

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with

ROSE (STRICKER) WEED THOMPSON

At Mrs. Thompson's home on Thurlow Road off Walker Road
in Beaverton, Oregon

INTERVIEWER: SHIRLEY TANZER

Date of Interview: July 16, 1982

SUMMARY OF TOPICS DISCUSSED

INTERVIEW WITH: ROSE (STRICKER) WEED THOMPSON BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

1. Parents from Switzerland
2. Father lived with Gantenbeins, Boring & Gresham;
Worked in cookie factory in Portland
3. Settling at Bethany; peddling goods
4. Brother and sisters (5)
5. Grade school at Bethany
High School: Girls' Polytechnic, Portland
6. Father grows pears & cucumbers for Ray/Maling, Hillsboro
7. Board & Room during school with Mrs. Walter Shanks
8. Jobs: Meier & Frank lunchroom
Orange Lantern Tea Room
9. Home on Bertha-Beaverton Highway
10. San Francisco, 1936; marriage to Bob Leaming
11. Thurlow Weed and family;
 - a. Canyon Road Realty
 - b. Beaverton's first lawyer
12. Beaverton social life
13. Dr. C. E. Mason
14. Women in Beaverton and their children
15. Thurlow Weed's illness & death
16. Rose's life as widow with small children
17. Hope Bassett, attorney & friend, Aloha

(Where unknown, phonetic spellings are used)

INTERVIEW WITH ROSE (STRICKER) WEED THOMPSON

for

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Place: At Mrs. Thompson's Home on Thurlow Road off Walker Road, Beaverton, Oregon

Interviewer: Shirley Tanzer

SHIRLEY TANZER: Rose, I'd like to ask you where your parents came from.

ROSE WEED THOMPSON: Well, my parents came from Switzerland. They left Switzerland in 1914. My mother came from a beautiful village called Spietz and my father was from a little village near the Austrian border in St. Gallen. They went to Liverpool, got on a ship and went to Halifax. I was nine months old. In Halifax, they took the immigrant train which went through Chicago to Saskatchewan. It was a two-way trip. We lived in Canada with a Swiss family by the name of Lutz for about a year. But my mother didn't like it there because it was so cold. In the morning she'd wake up and the baby's diapers would be frozen to the floor. About that time, we heard about the Swiss in Oregon, so in due time we arrived in the Boring-Gresham area.

TANZER: How did you hear about the Swiss in Oregon?

ROSE: That we don't know. My father was rather gregarious and, of course, that's the way it was. When Italians left, they would go where there were other Italians. And when the Norwegians left, and the Finnish, they would go where there were other people of their nationality so they could help each other out. They also had the same language and the same interests. I think it was a thing of having someone to depend on.

TANZER: Who did they come to in Oregon?

ROSE: I was looking through my father's papers the other day. He left Canada in 1915 and came to a man by the name of Mr. Gervase as a farm laborer. I think at that time there was a need for that because he had several skills and five languages and so did my mother. He came through Sand Point, Idaho.

TANZER: Did he stop there before he got to Oregon?

ROSE: Yes. Well, he went to Cor d'Alene. He was there for a number of months. Then we were in Spokane for a number of months and that wasn't right, so he came to Boring. There was a man by the name of Gantenbein, Chris Gantenbein, who had been his child friend. They'd known each other since they were three or four years old and had gone all the way through school. Some way or other they'd kept in touch with each other, so he lived across the road from Chris Gantenbein for a year. Of course, the first World War came along. And then he went to live near the other Gantenbein brother, Hans, who was also from the same village in St. Gallen, which is a rather large canton. The little village they were from was Grabs. Hans Gantenbein lived in Gresham, Oregon. He lived there and during the war, he worked for a cookie factory.

TANZER: Where was the cookie factory?

ROSE: In Portland. Of course, he may have called it that because it was a "fun" name for his three little daughters. I know at night he always came home with a little bag of chocolate eclairs in his pocket. And he always said never to eat ginger snaps because that's where all the stale, old dough went, you see. --Oh! And you brought me ginger snaps (laughter)! --I'll give 'em to my husband.

TANZER: Let me ask you something else. You've mentioned that he had a number of skills. What were they?

ROSE: Well, in his town of Grabs, they had very large looms. There are rooms that they build onto these houses, and they have very large looms where they do a machine embroidery. In other words, my father would sit at the end and, like a typewriter, he would do this. There would be maybe 300 handkerchiefs at a time that were embroidered. There was a tremendous amount of Madeira-type of embroidery. When he went to London in 1910 to learn English, this is what he did when he was living in London and learning the English language.

He had also been an apprentice to a shoemaker for a couple of years so he knew about repairing shoes. At that time he wasn't making them. That wasn't what he learned. He learned that later. Of course, his languages at that time, he thought, would do him a lot of good but they never did, of course.

TANZER: What languages were they?

ROSE: He spoke German, the Swiss dialect, French, Italian, English and some Romance, which is the old Latin tongue that's spoken around St. Moritz.

TANZER: How did he come to this area?

ROSE: Oh, to Beaverton -- 1921. Well, after the World War was over (and I remember very well sitting on the fence and the boys and young men were coming by with their broad-brimmed hats and I was waving a flag), about that time he went to work at Mt. Angel. We were not Catholic but we were Swiss, and the Mt. Angel college had been formed by the Swiss from Engelberg -- the Catholic Fathers from Engelberg -- so we went to work there for a year. My father did the farm work. We had a little house and we had free milk and free eggs. And I had a little sister who died and, of course, we never knew why or how, but she was buried there, and my father was very crushed by this.

So he left there and rented the Talbot farm. As you go down the highway, you see Talbot Road. He was one of the old pioneers in and around Jefferson. We lived there for about a year and he had many cows and horses, but he had never really had a farm background, so he really didn't do that well. There were many problems, too, so he left there and from there went to another Swiss community of Rock Creek. We rented a house from a Swiss by the name of Caratly and that worked very well until the well went dry. Then, of course, there was no water for the cows or for his family.

About that time he came to Bethany which was a Swiss-German community, and we lived right near the German Baptist church. At that time, the churches out there all preached in German. We rented a farm not from a Swiss, but from a man

by the name of Kyle (I've often wondered if they would be any connection with the Kyles who came to Aurora so many years ago). We lived there for about 15 years, 21 acres rented for \$100 a year. That doesn't sound like much money now, but when you're raising five children in the Depression and you have a few cows, you save the check from selling the milk. Of course, we had 50 pear trees and we had cherry trees, beautiful vegetable gardens, so... It really wasn't a very good place for my parents. We should have been on the edge of a small town because my father was quite gregarious and he liked to talk politics, and there wasn't really ever anyone to talk with, and my mother was very pretty and gentle and so life really wasn't that easy for them.

TANZER: What were his interests aside from farming?

