVIEW WITH KAY AND CLAYTON NYBERG
BY
LOYCE MARTINAZZI (LEE) AND KAREN LAFKY BEACH

February 19, 1990

Tape # ~~14~~ 15

CN: Well, do the introduction of me then stop and see if it's okay.

LM: Okay. This is February 21, 1990 and I'm Loyce Lee.

KB: I'm Karen Beach.

KN: Kay Nyberg. It's the 19th!

LM: Clayton, what can you tell us about the old blacksmith shop?

CN: Evidently when my dad came into the community there was an old blacksmith shop, and he decided to stay there rather than go on to Australia. He joined and worked at the, ah, whatchacallit, the shop and sometimes along the line he must have moved over there on the site and he started his farming operation.

after 1990

LM: So it moved over by your barn.

CN: Yes. We had that pig house and all that equipment was stored there along the building with old lumber.

KB: Was it still used as a blacksmith shop after you moved it over?

CN: No, no. Just for the livestock, it was just part of the operation. That was our pig pen was added on to it and storage, and we had that old binder and some equipment were put inside of to keep out of the weather.

LM: Did your father actually work as a blacksmith?

CN: I 'spose he helped during the summers.

KB: Who was it then he went into partnership with?

CN: Werth, I guess.

LM: Oh, Werth, uh huh..

KB: Was it right by the river?

CN: It was right at Bridgeport, it was called it Bridgeport at the time. That's where the portage

was, just about where that garden is at the end of the bridge.

KB: Oh, I see.

CN: That's where it was, somewhere in that area.

LM: About when did they move it, do you know?

CN: Oh, I don't have any idea.

LM: Way before your time.

CN: It must have been right around the turn of the century because the barn was built, was painted in 1903.(Mumbles then the phone rings)

(Phone rings -- Clayton says, "Tell them I'll call them back.)

KB: Now your dad came here in '95?

CN: Oh, somewhere in there, I don't know.

KB: So he worked with the blacksmith shop until he decided to stay here.

CN: We never had much conversation about it. I know that he was associated with Jim Werth.

KB: I see.

KN: It was a very romantic story that he met your mother, who was Ora Barngrover and that's what determined that he stay here rather than going on to Australia.

CN: Absolutely, they were driving sheep -- going to take sheep to Australia. So he decided this was where he settled, and ten kids later, here we are!

LM: How romantic!

KB: I wonder what it was like? Now she was living in the house where Earl and Margaret live now.

CN: Yes.

KB: Now where did he live? This was before he bought the farm here.

CN: I would imagine he probably lived in the blacksmith shop upstairs, but who knows?

KB: I see.

CN: Galbreath had a place for sale but there were all kinds of little shacks around, like the onion house. This was all subdivided before the turn of the century so there were five acre

slots all the way across and they'd buy from one to three--

KB: Oh, I see.

LM: Over across Nyberg road.

CN: Yes, when I first started farming, I can remember the onions being all the way from Bill Sagert's down here all the way clear up to Martinazzi, which is Martinazzi now. There were onions in that whole section--all just beautiful stuff.

KN: Then Bill Sagert's was on the other side of 65th.

CN: Yeah, there were onions in there. I can remember onions there.

KN: That whole low spot.

CN: Yeah, the whole big onion flat, but then a couple came in from the east and settled, and they didn't take care of their ditches, and then our problems started, and they just gradually got worse and worse and worse.

KB: Now, what problems?

CN: Well, backing up water, keeping the ditches clean, keeping the drainage going, weeds.

KB: I see, I see.

CN: First thing you know, he'd let it all go to weed then it would come over in your land then you had that much work to do.

KB: The water ^{move} would back, you mean?

CN: Well, yeah, the water backed up everywhere.

KB: I see.

CN: Weeds! First thing it would all go to weed. It would make a deposit of the grass seed, like the ~~Reets~~ canary grass, when that once came in that was the end of it 'cause it just grows everywhere. It just blocks off.

LM: Is that pretty much what killed off the onion industry then?

CN: Yes.

KB: The onion grass?

CN: Yes, just went out of it. We finally were the only ones raising onions here, just couldn't do it any more, so then we went to lettuce, and hybrid seed corn and hybrid cattle(?) and the same thing happened to compound the problem. The state highway experiment came through, and took

REED

away all agriculture lands, the productive lands. It was virtually impossible after the freeway came through, we attempted for two years to plant hybrid seed corn, but the damage was so great, that the erosion off the freeway, it just covered all my land, and we have to clean out the ditches twice in order to work.

KB: Now the area here ~~was free~~, all the farming woods, so that was very wet and low, and that's where you grew the corn too?

CN: Yes, we planted this piece here right by the house and we did over where K-Mart is. We had hybrid seed corn in there for about,-- I don't know how many years we had it in there -- 8 or 10 years maybe, and down in the bottom here, that one piece we had in for 10 years, and we crossed and made commercial hybrid seed.

KB: I see, you did your own hybridizing.

CN: Yes, we took the tassels off three rows, and pollinated with one. Every third, ah, every fourth row was a pollinator. You had to pull the tassels off so there would be a cross-pollinator.

KB: I see, I see.

CN: And the freeway chased us out of there.

LM: What was that corn used for?

CN: I and two or three of us in Washington County would pool it and we would sell it all over the state of Oregon.

KB: For it used for eating or for seed?

CN: Seed.

KB: Field corn.

CN: It was costing \$5.25 and \$3.55 a hundred that we raised.

KN: That was the early days of hybridizing.

KB: Now what years were those?

CN: Oh- I don't remember.

KN: We were married in '45, so it was before that.

CN: Yes, about '42 or so. In '52 - '53 we had to get out. In 1941 I quit raising onions and went to lettuce.

KB: I see.

LM: You quit in 1941?

KN: But you still had onions after we were married.

CN: 1941. That was the last crop we raised of onions, then we did the lettuce.

