

INTERVIEW WITH:

Agnes Kennedy Luchs and her daughter,
Yvonne ~~McKa~~ McCann

Beaverton Oral History Project

at their home at 6325 S.W. Alice Lane, Beaverton, Oregon

INTERVIEWER

Karen Wickre

TRANSCRIBED:

Rosalie Wakefield (October 1, 1983)

TAPE #1, SIDE #1

AGNES ... Everything was, you see it had been logged off, you know, at one time -- big trees -- and ...

WICKRE: How where was this?

START

AGNES This was up on Beaverton Hillsdale Highway,

WICKRE: And were you born there?

AGNES Yes.

WICKRE: Whereabouts? On the highway, roughly?

AGNES On 101. Our house, when Dad built his new house, it was ~~10055~~ 10055 -- 99th was the last street that went through until it got clear up to 103rd. *One-hundred-third* divided the two twenty-acre pieces that they had.

WICKRE: Your parents?

AGNES Yes.

WICKRE: Your parents had two, twenty-acre pieces?

AGNES Yes. And this 103rd goes right between it.

WICKRE: ~~Now~~ When did they come here?

AGNES Dad come out to Oregon in 1877,

~~WICKRE:~~ From where?

~~AGNES:~~ Illinois,

~~WICKRE:~~ ~~Where?~~

~~AGNES:~~ But he come from Maine first.

WICKRE: Had he been born in Europe?

AGNES Yes, he was born in Europe.

WICKRE: Where was he born?

AGNES

Ansen, Maine. ~~(?) (Name unclear)~~~~WICKRE:~~

And ~~his father~~ his father died before he was born and he was the last of seven children. I think it was seven. No, it was six, I guess.

AX WICKRE:

And his name was Kennedy

AGNES

Andrew Kennedy, Andrew M. ~~And~~ My daughter has been searching the family tree for quite a while now, And now that she is retired, ~~why~~ she does more of it, ~~and~~ she runs into people that are looking for the same things. Some are looking for the same name that she was looking for, so Dad and Mother both come from Maine. My ~~mother was born there, but she was born in Augusta. And Dad was born in Ansen. Now how far apart those places are, I don't know.~~ mother was born there, but she was born in Augusta. And Dad was born in Ansen. Now how far apart those places are, I don't know.

WICKRE:

What was her name?

AGNES:

My mother's name was ~~Tinkham~~ Tinkham, T-I-N-K-H-A-M. ~~And then my Dad's mother~~ My dad's name was Kennedy, of course, and his mother was -- come from Scotland, so he was born here but his Mother was, his mother's father fought in the Revolutionary War. ~~And he,~~ you know when the Revolutionary War was over?

WICKRE:

Yes.

AGNES

You couldn't get on a train or bus or anything and go home. You had to walk. There was no way of getting anywhere except your horse, and he didn't have a horse. And he was hurt. His knee was bad; ~~You know, I~~ ~~guess~~ injured in the war or something, so he walked home. I don't know where ~~he~~ was or where he went. Wherever he was, that's where he was discharged. And these wars our kids was in, they'd bring them to us wherever they had enlisted, they'd issue out. ~~But~~ But not there. When the war was over, ~~and~~ here you are and you get home the best way you can. So he hobbled home. He got home to Maine and he married my ~~grandmother's~~ great grandmother or great great grandmother, I don't know which it was. ~~She was Irish, so she wasn't born here either.~~ She was German. ~~Her~~ Her husband was Irish. He came from Bray, Ireland.

WICKRE:

Now this is your great, great, great...

AGNES

No, I guess it must have been ~~great~~ great, great, because I don't think it was too far back -- the Revolutionary War really wasn't that far away, you know. But he was just a ~~young~~ young man, about 18, 19 years old, I guess, and so when they fought in the Revolutionary War, they didn't sign up for four years like they do now. They signed up for six weeks or a month or two, you know. ~~So~~ Then if they wanted to call them back, they could. ~~So anyway,~~ I guess he stayed there. ~~anyway~~ He didn't go home in a month, anyway. So he got back up to Maine and he married this Maria Gott, G-O-T-T. My husband was Swiss so he called him "Goat". ~~She~~ She come from Germany and he come from Ireland. ~~so~~ They met here then and married ~~and then~~.

WICKRE

What did they do in Maine?

AGNES:

Farmed. There was nothing ~~to~~ to do anywhere but farm. There was no manufacturing or anything because

~~England~~ England wanted them to buy stuff from them. ~~That's~~ That's what the Revolutionary War was about. Because they didn't want them to make anything here, just buy it from them. ~~and~~ They called it the Boston Tea Party but that wasn't just tea, it was everything. They had to pay a tax on ~~that~~ stuff they got from them, ~~and~~ That was another thing that rankled them. ~~And~~ And they didn't have any chance to make anything here. ~~They~~ What I'm talking about is the tax didn't go toward anything in this country, it went back to England and kept the King or Queen, whichever it was at that time, going. ~~And that was part of it, you know.~~ ~~And~~ The tea party was just a symbol of a bunch of angry people who didn't want their money going back ~~to~~ to England to keep things going there. They wanted to get this country started, to get things done here, ^{because} they didn't have much of anything.

~~But~~ If you needed a chair and somebody else had a cow, they would trade, you know. But you had to find somebody who had something you wanted at the time. ~~So anyway, that was that,~~
WICKRE: So ~~that's~~ your great, great grandparents, ~~and they~~ stayed in Maine, then?