ROSE: Well, he was crazy about his five little girls. He thought that was just about as good as it could be. Well, he sang. He had done some singing in Switzerland, and he was considered quite a good yodeler. People used to come to the house and hear him yodel. And he would sing his children to sleep every night in some foreign language -- Brahm's Lullaby, I remember. Santa Lucia, I remember. What else did he do? Oh, then he got to mending shoes for the farmers in the wintertime. And then, in the wintertime when we didn't have much to do, he decided he was going to become a peddler. So instead of being a Watkins peddler, he got a firm that was called Koch (spelled), which means "cook," so he would go all over Helvetia and Beaverton and West Union and sell vanilla and some of these products -- also a product called Cow Care, which kept the cows from aborting. He would peddle all over the area for many miles and once in a while, I would skip school and I would go with Papa. On those days, he always sold more. His idea had been to leave the suitcase in the car because the lady knew what he wanted. And I said, "Oh, no, Papa, you have to bring it in, because when she sees it, she'll probably buy something that she didn't know she needed." So I always had a good time with him.

TANZER: You were the oldest?

ROSE: I was the oldest, and I understand that the oldest daughter in the family is the lucky one.

TANZER: Tell me who the others in the family were.

ROSE: Yes. I'm Rose. Rosa Clara. And then I have a sister, Ursula Hildegarde, and I have a sister Mary Elizabeth, and I have a sister Emma (I don't think she ever had a middle name), and then there was a brother, Andrew Walter. Andrew was my father's name and Walter was a very fine Swiss name and is still a very popular name. They named their boys Walter.

TANZER: Are the rest of the family in this area?

ROSE: I have a sister in California; she's been there for about 30 years. She likes the sun. And my brother is in California. We don't exactly know where he is but he does a lot of western singing and he thinks that's a lot of fun.

TANZER: But the other sisters are here?

ROSE: Yes. Emma and Betty are here and we talk on the phone. We don't see a lot of each other but we keep in touch.

TANZER: Do you consider the home to be Bethany, or what particular area?

ROSE: Yes, I would say Bethany, but I found it very interesting that there doesn't seem to be a beginning place for Bethany or an ending place. At one time there was a grocery store there and even today when I go over there, I can't quite figure out where it begins and where it ends and where the name came from. I don't know. People seem to always know where Cedar Mill is. But Bethany is just something out there somewhere.

TANZER: Did you go to school in Bethany?

ROSE: Yes, I did. I went to a school that was called District No. 6. It's on 143rd Street and in the back was the Union Cemetery where my parents are buried. In front, at that time there was a large two-bedroom schoolhouse with a hall down the center and, of course, down at the end they had the big crock for the water and the single ladle that we all drank out of and the little lunch boxes on the side. I remember at school one of the things I thought was kind of fun: In those days, everybody baked homemade bread but Mother had a little arthritis, so a lot of these things she didn't do or couldn't do or didn't want to do, so Papa would go over to Davidson's Bakery and buy bread that was a day old. He used to call it secondhand bread and thought that was real funny. We got a big bag for 50¢, and then I'd have store-bought sandwiches. Well, the kids at school had never seen store-bought bread and we would trade sandwiches, which was a lot of fun. I ended up with the good homemade bread and on days we didn't have any bread, Mama would make little pancakes for me to take to school with jelly on the inside. I used to be so embarrassed because I was eating pancakes when everybody else was eating bread. I'd kind of hide around the corner so they wouldn't see my pancakes.

I have to tell you something else that happened in the fourth grade that was so much fun. My mother decided I should have hot milk for lunch, so every morning about 11:00, I would have to climb up some little stairs and there was a little humidifier on the inside of the large metal thing there. Anyway, I had to climb up on this little stool in front of all these children and put my half pint of cold milk in it so about the time it was lunch time, I would have hot milk. I did that for a while until I guess I finally talked my mother out of it because the other kids didn't have to do that.

TANZER: Why did she decide you needed that?

ROSE: Well, she thought it was good for me when it was cold outside?

ROSE: Was this related to the death of your younger sister?

ROSE: No, I don't think so. It was just a little extra tender, loving care. One of the things I thought was really funny was that she used to make me leggins to wear in the wintertime like the soldiers did in World War I. I'd wrap them around my legs, you see, and I had to walk three miles to school in sometimes very wet and very cold weather and I'd get about halfway to school and I'd look behind me to see the leggins dragging along in the mud or in the rain. So I don't know how long that lasted. And of course, I had the long black stockings and the high-top shoes and the braids and so I really liked school.

You were asking about high school. In the eighth grade I had a teacher named Mrs. Armstrong and there were three girls and four boys and I figured I was just a very average student. I mean being first generation, why I didn't feel quite as comfortable I suppose as if I had been second generation as a lot of the people were, but Mrs. Armstrong took me on the side one day and she said, "Now, Rose, you go home and tell Papa you have to go to high school." In those days there wasn't a bus to Beaverton. You either went to Beaverton to live or you went by horseback. So I went home and told Papa that my teacher said I'm supposed to go to high school. So Papa thought that was a good idea, but I would certainly have to find a school where I'd learn to cook and sew, so about that time I looked and asked and found a school in Portland called Girls' Polytechnic, and this was up on 14th & Morrison and had been the original Portland High School for a number of years. It was Gothic architecture and a very interesting building, and then it became Lincoln High School. So it had been Lincoln High School for a number of years and about the time I went there, it was Girls' Polytechnic. It was a two-year high school and was very interesting because the whole main floor was one big hall with rooms around the side. And the stairway was open, too, and then the rooms were all upstairs. We spent one year there and about that time, it was sold. Of course, today it's a parking lot. I don't know how many people would remember the old building but it was very interesting. It was brown and had tall steeples. It was very nice.

TANZER: So you did not go to school in Beaverton?

ROSE: No. Every once in a while they have a reunion and my friend Ruth Paisley will say, "Now, Rose, the next time we have a reunion, could you come?" And I'll say, "Well, I didn't graduate from there." And she'll say, "Well, that's all right, you know everybody." But I did not go to Beaverton.

TANZER: Did any of your sisters go to school in Beaverton?

ROSE: Yes, both Betty and Emmy did. Betty was very beautiful and she was chosen for the prettiest in her graduating class, and her pictures went to Hollywood. She was kind of the Linda-Darnell type with the big eyes and the small waistline and the nice bosom, and very friendly and nice.

TANZER: Now which one is she in line?

ROSE: She is third down. Mary Elizabeth, we call her Betty today, or Betts, or you know, something.

TANZER: Rose, tell me, how much time did you spend in Beaverton?

ROSE: Well, I've actually never lived in Beaverton, but in the Bethany area.

TANZER: Did your father trade, work in Beaverton, sell produce there, or...?