KN: But I remember the one year after we were married but that the onions paid for the taxes and the loan. There was a farm loan because of the depression, and the onions, um, paid all those that one year -- you just had that one patch. You had lettuce in the other but you had that one. That was the highest price they'd ever gotten for onions.

CN: I think it was \$50 a hundred, that was the highest ever.

KN: I think that was about '47.

KB: Now, how large, how many acres did you have on the farm at any one time?

CN: Oh, about 225-235 acres, they start taking some off and adding some on, you know. We maintained we wouldn't buy anything that wasn't attached.

KB: Yeah, and that was all the way from the river to the top of the hill?

CN: Yeah.

KN: To Sagert Road.

KB: To Sagert Road.

CN: Yeah.

LM: And who did your dad buy from?

CN: Who did what?

LM: Who did your father buy these places from?

CN: Oh, gosh, it was in five acre lots.

KN: He just put it together in five acre lots! The five acre lots do not appear in here.

CN: No, but here -- they lived in a little shack on the northbound lane of I-5. There were three children born in that.

KB: We have that picture. Loyce got it from Jerry.

CN: They started out --

LM: So he'd just buy five acres?

PUT

CN: Oh, he'd buy different size plots when they'd have a good year, then they'd pick it together. Just as an illustration, on the piece next to us had 10 acres there and you could have them for \$1500, \$500 down, no interest and pay him, Joe Ealand, pay him whenever we got the money.

KB: Joe Ealand owned that?

CN: Yes, Joe and the Hawkins family owned that. So you just couldn't do it. So these were put together in five acre spots. So you just kept -----.

KB LM: So that was all plotted in five acre lots then, before 1900.

CN: Yeah.

KN: I thought those were 10 acres.

CN: Five.

LM: No, they were in the plat map, they vary a little bit.

CN: Now up on the other side they were platted too.

KB: The other side of Sagert?

CN and KN: No, the other side of the ditch.

LM: I see. Now what we have is Tualatin Gardens.

KB: That doesn't go over this far, the map doesn't go that far, not as far as the plats go.

CN: But you see, each of these were in five acre lots and all, the Dunstons, and all that was in front of it.

KN: And there were onion barns, there were lots of them. Originally, I think there was a barn for each place.

CN: No, there wasn't a barn for each place, I don't think. But there was Bill Sagert, then the next one was here, there was two- three- four- five- six, six of them.

LM: Is that right?

CN: Yeah.

KN: Counting Thompsons?

LM: Thompsons had one and did Zeke Eddy have a barn?

CN: Zeke? Oh, yeah.

KB: So each of those onion farmers . So just, so who were the farmers?

CN: Oh, Bill Sagert, and, oh what was their name -- Safrans, then this was Larsons,(phone rings) and there was another one here, their house was right here. (phone rings again) There's a house on the other side of it. On that other end up there they built their houses on this end of the lots and walked across the swamp.

KB: Oh, uh.

CN: The ^{EAMES} Ange boy , and the ^{DUNSTAN} Boston place and houses there.

KB: So where the onion barns were, just how many onion farmers there were. So Bill Sagert, and the Safrans, and you folks, and Thompsons and Zeke Eddy all were onion farmers.

CN: And there was another one here --Larson.

KB: And Larson.

KN: And Gertie Hoffman -- did they have?

CN: No, they had a dairy.

LM: Oh, a dairy! I didn't know there was a dairy down in there.

KB: There at the very end.

CN: And a stone kiln.

KN: Well, what about on this side? Who was that?

CN: That was Safran, the Safran place.

KB: They were on this side of the road?

CN: Yeah, Pitman.

LM: Did Pitmans have onions?

KN: Yes, Pitmans had onions.

CN: Pitmans, the old Safran place.

LM: Now, Safran moved around a lot, didn't he?

CN: Yeah, I think, I don't know, but that was before my time.

KB: So this was a string of onion farms along here.

CN: Yeah, you can see where the quarry. When they opened up the quarry in 1900, they were taking the mill tailings to take the onions over to the siding.

LM: The railroad.

CN: The railroad siding, to load them on to the cars.

LM: With mule teams.

CN: Yeah, at the saw mill. They couldn't be logging so they'd use them to take twenty sacks on the wagon, take off, and just keep going.

KB: Now this was the Oregon Electric.

CN: And the Southern Pacific.

KB: And the Southern Pacific.

CN: Yeah, we loaded off on both of them.

KB: I see, I see.

CN: Then when they opened this quarry up, they started crushing the rock, then they'd take off from the quarry and whenever they got stuck, they'd take the whatchacallit -- the wagon box was made up of 2X6's, they had about that much of a lip, then they'd pull that out, the sticks out and they'd drop their gravel in there then they'd go back and get another load.

KB: You say there was an actual rock crusher?

CN: Oh, sure, sure. They did Rex Hill off of that too.

KB: Back to the teams now. Would the farmers have had their own teams of horses to farm? But they used the mill teams to take the onions to market. They were just stronger horses?

CN: Yeah, they were three -- four, uh, four horse or six horse teams.

KB: I see. How large a wagon of onions?

CN: Twenty sacks, or so.

KB: Twenty sacks.

CN: Two thousand pounds.

KB: I see.

KB

LM: Never thought of this question, but how much of a load can a horse pull?

KN: Depends on the horse! (Laughter)

LM: Like a two horse team.

CN: Depends what kind of a surface you had.

KB: Yeah, yeah.

CN: Going down hill!(laughter)

KB: But these wagon loads of onions would have been heavier than your normal work team would have been able to pull.

CN: Oh, yeah, definitely. But then you see, once they got the gravel in, like now, they could haul 100 sacks 'cause you didn't have that problem in the mud.

KB: Yeah, yeah.

LM: So how many horses did people, did most farmers have?

CN: We had 5.

LM: Five.