AGNES: They stayed in Maine, and they got married. They didn't have any house ~~or anything~~ so they made their own bfricks and built their house. ~~and~~ This man ^{who} ~~that~~ was writing to my daughter said the house is still there in Maine. ~~so~~ She wrote to them and asked them to send her a picture of it, but they didn't so far. They may have. She'd like to go back there, but she doesn't want to go alone. ~~And~~ Her husband is, well I don't want to call him disabled, you know. ^{He's} He's strong in his body but he can't see very well and he doesn't hear very well. So ~~he~~ he wouldn't want to go. ^A Anyhow, he wouldn't be interested in anything back there. ~~so~~ She doesn't want to go alone but doesn't know of anybody-- and I'm too old to go with her. I'd like to go myself, but I wouldn't be able to.

WICKRE: It would be fun to track down.

AGNES: I can't see very well either but I can't get around either. I've ^{had} had a lot of trouble. It seems all my life I've been falling down, breaking my knees and stuff like that, so ~~so~~ I'm kind of disabled now. I can't walk very well. ~~But anyway, they built this house and ...~~

WICKRE: How many children ^{did they have?}

~~WICKRE~~ AGNES: ~~How many children did they have?~~ Three. And of course, his name was Bray, so that's the name they had. ~~you know.~~ Bray. ~~and~~ There was a picture ~~in~~ in the paper. I've got it but I don't know where it is now, of a Bray family over in Oregon City or West Linn or someplace in that direction. ~~and~~ They have a letter that was written about a hundred years ago. ~~That was 19... I was 80 years old. That was five years ago. They've got that letter and it was put in the paper. because if they had that letter and it was handed down from one generation person to the other until a hundred years was up and they was to open it in a hundred years, but they were going to be out on the Fourth of July -- this fella wrote it on the Fourth of July.~~

and so they read it a couple of days ahead of time. It was in the paper, that letter was, and everything.

WICKRE: Now was this related to the Bray family?

AGNES Well, ~~this~~ this fella that wrote it fought in the Civil War; it was his descendant. We don't have anybody in our branch of the family named Bray except this great great grandfather, because our ancestors were girls. ^{There were} two girls and this boy. ~~My~~ My father's mother married a Welshman and my mother's (these are grandpeople) married English, ~~English~~ Tinkham is an English name. So ~~then~~ then this woman that was my father's grandmother married a Welshman and his name was, what the dickens was his name?? Can't think of it now. But anyhow, she married Kennedy. She was my ~~mother's~~ ^{father's} grandmother so she's my great ~~in~~ grandmother.

WICKRE: Your great grandmother married a Kennedy.

AGNES ~~Then~~ Then her mother, ~~was~~ my great great grandmother (yes it was a great, great great grandfather that fought in the Revolutionary War), ~~and so when his father died,~~ ^{and so when his father died,} she had four girls and Dad, and then his brother. His brother was older than he was, and then there was a girl and then there was Dad, and then there was these three girls beyond. And so when he died, why she gave the ~~the~~ baby away. In fact, somebody took all the girls. You know, scattered them around wherever they could.

WICKRE: Among relatives? Friends and relatives?

AGNES Yes. And so I guess everybody was related there in that town.

WICKRE: We're still in Maine?

AGNES Yes, still in Maine.

WICKRE: Anson?

AGNES Well, must have been! Because that's where Dad was born, yes. So then these people that took Dad, they didn't want her to get him back, ~~because that was.~~

WICKRE: His mother?

AGNES Yes. Because ~~that~~ that was the agreement, that if she got married again or had some way of taking care of the children, she would take them back. So they took Dad and skipped out for Illinois. ~~And~~ That's how he happened to be there.

WICKRE: Now these people who took him were...

AGNES No, they wasn't family. Their name was Harker. I think Dad was talking about Harker. And I could kick myself all over Oregon because I didn't ask him more about that. He was five years old when the Revolutionary War was over and ~~these Harker~~ ^{he} he used to call them the Harker folks. ~~and~~ ^{and} when he was 8 or 9 years old, they both died. Both of them died. Must have had some kind of a disease or something, scarlet fever or something. But he didn't tell me that. But I guess he was roaming around ~~Bieda~~ Bieda(sp?) Bieda, ~~Illinois~~ ^{Illinois}, it was. ~~So my~~

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WICKRE:

He left with them when he was around five?

AGNES

Well, no, they died, see, and he was just left alone.

WICKRE:

In Illinois?

AGNES

Yes. There was no orphanages or anything then. ~~My~~ ^MMy mother's father went out there, too, but he didn't know Dad was there. Didn't anybody know where Dad was. So ~~there~~ ^{there} was one day, he saw this little kid fooling around I guess, and he said, "Hello, little boy, what's your name?" He said, "My name is ~~my~~ ^{my} Andrew Mellon Kennedy" and I was born in Anson, Maine." Because they gave him that information and these people kept it, you know. ~~and~~ ^SSo he had that down by heart, that he was born on the 28th of January, 1858. He repeated that to him. I think Granddad Tinkham knew that that was the little boy that they had lost back there in Maine, so he immediately wrote to all of them back there and said he had found that little boy. ~~So~~ ^{So} what happened to him after ~~he~~ ^{he} was nine years old, I don't know anything about that ~~at~~ ^{at} until he was fifteen.

WICKRE:

Did he stay in Illinois?