ROSE: No, he never did that. What he did was he had these gorgeous Bartlett pear trees and, at that time, he contracted his cherries also and his pears to a firm that was in Hillsboro or Forest Grove called Ray/Maling. They would promise that they would take your produce. And then there was a year where he cleared two acres of land by himself, which was quite a feat, with a couple of horses and dynamite.

Then he went to Portland and I would go in with him and we would go down and buy pipe from the secondhand men down on 1st and 2nd Street, and he put in his own irrigation system -- alone. Then he decided to grow cucumbers, so we had two acres of cucumbers. The cucumbers were supposed to be only the length of about 3" because they were used for pickles, and Ray/Maling also took those. Of course, if they were 4", why they were too big. That was kind of sad, because it was an awful lot of work for the amount of money. At that time I was going to high school in Portland so I didn't get in on all of the back-breaking work.

TANZER: Was the family expected to help, and in what ways?

ROSE: Well, yes. I don't know. Papa was a little different. He always thought the children should have a good time. However, my last year at grammar school, there was a janitor job and they had never before had a lady janitor, so I decided I would be able to build the fires in the two stoves and I would be able to sweep the rooms at night. So Papa would walk to school one day a week with me and chop the kindling so I could start the fires which was really a big job, because I really wasn't very good at it and things were kind of smokey. So at the end of the month I would get \$5 and I would give that to Papa. Then about the time I went to high school, I lived with a family and worked for board and room for three years at \$5 a month. I used to go down to Olds & Kings basement and buy stockings for 25¢ a pair and wear them with my heavy brogues that I shined beautifully.

TANZER: Who was the family you lived with, Rose?

ROSE: Shanks. Mrs. Walter Shanks. Her husband had been a Congressman at that time. However, they were English and I thought they were a very cold family. I never could understand the family relationship because no one seemed to be very loving or demonstrative and I always felt kind of a chill through the house because I'd come from, you know, a different kind of family. But I learned to set the table properly and do other things that were useful.

TANZER: What were your other responsibilities?

ROSE: Oh, I did everything. I got up in the morning, cleaned the downstairs, and fed the child and washed the dishes and made my bed and left for school at a quarter to eight in the morning. On Saturdays I would clean the whole house and do the washing. During the week I did the ironing in the evening -- \$5 a month. Well, I didn't mind that, except the girls down the street were getting \$10 a month. But she was nice in her way and, of course, Papa, the day he brought me he cried and she promised to take very good care of me, so when I started dating, well the young man could come at 8:00 but he had to take me back by 11:00. Up in the Willamette Heights, off of 33rd & Thurman, we'd get on one of these long streetcars and sit there or we'd go to the movies up on Broadway, then we'd stop at the Crazy Cat which was on 6th Street, and we'd have a tunafish sandwich and a milk shake, chocolate milk shake which came to 25¢, and then I had to be home by 11:00. It was very interesting, but finally I left there and it was kind of a difficult thing to leave. I still don't remember how I did it because this time I was 17 and working at Meier & Frank, which didn't pay very much, so I ran an ad in the paper. I don't remember if I put my own phone number in it or a box number but it said, "Business Girl Wants to Work for Room & Board." I didn't want to

tell her I was leaving, so one afternoon at 4:00, a taxi came to get me and I was leaving and she said, "Why didn't you tell me you were leaving?" and I said, "Well, I was afraid you wouldn't like it," so we both cried and said "Goodbye" and I climbed into the taxi. But I kept in touch with her through the years and she finally died a few years ago out here at the nursing home. I always thought she did the best she could, you know.

TANZER: Have you been in touch with the children at all?

ROSE: Yes, there is a son in the area and a daughter who lives in eastern Oregon, but that was a lot of years ago, you know, like in the Twenties.

TANZER: Did you continue to live in Portland?

ROSE: Well, I'd gone to work for Meier & Frank and that was interesting. I worked in the dairy lunch, which was on the 9th floor at that time. It had high stools and, at that time, there were 25¢ lunches. They were very nice; little sandwiches and coffee and a dessert for 25¢. I remember my very first job -- I'd come to work and the girl in charge said to me, "I hope you're wearing a petticoat." And I said, "Well, of course, I wear a petticoat. I always wear a petticoat." And she said, "You know, you must wear a hairnet, too." So she sat me on a high stool and said, "Now, you must learn to butter bread." So it was sandwich bread and there was a real trick to having the butter just right and getting the butter all the way around to the edge, you see, so I learned how to do that and I really got very good at it.

But, anyway, the big thing was that one day you were supposed to sell strawberry shortcake. They had a lot of strawberries, you see, and you were supposed to sell the shortcake for 25¢, and the coffee was a nickel, so I was considered a pretty good saleslady because I sold more shortcakes than anybody else. Then they put me in the bakery and I got fat because I started eating all those Danish rolls with jam centers which were only a nickel, and then they put me in the delicatessen and I worked for a very fine man by the name of Mr. Bettelheim. I worked there for a year and the people would like up at 5:00 and have Rosie wait on them. You know, I guess I was nice to them.

About that time I decided I wanted to go back to high school because I'd had only the two years so I went to Grant High School. I was very bad in math, but I took history and English and always made the honor grades so, in due time, I left there. Of course, everybody in Portland my age worked at Meier & Frank at one time or another.

TANZER: Did you graduate from Grant High?

ROSE: Yes. So anyway, I wanted to work on the elevators at Meier & Frank. At that time, they were putting in those gorgeous new elevators, and the girls were really attractive. They had to be just so tall and small waistlines, and the uniforms were made for us and they had those slim little navy silk skirts with matching little vests and pretty little white blouses. But after about two months of this, I thought this was about the dumbest job; working on an elevator when I could be learning to do something, so I tried to get off the elevator but they said, "Well, that's where you wanted to be." Anyway, they had a woman in the tearoom and she was kind of plump. Every time she got on the elevator, she wouldn't pay any attention to the operators; her back would face

the door. You'd always say, "Please face the door," and she never would face the door. So one day I was leaving the main floor and she decided to get out. About the time she got out, my elevator doors hit her and threw her out on the floor. The vice president of Meier & Frank Co. was there and saw the accident, and she had this terrible reputation, you see. So anyway I got off the elevators. The woman really wasn't hurt but she tried to sue the company and so forth so anyway, finally I went up to see Mr. Curnin and said, "I've got to have another job. You've got to find me a place." And he said, "You don't like Meier & Frank very well," and I said, "No, I really don't." And of course, at that time, it was Depression and a hundred girls were waiting for my job, so he said, "Well, I guess you won't have to work here any more." And I said, "Fine." So I thought that was very courageous.

