

INTERVIEW WITH:

AGNES KENNEDY LUCHS

February 13, 1982

TAPE #2, SIDE #1

AGNES: ~~(continuing)~~ There was one time ~~work~~ -- you know, <sup>W</sup>work was kind of scarce around here, too --

WICKRE: During the Depression and the War?

AGNES Yes. Potato digging, you know. ~~And so there was a lot of people you know now~~ Not too long ago I ~~said to~~ a fellow I offered a job ~~I only offered him~~ <sup>for</sup> \$11 an hour, and he wouldn't take it. And I said, "You mean to say he wouldn't take \$11 an hour?" Oh, no, they said, that's the kind of job that's \$16 an hour now. For crying ~~it~~ out loud! And Henry took anything he could get. ~~He~~ If he could get a potato job digging, ~~he~~ he took it. And he made sometimes \$3 a day.

WICKRE: Did the War help you out? Was it easier to find work then?

AGNES: Well, that was a long time before the War. ~~And~~ <sup>we</sup> had a Ford, and coming home one night it was raining, kind of a mist -- this ~~kind~~ kind of funny rain you can't see very well, ~~and~~ and that street over there wasn't very wide then, only big enough for two people to pass. And a fellow hit him, or he hit the other fellow. They both hit each other, I think, and wrecked our car. So we didn't have any car. ~~So then~~ <sup>W</sup>when he was working at this place, he took them ~~up~~ -- he took these fellows from out here in there with him -- he rode with them. ~~And~~ <sup>S</sup>so when the fall came, why they laid these fellows off and he didn't have any way of getting to town. So that's how we moved in there. Otherwise... We had built this big house up here on Sorrento Road and only got to live in it three years.

WICKRE: You sold that place?

AGNES Yes, we ~~we~~ sold it after a while. We rented it for a while and then we sold it, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> we went into town. We rented a house there for about two years and then they raised the rent. It was only \$12, I said, a month, but we wasn't getting that much money either. So we went down the street and looked for houses to buy. ~~And~~ <sup>we</sup> saw a <sup>big</sup> house down there, ~~it was a big house~~ had a good roof on it and good wiring, but it wasn't finished by any ways or means. There was no windows in it and no door, or nothing. And the fellow said, "Well, if you buy it, I'll put the windows and doors in." Well, that was about the coldest summer I think I ever saw. And the next winter was the coldest, too. It was a whole cold year.

WICKRE: 1930.

AGNES And he wasn't putting in the windows and doors. We had a door, but no windows. ~~And~~ <sup>S</sup>so he said, ~~well~~, "If you don't come in and put those windows in, we're not going to buy this place." We were renting it then at \$5.00 a month, believe it or not. And so he came out. He hired a man that ~~told~~ <sup>toward</sup> him some money

to put the windows and doors in. Well, the windows wasn't what I wanted, and I cried. And the kids and everybody thought I ought<sup>not</sup> to cry. They thought I should take whatever I could get. That's what really ~~hurt~~ hurt my feelings more than anything. So finally, we borrowed some money on our life ~~insurance~~ insurance and put in a bathroom ~~in~~ -- otherwise the bathroom was way out in the far east corner -- it was a long ways ~~away~~ away from the house, and colder than the dickens.

So anyway, the first thing Henry wanted was a bathroom, so we borrowed some money and put in our bathroom and remodeled our kitchen and just did a lot, you know. So ~~After~~ After a while, when he was making more money, there was ~~plenty~~ <sup>funny</sup> things that would influence you to do things. There was a lady up the street. They had a little bit of a house -- a great big family. And she had a nice big ~~in~~ window like this put in in front of her house and I ~~said~~ -- our ~~n~~ kids and their kids run around together. So they said, "Mrs. ~~Thibow~~ Thibow borrowed some money from the bank and had that put in." And I thought, "Well, why can't I do that?" So I went down to Portland Federal or Portland Trust or whatever and I ~~xxxx~~ borrowed a thousand dollars. And I had a man come and fix it all up. And he introduced me to this kind of wallpaper, that is cloth. Have you ever seen it? And that is the ~~best~~ best darn stuff to paper with that you ever saw, because we were there twelve years after that was done and I had pictures on the wall, and I took the pictures off and there wasn't a spot where the pictures had been -- you know, it hadn't faded anywhere. ~~And~~ I had the whole house papered like that. Before that, though, we had a fellow come and put the siding on. You see the siding wasn't on, see, just the inside part.

WICKRE: Now, you had children. You and Henry were married in 1917, so you had children from when on -- how many children?  
AGNES I had one girl was married by that time. She married quite young. Younger than she ought and then the rest of them -- Yvonne, after while went into nursing school over in Washington, and the two boys got work at the Japanese Gardens, weeding stuff. And Pat and Yvonne -- no Yvonne was in nursing school. Pat and Francis and Bernard and Mickey were the only ones home. We had seven, eight children all together.