AGNES

No. He went to Michigan. ~~So I think~~ ^UWhen I was ~~about two~~ ^{about two} years old, ~~not quite two~~ ^{not quite two}, I guess, three of my brothers and sisters died of diphtheria. ~~So~~ ^TThey had a trunk ~~and it~~ ^{with} had all kinds of stuff in it, you know, and I was kind of a snoopy little kid and I got into that trunk one day and there was a letter in there from one of Granddad's sisters that lived in ~~Maine~~ ^{Michigan}, I mean. ~~and~~ ^SShe wrote to them and said how sorry she was that they had lost these children, you know, and all that. So then I just got to thinking that I bet a dollar he went up ~~to~~ ^{to} there and lived with her, when he was nine years old. Because Grandpa ~~the~~ ^TTinkham found out ~~where~~ ^{where} he was and wrote to everybody and told them where he was, so I think she must have taken him in. But he didn't go to school. He didn't go to school after he was nine years old. I don't know why she didn't send him to school, but when he was fifteen he went to work ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ the logging camp in Michigan as a whistle punk, you know. I don't know if you know what a whistle punk is --

WICKRE:

Just the name. I don't know exactly what they do.

AGNES

~~Well, they~~ ^WI guess they still have them, if there's a logging camp any place. ~~But they~~ ^{they} blew the whistle when ~~they~~ ^{they} were supposed to blow the whistle, they blew it. They knew when and what ~~the~~ ^{they} blew it for. But I don't remember. I don't know anything about that. So if they blew the whistle, anybody that was in the way of a piece of machinery flying around or a tree that's going to fall or anything, they'd get out of the way. So anyway he went to work there, fifteen years old, and of course, he kept contact with Grandpa Tinkham all the time, and when Grandpa Tinkham decided to come out here to Oregon, he was nineteen then, Dad was. He come along.

WICKRE

Now, do you know why he decided to come?

AGNES

Didn't have anybody, and he wanted the adventure, I guess. If you go to Oregon, I'm going too!

WICKRE: Yes. But why did Grandpa Tinkham decide to come, do you know? Did he know anyone here?

AGNES I don't know. Now he had a great big nice farm back there and the kids was -- my mother was sixteen, and you know at that age, kids don't want to move. I've got a stack of cards that high of children that gave her that name card. You know, that's what they did in those days--gave them a card with their name on it, Beard or Flower or something...

WICKRE: Yes, little calling cards. I've seen them. They're pretty.

AGNES Well, I've got a whole bunch of them. I put that stuff away. I don't know where it is now. I'll have to run onto it someday. But anyway, she kept them and she gave them to me and I kept them. I'll give them to Pat. She's the one who likes all that stuff.

WICKRE: Your dad came out when he was 19, and your mother was 16 and still back in Maine?

AGNES My mother was 16 and Dad was 19, and they had a railroad out here at that time, and I was under the impression that they came out, what right straight to Oregon, you know. But my cousin who is older than I am, said, "No, they didn't. They went to ~~California~~ ^{Sacramento} San Francisco first," and I said to myself, "Why, of course, that's where the railroad was laid to." ~~Not San Francisco, Sacramento.~~ And if you've ever been to Lake Tahoe -- have you been there?

WICKRE: Yes.

AGNES Well, that road ~~going down~~ that ~~is~~ goes right straight to Sacramento, that's where the railroad came to. ~~anyway, and then of course,~~ After that, they got up to Oregon on the boat, I think.

WICKRE: Now this would have been around when; that ~~was~~ your grandfather and father came?

AGNES ~~1877~~ 1877.

WICKRE: ~~1877~~ 1877.

AGNES 1877. That's when Dad and them all come up here. ~~So~~ Dad ~~was~~, of course, he needed a job, and being only 19, why he couldn't get very much of a job. Grandpa Tinkham got a job over in Oswego working in the iron smelter. ~~and he~~ worked there for quite a while. I guess he worked there until my mother was 19 or 20 years old. ~~So~~ Then ~~they went~~ Dad had a chance to get a job up in White Salmon, Washington, ~~and he~~ took care of ~~a~~ ^{the} farm ~~of~~ ^{of} a pioneer ^{who} had come out to Washington and planted a fruit orchard. Down around where White Salmon is there aren't any trees; they didn't have to clear anything -- just prairie. So he planted this orchard and by the time Dad got out there in 1877

why that orchard had frozen down and then grown up again, you know, where it didn't freeze. You know, it takes about seven years for a fruit tree to bear, so to freeze down.. it must have been about fourteen years. That was quite a long ~~wait~~ ways. It must have been in 1863.

WICKRE: That's a long time to wait.

AGNES: (laughter) Yes, of course, he didn't care. He just left the place and went back east and ~~he~~ hired somebody to take care of it. So Dad was it.)

WICKRE: ~~I see. Who he hired to take care of it, yes.~~

AGNES: ~~And there was an Indian tribe up there, and they called them. ~~What did they call them?~~ I can't remember. ~~But~~ they used to come there and get fruit, the Indians did. Dad learned quite a bit of Indian words from them but they were good people, they didn't bother anybody, or they weren't mean like people think Indians were. They weren't that way at all. Indians got mean because people were mean to them, and that's the only reason under the sun. ~~Because~~ When the pilgrims come here, they met them with open arms and helped them, you know, plant corn and stuff. But if you read the history about the pilgrims ~~I've got I don't think I've got that book out. I read it a couple of times and I gave it to Pat. ²² But the pilgrims were really mean to the Indians and that's the reason that they were mean. So those people that were there when Dad come, why he was good to them and they were good to him.~~~~

WICKRE: Yes. They got along.