I went up the street and two hours later I had a job at the Orange Lantern Tea Room. This was on 10th & Alder in the Central Building and it was on the third floor. Young's Gown Shop was downstairs. I used to go in there. There was a real nice lady who used to spray me with French perfume and I thought that was very nice. Anyway I worked at the Orange Lantern Tea Room for a few months and I was earning a dollar and a half a day and the girls were all really nice girls. Some of them were teachers or nurses. We just couldn't find jobs any place else. And it was very attractive. It was in yellows and greens and it was during the Depression and you could get a lunch for 25¢ and people would be lined up to the street, and the suppers were 35¢.

And these women were so funny. They were two old maids; one was Margaret and she had the large bushy hair and about three cats, and she'd scream and yell at people, and the other sister was a rather large woman, kind of squarish built with teeth that didn't fit very well and she would always go out there and talk to all the men and she'd kind of bounce as she talked to them.

Well, anyway, I did that for a while, but I decided I certainly wasn't going to do that the rest of my life. I knew I wouldn't go to college because I'd had trouble with math at Grant High School. Besides, my mother had just gotten electricity and I took what money I'd saved and bought her a Maytag washing machine and she thought that was just great! She didn't think it was hers. It was delivered and she said, "Well, I didn't order a washing machine."

So I decided I should develop a skill. At that time, Leavits had left Portland and Mr. Ungar came in. He was a Hungarian and a very fine man in furs. And I thought, "Well, that looks like a really pretty store." They had pretty things in there. I thought I'd like to sell there. So I went down, I remember, in a white skirt and a brown blouse and no stockings and no gloves and no hat, so he didn't give me a job because he figured, you know, I looked like a country bumpkin, which I was, so he said, No, he couldn't give me a job.

About a week later, I'd seen this young man in the store and I thought he must be one of the warehouse people and I went over to him and I said, "Excuse me, but I'd seen you in the store. You know, I would very much like to work for Mr. Ungar. I think it's such a pretty store." And he said, "Well, I'm the superintendent. You come in tomorrow." So he gave me a job, and Mr. Ungar was in New York, and when he came back, he SCREAMED, "Who hired that woman?" There were seven women that were hired for Christmas and I was the only one that they kept.

But before this, I had had an appointment with Mrs. Fred Meyer. She was going to put me in charge of the bakery down on 6th Street and the women heard about it so they called up Mrs. Fred Meyer and said, "Ooooh, you're stealing our help," so I lost that job. So, of course, when I worked at Ungar's, I kept looking at the front door to see whether these women will arrive. So they did come one day, but I hid in the lingerie dressing room.

TANZER: Now which women are you talking about?

ROSE: These Ryan women that owned the Orange Lantern, see, because you see that (caught?) a lot of control in those days, you see. But they did come in the door and I hid in the lingerie dressing room and I hid there until they left.

TANZER: You mean they would have had the ability to ...

ROSE: They might have at that time.

TANZER: Who were they?

ROSE: Well, Margaret was very clever and made a lot of money and had a very pretty tearoom, but she called Mrs. Fred Meyer and said, "You're stealing my help." She said, "Don't you come and take my help away from me." So Mrs. Fred Meyer did not hire me.

TANZER: So their name was Ryan?

ROSE: R-Y-A-N, yes. They were really a little odd. (Laughter) I still have a friend I knew at that time. She lives down at Woodburn, so we get together once in a while and talk about Mary and Margaret Ryan. (Laughter) They were so funny.

I must tell you in the tearoom there, I guess I was kind of fast and I was long-legged, so Mary used to call me The Galloping Goose. We thought that was awful funny. .

I never went back to the farm again. At that time, Papa had moved and had bought a place on the Bertha Beaverton Highway.

TANZER: Where was it, Rose?

ROSE: It was right where the Unfinished Furniture is. It was a small house, one bedroom, an acre of land and a barn. It was \$1800.

TANZER: Did your father buy this from Mr. Kennedy?

ROSE: Well, actually, I bought it. I remember he came to me one day and said, "You know, Mama's been in the United States for a lot of years, and Mama deserves a house, but I don't have any money." By this time he'd left the farm. And there was an acre of land and a barn and a very tidy little white house with one bedroom for sale for \$1800. And I said, "Well, it's not enough room." And he said, "Well, I'll build on two rooms and I want you to come home to live and I want Ursula to come home to live so I can have my daughters around me for a few years." So he said, "Can you spare \$15 a month? I can do this if you can

give me \$15 a month." So for about four or five years we got it so where I lived on less and the \$15 a month took care of the payments. We held onto the house for several years, maybe six, seven years. Of course, the property later sold for \$100,000.

TANZER: Really?

ROSE: That was 40 years later. At that time, you see, his thinking was Canyon Road was not a main arterial at that time because people were going on Cornell and Barnes. He thought the Bertha-Beaverton Highway would be the main business road and that was why he bought there. But, of course, Canyon Road went first as far as business.

TANZER: Did he farm there?

ROSE: No, he didn't do too much. Of course, he had the cow and we had several goats and we had a vegetable garden and he just loved to do yard work so he had a hoe and a shovel and he would go around the neighborhood and help people. In fact, the morning that he was killed by the automobile, it was 7:00 in the morning and he was going to help a neighbor with his gardening. Some girl who had been driving all night didn't see him on the road and hit him and killed him.

TANZER: Was it early in the morning?

ROSE: Well, it wasn't that early but I think she was confused; she'd been driving all night and she was with her mother and they were going out to Hillsboro. I was living in San Francisco at that time and it was a very sad thing to have happen because the children were still in high school.

TANZER: How old was he?

ROSE: Only 60. But, of course, when the insurance money was to come through, they had all kinds of things. They said, well, after all, your father was working. He was old and you know we shouldn't get the \$10,000. So my mother only ended up with about \$1200, which was terribly unfair.

TANZER: So you did not move back to the farm then?

ROSE: No. We never moved back to the farm. The horses died and he cried because they were just ... and then he sold the cows and Mother was getting quite arthritic and the children were, you know, were on their way and ...

TANZER: But you and Ursula did not move back?

ROSE: No, we did go to the place on the Bertha-Beaverton Highway and stayed there for a short time. Of course, we were used to a lot more freedom so it was about that time that I decided to go to San Francisco. And Papa cried because he didn't want me to go and Mama kept saying, "Well, Papa, when you were a young man, you know, you left home, too."

TANZER: Why did you go to San Francisco?

ROSE: Well, this was in 1936, and a lot of young people were going to

San Francisco. They thought Portland was kind of a cowtown; there wasn't much to do, and San Francisco was where everything was. A lot of them went and very few of them actually came back. I came back because my father died and my mother was arthritic. I was the oldest; I thought I should, you know, be there. But my father had lived in France and he'd seen the big cities and he said, "Well, you're going to get caught up in white slavery." So he just knew something bad was going to happen to me.

TANZER: So what were the admonitions that you received before you left?