WICKRE: Oh, you had EIGHT?

AGNES: ~~So~~ there was people down the road that said, well if I had any way of keeping those people from getting that house I would. Because they didn't want anybody with so many children living across the road from them. And so I was going to say Yvonne, well, she wasn't in nursing school then. She went down to Newberg with some friends of ours who had some children and they wanted her to help with the children. So she went down there.

And Virginia was married. And then Bob and Clifford went down to the Gardens and weeded. Well then that just left Francis and Bernard and Mickey. So there wasn't any children around there. They were all busy doing something.

WICKRE: Now, was that this house, or the one in southeast.

AGNES

That was in Portland. And right next door to us there was a couple that had two children. And I had more darn trouble with those two kids than anybody ever had with my whole eight. Because they'd run over my garden. I'd like to have a nice yard, you know. We'd always have a nice yard -- they'd run over my flowers and my garden and oh, goh, they were doing all kinds of things -- breaking my windows. So anyhow.

WICKRE:

Did the children go to school in Portland?

AGNES

~~They went to Francis.~~ Yvonne went down to Jefferson for one year, and they had a new book they had to buy and somebody stole hers, and so then she didn't any book, so she didn't pass that grade. So the next year, I said, I'll see where there's a close high school. So we went over to St. Steven's. That was way over there. -- you had to take the bus -- that was 42. I know it's on 42nd, but I don't know what else. So she graduated there and then she went to St. Jude (?) nursing school -- hospital over there, and that's where she got her nurses training. So anyway. We got the house done, and then this fellow came to do the inside part, and we really had a nice house. It had an upstairs and everything. So people were saying, "What's he going to do with that old shack?" It wasn't a shack; it was a new house, but it was unfinished. But there was nobody had a good house on those streets. The good part about it was that you didn't have nothing but neither did anybody else. They all had little one-room houses, but came out there and bought their lot for \$15 about and put in a house that cost about \$200. And so by the time we got our house done and everything, why it was the nicest house on the street -- except for the one across the street. He was a logger and so he had money. So he built himself a really nice house. But that was the only good house there was on the whole street. So anyway. ~~That's~~ But now they're all fixed up. -- got their houses remodeled and all built up now. And they didn't have that much money to do it with either. It's a good thing that things were cheaper because they couldn't have done it.

WICKRE:

Right. That's true.

AGNES:

But people are having a harder time now than they did then. Because we didn't have any money much but we didn't have to buy much either. I could go to the store with \$6.00 and get more than I can get for \$20 now. That was part of it. So I did all my sewing for my girls.

WICKRE:

Did you find more that people would trade more, barter, and were more cooperative with each other. Was that true?

AGNES

Everybody knew everybody else on that street. Well, here, I know these people. They just moved here, because Christmas time I took them over some cookies. Well, then, they came over here ~~one~~ one day. They're really a nice young couple. I know the people back here. Henry knew everybody because he done all their gardening. But I don't. The people he gardened for moved away. ~~A~~ A lady down here, Myrtle we call her, because she's older, lady, but she's ~~about~~ about a year older than I am, I guess. And we know that lady over there because we've got two apple trees and more apples than we need and I take her over some apples. And you know Mary -- I couldn't get along without Mary. And this one over here, I don't know them. I've seen them ~~in~~ getting

into their car and going back in but that's all I know. And the reason I know this lady is because I took her some apples. And then I knew the other one down there because when they bought the house, I guess he wasn't very well. They said, "Well, we'd like to have this place but ~~we~~ we can't take care of the yard." And they said the man right ~~over~~ across the street will take care of your yard for you. So she come over here, and they're very good friends; well, he's dead now. But I don't see her very often. But we were real good friends. And the McGees, we know them because they came here. There was a woman lived over there that used to have all the new neighbors in and all the old neighbors in and have a party. Every time a bunch of new people moved in she'd have a party and introduce everybody. So ~~that~~ we knew everybody. But nobody does that anymore. She's moved herself, over on Davies Road. ~~So we don't~~... We's walking to one of the fellows that lives down here -- real good friends with them, but don't see them a lot, but then we like them. He had Henry do a lot of his work for them. He said, "Well, we need Joy." That's who we need. To get people acquainted. But about two years after we came here, she moved. Every day you'd see a moving truck going up and down. But now ~~nowbyd~~ moves. They stay put.

WICKRE: I ~~was~~ going to say, you moved back at a time it seemed like Beaverton was really changing. Did you keep up your contacts out here all the time you were in Portland? Or did you lose contact with Beaverton while you were living in Portland?

~~AGNES~~  
AGNES Oh, no. I kept track of them.