CN: I think your Grand dad had 4 or 5. And we had a 3 horse team.

LM: Oh, you had a 3 horse team.

CN: We often plowed with 3 horses.

LM: Did you use a walking plow or a riding plow?

CN: Most of the time, walking, but uh

KB: Why is that?

CN: Well, we didn't have riding plows.

LM: We heard just recently it was real hard on the horses especially if you had to go up hill.

CN: I don't think it made any difference.

KB: Who told us that?

CN: No;, I don't think it mattered.

KB: How do you hitch up a 3 horse team? I've never seen a 3 horse team.

CN: Well, you have two in parallel and a single over here so that you compensate for the angle, so you have one third.

KB: I see, I see.

CN: Oh, yeah, I've plowed lots. I've done this whole thing and plowed your Grand dad's place. The first time it had ever been plowed with a tractor, and I did it in 28 hours.

KB: Now this was back in the days of the horses, just a single uh -----

CN: A single plow.

KB: A single plow.

CN: Yeah, a 14 inch plow. I never plowed with anything over a 14. Some of them had 16. I was on a 4 horse team, I never plowed much with a 3 horse team. I used to, uh, I had some work done with a 3 horse.

KB: But that's a good estimate -- how long it took to plow, you know, "X" amount of ground with a single horse plow. Now to go back again, you said, it took twenty eight hours?

CN: That was with a tractor.

KB: Oh, that was a tractor.

LM: How many acres could you plow with a team of horses in a single day?

CN: I don't know.

KN: It seems like I've heard seven acres.

KB: In a day?

CN: Oh, no, not in a day. You'd be lucky to make a little over an acre, maybe two. I had a good team, and everything around here, I plowed a lot of these fields, we did a lot of sharing.

LM: Now back to the horses -- I've always loved horses.

KB: I have too.

LM: Did you breed your own horses or did you buy workhorses already trained?

CN: We bred them, we took them up to your Grand dad's stallion. We had seven, uh, seven, uh, seven horses that we raised here and trained on the place.

KB: Oh, really! That you broke yourself?

(Julius MARTIN #221)

CN: Yes.

LM: Grandpa had Percheron horses, didn't he?

CN: I don't know, Belgians, I think. I don't know.

LM: What color was it?

CN: Black with white paint, white head, blaze.

(Percherons)

KB: This is not the stallion you have a picture of your Grandfather riding, is it?

LM: No, this was not a riding horse, the picture is another one.

CN: I had seven and I took all seven of the mares to the stallion. That mare knew where she was going!

LM: She was in a real hurry, huh! (Chuckle)

CN: She was a real problem! Once I was going along and decided she was going to go on the other side of something and I wanted to go the other way, so I walked there. But by the time I got there, she was already taken care of so we just headed back home.

KB: Did you ride the horse up there or did you drive her up?

CN: I rode the horse up, yeah, I'd ride them all over. Talk about horses, we had a nephew that would get out in the field, uh, Walter.

KB: Was that Walter? John

CN: Yeah, Walter, and he was up there in the field working and we called him for dinner, he just stopped the horses right there, he was riding on the mower, he stopped the horses right where he was, and he got off and walked all the way back. We never let him forget that!

KB: Oh, I'll bet! (Laughter)

CN: The thing with horses.-- you wonder how you got everything done and all that hay stored, and still get the job done. Just unbelievable! Just wonder where all that time and energy went.

KB: Boy, things were sure done differently then.

KN: With the hay fork, and to put it up in the barn loose.

CN: You had to throw it all down, grade it.

KB: Uh huh, uh huh.

CN: All by hand.

LM: We didn't even have a hay fork in our barn. Dad just threw it up into the hayloft and us kids would take pitchforks and drag it back.

CN: We had a barn that had a place in it, with a cover over the top, so we could feed more cattle. Then we'd cut that out, go down and chop the hay in the field then threw it into the barn so we could get that hay mound back.

KN: When they could even use the stationery balers, that was a great improvement. You could store so much more and you could sell it.

KB: That's right, you couldn't sell loose hay very long.

TAPE COUNTER 310

CN: I can understand why I had so much trouble getting my obligations -- because you had to take so much time to harvest....

KB: I used to think, uh, gosh, we spend all the time getting, sowing the hay, reaping the hay, getting it in the barn, just to feed the horses so we had the horse cart to sow the next year's crop. (Chuckle)

LM: What's amazing to me, we've been talking to a lot of these different people, ah, I even forgot, you know, that you could make a living and raise a family on forty acres. Of course, you know nowadays, forty acres is just nothing.

CN: Yeah. With specialized crops -- like some of your ^{FARMS} friends with marijuana, they can do it!

All: Yeah, yeah! (Laughter)

LM: Like the Ibachs, they had forty acres.

CN: Yeah, and Bill ~~Sidell~~ ^{SAGERT}

LM: Yeah, yeah.

CN: And ^{THATCH} Thatch. He started when we got out of school and go right up until the time school started. I'd get that team of horses, not 8 hours a day but 10, 12, 14 -- day in and day out.

LM: In your day, kids worked too, didn't they?

CN: Yeah, in that time we were paying the 25 cents a day for the youngsters to weed onions, and, of course I wasn't much older than the ones we were hiring to do the job. Yeah, those kids had a great -- it gave them something to do and certainly put money in their pockets. We were doing \$3 a day with a team of horses, a full day.

LM: That was during the depression?

CN: Yeah, yeah, and after.

KN: Plus before.

CN: We have had a real time, I never saw any money, we always had harvest men come in. Everybody just joined in, ate good and had a good, healthy life.

KN: Well, but, I know, uh, for us, we thrashed for three and a half days, and so my father would keep track of all the people that, you know, that he would owe money because we thrashed longer than a lot of them so when they came to help, they were paid for those days, those extra days. Part of the bargain system.

CN: Yeah, you just exchanged them.