ROSE: Well, the thing was that I was going to a big city and I would certainly have to be careful. So I promised them that I wouldn't go out after 6:00 at night by myself. So consequently, I did an awful lot of staying home until I acquired a boyfriend or two, and then things seemed to be better. Then, of course, I did finally come home and never went back to live.

TANZER: What were the reasons that you came home aside from the fact that your father had died?

ROSE: I guess maybe I'd never really planned to be gone that long. I just wanted a taste of the big city. I just couldn't imagine living in California. I wanted to get married and have lots of children. I didn't want to rear them in California at that time because I felt Portland was a better place to rear children. This was way back in '36, '37 I thought about that, and then the young man that I married, why he was with the McCann-Ericson Advertising Agency and he really did not like Portland. He had gone to school in Portland and University of Oregon. But he did come back and it was kind of difficult for him to give up California which he loved and which he later went back to.

TANZER: Did you come back after being married to him?

ROSE: Yes. We'd been married just a number of weeks, and so I said, well I really wanted to go to Portland and he said, well, if I can get a transfer we will go there, so we came back in '38. We were married in '38.

TANZER: And how long did you live here with him?

ROSE: We had an apartment down on 13th & Salmon, the Charleston Apartments, and I was working with a girl, Nina, at Ungar's. She said, "I have a very cute house out in Lake Oswego, and my husband and I are separating and I will sell you all my furniture, refrigerator, four-poster bed, curtains, rug, dining set, lovely davenport, chair huge mirror -- you can have it all for \$200." Well, of course, we didn't have \$200. But we bought it anyway. You know, you pay off \$35... So anyway, I still have, after all these years, the mirror which hangs over my bed. That's about the only thing that's left. But it was a good idea.

TANZER: How about your mother and family on Bertha-Beaverton highway?

ROSE: Well, after Papa died, we sold the place and we rented a house in the Irvington area so they would be close to the high school, and we rented a kind of nice, older house that had been completely painted for \$25 a month. We lived in that for a number of years until the war came along and Mama said,

"We've got to buy a house," so we looked all over Portland and finally said, "Mama, why don't we buy this house? At least we know what's wrong with this house." So we did buy it.

TANZER: Now who's the "we"?

ROSE: We, Mama, and I was still the oldest. Even though I was married, I was in there making decisions and helping the younger children, trying to make it a little easier for them than it had been for me.

TANZER: Who was still at home?

ROSE: Well, they were all at home until the war, of course, and then Ursula went to work for the engineers in Alaska. Betty and Emmy went to weld at Swan Island and my brother joined the Air Force. But my brother had been gone about a year and, of course, the girls were getting married, and Mother was very arthritic at that time. She couldn't walk any more. So she decided that her son had given a year to the Air Force and so she wanted him home. So she wrote a letter to someone in Washington, D.C. and she said, "I want my son home; I'm arthritic and I think he's been in the service long enough." And she got him out of the service and he came home and, you know, took care of her. So I've always admired my mother because she seemed to get things done. She figured a year was, you know, enough.

TANZER: When was the property on Bertha-Beaverton Highway sold?

ROSE: Probably about '45. I think we made \$2-3,000 on it at that time, at the most. But there's still a big pine tree over there on the highway that my father planted.

TANZER: Do you remember the Kennedys or any of the families that lived in that area?

ROSE: I remember the old gentleman. Of course, at that time he was very old, he must have been 60, maybe 70. (Laughter) But anyway he was sort of a nice old man. I don't remember having much conversation; I don't remember that there was any problem. We just brought him his \$15 every month and I don't even remember when the house came down or anything about it.

On the other side we had an interesting neighbor at that time. His name was, well it still is, I don't think he's alive. His name was Webb. He was the English teacher at Beaverton High School and he was teaching public speaking at the high school, which was one of the things he taught, and he had many state winners. His name was Webb. Nice family.

TANZER: Do you remember anything else about the area, about the political setup in the area?

ROSE: No. I just remember my father being very upset when Mr. Harding died. No, I guess maybe at that time I wasn't that interested. I remember the man I later married, Thurlow Weed, ran for U.S. Senator in the 20's a long time ago.

TANZER: How did you meet Thurlow?

ROSE: Well, I was working downtown at Ungar's and I loved to go dancing.

TANZER: Now -- we have you working at Ungar's after you came back from San Francisco?

ROSE: Yes. I went back to Ungar's, and I worked for Evelyn Gibson. And Evelyn Gibson was very, very nice to me. She taught me a lot about selling, and even to this day I drop in once in a while to see her because I think she's a fine lady. But by this time the war had come and Bob Leaming, who was the nephew of the Jantzen Knitting Mills family and a very fine, attractive man; we'd just had problems. I mean, he was working at night and the baby was b'othering him; he didn't get any sleep, and ...

TANZER: Oh, now is this your first husband?

ROSE: That was Bob Leaming, yes, Ron's father, and I think if it hadn't been for the war we wouldn't ever have gotten divorced; but everything seemed to go wrong during the war. I wanted to weld at the shipyards and he didn't want me to work, and yet there wasn't enough money, and so one day I just decided I'd take my baby and go live with Mother, because I just couldn't figure it out. Of course, in those days I had no counselors. You either went to the minister or the doctor and they helped you solve your problems and if they weren't there or if your parents couldn't help you, why you just -- you know, you didn't have professional help like you do today. This was years ago.

I'd met Thurlow Weed when I was 19. I was 19 and I had heard that the young men who were going to Northwestern Law School, where Dean Bryson went and John Gantenbein, on Thursday nights they would all go up to the uptown ballroom to dance, so I thought, well it might be interesting to marry a lawyer because I understood they made money and they were kind of nice people. So I went up there on Thursday nights (this was way back when I was 19) and I met Thurlow Weed. And we played tennis together and went to the movie. And years later, well, it was about 12 years later before we married, I said, "How come we didn't get married when we first met?" And he says, "Because you had short hair and you were a lousy tennis player." (Laughter)

TANZER: So you did not see him again for 12 years?

ROSE: No. During the war when I was welding for the shipyards, I was single and I was looking down the street or up the street and here came this handsome man with captain bars on his shoulder and I thought, "Well, he's very attractive; I wish I knew him." So as I went by, he said, "Well, hello, Rose, how are you?" And it was someone out of my past!

He had gas tickets for his car so we went out to Ford's to eat and had a couple of dates. He'd never married. He was 37 at that time. And by our third date he wanted to know if I'd get married to him. And I said, "Get married?" I've got a baby to take care of and I've got a good job and I've got to take care of Mama." So anyway a couple of days later, I liked the way he said, "Well, the war won't last forever and your baby needs a father. Besides you'd probably like to be the wife of an officer back in Kansas and you'd probably have a good

time and I'll take care of you, and if you want me to adopt the baby, I will." So I thought, "Well that sounds pretty nice."

