

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with

MRS. ALICE ROSSI

At her home in Beaverton, Oregon

INTERVIEWER: MICHELLE GLAZER

Date of Interview: May 31, 1983

SUMMARY OF TOPICS DISCUSSED

INTERVIEW WITH: MRS. ALICE ROSSI

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

1. Family from Minnesota to homestead in LaPine, Oregon
2. Ku Klux Klan; effect on father's job
3. Father sells Watkins products
4. Families: Great Grandfather invents Natl. Cash Register  
Grandmother and her sisters; Brother and sisters
5. Work; telephone company, shipyards
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9. 1918 flu
10. Dolls, dances, quilts, movies, programs
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15. Motion Picture Studio "The Perils of Pauline"  
Silver Star Inn, speakeasy  
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(Where unknown, phonetic spellings are used)

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. ALICE ROSSI

for

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Second Voice: Mr. Albert Rossi

Place: At their home in Beaverton, Oregon

Interviewer: Michelle Glazer

MICHELLE GLAZER: Mrs. Rossi, I think we'll start with some questions about your family background. Where did your family come from?

ALICE ROSSI: My mother and father both came from Minnesota. My mother was born in Moorehead, Minnesota, and my father was born in Manitoba, Canada, just across the border from Hallack, Minnesota. That's where they came from. I think they came to Oregon in 1911.

GLAZER: How did they get here?

ALICE: They came out on the train. My father came out ahead with his brother and his father; they took up a homestead in LaPine, Oregon. Then my mother and my older sisters came on the train about a year later.

The reason they came to Oregon was because they heard about how they were offering land in the West. And they went out there in that primitive land -- I don't know how my mother stood it because she was a city girl. She was a schoolteacher. I think the railroad stopped at Roslyn; it was just a station, and then they had to take a wagon out. They lived on the Little Deschutes River right in LaPine -- beautiful area. They had all that beautiful land up there and my younger sister and I were born on this homestead.

GLAZER: How did they decide to go to LaPine?

ALICE: I guess land developers advertised that they could take up a homestead and start a new life. My father's people had a big farm and I guess there just wasn't enough money for everybody to work the land; so that's the reason he came to Oregon when they were young people. They were married in Minnesota.

There were seven in our family, and four of them were born in Moorehead, Minnesota. One of my sisters was born in Penn, North Dakota, and then my younger sister Annabelle and I were born in LaPine, Oregon. The two of us are the youngest.

We lived in LaPine -- of course, I don't remember anything about it. Then they moved to Bend, when the war started, and my father worked for the wood mill, Brooks-Scanlan. There were two mills there -- Brooks-Scanlan and Shevlin Hickson. The way he got the job was: when the war started the single men were drafted so my dad was able to take someone's job in the mill. When the war was over, he lost his job because the men came back and got their jobs back.

So they came to Portland. First they moved to Hood River and my father was a manager of this big orchard, you know, where they raised apples, the Massey Ranch. They came to Beaverton after that, in 1920.

GLAZER: What kind of work did your father do in LaPine?

ALICE: In LaPine he cleared the land and had odd jobs. They lived out in the country; LaPine was just a little town. I suppose he did a little woodwork; I never did really know just what in the world they did. They even started a restaurant once.

GLAZER: What was it called?

ALICE: Well, I don't know the name. I don't know how they really lived out there. I really don't. He just picked up work helping neighbors do things. When I was born (they didn't have any doctors) my mother said a doctor was coming through the area about a week before I was born and she was having false labor. She said she had \$7.25. That was all the cash they had and she gave it to the doctor. Then when I was born, there was nobody. My grandmother and my dad delivered me. That happened when my younger sister was born, as well. There was no doctor.

GLAZER: What did they tell you about that?

ALICE: Well, they just said they sent all the other children to the neighbor's. We lived in a log house. We have pictures but I don't know where they are. And they just sent the children away and there I was born, I guess. My mother was kind of a frail little woman and how she could have stood it really I don't know. We have letters that she wrote to her father. He was telling her maybe she should come home to Minnesota, that it was such a hardship for her, and maybe she better leave Jim. Well, she wouldn't do that, but it was a struggle they had.

So then when he came to Beaverton, he worked and was a grain inspector at what is now the Port of Portland, on the docks.