AGNES: Yes. They got along real good, and they taught him Indian words. There was one time... When Dad used to give them apples, he'd pick them up off the ground, you know. But this time it was raining. They came and wanted some apples and Dad (laughter) didn't want to go out in the rain and get any apples, so he went down the cellar and got some. He said, "Now don't you tell anybody that I gave you apples out of the cellar." So it was just about time for those Indians to get back and the other Indians to get there, here they all came, they all wanted ... so he was going to bear the rain and go out and get some apples and, "Oh, no, Oh, no. No apples off of the ground. We want apples out of the cellar." They just told, you know, as soon as they got back.

WICKRE: That's right. The word was out.

AGNES: Yes. Indians were at that time more or less children. They didn't think grown-up. They thought like children did.

WICKRE: I wonder what tribe. Do you know?

AGNES: Well, I was trying to think of it, because I do know it. It was the -- oh, I can't remember, doggone it. I wish I could. I'll probably think of it after you're gone.

WICKRE: So your dad worked for this orchard in White Salmon when he was still a young man?

AGNES: Yes. He was 19. I guess he was there until he was about 20 or 21. ~~So then he came down to -- 1863 --~~ My mother and her father and mother ~~they~~ all lived around Tigard.

WICKRE: Oh, they had moved out also? Your mother and her family had moved out separately.

AGNES: Well, they came together. Dad came with them.

WICKRE: As a group from the town they lived in.

AGNES: Yes, they came by the train. The train they had come on was a ~~freight~~ freight train but it had ~~one car~~ one car ~~where~~ on the back where the people that wanted to come on it would come. So that's how they got out here ~~got~~ to Sacramento. ~~See anyway, they...~~

WICKRE: Do you know why they came north from Sacramento? Did they know anyone in Oregon?

AGNES: No. They was going to come to Oregon anyway. They was going to come because there was a lot of talk about Oregon country -- ground was green and all that to-do, so that's why they came out. I think more for adventure than anything else. The women didn't particularly want to come, but the men were the ones. They were the adventurous ones, "Oh, we want to go out there and get all that free ground" and all that stuff. I've got a book here about Tualatin that has quite a bit of history. I buy all the history books I can find. So anyway he came down here then and married my mother, and he was 22 and she was 19.

WICKRE: Had they planned this already?

AGNES: I guess they did. I don't know. I didn't hear anything about that. Nobody told me anything about that. So he wanted to go back up to White Salmon and take up a claim.

~~WICKRE:~~

WICKRE: A homestead?

AGNES: Yes. But my mother, No, Sir, she wasn't going to go and her mother didn't want her to go so they didn't go. They stayed down here and Dad worked over here on Canyon Road -- the one that goes over the hill. There was a logging camp over there, so he worked there. And then he heard about this piece of ground there on the highway being for sale. He paid \$400 for it.

WICKRE: And at that time, it was 40 acres?

AGNES: Twenty acres. And he planted some fruit trees. ~~He~~ He planted all the kinds of fruit trees that was growing in Michigan -- they were so good in Michigan. And they aren't good a bit out here. Oh, they're just terrible. So there was a lot of them he cut down afterwards. And he cleared that 20 acres by cutting down wood. It was still great big trees, you know. ~~He~~ He sold it for \$1.00 a cord and he took it over what's 101 (Street) now over to the railroad track. See, the railroad track is where -- what is that street? Fifth Street, I think, down below -- well around where Fred Meyer has a building there. I think they call it Beaverton Mall now. Anyway, that's where the railroad track went, so he hauled it down there and they piled it on their train, because at that time they were burning wood. They would burn the wood to make the fire to make the hot water to make the engine run. So he cut 400 cords of wood and paid for his farm. They had a little shack that was built straight up and down. So one night they were out getting the chickens -- see in the summertime, the hens would hatch their chickens and they'd hatch out there and everywhere and they'd fly up in the trees to roost. So they

had this chickenhouse and they didn't want them roosting outside and getting cold and all that, so they would get them all together and crowd them into the chickenhouse. Well, ~~if you get them in there once, they would go in every time by themselves.~~ They were out there, and they looked up and their house was on fire and their two little ones -- their two first ~~ones~~ ones was in the house. So they ran in there and Dad ran upstairs and had one kid under each arm. And the thing burnt down -- just wood, you know, and down it went. I have a ~~pitcher~~ pitcher there that was burned broke, but they had it mended, because I guess it was one of my mother's wedding presents.

WICKRE: When did they get married, by the way? Do you know what year?

AGNES: Well, my mother was 19 and Dad was 22, and Dad was born in ~~1858~~ 1858, so it would be 1880.

WICKRE: He came out in 1877. It would be 1880.

AGNES: Yes. I remember Pat was telling me she was looking for the deed for the farm there and she couldn't find it. She was looking for 1880, and she couldn't find that he had any deed, you know. So then she happened to remember that they recorded the deed when they got the place paid for. So they had the place paid for in three years. That would have made it '83. So she went and looked at 1883, and there it was. So anyway they ^{built} the house on what's the highway now, part of it. They built one room and ~~he~~ he built some more later on, ~~I don't know when they got that built, but that must have been about~~ ^{when the} ~~those~~ children ~~were~~ about -- one was the and the other was one, I think.

WICKRE: When they were building that?

AGNES: Well, that's when the fire happened. ~~So~~ They were married in 1880; ~~that would make it about 1882, about~~ wouldn't it. ~~So~~ That's when the first one was born, the second was born later on.

WICKRE: How many children were there?

AGNES: They had seven. But they only managed to end up with three, because they died of diptheria, so ~~then~~ my brother and I are the only two that are alive. ~~And~~ There was a dirt road there and Dad used to have a scraper. He was quite a handy guy. He took a log and split it right square in two. I don't know how he split it -- wasn't a saw -- and he took one half and he put it in this way. This is the way he put them together. And then he would go along on the side of the road and drag the dirt.