WICKRE: And did you know that you wanted to move back?

AGNES Oh, everybody said, "When are you coming back to Beaverton?" -- the whole 28 years we was in there, they'd say it. ~~and~~ I always knew I was coming back. But Henry didn't want to. But he said, I want to stay where my friends are. But he found out he had more friends out here than he ever knew in Portland. Because our real close neighbors we weren't friends with -- those two kids running around all the time bothered us all the time. He drank and beat her up and she'd be yelling "Help, Help" and I'd tell Henry and he'd say, "I'm not butting in anybody's affairs" (laughter) So finally they arrested him and she left him and somebody else bought the place.

WICKRE But you always had friends and contacts out here -- and family, too.

AGNES Oh, yes. Whodid we have out here? We didn't have any relation out here any more.

WICKRE: They'd moved away?

AGNES ~~Well~~, Hazel, my sister lived down at St. Helens, anyway. And Lance lived, ~~where did he live~~ -- oh, he lived ~~over~~ over on Tenth, but ~~they~~ they went down when his building -- that retired people's home down there down the street ~~is~~ well, he had really a nice ~~house~~ house here on Tenth. But anyway they went down to see those houses you know they advertised, and he says, "Well, heck, let's us have a new house." So him and his wife built that house. And then they didn't like it there. Because they were -- Lance was two years younger than I am and he

was practically a young man you know, him and his wife.....

(TELEPHONE CALL INTERRUPTS).

WICKRE: Well, where were we. We were talking about your neighborhood there and you said ~~you~~ you always wanted to move back to Beaverton, and now you've lived here again twenty years.

AGNES: We came out here in 1961. So it's about 21. But we came over here in 1967, though.

WICKRE: I see. How has it changed in the time you've been back? Has it changed a lot?

AGNES: Yes, it has. It changed a lot after we left Beaverton and went to Portland. We was there thirty years. That's a long time. Well, when Henry and I was married, ~~they~~ we stayed with my dad the first year because he was alone. So we went to -- then they were going to build the highway. ~~So we went to~~ -- Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway. ~~So~~ he didn't have a team, but I did. I had a horse. So we borrowed \$150 from Dad and bought another horse, and he worked on that highway. And he earned just \$150 -- just enough to pay Dad back (laughter), but we had our horse. So we rented that house out here on Davies Road. We stayed there three years on a farm. It was about 50 acres I guess. So we were there, had a dairy. He had been working on dairies all the time and it's kind of funny the way I met him. He went to work for that dairy. You see that Mr. Mott rented his place to this dairy. He was living in -- they built that big house and they were living there but they didn't live there until Mr. Mott retired, and then they built that great big house and lived there for a long, long time. But he rented the ground to this dairy guy, so Henry came out ~~xxx~~ there to work for them. ~~And~~ that's how I met him. I knew they wanted a girl to work in the bottling -- where they bottled the milk. And so I had nothing to do in those days in the evening or any other time, so I used to go up there at night and help her bottle milk.

WICKRE: And he was working there?

AGNES: He came there to work afterwards. He wasn't there when I first went there.

WICKRE: Was he from Oregon or had he come from somewhere ~~else~~ else?

AGNES: Henry come from Switzerland.

WICKRE: Oh, straight from Switzerland.

AGNES: And you see, these people were Swiss people, ~~and that's how I happened to meet --~~ ~~anyhow~~ anyhow, I knew the girl.

-- I went to Raleigh for a little while to school and she went there, too. And there was a one-room schoolhouse up there then. And they had steps outside and a platform up there and a window where they poured the milk into a great big tank, strainer cloth over the top to strain it, and then it went down through another strainer and was strained about three times before they finally ~~got~~ got it into the tank that had the bottles in. So he looked in this window pouring in his milk and he asked Rosie -- he couldn't talk very well. He'd only been here three years. But he said, "~~xxxx~~ Have you got help?" -- And I looked up at him and I thought he was the funniest looking little fellow I ever saw in my life. He had a black mustache, and I thought "Oh, Gosh!" and I looked away

and laughed, and I thought, "Oh, boy!" And he wanted to go with me, and I didn't want him to. I used to run home as fast as I could ... and finally one night he caught on after the milking was done and everything. He went and hid behind a bush right in front of my dad's place there, so I got down to the road, and he stepped out and said "Good Evening," and boy it scared me stiff, I didn't know who the dickens was there. So he walked home with me that night and then after a while I started ~~running~~ walking home all the time, and then finally about three years later we got married.

WICKRE: Now was he older than you?

AGNESZ: Oh, yes, he was four years older than I was. And he'd only been over here three years at that time, and I'd...

WICKRE: What made him come, do you know?