We lived on Farmington Road here. Well, when we first came, my uncle had a barn and they kind of fixed it up for us to live in. --A barn!! Then we moved to another house I remember faintly, and it was not a bad home. Then they sold the homestead and my father built a home right over here on the corner. It's been moved, but it was on the corner of Berthold and Menlo, just two blocks from here.

GLAZER: What is it used as now?

ALICE: Well, someone lives there. They bought the house. This is only the second owner after us. My folks sold it in 1946. We had, I think,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres. Of course it's all houses now, but the second people that bought it moved the house. It was on the corner and they moved it. Then there were other houses built around it.

But anyhow, my dad worked as grain inspector during the time of the Ku Klux Klan. They were kind of running the state of Oregon. My father wasn't Catholic but the family was. My mother and we children were Catholic. But they knew the family was Catholic, so he lost his job because of the religion.

GLAZER: Tell me something about that.

ALICE: There was a writeup in the paper not long ago about it as well. They tried to close all the parochial schools in Oregon, which they did. We went to St. Cecelia's here, a parochial school, and we couldn't go any more so we had to go to the public school. We went to Beaverton Grade School one year. That was during the Ku Klux Klan, and they were right here in Beaverton.

Springer was a groceryman who delivered groceries, and we always traded there. He was one of them -- the Klansmen. So he lost a lot of business after that because the people just didn't trade with him any more. It was really tough, and so my dad was never able to get back there in Portland.

I think he worked for a feed company for a while, and then he became a salesman. He sold J. R. Watkins products; they used to go house-to-house, you know. In those days he traveled all around Washington County; he had customers every where. He went every day and made quite a good living for his family. We went to the Grade School for one year. My older sisters went to Beaverton High School. But then we went to St. Mary's. It wasn't right there then, it was across the highway. They were able to send us to parochial school and we all took piano lessons.

GLAZER: What are your personal memories of Klan activities. Do you remember demonstrations?

ALICE: I don't remember anything like that at all. I remember faintly hearing them talking about them, you know. Springer was the name of the man who had the grocery store. The Klans were very active in Portland. But I don't know how they got rid of them. I don't know. This was in the 20's, you see. Just recently there was quite a writeup in The Oregonian about them. It was a historical thing about them and how they got into the politican arena in this area.

GLAZER: Did they have any repetition now?

ALICE: No. I'm sure there's none any more. They are probably in the South, but I don't know how they got such an upper hand. It was the Jewish people and the Catholic that they were really out to get. Really.

GLAZER: What did this cause the Jewish and Catholic people to do?

ALICE: Well, they lost their jobs, and their schools were closed. Maybe they didn't actually close them but they were threatened. I remember Mama saying that Dad was afraid because they interrogated him about his family. They asked him about what his religion was, and so of course, they knew his family were Catholic. Just at work, they questioned him. I can faintly remember my mother talking with him about it, that he didn't know what he was going to do, that he was sure they were going to let him out.

GLAZER: What did your mother say?

ALICE: Well, she felt terribly sad and worried to think that in this country that would happen. Of course, it has all worked out. After that he worked for the Watkins Company. In those days they sold to the farmers, the

minerals and all that kind of thing that they fed their cattle and stock. So he sold to the dairies. And there were spices, cosmetics and everything. We had a big house and in one of the rooms upstairs he kept his supplies, all these cold creams and astringents and things, so we would always say, "Oh, Papa, could we have some cold cream?" or something, you know.

GLAZER: What effect did the Klan have on relations between Catholics and Jews in Beaverton?

ALICE: Well, I don't believe there were any Jews in Beaverton. I don't know. Were there any Jewish people in Beaverton, Albert? Except Gosland?

ALBERT ROSSI: You talking to me?

ALICE: Yes. Were there any Jewish people in Beaverton?

ALBERT: Fred Coshlen is the only one.

ALICE: Well, there were quite a few Italian people in Beaverton. But there's just one man that I know was a Jew. He wasn't married or anything. I know reading back, that it was the Jewish and Catholic who were mostly affected by this movement.

GLAZER: Did you feel the effects of it among the children?