TAPE #1, X SIDE # @ 2 - AGNES KENNEDY LUCHS, continued

and kept it cleared. ~~And~~ ^H he went from the Canyon Road down 107th and then down out ~~of~~ road ~~to~~ ^{clear} Jamieson Road, ~~and~~ that's about 93rd, I think, ~~and~~ ^H he'd go down there as far as he could and he'd go ^{up} to Raleigh. Because he was a mail carrier in 1905. He was one of the first mail carriers in Beaverton -- him and Mr. Boyd. ^Floyd Fisher and Boyd was the first ones, but then Floyd didn't like it so he quit and Dad being the next one behind him, he got that route. And he got \$50 a month. You had to furnish your own stuff, and seeing as how Mr. Boyd and Dad both had the farm and raised their own food, why it ~~wasn't~~ didn't cost them anything you know, except to keep their buggy wheels greased. So that's why he kept the road as smooth ~~as~~ as he could as far as he could go.

WICKRE: Now often would he make the mail run?

AGNES: Oh, he went every day. Yes, every day. And he went up around where the golf course comes off there to Whitword(sp?) they call it. He went ~~up~~ up there and around into Tigard, ~~and~~ ^H he took a pouch from there -- everybody's mail to Tigard went to Beaverton. Dad took it in a sealed pouch over to ~~the~~ Tigard and they had their door there. That's all in the Tigard history there. Then she would give him one to bring back to Beaverton. The reason they done that because there was no train or anything going from Portland to Tigard. There was a road but nobody went ^{there} to take mail. So that's the reason they did that. So they put ~~his~~ his name in the Tigard history because he was the first mail carrier to come around there. But he would come around to what they called the Bull Mountain Road, and go up around Bull Mountain Road and then back to Beaverton, and he knew -- there was a lot of names in that Tigard history that I remembered because he would talk about them. Well, the mail carrier was really their contact with the outside world. And everybody loved the ~~mail~~ mail carrier, and Dad liked them, too.

~~H~~ ^H There's a little story ~~about~~ about -- well, maybe I better not tell that, ~~but anyway~~ (laughter) One of the men -- of course, they all had cream to sell -- that was their income -- He was gone, I guess, one day when his mail check come -- or maybe he wasn't gone. Maybe he was outside somewhere, and his daughter was there. She was married and lived in Portland. She was there that day. When his mail check didn't come -- that happened that Gus ~~D~~essinger -- I don't know -- you don't remember Gus ~~D~~essinger. He was ~~Dad's sub and Dad wasn't on the route then. And so he was -- and that was when the mail check come. And that's when he didn't get it. So he accused Gus D~~essinger of taking it -- and Oh! it hurt his feelings so bad, you know. So nobody said anything about it. And I don't know about the check if they ever got it or not, but Dad, he knew somebody took that check. And he was awful glad he wasn't on the route, at that time.

So there was a letter come from the daughter to her mother and it was open just a little bit -- you know, it wasn't sealed too good. So Dad just put his finger under there and opened it. He was sure it was against the law. Seeing as how he's dead now, they can't put him in jail now. But he took it out and read it. And it said in there, did Dad suspect anything yet? So she was the one that went down to the mailbox and got the check, needed a little bit of money and decided she would take it, I guess. Her father would have given it to her ^{if she would have asked him.} Well, these stingy Germans -- but you know they needed all the money they had in those days. We all did. But Daddy got raises after raises and finally he got up to \$75 a month, and boy that was a lot of money. One of my girlfriends was married and her husband was making \$90 a month and they said, "Well, what are ~~you~~ you going to do with all the money?" She said, "Oh, I'm going to salt it." I remember her saying that, but you know, I said one time, "If you would get \$100 a month, I could get along and save money." But if they don't get \$1,000 a month now, they're not happy.

WICKRE: That's right.

AGNES: That's foolish. It's really foolish to have that much money.

WICKRE: Well it's half the need-its, too.

AGNES: But I tell you, the way we was, when we moved to Portland, we got \$12 a week for working at the Golf Course. That's where Henry worked. And he got \$12 and a half, I think, a week.

WICKRE: As a greens-keeper? What kind of work did he do?

AGNES: He worked at Lloyd Golf Course. He was a greens-keeper. He got \$12 and a half a week. And so he went in there -- we were living out here on Sorrento Road, and when he went in there it was to work on a golf course down ~~at~~ the Broadmoor Golf Course. And something happened -- they laid him off, I guess, and he was ~~unhappy~~ unhappy because there wasn't any jobs or anything. It was during the Depression -- it was bad, bad time. So he knew a man that worked out at Lloyd ~~for him~~, so he went down to see if maybe he could get on, and so when he got down there they said, "Well, I think you're the very man we need, because their greenkeeper just quit" so he got on there, so he was making twelve and a half a week anyway. And the rent we were paying was \$12.50 a month. And now people that are making \$300 a month -- their rent is \$300 a month, so it's just the same after all. No matter how much money you're making, you're doing just as good as you was. ~~These people across the street here I can't hardly believe it. They're paying \$400 a month for their house. I can't believe it. And it isn't that much of a house either. None of these. This house here was built -- the fella that had it built -- he told them how he wanted it built. Now house~~ ^{house} ~~and this~~ has hardwood floors all over the house except in the kitchen and bathroom. But the rest of them are just plywood with a rug over. So we know that there's hardwood floors here because there wasn't any rug on here when we come. We had that put on, so everything was bare floor. We could see 'em. But the rest

of the houses, they're little bitty dining rooms and a couple of little bitty bedrooms and one of their bedrooms is about as big as our middle room. And little bitty dining rooms and...