KN: You exchanged help.

KB: Right.

KN: Now beyond that you would still make up.....

KB: Now you would hire people, mainly on the onions.

CN: I used to,uh, we used to have as hire, ³⁰youngsters in there.

KB: Really!

CN: Eight and younger.

LM: Really! How many acres of onions did you have?

CN: Oh, 12-15 of 'em.

KB: They'd weed the onions, and then you'd cook them.

CN: It was no problem, once you harvested them, it was no problem.

LM: Well, did you pick them up by hand?

CN: Yeah, and hoppers.

KB: I know we don't want to get into this, but how did the onion harvest work? You would plow up like we did bulbs, and store them?

CN: Oh, no, we didn't plow them up, they'd stay -- we had a blade that ran underneath them...

KB: I see.

CN: It was on the surface.

KB: I see.

CN: Just raised them out and they just raked them together. Maury(?) got one of those onion rakes up to the house. I saw one the other day. He didn't have any idea what he had.

LM: Oh, I'll bet he didn't.

CN: Because those had a lid tine and this flipped and you could take _____ on the onion hoe and you were on the handle of that thing day after day after day.

LM: So you did some hoeing. Did you do any cultivating of the onions?

CN: Oh, sure.

LM: With a horse or tractor?

CN: No, it was all hand cultivated.

LM: Uh, huh.

CN: Everything was hand done.

KB: Why no horses in the onion fields?

CN: Because your are on 12--

ROWS are on 12-14 inches

KB: I see, I see.

CN: Now they're even cutting down closer.

LM: When you sacked the onions, how did you do it?

CN: Put 'em in the middle, just put 'em in the sacks.

LM: Uh, huh.

CN: Bunch of people worked together, I even sat through a hock is made, that you hooked the sack on and forked 'em in.

KB: Then you brought them up into the onion barns where they were dried

CN: No, they were dry already, then you put them on shelves that were about 18 inches deep, clear up to the top. That was all hand work too, you'd lift them up there, then they had pulleys and machines to pull the sacks up.

KB: This was just for storage, not for drying them.

CN: Just for storage, to keep them.

KB: I see, I see. Then how did you sell them?

CN: All winter long, you'd take and put them through the onion toppers, and sort them on the table, then put them in sacks and sack them up and

LM: So you put them in sacks out in the fields, then put them in these.....

CN: Then you spread them out when you had laid them in the barn.

LM: Then you had to resack them?

CN: Yes, then you husked them.

KB: Clean and grade them.

CN: Cut the tops off of them, your just pull them off and

LM: You're talking about a topper, was there a machine to top....

CN: Yeah, a gasoline topper. The onions would go down and it'd pull their tops off.

LM: Oh.

CN: They'd come out on the side in the crates, the crates that you'd. say you were going to ship a carload. By the time you get that all done, sort 'em and sack them then later load them, the good roads back then, the trucks right to the place, and put them right there on the siding. I remember there were carloads of onions that Cipole did.

KB: I remember, I don't know, but there must have been a depot on Cipole.

CN: On the side, uh, in Tualatin there was, by the ^{ODD FELLOWS HALL} ~~outpost~~ there.

KB: Right, right.

CN: It was right before you got to Galbreath's place there, just past that industry there. Remember that one? And Langston, uh, anyhow, it was there on Cipole.

KB: I see, I see.

LM: What about the mint farming?

CN: Mint farming was one that, uh, that was quite a process. There was a lot of crews out there, about 4 foot tall, with purple blossoms, and it really went to town down there. You had to have special equipment. We put in a hydraulic dam and ah, he had a spring over there and a pond, And we had a hydraulic pump and that pumped the water up into a big tank and we had a peppermint still with tubes that hold in it, oh, probably 6 - 8 tons of stuff, and then we

had a steam -- a half a cord of wood to cure the steam and then that steam went through the tank, and then out through the gooseneck into the tubes, pruning tubes, starting in with about a four inch and dropping down to about, I guess, an inch tube. Then the water would trickle out that and the peppermint ran out of the steam and come into a tank. We, uh, had a water, huh, had a spout way down low and the water would drain out so you were cutting all that on the top and you'd skim that off and put it into a gallon tub. *the peppermint oil was*

KB: Now what an elaborate operation. How did your father ever contrive this?

CN: Oh, I guess it was something we just engineered. We just walked through a plant.

KB: Now what years was he growing peppermint?

CN: Oh, it had to have been '33-'34.

KB: Were there very many years that you did this?

CN: Through the 60's and 70's.

KB: Was this in place of the onions or in addition to the onions?

CN: It was in addition to the onions.

KB: I see.

CN: We grew the peppermint first and the straw over in that draw, um, we had a dump truck then.

KB: Did the cattle eat it?

CN: Yeah, the cattle _____.

KB: I was reading recently that, um, the Indians: when the, uh, Indians were here they had a couple of plants that they grew, one was apparently a mint like, uh, product. I wonder if you've ever seen any natural mint growing around here.

CN: Oh, no.

LM: We have some mint on our farm.

CN: That's the purple one.

KB: I see. It just grows wild.

CN: Oh, yeah, yeah!

LM: It's horse mint that we have.

CN: Oh, I don't know. This stuff, I still remember in the days before -- that was quite interesting. Of course all of us remember Hing.

LM: Oh, yeah.

CN: Hing come down there, Claude was running the fan at that time and he was -- you asked him what he was going to do and he said, "I'm going to drink some of that oil". I said, "No, you better not." He said, "I can drink anything". (Chuckles) So he took a swig of it and I guess it just about did him in!

KB: Oh, really?

CN: Oh, yeah! It's a good thing some of us had experience with it. (Chuckles)

KB: So there is a high alcoholic content in it then?

CN: No, (jumble of voices) It was the burning!

KB: I see, I see.

KN: They had to pack his neck -- was my understanding.