ALICE: No, I don't remember that. I went to the grade school and I made all of my friends there, and then later I went back to Beaverton High School. I went to St. Mary's for four years -- 6, 7, 8 and my freshman year. And then I went to Beaverton High School. We lived here and we realized we didn't know any of the boys; but it was closer, too. St. Mary's was quite a ways. We walked and the roads weren't that good. We lived right over here and just came through this pathway and the Beaverton school was right here. So that's the reason we went to Beaverton, my two youngest sisters and I. There was one boy and six girls. All the older sisters went to Beaverton High School except the sister that's just older than me. She never did go to a public school. She went always to St. Mary's where she graduated and then she went into nurses' training at St. Vincents. So she never did go to any public school at all.

But I stayed here all my life. During the war I did work and live in Portland in about 1943 for about three years, then I came back to Beaverton and lived with my folks. And we didn't get married until 1949.

GLAZER: I'd like to ask you just a few factual questions. The names of your parents:

ALICE: My father's name was James Leopold Benson. My mother was Mary (her maiden name was Faye) Benson. Her people were Irish. My father was English. They came from Minnesota. There are mostly Swedes there, you know, so the name Benson -- when we came here, people thought we were Swedish, but we weren't. He looked like he was, too, because he was fair. He knew we didn't like to be called Swedes, so he'd tell them, "Oh, yes, we're Swedes."

My father's mother and father also came out here, and his brother. His mother's

name was Georgia Carney Benson. Her father (my great grandfather) was the inventor of the National Cash Register in Dayton, Ohio, where the headquarters are. He was quite an inventor. He also had a big farm, but he invented National Cash Register, but he sold the patent for maybe \$50,000 at that time. But I was in Dayton, Ohio, a number of years ago and on the plane going, I met a young man who was with the National Cash Register and I told him that my great grandfather was the inventor, and he said, "Well, you should come and go through the plant." I should have done it because he said they would be happy to show me through.

My oldest sister has the whole family tree. We all have copies of it (I don't know where mine is), but it really tells the history of our family.

On my father's side, I don't know what his father did. He was a very handsome man. And I don't think my grandmother was very happily married. She came from a little more aristocratic family and married this very handsome man who was my grandfather, but I don't think he ever provided too well for her.

GLAZER: Is that why she was unhappy?

ALICE: I think so. She had four sons; my father and his three brothers. But she was very partial to boys. She loved her sons. My brother was the only grandson and she was very partial to Charlie. He was her Golden Boy, and all. But she never had a very good word for marriage. She put up with it, but I know she wasn't a very happy person. She loved her children, but she didn't care for her husband. (Laughter) But she got very angry with him. I remember she used to always take milk and crackers to his bedroom and say, "He might be hungry in the night," so he could always have something to eat. So she was good to him but yet, you could tell she was not very happily married. Maybe if she lived in this day, she wouldn't have stayed with him. One of her sisters married very well and lived really quite a high life and I think she was rather envious of her.

Then she had another beautiful sister who never married. Well, I think she did and they had it annulled. This other sister was in love with her sister's husband! That's how it was, and when her sister died, Aunt Julia thought maybe that the husband would marry her, but he didn't. He married someone else. So those were just little things about the family that we'd hear about. But I have pictures of them and they were all very beautiful women.

GLAZER: Did your grandmother encourage you to get married?

ALICE: Well, she never did. She died in 1940, and I was home, because she lived with my mother and father and myself. She and I were pretty good pals, really. I had boyfriends, of course, and we'd come home and park outside the door, you know -- we had a big driveway and all, and so she'd come outside and say, "Alice, why don't you come in this house? Now, you come bring that young man in here." (Laughter) But she was kind of cute and she was crazy about my dad, and it was everything for my father. "Well, we've got to get Jim's dinner tonight." It didn't matter if the rest of us ate. She said, "Jim's got to have his dinner." And my mother, she said, "Well, we'll get it."

But I think she got along all right with my mother, but I don't know if it was a happy existence, but they did get along. In those days, they tried to get

along with their in-laws; they didn't push them out into a nursing home or something. But my grandmother was well. She did take some bad falls, and she finally did die in the hospital. But she lived to be 87. She lived to be older than my mother and father when they died.