WICKRE: Do you know when they were built?

AGNES: Yes. 1955. I don't know when they were ALL built.

WICKRE: I was wondering about the names in this area, the Wonderland names...

AGNES: Now, if you want history... Denney. Dad was the same age as King Denny. So his father came out here Denny's?

AGNES: Yes. And took up ~~620~~ 620 acres, land claim. They came out real ~~early~~ early. ~~And so~~ By the time Dad come around, they had been dividing these land claims into small pieces and selling them. See, the fella ~~that~~ took up a land claim of 620 acres and then he would divide it into about 20 acres, and over on the Canyon Road it was ~~about~~ ten-acre pieces. And sell them. He made himself quite a little bit of money because his money was worth about the same as ours is now. So ...

WICKRE: I want to back track a little here, to your mother. Did she stay at home with the children or did she work outside the home?

AGNES: Oh, she stayed home. No women worked. No women worked in those days.

WICKRE: Well, the stories I've heard was when they worked, they took in boarders or they sold eggs, or...

AGNES: Oh, they did that.

WICKRE: But ~~you're saying outside the home?~~

AGNES: Outside the home, no. She used to piece quilts. ~~But~~ When she died, she had 30 quilts all made, one made of silk quill, made all out of silk pieces.

WICKRE: With her friends coming in? Was she part of a group that would quilt?

AGNES: Yes, they had a group of people around Raleigh that came together and every week I guess they'd go up and sew. ~~And~~ One of the people up there at the house I met was named Quittam, and they were very good friends, my mother and them. ~~So~~ When my mother died, ~~we~~ we divided her quilts. My sister in law wanted the silk quilt, so we gave her the silk quilt, and then her house burnt down and burnt it up. I could have kicked myself for letting her have it. But we all divided her quilts, my sister and my brother and I. I think we each had about ten quilts. So I was surprised there was that many. Well, she just made them. She didn't use them. We didn't have that many beds.

WICKRE: Now, did your father do other work besides the mail carrying?

AGNES: No. No, that's all he done. Well, he farmed. He had a little acreage there.

WICKRE: Now you were talking about the Depression. What happened? Your family was still living on the twenty acres up to that time?

AGNES: Well, the Depression. I was married then.

WICKRE: Oh, O.K.

AGNES: Henry and I was married in 1917. And we were having what we're having now -- a raise in money, you know.

WICKRE: Inflation.

AGNES: Yes. And a sack of sugar was \$27. ^{2.} You know, like ~~my~~ mother and father bought a sack of sugar for ~~two and a half~~ ~~that would be a hundred pounds,~~ ~~was~~ the sack of sugar. ~~and~~ ^S she'd buy one in the spring when she wanted to can her fruit, and then buy one in the fall to last the winter. And if we spilled anything -- if it was salt, O.K., but if it was sugar, boy, we caught it. Just the least spoonful, or something. ~~So ...~~

^H Henry and I got married in 1917, we were just ~~do~~ doing fine out on the farm, ~~out on ...~~

WICKRE: ~~101st?~~ *One-hundred-first?*

AGNES: Well, it was on Decatur. On the road that, Sorrento Road. Sorrento Road runs into Davies Road, and Davies Road went past out place and went out to Scholte ^{ble}

WICKRE: ~~Now this was the place that you and Henry ...~~

AGNES: [→] Henry and I ~~we~~ rented that.

WICKRE: How old were you, by the way? ^{When you got married?}

AGNES: Twenty-one.

WICKRE: Had you been through high school?

AGNES: No, I didn't go to high school. There was no high school here when I ~~was~~ got out of school.

WICKRE: You went through eighth grade?

AGNES: I went up to the eighth grade.

WICKRE: What school was that?

AGNES: I went to St. Mary's when I was a kid. I was 11 years old. I think ~~I~~ I was in the 4th grade, 5th grade when I went to St. Mary's, and I went on there to the eighth grade and I didn't pass out of eighth grade. So then I went to St. Cecelia's down here. They had that built then and I went to that. And I graduated there. ~~So~~ ^T That's as far as I went because the high school was built by the time I graduated. ~~but~~ Hazel Peg, I remember, was going to St. Mary's, too, because she was a little older than I was. ~~They~~ They had a high school up there -- not exactly what they call a high school. It was a commercial course. Just two years, it was.

WICKRE: Kind of ~~business~~ business.

AGNES: Business course. And they only had about five ^{or} six girls in that. And when they had their ^{first} graduation, they almost celebrated. Because generally they only went once, you see. So they had this business

course up there, but I didn't go to that.

WICKRE: So, after you got out of ~~the~~ eighth grade, did you stay home?

AGNES: Yes, I stayed home. I went to sewing school. Some of the other girls were going, so I went there. That was in Portland. But when I got in there, I found out they were teaching ~~what the real thing was was to teach~~ how to make patterns. And so we all learned how to make patterns. But I never made any patterns (laughter). When a pattern was 15¢, why make them? The paper cost that much. So I learned to sew a little bit. I wasn't too good a scholar. I didn't pay attention too much. ~~And so I thought~~ When I got out of there ~~I~~ I went there about two years, I think, ~~I~~ I thought ~~that~~ I knew how to sew. Well, I found out I didn't. But I learned. That's when ~~you~~ you learn.

WICKRE: That's right. --When you find out you didn't learn.