CN: Yeah, you take ---

KB: So it was alcoholic?

KN: Nooo --

CN: No, they didn't know what it was. I just set my chalice there. Now -- my brother-in-law used it as a shaving lotion. He had an awful time. We almost lost him.

LM: So it's strong?

CN: Oh, it's strong! You just stick your finger in there, it'll go right through ya. That straight peppermint!

LM: Who did you sell the peppermint oil to?

CN: To the market place at that time. But, of course, one of the victims (?) of that operation, we were getting \$1 - \$2 an ounce. We were going to wait 'til it got up to 5 or 6, then put it into a vault, because we got fifty gallon of it, of peppermint oil and you had a lot of money. Then it just so happened the price dropped out of it.

KB: Oooh.

CN: Lost the whole works! That's the way it went.

LM: Farmers --

CN: Same with onions, celery, potatoes, or whatever, the market, you get greedy sometimes, that's why I went to lettuce. Because every week I, I knew when I was going to sell the lettuce, I didn't have to worry about storing it.

END OF SIDE 1, TAPE 1

SIDE 2, TAPE 1

KN: There's a 28 foot fill there, and so, and with a center with a ditch down the middle, why that would just come down and wash everything down.

CN: What happened was -- there was a basin there, they went up, and they compacted as they went up and when they got -- they found out they didn't have enough on the top. They just started sloughing it off when they couldn't get the proper compaction. So when the winter rains came, that thing just came down, and just got behind where they failed to compact it. It just stood it on the base like that. And, of course, they put in four foot of sand, that washed out across the field. We tried to stay in the business. When they put I-205 in, the water that came down the draw came into the field and that took every one of my graze cows out of there -- lost every one of them.

DRAINAGE TILES

KN: Tell them how the drainage tiles were.

CN: Yeah, what happened -- you get the water coming down through there, and this sand -- when it hit the ditch, it,uh, created a barrier. Then it settled back until it got to the top, so it went all over the way to the top, then that created a barrier, that backed up and it just kept doing that all the way across that field, and -- just -- Then when this line, there were about 8 lines down there, that affected them when the freeway reached out, then it would go down here and right back up. Every one of 'em, same thing! Just _____ the cows, it would be about up that high, then skip down, close it out, and just back up and in a matter of minutes it would back up to another one and right through. There was a place over there, at that time there was about a five foot -- five barriers of water in the lake that was in there, and the water was coming off the hill, and it ran out there into that field like a devil off the current exit. So we just -- there was just no way we could --

LM: Well, did you contact the State Department? Did they have --

CN: Yeah, but they don't do anything about it. They gave us a settlement but it wasn't near what it should have been.

KB: By the time you pay the attorneys --

CN: And the collections.

KN: And to those other tiles that went back up in, it was all herringboned back in. It went way, way up, because those are for the masses of springs up there, that dig down. And the ditch, you see, goes from here to the river and also there was the problem that the other people

didn't keep their ditches clean and it couldn't go on down to the river. The problem now is, since they put in the new bridge, there's a huge boulder in there that they haven't been able to get out. And so now that's a natural dam right there, so that's what's blocking that.

KB: Where is the boulder?

CN: Right under the new bridge.

KN: Under the the new bridge they built.

CN: On 65th.

LM: Oh, I see -- on 65th.

CN: They didn't have equipment enough to haul it out, then what they did, they went in there with sewer lines and water lines and instead of cleaning it all out, they took all that dirt and put it down in the ditch and there's no way of getting it cleaned out any more.

KB: Now the boulder intrigued me. Is it visible?

CN: No, no.

KB: It's under the ground?

CN: It's down and the water's backed up over it.

KB: I see. How big do you think the boulder would be?

CN: Oh, it would be as long as from here to the other room.

LM: And this is now under the bridge that they ----

KB: Yeah.

KN: And so whoever built the bridge should be liable for taking that out of there.

CN: Yeah, it just gets too much.

KN: So when they did 205, um, Clayton talked with them and said now we had this problem before with all this sand, and that, and so, um, so they agreed to build, to build, so there would be holding ponds there, but they didn't build them, build it high enough and so it still washed over the top. And so they still ---

KAY KB: They built the second one, isn't that right? But it was too late.

KN: They had already done it again.

CN: Yeah, they started using bales like they did out there on your place -- Martinazzis -- you

know that's sandy in there, so sandy. They put in a reservoir in there and then they put drain tile off the top. That kept it -- that didn't wash out or give them any trouble at all. They've really gone after it now, and instead of drainage they are using bales just to hold the mud. I ---

KB: I wonder, the bunch of bales you see around, that's just to hold--

CN: To keep the sand out. The water would go on through. It'd make a pool for it and it'd just be mud. I saw one the other day that was stacked too high and the mud behind it was stacked clear up to the top of it.

KB: So after '52 when they put the freeway through, that's when the onion operation stopped?

CN: Yeah, that was pretty much, uh --

LM: That's when the lettuce stopped.

CN: Yeah, the lettuce.

LM: Hadn't you had a dairy before then?

CN: Yeah, but not very big. We had Grade A one when we moved in here.

KB: So you sold the milk?

CN: Yeah.

LM: All the time you were growing up there you had a Grade C dairy?

CN: Yeah. Just for cheese and whole milk.

KB: Yeah.

KN: And there were how many years they talked about putting the road in before it actually went?

CN: Oh, years! We didn't know which way it was going to go.

KB: It was going here?

CN: Before it came here, we heard it was going through ^{Koch's} ~~crashes(?)~~ further to the west, so we started doing things we should have been doing for fourteen years, and I still remember we were out cutting lettuce, beautiful lettuce and here comes this survey crew right out of that grove of timber up there. There they came through there, fight down through the patch, and I don't know ~~know it was all over them.~~ ^{RIGHT}

KN: They were going to follow -- my understanding of it was they were going to follow the railroad for awhile. See, they added that strip in down by the airport before the war.