AGNES: Oh. No work over there. And I told him I said, "boy we went over to Switzerland. I went twice and he went over about five times, but the third time he ~~was~~ went was just about three years ~~or~~ before he died. I wanted him to go because I wanted to go one last time, but I couldn't go. I wasn't able, and so I was trying to find somebody to go with him. Finally ~~he~~ he said, "Well, I'd like to have Pat go with me." If there was any favorites among his kids, it was Pat. Not because he liked her any better, but he thought she was smarter than the rest. Of course, she had worked ever since she was married. She had worked -- she only went to business college for about six weeks, but when she graduated from high school, it was during the second world war, and they couldn't get a job unless they had experience, and they couldn't get experience unless someone would hire them, and so the government sent them to school in the Army -- what did they call that place, where they do ~~that~~ <sup>their</sup> business -- so they sent her over there. But first she had to go to Northwestern College to work up her speed. She went to commercial college and took a business course there. She took shorthand and typing and all that sort of stuff. But ~~Francis~~ <sup>Pat</sup> went to school, she couldn't be bothered with shorthand. But that's the reason Pat got her good job was because she could do shorthand. Well she got a job in a collecting agency, and she worked there about two months but she couldn't stand it because she said those poor people would come in and they'd badger them about the bill they owed, and she couldn't stand that, so she quit. So she was two weeks getting another job, and said if she knew it was going to be that hard to get another job she wouldn't have quit. But anyway she finally got a job at one of the shipyards and she was the office manager. She was just about 19 years old. So that's where she met her husband. He was like a foreman. And wherever she went, she was always the office manager. Then they moved to Hillboro and for 25 years she was the office manager at Penney's store up there. And so when she got enough time in so that she would get ~~the~~ what they called hospitalization if you stayed 25 years, she stuck it out. I guess the last three years she was just in misery, so tired of it, and so she stuck it out though until she was 56 and she quit them. But as I said, she was always one of the sensible ones; that's why Henry

WICKRE: ...~~and he~~ wanted to take her to Switzerland. Did they go?

AGNES: Yes, they went. So then I thought ~~here~~ was Yvonne with her nose out of joint because she didn't get to go, you know. So I said, ~~oh, maybe~~ <sup>if I did</sup> I could scrape up another thousand dollars and you can go, too." So she could have gone on what I had because Henry brought home a thousand dollars. But they was over there -- oh, gosh a long time, about six weeks. And so ~~he~~ went that last time and saw the things he wanted to see, climbed all the mountains he wanted to climb, went out to see all the people he used to go to school with. A lot of people were dead that he had gone to school with, because he was 88 when he died.

WICKRE: When was that that he died?

AGNES: He died a year ago -- 1980. It was a little over a year. And it's awful to have somebody die. You know, I never thought it would be that way. You hear other people talk about it, But people die and you miss them so much, especially him, because he was sick for two years, you know, and he used to sit on that davenport over there and I'd sit over ~~a~~ here and read to him. He couldn't see. I didn't know that he couldn't see. He ~~could~~ could see but he couldn't see to read. And so I told Mickey -- well, he was looking at the paper. And he saidm "Yes, he's looking at the ~~pictures~~, he can't read." So I would read what I thought he would be interested in. So every day at noon and 10 in the morning, he'd come in the house for a cup of coffee, and then about in the middle of the afternoon, you know. And when you get so used to somebody doing that and then they don't do ~~it~~ it any more, you imagine -- it ~~g~~ begins to get kind of dusk, even now, and it's been over a year, I think "Why Henry will be coming in pretty soon." And it's just awful.

WICKRE: Well, you were married 65 years almost?

AGNES: Yes, I think so.

WICKRE: 63 years.

AGNES: We got ~~over~~ married in 1917 and he died last year in 1980. So it was 63 years. That's a heck of a long time. And just the other night Mickey was coming in the garage door and I guess he leaned over to kind of scrape the dirt off his feet you know, and that's the way Henry used to do, and just for a second I thought -- Henry's coming in -- and it was just terrible, you know, you can't get over that. And I didn't think it would ~~be~~ take that long. And I used to look up expecting him to come in the door and think he'd come in out of the kitchen or something, you ~~know~~ know, and Oh, gosh!

WICKRE: And you had a steady church relationship all this time. Does that help. Have you maintained one church, or did you change when you came back? Are you active in church?

AGNES: Oh, yes. We went to St. Charles in Portland. It wasn't very far away. And that's what he meant -- he wanted to stay where his friends were. He belonged to the ~~men's~~ men's club there. So I told him, well I'm the ~~one~~ one that had

the friends in Portland because I belonged to a study club and I belonged to the Study club and the Mother's club and all that ~~jm~~ and I said all he knew was the Men's Club. He wasn't really friends with the neighbors. For one thing, he was always too busy working -- every little thing that come along, he done it, whether -- during the war I don't know how that poor guy did it. He couldn't get any men to help him. They was working in the shipyard where they'd get more money. So the shipyard people came after him, too, and ~~sm~~ so he went to the manager and said, "Well, we just can't g let you go." So they raised his wages, and he got quite a good chunk of money by that time.