My father died in 1952 and my mother died in 1953. They were both 76 when they died. What caused my dad's death was an automobile accident he was in. He had been to a meeting in Portland on 19th & Burnside. We never did know whose fault it was; it may have been my dad's -- and the man just cursed him something terrible. When my dad came home, he was just white; he was terribly upset. His car wasn't damaged that badly; he was able to drive it home. This was on Friday, and we went to a church dinner on Sunday and that night he hemorrhaged from a perforated ulcer and we had to take him to the hospital. This happened in about February, and he was in the hospital and they operated on him. Then he had pneumonia. He was in the hospital quite a while.

Then we brought him home and he got pretty good, really. But, and I always blamed myself, we had new potatoes and peas and it seemed as though he had diverticulitis. After a certain age like bubbles come out on your intestines, on your colon. Roughage sometimes can cause it, but now they claim you can eat all that sort of thing. But that's what I fixed for dinner, I remember, new potatoes and peas and he became ill again. I think he got peritonitis or something. But that's when he was taken back to the hospital. He had to go to surgery again. But now doctors say roughage is good for you. But we always thought maybe the peas were the cause of that.

He was in a weakened condition, but he was still selling Watkins and I took him around. I drove him around to some of his customers a few times afterwards because he was a little stronger. Then after he died, he had accounts, so I did all the billing and some collecting for him.

My mother lived only ten months after he did. She kind of went downhill after that. She never did live alone. After my dad died, she lived with us. We rented her home and then we sold the home after she died. She was in a nursing home about six weeks because I did take care of her and it was really hard on me. I was working and I had to get up in the night and change the bed and I used to pick her up and put her in the bathtub and do all those things for her. But it was just too hard for me, and my sisters were all busy. They all had little children, so my husband found a place and that's where she was for about six weeks, which was sad. I'd go to see her and she'd wonder where she was, and I'd sit there and cry and come home and say how can I go back. I want to see her, but I just can't hardly stand it. So the poor darling; it was hard.

GLAZER: Tell me the names and ages of your sisters.

ALICE: My brother's name was Charles. He died last July at 79. My sister Georgiana Martin lives in Lake Oswego. She is 78. Then my sister Luise Reed is next. She's a widow and lives in Vancouver, Washington; she is 77. My sisters are all in good health except for Louise, who has a heart condition, but she looks pretty good. My next sister is Kathleen Clearwater, a very active lady. She and her husband are going all the time, traveling and dancing and having a good time. And she's 76. See, everybody's getting up there! Isn't it terrible? Then there's my sister Barbara Sharkey, a retired

nurse, also a widow, and she's 72. Then I'm Alice. My name is Alice and I hate to say, but I'm 68. I feel pretty good. We've all kept our age pretty well. Then I have my sister Annabelle, who just retired from the local bank. She's 66 and a widow. Four of my sisters lost their husbands and one remarried. Kathleen lost her husband and she remarried. Louise did remarry, but it was a disaster, so she wasn't married too long. She had it annulled. Other than that, my young sister and my sister just older than I, are widows and have never remarried.

My brother's wife lives in Arizona and my husband and I just visited her in April.

GLAZER: Do you have children?

ALICE: No. I'm the only one in the family that doesn't have any children. The rest of them all the others had two children and my youngest sister had five. She has one daughter at home who's blind. She had twins and one of them died at birth. At that time they didn't know the amount of oxygen for premature babies, so there were a lot of children who became blind because of that. Well, she had glaucoma in one eye and the other a detached retina, and she also has cerebral palsy. Anyhow, her daughter now goes to the Edwards Activity Center which is in Aloha.

GLAZER: You said you weren't sure how your mother felt about coming out to Oregon -- they came out a year later.

ALICE: She came later because they had to get a place for them to live. Her folks thought, my goodness, so far out there, where's she going and what a struggle she will have -- which they did have. Yet, she must have loved my father because she stayed with him. But it was a hardship. And he probably felt really bad about that.

But they made friends. My older sister is still friendly with some of the LaPine area pioneers. We've been to the old homestead; I think they had 360 acres. They could have kept it all. It had beautiful timber on it. But when he sold it, that's how he was able to build our home here. In Bend they just rented. They didn't sell the house until after we were in Beaverton a while.

GLAZER: How did you keep up the homestead when you were in Bend and Beaverton?

ALICE: Well, they just didn't do anything to it, of course. I suppose they had done whatever work they had to and then just left after clearing where the home was. It was right on the Little Deschutes River, the most beautiful spot. We've been up there a few times. One time I went up there with my uncle and my husband.