He said, "I've got a ring for you." So I accepted the ring but I wasn't quite divorced from my other husband, so ... and I was just still really in love with Bob so, since Thurlow left, I called Bob up and said, "Well, what about us?" And he said, "Well, it won't work." So then I made the decision and two months later we were married in Kansas in a little Army chapel and lived there for a year which was very unusual.

We had a little red-haired daughter, came home in '46 with two babies. Ron was a little wild one. He was all over the train. We did have a compartment. And the little, red-haired baby was six weeks old and every time she had a bottle, it came up. And so anyway, we went to Denver and they had the U.S.C. homes there where you could take your babies and bathe them and give them fresh milk. My brother was there and we came into Portland and we had to wait for about six months for Thurlow to come home because he was supposed to go to Okinawa, but in all this time in the service, he had written 700 original jokes, which I still have, which have never been published. Anyway, he put them together after the war and then in '46 we moved into the little brown cottages which you remember.

TANZER: Yes. Now tell me, when you came back to Portland, who did you come back to?

ROSE: My mother was there, you see. She still had this house and someone had to be with her. So I had the two babies and I always seemed to be taking care of Mother or she was always around. We always enjoyed being together.

TANZER: Now what about Thurlow's family?

ROSE: Thurlow's? Let's see, Howard Weed had been a Doctor of Entomology at the age of 19 down in Louisiana and he'd had two children. At the birth of the last child the wife had died in childbirth, so he went to Chicago where he married Margaret Simpson who had just come over from Belfast. So they came out here and he was to work for Riverview Cemetery, but it didn't work out. So he came to Beaverton and bought the 25 acres. The baby was three years old at that time. That was Thurlow Weed (my husband). They had the 25 acres of iris for many years and then Margaret died during the war so maybe Thurlow felt free to marry, too, you see. I think maybe he and his mother had had quite a relationship because there wasn't very much companionship there the way I understand it.

TANZER: He and his stepmother, Margaret?

ROSE: That was his real mother. She had died during the war. So the old gentleman married again, a very nice woman by the name of Edna. So they lived in the house.

TANZER: In this house?

ROSE: --During the war, and then the old gentleman died. So after the death of the old gentleman, Edna took the bulbs, or the rhizomes -- most of them that grew on the property here -- out to Cooper Mountain and went into the iris business there for a short time. It was at that time that Thurlow and Ron and Bonnie and I moved into this house.

TANZER: But when did you live in the log cabin?

ROSE: Oh, it wasn't a log cabin. It was just a little brown house. I'd lived there. After Thurlow came home (he did not go to Okinawa as the Air Force had planned), we lived there for a number of months. I really didn't want to come to a big house because I thought, "My goodness, there's so much work and windows to wash." I'd really never lived in a big house. But I must say it's been a wonderful house and it isn't that big any more.

TANZER: But Thurlow was very much involved in the Beaverton area?

ROSE: Yes. It was very natural for him, very easy for him.

TANZER: Had his father been involved in this area?

ROSE: No. Well, he was quite a busy Rotarian and his mother had been president of the Women of the Rotary for the state. Yes, the father used to do some public speaking. I think I know what he talked about -- iris, or his other interests. I know he was very interested in spiritualism.

TANZER: Thurlow's father?

ROSE: Howard, yes. So I don't know what ever came out of that. I never knew him. I just knew that I lived in the little house and he was out there picking up branches and I thought, "Gee, he doesn't have much to do," but I find myself doing the same thing these days, running around picking up little branches to keep the yard looking tidy.

TANZER: But did you know Howard?

ROSE: Not really. He seemed kind of austere. I don't remember of ever having any conversation with him.

TANZER: And what about the mother?

ROSE: Well, of course Margaret was gone. I had met her at one time years ago and she was a very pleasant lady. I remember a story my husband used to tell. When he was a little boy, he used to set traps out here on the hill and he'd catch moles. And then he would hang them and dry them and do whatever happens to them. So anyway at one time he decided he wanted his mother to have a little cape. So he took all these moleskins and had them made into a little cape and he said his mother was the most elegant lady he ever saw, wearing this little cape.

TANZER: So Thurlow did not continue the iris business?

ROSE: No. He really didn't like it. He had his law degree so in 1947 he opened a real estate company on Canyon Road called Canyon Road Realty. And he loved the real estate business. But he wanted to be the first lawyer in Beaverton so he had someone come in to manage, and then he also became Justice of the Peace. Of course he platted land, he was active in Kiwanians and as a lawyer he was quite well thought of because he was quite an honest man. Of course, in those days there wasn't much money to be made. He was new, too. He wanted to buy a Cadillac very much but he decided he wouldn't buy a Cadillac because it wouldn't look good for a young lawyer who had just established a law

office to have a Cadillac. And he used to make out wills for \$5.00 in those days. In fact, he had big signs on his window encouraging people to make a will.

TANZER: Where was his office, Rose?

ROSE: In two places. It was where the Ramsey Travel Office is now and then the other one was around on the other side, which was next to the Post Office which was the middle of that block there. It was real funny though -- at that first office he had a little stove, a little wood stove and one day he went to work and it was no longer in the office. Somebody had taken it. So we asked around to the people and they said, no, they didn't know, so finally Harry Antribus, a plumber, came by, who was also an active Kiwanian and said, "You know, we found your stove for you." Thurlow says, "Where is it?" Well, it seems as though this Catholic lady in town who lived around town for many years and had owned little apartments and little buildings, she decided she wanted that stove so she just went over and took it one day. So I don't know whether he ever went to get it or whether he just let her keep it. So we thought that was kind of odd to help yourself to a stove that didn't belong to you. (Laughter) Isn't that funny?

TANZER: What were your activities in the Beaverton area, as the wife of Beaverton's first lawyer?

ROSE: Well, I liked the social life. Of course I had the children. I had the perfect setup because Thurlow and I were married for eight years and the little brown cabin -- there was a couple who lived there and I was all for renting it, and my husband said, "No, honey, you've got the four children. We'd better get you some help." So they would get free rent and for two hours in the morning she would come over and do the housework and in the afternoon, she would come over and iron or babysit at night and then we would always give them extra money because she really helped a lot. So, of course, I was the envy of all the girls in the neighborhood because I had help and yet two hours later they'd go home, you see, so that really worked out fine.

And then having been in Beaverton for a long time, he knew quite a few of the older residents. In 1946, of course, there were people who came to Beaverton -- like Dr. Sorensen. It was at that time just a country town. I guess the wood sidewalks were gone but anyway Dr. Sorensen, Dr. Hansen, my own Dr. Thompson, Dr. Kane -- this was our social group. We were the professional people and we used to be invited out to Portland Golf, which I thought was real special. And I played bridge, at which I was very bad and I used to get headaches from playing bridge and I got so I told the girls not to invite me any more because I certainly would never learn to play the game.