WICKRE: Did he not want to the shipyards?

AGNES He didn't want to go to the shipyard, but he was glad that they offered him more money. He though if they were going to make him go, he'd go. But ~~there~~ there was a fellow up the street who was real good friends of ours; they wanted him to do things, you know. They'd say "Get Henry." So here was poor Henry; they had -- what did they call it -- that block ....

WICKRE: Oh, for neighborhoods.

AGNES Yes. <sup>had</sup> go around all the neighborhoods, find out where their bedrooms were, and everything. ~~they~~ they were really scared and we didn't know it. But they had been bombing on the Coast, And they didn't want anybody to get scared. So he not only had that, but he had this block meeting every week and they had a place where they met that nobody knew butthem. Even myself, I didn't know. But they would have these block meetings, and if anybody had any children, then I took care of the children. So they'd go at night to this place wherever they metk and do whatever they had to do and then up again in the morning at 5:00 because he had to do all this work by himself atthe gold course, and I really don't know how that guy stood it, but if he hadn't been as strong and healthy as he was, he wouldn't have been able to stand it. But he had a piece of paper about that long, I guess, with everybody's house on it that he took care of

AGNES KENNEDY ~~KNEKE~~ LUCHS

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AGNES (contd) If a plane ~~bomb~~ would come, you know and hit the house, they would know right where the bedroom was to go to get the people because we had to keep the curtains tight, you know, so there wouldn't be any light or anything showing. ~~And a~~ lot of people didn't want to do that. ~~But~~ honest to goodness, you'd be surprised -- you get among people and you get into their inner lives, there are some people that are such fools. -- they ~~it~~ just don't want to do what they are supposed to do to protect themselves. "Well, why do we do that?"

WICKRE: Yes, especially during a war. Emergency.

AGNES Yes, but the thing of it is, ~~say~~ for instance I would have ~~this window open~~, this curtain open; -- well they may be bombing something else, but they would hit us because this is where the light was. So we kept our curtains ~~it~~ all down. In those days we had shades we would pull up and down. ~~Max~~ We kept them all down, and not even one teeny, weeny little spot of light as big as a star was to show. ~~And a~~ lot of people didn't want to do that. I really don't know how that man done it.

And then, too, after he got off the golf course at night he used to take care of people's lawns and shrubs and stuff. And he had to do that when he first started because as I said before, he wasn't making very much even at the ~~golf~~ golf course he only made \$12.50 A week, so he had to do that. He said I know people that would like to have somebody take care of their yard. So he used to go early in the morning ~~so he~~ could get off about 3:30 in the afternoon; and then he would go and mow their lawn or prune their hedges and plant their flowers and things like that. He got 35¢ an hour for doing that, but it was enough so we could ...

And one time there was a lady she said, well there was a man came around yesterday and said he would do my flowers for 25¢ an hour and Henry said, well you go ahead and get him, and ~~him~~ she did, and then she came to him and wanted him to do it, because the fellow didn't do a good job, and he said, well you wanted him. And I'll never forget one time he was going to put in some steps going up into a bank, and this fellow came along and he was going to do it cheaper than Henry, so they ~~it~~ said O.K., so he didn't know a darn thing about putting in steps and there's one thing you have to know about putting in steps, ~~it~~ is to start at the bottom. And so he started at the top. Well he didn't know where to go from there (laughter), and so he said, no he couldn't do it. And so then he asked Henry and Henry said, "no -- he's messed it up now so that I can't do it either." He said, "I'm not going to do it now." So he got two, three jobs when he was off. He would go off the golf course the first of December and he wouldn't go on again until April or so.

WICKRE: Did he work there until he retired?

AGNES

Yes, he worked there for 28 years. And so ~~when they~~ he bid \$100 to put in this block wall. And another fellow bid \$90, but they thought Henry would do a better job so he gave it to him. And so the next winter, then he got another ~~\$9~~ \$100 job across the street. So I learned an awful expensive lesson. I learned it and I learned it good. We needed a new roof and the roof was leaking when we bought the house, and Henry asked the fellow who said No, no the roof doesn't leak. Well, if a real estate agent lies to you, you can make them do it for nothing or give the money back that you paid. Well, I didn't do that. I thought, "Oh, fiddle." I had to have it put on this winter because it was leaking terrible all over. But the reason that it happened was because I asked Kenney Benard if they knew a good roofer. Yes, they said Mr. Beaver. And so I said let it out for bids. And this Beaver he was \$50 cheaper than anybody else, so I had him do it. But he didn't do it. He hired somebody and he wasn't a good roofer. These roofers that put it on now -- Mickey knew them and that's the reason I had them, and he said, he's a good roofer, he did his own work. And it cost me just exactly twice as much to have it done now than it did before. This one fellow came out here; he laid his shingles all on the floor. Real good shingles and everything; he had a good company that stood in back of their work. If anything happened they would come out and fix it -- they did it across the street and they came out and fixed it -- it was leaking someplace. So here was this fellow -- save \$50. And it cost me just exactly twice as much to do it -- It cost ~~\$10~~ \$1200.