AGNES: (laughter) I didn't learn very much. But I got so I could sew real good. I made myself some real good dresses. But I was going to tell you about this:

When we were living there on this road, this highway. It wasn't a highway then.

WICKRE: Yes, with your family.

AGNES: Yes. There was a man had eighty acres. Not my father, but the road across the street belonged to a man named Mr. Mott, M-O-T-T, and he had eighty acres. But you see, he bought part of this Denney. I think Denney went clear over to Garden Home, because I think that ~~the~~ King Denney's father, at the time they came out--the husband could get 620 acres and the wife could get 620 acres, so they had 1240 acres, and they went ~~to~~ clear up to

***(NOTE:

Check: I think it was 320 acres each
for homesteads)

Raleigh and all over Garden Home and clear down pretnear to Beaverton, where Mott got his property from.

WICKRE: Was that a homestead?

AGNES: This here actually is Denney's property. ~~And~~ So you see how much he had. ~~and~~ It was clear down to Allen Avenue because Allens, they came in there, ~~and~~ went clear up here to Denney Road. And it was across the street. Well, Mr. Denney's father, his ~~the~~ sister came out with him. That's Denney's father's sister; King Denney's aunt. And there was a fellow down here by the name of Fanno. I don't know how much, I think he had a land claim, too. It went clear on over into ~~the~~ Scholls Road ~~clear~~ clear over in there someplace. And he raised onions. ~~And~~ he was an Italian. The Italians was-- you know there was a lot of discrimination in those days. And they wasn't very well thought of. But Mr. Denney's sister -- I guess there wasn't too many men to marry out here. She married Fanno. So that made... but I didn't know Fannos was Italian until I grew up.

(laughter) And I figured out the name was all. Well he raised onions and that was the only place there was for anybody to work around here, was ~~he~~ weeding his onions and pulling his onions and ~~was~~ topping them and doing all ~~the~~ kinds of things with those onions.

WICKRE: Now what had ~~happened~~ happened to -- I know your father stopped doing this, but the logging camp close by here: what happened to that?

AGNES Oh! Well, I guess they got it all logged off. ~~and~~ People bought the ground. That's all gone now, all those trees up in there. And then there's that Jewish Cemetery's up in there someplace.

WICKRE: Oh, right, Jewish Cemetery.

AGNES They came past our place one day and they asked Dad where the -- what do they call it? They don't call it Jewish. Hebrew, yes. So Dad didn't know anything about it. And when they got to Sylvan, they turned off on the wrong road. See, you're supposed to go on Canyon Road. They came down on the ~~Sylvan~~ Scholl's Road. And of course, ~~they~~ then they branched off again and they didn't know where the dickens they were, because when it gets to Raleigh it turns off again. One goes to Scholl's Road and they came around to our place. They hauled up the Jamieson Road. So the poor guy, he was really lost and Dad didn't know -- I don't think he knew. I don't know how they ever got that poor man buried but anyway that was the ~~the~~ story.

But this Wilmot now -- married one of the Fanno girls. And Mr. (what was that other fellow's name?) Oh, Gosh! I can't remember. She was a Fanno girl, too. And there was a Fanno ~~boy~~ boy. There was a couple of boys, but I think they went to Portland over on the east side and started to farm over there. So Mrs. ~~Wilmot~~ Wilmot and Mrs. -- why can't I think of that name? Anyway they were sisters.

WICKRE: ~~They~~ They were Fanno sisters?

AGNES: Yes. They were the Fanno girls. There were only two. Well, Wilmot had a house over here on Hall Street. It was Watson Street, but then they changed it to Hall. They built houses all over there. When we were in Portland, I had a friend, and her husband was a carpenter. We used to talk about Beaverton and she said, "My husband's working out at Beaverton." And I said, "What's he doin' out there?" ~~Well~~ "Well," she said, "he's putting in ~~in~~ building a housing project over there. Some of those houses are \$35,000," ~~and I said~~ Well \$35,000 was a lot of money back then. And so I said, why I came out here one day and asked one of the girls, "Where's that housing project they call Looking Glass Hill?" And so they said, "Oh, that's in back of of Wilmot's place." Well, ~~now~~ now this here is Looking Glass Hill.

WICKRE: That's what I thought.

AGNES And so they put it on clear over there. ~~and~~ there isn't a house in here -- even now, oh, I guess maybe there's some of them -- I would ~~figure~~ figure this is about ~~the~~ \$55,000. We paid \$16-17,000. But that ~~was~~ was way back in

1967 ~~when did we come back here? We came out here in '67. That's when we bought this. We got it at \$17,400. I didn't plan on paying that much because I thought we'd get one for \$16,000. See, we sold Dad's place for ...~~

WICKRE: --Where your family had lived?

AGNES: Yes. It's over there where ~~the~~ Kenny Bernard's place is. We had the lot next to theirs. Kenny Bernard(sp?) is a building contractor. And our lot was next to theirs. ~~And~~ Henry heard him say one time to his partner "I'd sure like to have this lot." So then one day, I said to him, "If you want this lot, you better talk to me because it's mine." They never said anything. So Henry and I moved down from Portland when he retired. He didn't retire until he was 69. But when he retired we came out here, because Dad had died and nobody else wanted the house and I said, I would like to have this house.

WICKRE: When did your dad die?

AGNES: I think it was 1948. He was ninety years old.

WICKRE: And your mother?