But I guess the most fun were the picnics. And we had the real estate picnics. At that time my husband was president of the Washington County Realty, and the children were little, and we just loved to go to picnics.

TANZER: Where were the picnics held?

ROSE: Oh, various places. I can't remember right now, where they were held. Oh! There's one time they used to be held out on the Tualatin River. There were several big picnic parks there and we'd go swimming in the Tualatin. Of course, no one goes swimming in the Tualatin any more. It's grimy and greenish.

Yes. It was a lot of fun. And then it was very interesting. Instead of going to church out in the area -- I had lived in the country and I decided my children should know something about the big city. So then we joined the Baptist Church downtown and my husband had never really been to church but he sort of liked the preacher so every Sunday morning we'd go down the highway. So we had friends from out here and also from other parts of the city -- kind of interesting.

TANZER: Who was the minister?

ROSE: Dr. Ralph Walker. One day he called up and he said, "Rose, we're coming to dinner Friday night," and I thought, "Well, guess that's all right." So I started to clean the house. I started in the attic and ended up in the basement and it was so dumb. I did all that work and I had individual raspberry pies and he couldn't eat the raspberry pies because they had seeds in them. Well, anyway, years later we met them in New York City. They came to get us and they were living there and they had a lovely dinner for us and took us to the airport. They were nice people.

TANZER: What were Thurlow's interests in Beaverton -- political, social?

ROSE: Well, of course, they played cards every Wednesday night. They'd have the Kiwanis group.

TANZER: Who were the "they"?

ROSE: Who were the "they". Well, they had everyone. They had the doctors and the lawyers and the plumbers and the car salesmen and every Wednesday night, they'd play cards at somebody's house. And then they used to come to my house, I had dark red draperies, and they would smoke and they would play cards. And it was a gambling thing but I never saw the little black book. I used to wonder whether he won or lost. I never wanted to know because I was sure I didn't approve of gambling because my mother had always said "Don't marry a gambler."

TANZER: Who were some of the people?

ROSE: Well, there was Dr. Kane, the dentist, he's dead now -- died in Palm Springs a few years ago. Then there were two plumbers that were awfully funny. They were both about 6'6". One was Clearwater and the other was Harry Antribus. They liked to play. And Dr. Sorensen -- well, I'm not sure about Dr. Sorensen. Oh, there was Marvel Cook. He had taught at Beaverton High School. He's living out at King City now. But anyway they had a pretty good time.

TANZER: Did Thurlow run for any political office in Beaverton?

ROSE: Well, of course, he was Justice of the Peace and I think if he had lived, he probably would have gone on -- he was very politically oriented. He just was very interested in politics.

TANZER: What made him run for the State Senate seat?

ROSE: Well, at that time, there was a vacancy. And what was so funny was his name was Thurlow Weed. So he tried to improve upon his name. At that time there had been a governor by the name of McNary who was very well thought of. So he decided he would be Thurlow McNary Weed. And I guess he lost by a

few votes, but it had to do that he probably should have the right name. He was always figuring things out, you know. In fact, he had a patent attorney in Washington, D.C. because he was always inventing things. He thought that you should be able to eat corn flakes that had been coated with sugar, see. Well, by the time he got around to that, somebody else had thought of it. And the thing that really upset him was the bag boy, because he had it all figured out that you shouldn't have to carry your baggage. You should be able to push it. By the time he got that on the market, somebody else had figured that out. So that was funny. He was always thinking, figuring, doing something, you know. Nice man. The thing I think I liked about him was because he really liked me and that helps, you know.

TANZER: What about the real estate business?

ROSE: Well, he liked it a lot and he was good at it. This was 1947, I guess. We had the corner; it was down here in the office, that was before you came ... and he decided it was not close enough to town. People would call up on the phone and they'd say, "Well, we would like to move out in the country, but we don't want to move any further out than Benz Park." That was about 1947, so he moved -- he always felt that if you came out Canyon Road, the people who came out in the country would stop at the first real estate company. So at that time, he built a small building and he had it up near right below Benz Park there on the right-hand side, and he thought he was getting a little more business with more people stopping there to buy. I never liked his working on Sunday but he kept telling me that Sunday was when the people were out looking at real estate. So I got so I'd sit in the houses in the afternoon and be nice to people.

TANZER: Now, were these houses that he built or houses that he sold for others?

ROSE: No. I remember the very first house he sold was over there -- I pass it every once in a while. They were houses that people -- there weren't that many new houses. I remember, because they hadn't built Cedar Hills yet. These were just houses that had been sitting around. I forget the prices on them, but he would tell me about the houses. I'd have to come look and he'd tell me about the size of the rooms, how people liked certain-size rooms and then I'd just talk to them about the cleanliness of the kitchen, so we had a kind of fun thing going.

TANZER: What was this neighborhood like then?

ROSE: Well, I just know I had a little four-year-old boy and he didn't have any playmates. Ricky Hellenbow lived across the street on Canyon Road and those little boys used to cross Canyon Road to go visit each other and the mothers -- we just knew they could cross the road by themselves. About the time Ron went to school, Thurlow had some steps made down, so instead of having to go all the way around, Ron could walk down the steps and take the school bus. Well, there wasn't anyone around. Underwoods were down here, and I was living in the little house. The babies were little and there wasn't anyone around, and so I figured I would have to get acquainted with people, so what I did -- I'd put the two children in the wagon with a box of graham crackers and a bottle of milk and we'd walk all over the Beaverton area -- I mean like Bertha Beaverton Highway every morning for about three hours we would walk.

So I remember the very first lady I met that I still see. She lived across on the highway there and she was out in the yard and I said, "You know, I'm new in the area." She said, "Well, I haven't been here too long myself, but I've got a big pot of soup on the stove. Would you like to come in and have a cup of soup with me?" So that was about the first woman I met.

TANZER: Who was she, and where did she live?

ROSE: Ara Roons. Well, they finally sold their little old house. They had a really nice place over here off of Walker Road which I see is on the market now.

TANZER: Rose, what were Thurlow's political ideas?

ROSE: Well, I just remember the night he proposed to me. I had just gotten my citizenship papers, and he said to me, "Are you a Republican or a Democrat?" and I said, "I don't know." And he said, "Well, you're a Republican, then, because I'm a Republican." So I don't think he'd have married me if I hadn't been a Republican, because he was very sure that that was the right thing to be. And what else about politics?

TANZER: Well, did these political ideas propell him into political life in Beaverton?

ROSE: Well, I don't know why he was so interested. I know he would have gone further as far as politics. I think it was very interesting when he opened up the law office in Beaverton. At that time there were no lawyers in Beaverton -- and not many doctors or lawyers either, because you would to to Portland even for your pansy plants that I bought and put in the little window boxes over there. I took the bus and went down to 5th & Yamhill to buy my pansy plants. At that time there were about two doctors in town and one dentist.