WICKRE:

You're right; that's an expensive lesson.

AGNES

Awfully expensive. This fellow with the reliable company and stood back of his work and he showed me the shingles he was going to put on which was real good shingles, but this guy didn't show me nothing, and ~~he~~ came out and said well, I'm supposed to do your roof. Well, Mickey went up on the roof when it began leaking so awful bad and he said, Mother that guy -- it's leaking around the flashings -- where the chimney or vent is, you're supposed to put the shingles underneath the tin; instead he put it on top, so it started leaking as soon as he put it on and it's been leaking ever since, but this winter it got really ~~bad~~ bad so I said, I've just got to get that shingled. So Mickey got that fellow, so finally he ~~said~~ did, and he just finished here last week. He's an old man and he done his own work; he doesn't work for any company. If somebody hires him, he does the roof. And he could build a house if he wanted to. He does ~~an~~ awful good work.

WICKRE:

I have ~~an~~ big question for you. What are the most important events of your ~~life~~ life as you look back? What's the most important?

AGNES:

Well, I think the thing that had the most influence on my life was when I met Henry. I think that's it. And what else could I think of?

WICKRE:

Are there things you would have done differently?

AGNES I ~~don't~~ don't think I would have moved to Portland if I would have thought about it.

WICKRE: You would have stayed out here?

AGNES Yes. If I'd known what was going to happen after we got to Portland, that we was going to go in there for a year and then be laid off, we would be in the same position in Portland as we were out here, and we didn't know anybody didn't have anybody to go to for work or anything. Of course, that's the thing that influenced our family the most -- the people they met and married and things like that.

Now if we would have stayed out here, the children would have married people they knew here. And some of them was successful marriages and some wasn't. Pat would have probably have got a job at the shipyards as well here as she would have in Portland, but I don't think that would have affected her very much more. Frances was working in a place where -- these life preservers, and the battleships -- and she had one batch there that she said it pretnear broke down -- where she worked was where they cleaned these things, brought them into this place to clean and then they'd send them back out on the ship again. And this batch was all covered with blood. And she said that just made her cry. And when she came home and told me, that affected me a lot, too.

But I think the way it is -- I think we were supposed to move to Portland. I think whatever you do is what you are supposed to do -- to affect the rest of your life. And everything would have been so different if we had stayed here in Beaverton, but I don't think we were supposed to. I think we were supposed to go to Portland and meet these people the children met and married.

I think for instance we'll take here Yvonne. I think she was supposed to meet Gene, because after she got out of nursing school, she went to work for his grandmother. She was old and needed somebody, and that's the way she met him.

WICKRE: Kind of meant to be.

AGNES Yes. And it was kind of funny. She met a man -- I never saw him so I don't know him. She was going to marry him but she was working for Gene's grandmother at the time and ~~Gene's~~ Gene's brother didn't want her to marry him, so the day they was supposed to get married, he took her on his motorcycle and took her down to his mother's down at Rainer. So this fellow called all over where she was -- he didn't know where the dickens she was. He said "I can't find her." I said, well, did you try my father's place out at Beaverton. So he called out there and he found out -- well I don't know what happened to him; I never heard ~~of~~ of him afterwards. So she didn't married him. From what I heard later on, he wasn't very much of a guy. I don't think Yvonne wanted to marry him very bad or she wouldn't have run off. She wasn't supposed to marry a guy like him.

But anyway I think you're supposed to do what you do.

WICKRE:

So you don't particularly have ~~any~~ any regrets then?

AGNES

Oh, I don't have any regrets at all, no. ~~Because~~ I don't know anybody else that I would have married. I don't know anybody now that I would have married. I wouldn't get married again for anything, because I don't know if you read that story about those people that got married at 71. ~~It was~~ in the paper this morning. Well, she said she'd been married once and ~~she~~ thought that was it and then her husband died. And she married a man that she knew when she was just a little girl -- ~~want~~ swimming with him in the creeks by their place and like that. ~~but~~ she got married to somebody but he didn't. He was in the second world war and he said he just didn't have time to get married. But after his mother died, ~~why~~ he ~~was~~ was kind of lonesome and after her husband died, she was lonesome, so they -- he stayed in the same place where they grew up and she didn't. She went on to another place. But she went back to this place to visit people that she knew and he saw her there, and he knew her, so they decided they would get married. They was going to run away, but her brother didn't want her -- her son didn't want her to run away, so he ~~called her~~ took her over to Vancouver and they got married. But it was kind of funny; they just finally got married because they were lonesome. Well, I won't get married for that reason.