He lived in Bend and was sure he could remember where it was. He had a homestead and his folks had a homestead. In fact, my uncle married a very wealthy woman who had come out from Chicago. She and her mother had taken up a homestead. My uncle was kind of a gay blade, very handsome, and she fell madly in love with him. But a terrible thing happened when he was married; they had a baby and his wife died. And her mother was just -- Oh! She told him that he could take the kid! -- and she took her body back to Chicago and told him it

wasn't necessary for him to come. So he didn't go. I don't know why he didn't. Of course, he inherited what she had and all. It was in a trust, really, for the baby. So he remarried later. The lady he married was a lovely woman, but she wasn't very good for him. They had a rough life. My grandmother raised David really, because the stepmother didn't really want to be bothered.

He lived there part of the time, and he was not well. The cause of her death, I think was she had a paralysis or stroke or something and was paralyzed. So the baby had some disability because of it. He was at Dornbecker Hospital for years, had many surgeries -- and I think he had to have a colostomy. But he was quite an athlete. He played football and was a champion swimmer, but he took his own life a few years back. So he had a kind of unhappy childhood really. He was married and had a youngster, but we never really saw him. The last time I saw my cousin was when my Uncle Claude, who was his father, died in 1963. He was there for my uncle's funeral, but that's the last time we saw him and about a year later, he died.

My mother was a gentle and refined lady -- not that my father wasn't. He was loveable and very good looking, very fair and curly haired. The only bad time I can remember -- once when I was in high school, we were sitting at the table eating and Mama didn't come to the table. She had prepared the food and everything and she didn't come to the table. We heard her going out the back door, and she went away.

We said, "Where's Mama going?" and my dad said, "Oh, eat your dinner." So they must have had some kind of words, I don't know. I think she was probably going through menopause, really, and so she went down to my married sister's in Beaverton. I know we kids just worried about her. It was in the summertime. We walked around outside wondering where did Mama go. My dad didn't seem worried, "Well, she'll be back. She'll be back." And she did come back later, maybe 9:00 that night. But they didn't ever do any quarreling around us or anything, but they must have had some disagreement. Maybe things were tough and she was upset about something, I don't know. I stayed home with my folks until I got married.

During the war, I was gone a while and then I came home again. I moved into an apartment in Portland because I worked in the shipyards. I was working for the telephone company and then in 1943 I had an opportunity to go to town and work for Commercial Iron. I worked in many departments, payroll, bond, but I wanted to be a receptionist so I was in the front office there; we greeted all the Navy personnel.

GLAZER: Did you ever have any inclination to do the welding?

ALICE: Oh, no. I was not made up for that kind of work. No, but I knew some of the ladies who did. One of my friends who worked at the telephone company, too, was an electrician. I used to think maybe I would join the WAVES because some of the other girls who worked there did. I used to walk by the recruiting place and think, "Maybe I should go in," because nobody in our family was ever in the service; there were no boys. My brother lived in Kansas City and had something to do with the war there. So I thought that would be a good thing if I could join. But I never did. I thought I was too shy. Also, they might put me through all these calisthenics and maybe I wouldn't be able to do it -- not that I was weak. I wasn't the athletic type. That's why I didn't do it. I was always kind of sorry about that. Then I met Albert, you see.

GLAZER: Where did you meet your husband?

ALICE: I met him in 1946, right in this area. Al had a restaurant in Beaverton and I used to go there to buy my bus ticket. At the time he was married, but he was divorced after that. Anyway, I used to go in there and buy my bus ticket. So we went together for three years before we were married. And that's how it was.

GLAZER: So you got married in 1949.

ALICE: Yes. We've been married 34 years this October, and I've only lived two places. We lived on Farmington Road until we moved in this house in 1960, and we've been on this street ever since. Now I'm looking for another place; we've been looking at condominiums and things.

GLAZER: Why is that?

ALICE: Oh, all this yard work and stuff. Yesterday we tried to clean out the front and he's got the back yard. We have a big back yard and he did all that work. We planted our zinnias and our dahlias and our glads, but there is a lot of work and there are times we'd like to go away. We go in the winter time, and when you come home, you have all this work to do. We do have a trailer. He's a trap shooter and are going in a couple of weeks. We often took the trailer to Arizona and we'd live in our trailer home when we went.