CN: At Aurora.

KN: At Aurora. And so the thought was it was going to connect that, which it didn't. But, uh, so, uh, they had it planned and when the war came along they had to put it on hold.

CN: Yeah, then they bought that land, good farm land for \$300 an acre to build 99 all the way down to Salem. Took all those businesses that had to be located. (clears throat)

RELOCATE

KB: Backing up to, uh, I want to hear you talk about, uh, the days when you were milking the cows before this.

CN: '34! (chuckles)

LM: The cows?

KN: "Til '37.

KB: And you had how many cows?

CN: Oh, we milked 16, I think, 16 to 20 of them.

KB: And how many of you milked them?

CN: Oh, there were a few of us. Most of the time, two of us.

KB: You and Wilbur.

CN: Yes, and Willis.

KB: Now did your dad milk too, or just--

DID THE FEEDING

CN: Nah, he didn't do that, he was an old man.

KB: So this is all your growing up years, you had this many cows.

CN: Oh, yeah.

KB: And this was every morning and evening you had to milk them by hand.

CN: Pump out the silage and feed 'em, get clean hay and feed the hogs.

KB: Did you sell the milk, sell the milk to dairies for cheese?

CN: Oh, yeah, they'd pick up. (unintelligible)

KB: Uh huh, uh huh.

CN: (unintelligible)

KB: How long would it take you to milk a cow?

CN: Oh, I don't know.

KN: It depended on the cow.

KB: I just wanted to get an ---

LM: Oh, oh. (Laughter)

CN: We'd have to go like anything. We'd get up at 6 and by the time we'd get to school,
we'd -----

(Jumble of voices)

CN: That was the day you rested, from all the other stuff you'd been doing.

KN: And you asked about Pop milking. He had the only one hand because of the blood poison he
had gotten about -- what year was that, Clayton?

CN: Oh, I don't know.

KN: So he had blood poisoning and he lost the ^{use of that} hair ^{hand}.

CN: Oh, I was 13 -- 10, 11 years old (mumbles)

KB: Before he came here?

KN: Oh, no. While he was here. They were cutting cabbage, isn't that right?

CN: Yeah.

KB: He was helping somebody cut cabbage?

CN: No, he fell off the barn ^{around the place} and he hit his hand, at that time, and bruised it, then he was
working ~~on the dikes~~ and such and got into wild hawthorne, and a hawthorne stuck into his
hand and the infection, blood poisoning, came in.

KB: Yeah.

CN: His hand swelled up about 8-10 times the size, and they drained and worked on it and then
they'd did a lot of ligament experimenting at uh, the hospital -- he allowed them to do that.

KB: He'd have been how old?

LM: Were you kids all little then?

CN: Yes, we were young.

KB: I see. You were born in?

CN: Six,uh '18.

KB: In '18? and so ---

CN: He'd have been 26-27-28, something like that.

KB: A local doctor would have looked at it?

CN: Dr. Vincent.

KB: Dr. Vincent, yeah.

CN: He'd, uh, he'd shovel, uh, and fill in.

KN: They had a special glove made for his hand.

KB: Oh, his hand was crippled.

LM: Oh, huh.

KN: He could work mighty fast, he could dig carrots, I remember he used to dig carrots until a year or two before he died.

CN: He did everything.

KN: He was not crippled by it. But it would take, what did you say, about 3 fellas to keep up with him? We raised carrots too.

CN: (unintelligible)

KB: Yeah, yeah.

CN: We had a lot of flowers growing on the place, ~~geraniums~~ *gladiolas*

KB: The house itself I'm interested in. How it was built, and who built it and who designed it, all those things.

CN: Oh, I never paid any attention to that.

KB: Oh, I see.

LM: You were born in ^{the} ~~this~~ house, right?

CN: Yes.

KN: The house was it built in ~~1905~~ ¹⁹⁰⁵

CN: _____

KB: Your father was how old when he died?

CN: 80.

KN: 87! I think he was not quite 87, and he was, they had just, uh paved the freeway here and stuff for it.

KB: They had just paved the freeway?

(jumble of voices -- someone at the door)

LM: What do you remember about finding Indian artifacts on the place or when your father would find them?

CN: Okay, it was always rumored that there was a burying grounds that we was always looking for, one place that was supposed to be around here someplace. We never did find it.

KB: You never did.

CN: No, and uh, we constantly, regardless of where we were, we'd be picking up Indian arrow heads in with the new grass, because when we started the irrigation system, in this clearing and when we go through scratching, the first thing you'd dig up was an Indian head. And all the weeding we used to do in the onions and hoeing. Any time you clicked anything, you knew you had something and you looked at it. Ordinarily you'd say, oh, well, I'll pick it up on the way back.

(Chuckles)

LM: It wasn't important then.

CN: Oh, I gave most of them away.

LM: Did you ever find any bowls, pestles and the like?

CN: I found couple or 3, I think, pestles and --- I don't know, they disappeared. We never paid any attention to them.

KB: Yeah. Some one said there was evidence of an Indian settlement where the freeway crosses the river.

CN: We dug around down in there, never found anything.

LM: Tell us about your father's role in government. He must have been a real mover and shaker.

CN: Pop must have been something. I,uh, I only uh, I only remember him being mad once, but he wasn't mad long, that was many years ago. And, uh, he was quite a leader. He (unintelligible) never worried about it. He just went ahead and did it. Of course he was very, very active in county like government. He was county commissioner from '11 - '15.

KN: 1911.

CN: 1911 to 1915

KB: County commissioner. Uh huh, uh huh.

CN: And his name is on the plaque up there on the building.

LM: The court house?

CN: Uh huh.

KB: Now is that before he was mayor of Tualatin?

CN: Yes, because when city of Tualatin was incorporated in 1913.

KB: That's right.

LM: So did he go to work as a commissioner every day?