AGNES: My mother died before he did. She was 65. I remember her saying she was sick. She had pneumonia. She had the flu. She was living down in Scappoose with my sister. She wasn't living with her. She had a house just beyond theirs. And so she came down there and the wind was so cold. ~~And~~ She got pneumonia and died. ~~But~~ I was down there at the time she died. And I heard her say, "Well, I didn't know I was gonna shuffle off quite this quick." So she knew she was going to die, you know. So I know she was 65 when she died.

WICKRE: ~~And that was before your father. Let's see...~~

AGNES: ~~Oh, yes.~~ Dad didn't die until he was 90.

WICKRE: ~~Oh, when she died, what in the 20's? In the 30's.~~

AGNES: Well, she must have died sooner than that. I never thought about it. She died in 1925, must have been. So ~~anyway they~~ somebody would come along. Well the real estate agents ~~were~~ were just lapping at my heels, you know...

WICKRE: For the lot.

AGNES: Yes. So I ~~wouldn't~~ wouldn't sell to a real estate agent for any consideration. ~~And when we first came out there, we were after Dad died well, it wasn't after Dad died.~~ Dad had a housekeeper. ~~And he was, I don't know how long.~~ When he died, he said she could have the house as long as she stayed there. You know, if she didn't stay there she would lose it. But she stayed there until she died. That was in 1967, must have been. No, 1961. Because that's when we came out there. ~~But we~~ we came out there then after she died, and we bought the house from the other heirs --my brother's kids, and my sister. ~~So we bought the house from them.~~ We paid them \$11,000-some odd.

- WICKRE: I assume it had been built on over the years...
- AGNES: Well, my dad built a new house. Yes. ~~After a while,~~ ^After my mother died, he got married again, ~~and~~ ^The house that he had was old. It had been built way back in 1800-something and there was cracks under the door. We lived there and we stayed warm, we didn't freeze to death or anything (laughter). ~~And so~~ I guess she sold ~~her~~ her place and she had some money and Dad had some, so she said, "Well, let's build a new house." So they did.
- WICKRE: Did they tear that one down?
- AGNES: No. It was the same as the other house was on, but they tore it down and built this other one. So we bought that then and moved out there.
- WICKRE: From Portland.
- AGNES: Yes. From Portland, and then these people, this here ^{real estate} ~~man~~ kept calling me all the time. And every time he'd come, he'd leave his card. I'd say, "No, I'm not selling." ~~And so I said, "I'm going to pay for my _____ on these."~~ But he'd come so often you know, ~~and so he said, "Well, I'm going to pay for the house and pay for _____."~~ Well it will be well advertised. ~~It's _____ turn 'em over."~~ So anyway then I kept on -- these people kept on coming over. ~~Somebody would come over and want to buy the place, well then they'd come. And what they'd do -- they didn't want me to know they wanted it as bad as they did, you know. Because they'd think I'd jack up the price. Prices got to be quite high by that time. They're still higher now. So he finally come over there one night and he said -- Bernard said "I'll give you \$35,000."~~ So I asked Henry about it and Henry said, "It's your house." And I said, "Well, I don't have anybody to go to but you." ~~And so he said, "Well, I'll tell you it should be \$40,000 anyway."~~ So I went in and told him and he said, "Well, I'll give you \$38,500." Well \$38,50 was a lot of money to me. And then I'd only paid \$17,4 for this so you see, I had a lot left. I wanted to have some money left, but I ~~never~~ never had any ~~you~~ you know. And I wanted to have some money. So many people that I knew of would sell their house and buy a better one and pay more than what they sold the other one for and they were still paying. And I ~~so~~ said, "Well, I'm ~~g~~ not going to do that; I'm going to have some money," so that's what I did.
- WICKRE: Now how long did you live in Portland?
- AGNES: Oh, we lived in Portland thirty years.
- WICKRE: When did you move in?
- AGNES: ~~1903~~ 1930.
- WICKRE: Why did you move there?
- AGNES: Well, we moved because Henry was working at the golf course over here in Portland, and he was ~~one~~ one of the last ones on when they got short of money they had to lay somebody off, so he was it. Oh, there was two or three

(unclear)

of them I guess, so he took the whole bunch into Portland with him and worked on Broadmoor.

WICKRE: You'd think that would have been hard times, even for golf courses.

AGNES: Well, by golly you'd be surprised ~~at~~ at the people that went down there to ~~play~~ play golf. ^{There} ~~and~~ it was just dozens of cars down there every Saturday and Sunday, and they really ~~cained~~ cained money. But I think one of the reasons Henry and them disagreed was because they didn't want to spend any money on the golf course They wanted to keep it all. And when you've got a golf course, you've got to spend .money on it. There's fertilizer, there's water There's all kinds of stuff. And you had to buy some grass seed where there would be a patch that neede~~d~~ it you know, and they didn't want to buy -- but Henry said, "Well, I've got to keep my reputation up." If this golf course doesn't look good, nobody else is going to hire me. And so they sent for a fellow up in Washington they said that was an expert. Well Henry was~~n~~ an expert. He knew more about the golf course than that guy ~~did~~. But it was summer time and he told them, "I have to have this man to water." Because that was what Henry got over at the Portland Golf Course. Course, he mowed grass and all that, too. But in the summertime, he would water. He would water 12 hours -- go there at 6:00 and water until 6 in the morning. So he knew how to water. And that's what this fellow didn't know == anything about watering. So he hired him to water. But in the summer, when that was over, ~~water was over~~, they ~~a~~ told Henry just to leave. Well, then the next spring, though, he got on down at Lloyd and he stayed there for 28 years.

WICKRE: Where did you live in Portland?

AGNES We lived on the ~~east~~ east side on Sumner Street on 45th & Sumner. ~~It was about three blocks, I guess...~~