GLAZER: Let me ask you a few more questions about your mother. I'm interested in her perceptions of coming here because I've heard from other people -- it seemed to be a common pattern, the man would come first and then send for his wife.

ALICE: It must have been terrible because they did the cooking and everything on the train. They must have had stoves for each passenger. I don't know what kind of food we had. I suppose they took some kind of bread and maybe made toast and cooked the eggs. But they had stoves on the train.

GLAZER: What did she tell you about the trip out?

ALICE: Well, it was long and with little children, it was terrible. My older sister was sort of like my mother. The older ones looked after the younger ones. Georgie said, "Well, you were my baby. I always looked after you." So I would go to her and she combed my hair and dressed me, I suppose, and did all those things.

But to think they lived in this! I've been told and seen pictures of the house. It must have been terribly cold in the winter, because it gets cold up in the Bend country. They lived in LaPine but one winter my dad was working at Pringle Falls at a mill, so they moved over there and we lived in a tent with a sod floor.

GLAZER: This was with seven children?

ALICE: Yes! Sod floor, and how they kept warm?! --But he worked over there. It was too far to commute. He couldn't walk there, so they lived over there for a while.

They may have lived in a tent in LaPine when they first came out, I don't know. Then one winter they moved into town because of the severe weather and lived above a restaurant. They really liked that because there was more going on. But I don't think it was much of a town although LaPine is quite a resort now.

My mother's sister used to come out from Minnesota to visit. She was a school-teacher and they looked forward to her coming; she loved it out there. Of course, it was summertime and it was beautiful. They lived sort of outside.

The whole family had a picnic there one time, maybe 15 years ago. Some of them had motorcycles, so we parked the cars and they rode us in on the motorcycles into the place and they went swimming in the river right by our house, and there was nothing left. We found the old cellar, though, where they used to keep the butter; they had to keep things cold, you see, and all. They also had horses. And they had a terrible fire one time. The folks had gone to some neighbors and there was a big fire; the wind came up and my sister Georgie was there with us girls. Then my brother came home and they tried to stop the fire -- the timber got on fire, but they didn't lose the house. I think the barn burned. It was frightening. The wind was blowing.

(short discussion of photographs) That was taken in 1950. So they were both 74 years old. But my mother was thin. They looked older than they were. My husband Al is 77; I don't think he looks it either, and he doesn't act it and he has wonderful health. We're fortunate that we're both well.

I'm quite active; I work with the Red Cross as a volunteer worker. I'm also active on the board of the Washington County Historical Society. I have to see that The Express, which is the newsletter, goes out every two months. We have to get out about a thousand copies. I also work with Loaves and Fishes; I drive Meals on Wheels.

And then I'm very active in the business world. I'm going to a convention in Columbus, Ohio. The new national president is from Hillsboro, a girl I know, and the international president is also from Oregon. Three of my sisters are going. I'm chairman of the state board so that's the reason I'm going to be a delegate to the national convention.

GLAZER: What kinds of things was your mother scared of when she came here?

ALICE: She was very frightened of being alone and she was scared to death of electrical storms. Of course, in Minnesota they had them but they had them out here, too. She was also frightened of wild animals and all that kind of thing, which I don't think there were, other than coyotes. But there were no snakes up there. There were snakes in the Bend country but they've never had any around the Little Deschutes River. There might have been some bear in the woods, I don't know. In that area, there's not any underbrush, so you can see through and all. But it must have been tough on her because she had to clean the chickens and I think they even ate rabbits and she had to do some of that, skin a rabbit. Why, I don't know how the poor little dear did it!

She was quite a seamstress; she did sew well. She made our clothes and we were always well dressed. She got lots of things, I think sent by her folks, and she could remodel them. Her father was a postmaster in Minnesota. Of course, she never did get to go home. She never saw her folks again. So

that made her sad. We have some beautiful letters her folks used to write; and she wrote to them. The letters she wrote to my father when he was out here and he would write to her, were love letters and yet they weren't too demonstrative of how they spoke. But you could see reading through it that there was love there, and he'd say, "Mary, how I miss you." My older sister has all this stuff, and sometimes we sit over there and read these letters and we just cry thinking about their life and how it was, and the little things they enjoyed. But they were good dancers and they used to go to the dances.

GLAZER: Where were these dances?