CN: No, once a week or every two weeks.

KB: Okay.

CN: He'd walk from here over to Beaverton then get on the MT(?) to Hillsboro.

KB: Get the train there?

CN: Yeah. I, uh, he never would talk about it much. The only thing he would tell me was it was work and I shouldn't do it. "Don't do it!"

LM: You hadn't gotten into government by the time he died or had you?

CN: Yes, oh, yeah, I was, I went into office in '57.

LM: When did he pass away?

KN: You went in in '57, now let me see, uh, he -- Arne was 4 in 52, and he died in '54.

KB: But you took his advice as long as he was alive.

CN: Yeah. Of course, he (gap in tape of 10 seconds) been around those things, get down underneath those things, force 'em out. It was about so long. And he was quite far sighted and he were accomplished many things at that time then, of course. He came down to Tualatin and was the city mayor here for a long, long time. ~~We~~ *He* put in the water system at the worst time in the world that anybody could even think about doing that.

LM: He helped put in the water system?

CN: Oh, yeah. Sure, they put in all that stuff. All the pumps and

KB: Whatever _____ area behind the church?

CN: Yeah, I remember coming home from school and, it was an artesian --the well with the pump down it was an artesian well. It was about that high above and the water just poured out over the top of it. And then you caught that boiler pipe that cut into the main part of town and they , all that they needed and it helped 'em and you had well water.

KB: Did the water system bring running water from that well to all the houses?

CN: Yes.

KB: So it was just a matter of a lot of pipes around here?

CN: Yeah. Just the same as you do it now. *but on a smaller scale* But that, uh, that was quite an accomplishment. Then, of course, we did the road, we spearheaded the construction of the road on the way out to the road master and plowed this end of the county. We coordinated all the cows going out with the graders, grading the roads in the wintertime. *crews*

KB: About what years, Clayton?

KN: That would have been '11 to '14, right?

CN: Wait a minute. I don't know but the mayor would have been serving faster.

KN: And the roads followed the property lines. That's why it was a great job.

KB: Uh huh. That was the gravel from your gravel pit here, that was used to gravel the roads around here, wasn't it?

CN: That's just what I said.

KB: Yeah.

CN: We took from this pit here and just go as far as we could and as the rest of it developed we'd do it, in the summertime.

KB: Now what years would that have been? We've got a picture of them graveling the grates by

Byrom's house and there is no date on the picture.

CN: That would have been in the wartime, we were still doing some with equipment and horses.

KB: I see.

KN: And Koch was on the -- what was it they built on all the big dams?

CN: He served on the, the ^{land. Valley → food control} land development, ~~the equipment~~. He served on that clean ^R up until...

KN: That was what he wanted you to take over.

KB: That out at Hillsboro?

CN: No, that was all the dams --

KB: Oh, I see.

CN: That went out with Marshall Gainer and I don't know who all.

KB: Down in Salem, right?

CN: Yeah. We even had a part to play in the wild land area and that kind of worked. We went to more dam dedications over the years. And we (clattering noise) _____ civic things.

LM: Well, tell us about the town team ball games.

CN: Oh, that was a fun time. ___rules___. And, of course, we had in this town a base ball team, softball team, basketball team. Basketball was real competitive. We played about every Friday night and every Saturday night. We'd travel and then we'd play.

KB: Now was this after, was this in your high school years or after high school?

CN: High school and after, after the war.

LM: Was it kind of a league set-up with all the neighboring cities?

CN: Yeah, and Philomena and Davis. We'd go down to Taft. We'd go down on a Friday night, play Friday night, play Saturday night and come back on Sunday. And Ed Blank would be down there in Cass and they had that grocery store and we'd go in there and stay in there and have more fun.

KB: They had a grocery store when they lived here and went down to Taft.

CN: They had a store, I don't know what it was, right there by Sandals.

KB: I see.

Wesbur
Wells
CN: And then, I and my dad and Herb and Wes just went down to Taft and stayed there in our own private cottage by the light house and we ran the whole thing. First ball game, ah, baseball, uh, we had a good ball team when we stopped, down by Hermans, by Taft. Played some softball too. I tell you we were quite a strong team.

LM: Was it just your men that played? Any of the kids?

CN: No, it was the top end of the people.

KB: Who was the coach -- coaches for that?

CN: Clarence was for basketball, then Williams was.

LM: Slim? *(Kamp)*

CN: Yeah. And then, uh, I don't know who did that baseball. I caught baseball for the town kids there. Softball, I caught for at least mostly two games a week.

KB: Was Herman *(LAFK)* in baseball or softball, do you remember?

CN: Yeah, and basketball.

KB: Basketball.

CN: I think he played some.

KN: A lot of that was before the war, the soft -- baseball.

CN: Oh, yeah. The baseball teams --

KB: Yeah.

CN: Claude played and all them. That was really competitive. And your dad -- If he didn't play, he heard about it.

LM: He played basketball.

CN: With your grand dad, that was a great thing.

LM: Grandpa went to the ball games too?

CN: I'm sure he did, 'cause that was the -----

KN: There wasn't much else to do then.

KB: Now what teams did they play -- like Tigard?

CN: Oh, Tigard, West Linn, Oregon City.

KB: Oh, I see.

CN: We played, uh ----

KN: If there were more of those now, it would keep the boys busy.

CN: Taft ---

KB: That was a long way to go, to Taft to play baseball

KN: I remember going to Taft after we were married.

CN: Down to Salem and ^{Hubbard} Corbett. I refereed over 500 ball games.

LM: I remember you refereeing -- basketball.

CN: I had to quit when -- ran out of time.

KB: Now did the war end that or did it pick up again after the war?

KN: Basketball was after the war.

LM: Oh, yeah. I went to basketball games.

KN: And then Clayton played softball at that time over at Tigard. You kept playing softball during the war, didn't you?

CN: Yeah.