WICKRE:

A lot of people do, I think.

AGNES

Oh, I think that's ... but I don't have any desire to get married again. I've been married and that's it. I figured that I knew so many young men when I was a girl, but about the second or third time I'd see them they'd want me to marry them, and I just didn't want to. And so many times...

WICKRE:

What made you think that?

AGNES

I didn't want them. They just didn't appeal to me. And I knew so many young fellows. We had dances in Beaverton at that time, at the White Hall. Every Saturday night they had a dance and we all went, us girls all went, but I didn't care for any of them.

WICKRE:

Henry was different.

AGNES

He ~~was~~ was the only one that I really wanted to marry. And so I figure that ... and here he was; he was born in France actually, and ~~he~~ his mother died and his father brought him back to Switzerland. He was a Swiss fellow ~~himself~~ himself, and left him with one of his relative there until he grew up. So that's one of the reasons he came over here; he didn't anybody. His mother died, and his father was gone, and his sister was left with somebody else, so he was alone and didn't have anybody in particular, so he just -- there was no work -- he got work to come over here by helping the English tourists that come over to climb mountains. He'd go with them and carry their pack for them. That's how he got the money to come over here. But that's all the work there was. There was no work in Switzerland. But now there is. Nobody comes over here any more from ~~Belgium~~ Belgium or Holland or anywhere because there's work there, and it's all on account of the Americans. Ford put in a plant over in Ireland; we went to Ireland, because I wanted to kind of look up our family tree there a little bit, ~~but~~ but come to

find out my dad's Kennedy was Scotch, not Irish. But Brey was there and they were quite important people. There was a Bray county, and ~~a...~~ when they ~~call~~ come over they come from Spain and France, that's where they come from and from France they come from Northern Africa. They all come from the Holy Land. ~~MaxxxxxxxxEgyptx~~ They went over to Egypt and then from Egypt, they went over to ....

WICKRE: Who do you mean?

AGNES Well, everybody.

WICKRE: Oh, from starting out at the beginning.

AGNES Yes, the beginning, and so the tribes would come and they were tribes just like the Indians ~~were~~ tribes. But there was a Kennedy Tribe and there was a Brey tribe and there was all them tribes. But some of them that went up across the water to Italy -- Rome -- everything was Rome then. And from Rome, the Swiss people came up to Switzerland, They came up there because the Romans were killing the Christians, anybody that was Christian they killed them and threw them to the lions -- so they run up to Switzerland; we were around that part, too. Great ~~big~~ deep canyons and all kinds of places to hide. So that's how the Swiss happened to go up there. So they didn't come through France and Spain like the people going to England and Ireland and Scotland. There was ~~a~~ an English woman in Switzerland when I was there and I said I read all these books from England. I said they all start at the tenth century and I asked ~~wha~~ happened before that; where did those people come from. And so she said, well, I think' they come from France and ~~Spain~~ Spain. And then there's some that came from -- I have another idea. I think when God created the world, I think He created all these different peoples. ~~Yam~~ It says "God created man." And man means everybody; so I think that's what He did. He created the people in the North -- the Laplanders and all of them, and He created the Eskimos and He created the Indians and put them in different places you know. But He wanted them all to get mixed up, and they are -- right here in America. This country was left ~~vacant~~ vacant with nobody here but the Indians and that was for all the ~~different~~ different people to meet, and they have -- so that's my own idea.

But that's my idea. I asked a priest one time that was holding a mission up at the retreat house that question about the people farther down getting darker and darker, and I said we heard that but don't believe it. And he didn't have any other answer for it. So the people from Sweden, Lapland and all those at the top of the world, they're all light, real light. And then down there in Africa, they're dark. So one time ~~we~~ was up to St. Mary's and I said, and I surprised one woman who ~~didn't~~ didn't want to have anything to do with the black people. And I said, Well God created them, too. Yes, she said, but God also created a country for them. Well, I wasn't thinking ~~it~~ -- but I've thought ~~whall~~ why didn't the white people stay away from ~~there~~ and let them have their country then. But he put diamonds and gold and all that stuff right there on the very tip of Africa, and God knew how selfish people were and He knew they'd go down there to get it, but I don't think he wanted them to treat these black people

as mean as they are. It's a black people's country, but they have to give them a certain place to swim, you know  
 WICKRE: And a very few white people run it.