ALICE: Well, I suppose they'd go into LaFine and maybe they'd go into homes and dance, but even when we lived in Beaverton, they used to go to all the Grange dances. They took us when I was ten years old. The older sisters had boyfriends by that time; they were 10-12 years older. We went to the dances and learned to dance when we were just ten years old. Of course, we had the phonograph and that kind of music and they would come here and dance. We had a big house and we kids learned to dance all the latest steps.

My father was a better dancer than my mother, really. My mother was a piano player and my dad played the mouth organ. In the neighborhood we used to have surprise parties and she would play the piano and somebody had a violin and so they made their own entertainment. We had lots of picnics and lots of company. And my mother was the organist at the church and led the choir so we all could sing.

My brother left home when he was quite young, but he was very fond of his mother and wherever he traveled, he always wrote to her.

GLAZER: You were quite young, only five years old, when you moved to Beaverton. What do you remember about that?

ALICE: I can remember coming on the train. At St. Mary's up here, there was a little station where the train stopped; it was in the summertime, and we got off that train in the middle of nowhere and there was my uncle to meet us. They walked over.

GLAZER: They already lived here?

ALICE: They had come to Beaverton before we did, because Uncle Claude had remarried. They were in Bend and came to visit us in Hood River, then they came to Beaverton (he and his folks) and they bought a place and lived there. They had one house; then they bought some other property. I don't know where they got the money; it may have been from his inheritance. So they met us at the train and I know we walked along carrying suitcases. I guess we stayed all night.

I can remember Uncle Claude cut my hair, and why they cut my hair, I don't know. But he did put a bowl right on my head and kind of cut it around like that. It was terrible; and then, because my hair wasn't curly (the other girls all had curly hair), my mother braided it. It was parted in the middle, straight as a stick and just Oh! so tight. Well, when I was 12 years old, she took me to the men's barber shop and they cut my hair and my hair came in curly, and

it got just as curly as can be. I had really curly hair until, well, I got my first permanent when I was about 35. My sister Barbara had beautiful long curls and then she finally got them cut off.

One of my sisters lived in town and worked at Meier & Frank's in Portland. She came home with her hair cut and my dad said, "What have you done!" It was the latest style. It was the flapper days, you know. My mother used to make their dresses for them. They were really short and very pretty. We were all very close. We used to see each other all the time. Three of us live right here.

**PART ONE ORAL HISTORY ENDS HERE**

GLAZER: How did your Uncle Claude happen to come to Beaverton?

ALICE: I guess there wasn't any work and they thought if they came to Portland there would be more work. It was after the war, you see. I don't think Uncle Claude ever did any work. What did he do for a living? Well, he lived off his first wife's money. And then he did sell something. They were called electric machines, like they use nowadays for electric currents, for people with arthritis and rheumatism and that kind of thing. I know he traveled around all the time and he and his wife finally separated and he moved back to Bend.

GLAZER: What was in Bend?

ALICE: Well, I don't know. After they moved from LaPine, they went to Bend. They made friends and knew the area quite well. He had charge of the high school gymnasium. A lot of people who lived on the homesteads moved to Bend, because there was nothing for them to do. It wasn't really farming land. It would be more for cattle. They run cattle in that area now.

There was also a mill there, you see. Uncle Claude might of worked in the mill. He had a home there right on the river but my folks never bought a house in Bend, they rented. And it was during the flu you know, that so many died.

GLAZER: This was 1918?

ALICE: That was when the flu struck, yes, right at the end of the war. My dad and brother didn't get it. They moved out of the house and stayed with my grandmother. Mama didn't get it but all of us kids got it; one by one someone would be stricken with it -- and very sick. None of us died, of course, but I think Kathleen was the closest. There was no remedy for the darn stuff. Everybody was quarantined; schools were closed. Many, many people died. Of course, it was all over the country, I guess.

They had a nurse who came and relieved Mama at night. She had to take care of others in the daytime. I faintly remember a lady there in white; and I wanted something in the night and she made me some Postum. But there was a nurse. And my dad would come every day and just talk through the window or the door to my mother to see what was going on and if anybody else was sick. They had terribly high fevers and nosebleeds with it. They gave them some kind of powder. I suppose it was for the fever. I don't know what it was. I suppose the doctor would come along and hand out something for them to use.

GLAZER: Were there a lot of deaths?