KB: Now when did that kind of peter out?

CN: After the war.

KB: Yeah, if they picked up after the war, why didn't they go on ?

CN: Most of the guys went on to college then.

KB: Yeah, I guess that would be. Yeah.

CN: They had the GI bill so for about 10 years as an extension from their service, they'd get a job right out of college -- er, service, and then go to college.

KB: The times were changing then too.

CN: Yeah, they sure did.

KN: Well, I think one thing, cars and travel became so much easier that people could go and --

CN: You weren't tied down with --

KB: Sure.

CN: Oops! But now many of the _____ are coming back _____..

LM: I heard an interesting thing the other day. I talked to this Gertrude Molson, she called and she said that she grew onions, and she said, that during the war, well in the first World War, they were going to school up here at Tualatin and the whole school was let out to go down and say goodbye to Claude Raider and _____.

CN: And Dick Vogel.

KB: I told you that.

LM: Oh, yeah. The whole school was let out to go down to the station to say goodbye to the guys.

CN: 'Cause they were just 18 years of age.

KB: Now this was 1918?

KN: And she also said that the Nyberg girls had a car, their dad's car, of course, and every time they got a letter from Claude; I suppose they'd pick up the mail down at the post office, as they were driving home, they would toot the horn so everybody knew they got a letter from Claude.

KB: (Chuckles) Isn't that lovely?

LM: And then Jane Ibach told us that when they came to town, for the first time, I guess that was on the train, to look at their farm, there was no way for them to get from the train station up to the home, the Nyberg girls loaded them in their car and took them up there.

KN: Well, my mother went to school with Hillar Ibach.

KB: Oh!

KN: She went to grade school with ^{her} her, I'm quite sure.

KB: That was Mountindale (?)

LM: What was your mother's maiden name?

KN: Willis. So my grandfather was born in 18, I think, 58 at ^{PO}Loy and my grandmother was born in 1868 at ^{ROU}Loy. They were both born in Washington county.

KB: Um, your grandparents?

Mom's

CN: My family came across in a covered wagon.

LM: Oh, yeah. What year was that?

CN: I don't know, I never -- it had to be around 1880, I suppose, somewhere.

LM: Would anybody have any good information on the Barngrover family?

CN: Well, I don't know.

KN: Some of those trunks -- I don't know what happened to those, if they still have any of those, but, ah, Tressa or Delores might have some of those.

CN: Talk to Delores, Delores might.

KN: They brought over a box of stuff.

KB: But your mother was born here She didn't--

CN: No, she came across.

KB: She did?

CN: Yeah, no, she was born here. That's right, 'cause they came across -- her folks.

KB: Yeah, yeah.

Nettie

KN: And then they raised Aunt Minnie Cimino, you know.

CN: Uh huh.

Elsie

LM: Who was Altha May's mother.

KN: Yeah.

LM: Okay, now going on. Let's talk about (much quiet talk in background, mixed voices), would you tell us about the volunteer fire department. *how it got started.*

CN: That was started in 1935-- '34 or '35. I was, I couldn't belong until I graduated from high school. That was a joint effort by all the business men *and interested people* -- something to do in public service and water and everything. They had a hand clamp to start out with, worked out of that and then, they had an old Fairmill(?) then an old truck that basically just had a hose on it, then they got a truck that had a pump on it and a 350 gallon tank with the pump and that, that was a real improvement and pretty soon we kept progressing and on and on and on. In 1938 -- 1936, I remember coming down to the house with the truck and it was a two story house. I climbed up there, I was the high climber for the fire department and, it was a concerted effort that was coordinated under the leadership of HAWKILURST and Barngrover, and _____

pump

Federal

and from the on

I was

the high climber

15-31 Uncle Bill

KB: Did it serve this area, just this area right here?

CN: Yeah, just, just -- then when we got the 350 gallon tank we realized we could go off the end of the pipes. You would go out with the pump, with 350 gallons and if you were even close, you could pretty much put it out. And then we went to a 1000 gallon tank, bigger equipment all the time, then you could pack enough water in the tanker. They had the light one that got off first, but then it was all loaded up, then the bigger tanker come in afterwards and cut the supply off.

KB: What were some of the fires that you --

CN: There was the one in Sherwood. Two big fires, one was in ^{Maralt's} ~~Walleys~~ and then the dance hall burned down.

LM: Oh, you remember that?

CN: Oh, yeah, we were there. I was there when the dance hall burned down.

KB: Was that the one on the corner of second and ~~---~~ ^{Seaside}

CN: The corner of first and, uh, the U.S. bank was on that corner. There was a dance hall on the second floor.

KB: I think I've got a picture of it.

LM: Yeah, yeah.

CN: And uh, yeah uh, the ~~next~~ ^{MONIKSMA'S} ~~Ball's~~ (?) fire in the hay barn.

LM: Oh, ~~Lee's~~ house?

CN: I was inside on that, anytime that could have blown.

KB: What year was that, Clayton?

LM: And what year was the dance hall burned down? I mean, give me a vague ----

KN: That was after we were married, as I remember.

CN: No, probably '45 or so.

KB: Was it you that -- (jumble of voices) -- a dance hall until it burned?

CN: Yeah.

KN: ~~Mini spas, was that Mini spas?~~

was that when Moniksma's burned?
15-32

LM: About the same time?

CN: Yeah, about the same time and Taylor's place burned.

KB: That was Stan(?).

CN: Then, of course, the one that really got us was the fire out around, and that was just after the beginning of the war, out at Carpen's(?). *TONQUIN*

LM: Oh, what fire was that?

CN: There was a big fire out there on that land in ~~timberwood~~ *where the timber was* (?). We were in there fighting our way through it, into the brush and a plane came over and put some chemical on it and almost -- I thought I was going to be trapped in there.

KB: Ooooooh!

CN: With the chemical!

END OF SIDE 2