AGNES: Yes. Henry said after the Civil War when the black people were going all over and had no place to go, he said they didn't finish it. He said they killed Lincoln before he had a chance to finish it. ~~They~~<sup>He</sup> should have ~~made~~ set aside a certain part of the ground for them, and so I said that one day to Bernard. He's the next to the youngest one; he's a pretty smart kid. And he said, he did, they did, and I said They did? And he said, yes in Africa. They call it Liberia. They bought 3 million acres there. They're just now beginning to talk about it. But here was this country and I don't know what President did it. Lincoln didn't do it.

WICKRE: No. It was after him.

AGNES: That one town they call Monrovia -- now is that a county or a city?

WICKRE: It's a city.

AGNES: And they .... it was beautiful buildings and everything~~s~~ and they got a government just like ours, but the trouble of it is the president keeps on going -- limit the time. Our people that set up that Consistution was awfully smart You know, when Jefferson was over in Switzerland when they set out to write the Constitution, he came back and he said you must have been inspired to set ~~um~~ -- one of the main thing they done was to set a length of time they could be president. They didn't set time as to how many times they could run, so you see when Roosevelt ~~um~~ came in and he run four times~~s~~, ~~um~~ they decided there had to be a limit because mostly none of them wanted to go more than two terms. But Roosevelt wanted to. And so they saw that maybe somebody come in here and get to be President that we wouldn't want, wouldn't be good for the country, so we'd better put a limit to it, so they did. And that was just after Roosevelt. And it's a good thing they did that because they might have not done it -- they might have not put a limit on it. So, as I say, I think everything is for a purpose.

f When you kind of think of what this thing caused, you realize that maybe that was intended to be that way. For this thing to be caused from what this done -- and I think that was -- but really Roosevelt must have been an inspired President, too. Of course, everybody doesn't think about Roosevelt the way I do. Because he was a very unselfish person. He wasn't in there for what he could get. He was in there for what he could do for us. And I think ~~um~~ this President we've got now I don't think knows anything about what he's doing at all.

WICKRE: I'm afraid I agree.

AGNES: He is the limit, that guy. See this fellow that accidentally forgot about that thousand dollars that he put away -- well, Reagan thought all he was going to have to do was to say, "Well that's all taken care of now, that's settled" and everybody would shut up and go on about their business. But we've got a math man in that place that's beginning to think there's something deeper than that and they're not going to quit on it. So when they began

to dig in and find out this happened and that happened, I guess Reagan himself was surprised. I don't think -- he didn't really think that fellow was doing anything. WRONG at all. And all he was going to do was say well that's O.K.

They he dedided it was his secretary that put that in there. So they've been keeping quiet about that. But that poor guy, I feally feel sorry for him, because he thought he was going to get in there and do just what he wanted. He didn't think there would be anybody. .H. He thought everybody was going to think the way he did.

Reagan. I think he's going to think everybody loves me just like they used to when he was in the movies. ZHe made a mess out of California, and now he's trying to make a mess ~~at~~ out of the whole country, but poor guy. He thinks all he has to do is show hissself on television and everybody is going to just fall all over him ...

WICKRE: But not you, humm?

AGNES Not you. No. I don't think he knows what he's doing at all. I don't think he had any ideas of what he was going to do when he got in there. There's one thing on television that I notice and I can't help but remember. He was sitting somewhere -- on a bench, I think -- and somebody was asking him questions about what he was going to do. And they said what are you going to do about something or other -- I can't remember. And all of a sudden his wife came in and sat down beside of him. That distracted him. He forgot all about the question. She knew that. She was just standing in the wings. If he got in too deep water, she was going to get in there.... So he kooked around quick.at her and then the questioner started questioning her.

WICKRE: I think you have his number.

AGNES Poor old Brown there. He's so deathly opposite from Reagan -- Jerry Brown, sleeps on the floor and everything (laughter). He was going to be a Jesuit. I guess he would have -- he decided he didn't want to be a Jesuit, but he's doing everything the Jesuits do.

WICKRE: That's right.

AGNES But he pretnear get himself in trouble with spraying those fruit flies last year. But I guess they got .... But he was trying to do what everybody wanted.

WICKRE: Well I have a wrap-up question for you. What do you look forward to now. What makes like worthwhile for you?

AGNES Well, I tell you. I don't think that there's anything that I got to do. I think I'm done. I think that anytime.... I think the very one thing I want to do -- I'm not going to say what that is -- but there's one thing I want to do. But I guess if I don't do it, it ~~won't~~ won't .... But anytime now, open the door, and I'll walk in.

WICKRE: You're ready?

AGNES I'm ready. I'm 85 years old. That's long enough to live. A lot of people don't live that long?

WICKRE:

Do you feel tired?

AGNES

Tired? Well, I guess so. I'm willing to let somebody else do it. I think whatever is to be done now in this family I have done.