Most of the people would go to the county seat which is Hillsboro. I remember the first year after he opened his office, and of course, he would have to go to the law library in Hillsboro. It was very easy for me to go with him because I always had someone to watch the children. But he would go out there and after about a year, he said, "You know, Rose, I think I made a mistake. If I would do it again, I would open a law office in Hillsboro." In other words, it was still in the minds of people that they still thought they should go to the county seat or to Portland for an attorney. Most of the people in Washington County at that time went to see two old attorneys; one was Tung and one was Hare, and they were very well thought of; they were very clever men.

TANZER: What was the social structure in Beaverton at that time?

ROSE: Well, in 1946, like I say, the professional people really banded together, almost snobbish. I enjoyed it because my husband was a lawyer. I always felt that maybe I didn't have the education that some of the other women had, but that didn't bother me as much because I thought the women and I really had enough in common. I think I just felt badly that my bridge wasn't better. But I always felt that I was a little artistic and pretty enough. My clothes were nice, and I made a lot of things. I always felt the women kind of liked me, and I had pretty, well-brought-up babies.

TANZER: But what about the people who were not in this "in" group?

ROSE: Well, like I said, it was kind of a snob thing because the rest of them just weren't in it and I suppose they formed their own groups.

TANZER: Who were they?

ROSE: Well, who would they be? It would be shopkeepers that had been here for a while that knew each other that way, probably knew each other through the church -- the old Bethel Congregational Church in Beaverton, the old Christian Church. One time they had a tavern in town where the Justice of the Peace was also the tavern owner. Everybody thought that was awfully funny.

TANZER: Who was that?

ROSE: A man by the name of George Thyng. Then, of course, the Bensons who were Swedish, owned the grocery store. When I was a little girl nine years old, I used to go in there and he'd always give me a weinie and I thought that was very nice. Then I would go over to Rexall, Dean's Drug Store. Mr. Dean was still alive and Mam would go to the doctor, Dr. C. E. Mason, who was upstairs. You know, he delivered almost 4,000 babies here in Washington County. They had a school after him. I'd go into Dean's Drug Store and they had little samples of face powder about as big as a 50¢ piece with real powder in them. And someone told me if I'd go out and pull the fuzz off a thistle I would end up with a little powder puff. So I was ten and I thought that was really nice to have my own little can of powder and my own powder puff.

TANZER: What was the role of women in this society group in Beaverton?

ROSE: Oh, they took care of the children and prepared nice meals and had guests come to dinner and went to church picnics, I guess. Of course, I went to night school. You see, this thing of not having gone to college -- I went to night school for at least 20 years to learn, you know. I remember there was a class in woodworking in Beaverton and I thought that I would like to learn woodworking. My husband always seemed to go along with what I wanted to do. I had an old bed, so he put it in the back of the car and took it down to the woodworking class. At that time, there was John Storz in there -- do you remember him? He was in the class. And Barn(?) Kinney, you know the fellows that do the building, they were high school teachers at that time. I learned to use all the machines and I made some tables and I made some sewing boxes. I just had a wonderful time. And I don't know what the other women did, really. I remember they sewed a little. Yes, I guess we used to sew a little bit for our children.

TANZER: Did any of the women work?

ROSE: No. No one I knew worked. When I showed real estate on Sunday afternoon, that was work, I guess. Well, they had some of the women in the banks, of course. I think maybe that's what some of the women did, they worked in the banks, And I suppose the women without husbands worked at Meier & Frank. An awful lot of women worked at Meier & Frank.

TANZER: But in your own social group, Rose, were there any women who were renegades?

ROSE: I can't remember anybody. I guess it was after the war and everybody was just so glad to be home and have a home and, of course, the thing to do was to have babies. And of course, I'd always wanted four babies, so most of us -- the ones that were married to professional men, had four babies. And my husband said (you know I said they get better looking and smarter all the time), he said, "Yes that could go on forever, but this is it." But anyway Dr. Kane who is a dentist, and was making quite a bit of money we thought, and Dr. Hanson, they decided to have six children. So we always figured they were a little richer than we were. So that was kind of fun. (Laughter)

TANZER: The babies were born in what years?

ROSE: 1945, 1947, 1949. Close together. I had four under six one year, and the iris office, which was the iris office for many years, had been turned into a nursery and I had farm wallpaper, little pink pigs and haystacks, and linoleum on the floor, and a little fence with a little scallop over the top so the children could see Mama work, and I had them all in the corner. I had all four of them in the corner there where I could watch them. But I always enjoyed my children a lot.

TANZER: What was the determination to have four children? Did you ever talk about that?

ROSE: No. I always wanted lots of children. Four just seemed a good number at that time. After the war, it was a thing of being able to afford them. If you could afford four children, you had four children. Two children never seemed like very much.

TANZER: Tell me about Thurlow's illness.

ROSE: Yes. That was very sad. One Sunday afternoon in 1952, we were driving out to Hillsboro. We had a nice, almost a new car. He never felt he could have that Cadillac as long as he was a young lawyer. We had a nice car. We drove along the highway and all of a sudden, he all but stopped the car and he started going into a terrible shaking type of thing. And I thought, "If this isn't a heart attack, we're really in for something." So he went to the hospital and they diagnosed it as food poisoning. But a couple of weeks later, it happened again. He fell out of bed in the back room. So the doctor said he'd better start having tests.

So we went to Good Samaritan and they tested him and they said, "Well, he's got something in his head and it's probably a tumor." So then we were waiting for Dr. Raff. At that time (I think he's still around Portland) he was considered one of the ten best brain surgeons in the world. We would have to wait several weeks for him to come back, so Sunday night we checked in and Monday morning they located the tumor in his head. They'd shaved his head, so they turned to me and they said, "Mrs. Weed, shall we operate?" And I said, "Why do I have to make the decision?" And they said, "Well, you're next in the family," and I said, "If you don't operate on him?" And they said whatever it was in his head would eventually kill him. So I said, "Go ahead and operate." I was all by myself. The kids were well taken care of and I was downtown walking around and having a cup of -- I didn't drink that much coffee in those days -- maybe a cup of tea or something, so seven hours later he was still in surgery.

Everybody said, the nurses said, "Well, you know, it's probably not malignant or they would have just sewed him back up." So he did come out and Dr. Raff said it was a capsulated abcess, that it was not malignant. So it was a big horse-shoe cut and he had brain infection and he had bone infection and he was in the hospital for weeks.

At that time there was a bus strike and I couldn't drive a car but through some of my friends in Beaverton, I was in town every single day to see my husband. Seven weeks later he came home, 40 pounds thinner but feeling fine and went back to work at the office. I'd learned to drive the car by then, and we were taking the children out to Forest Grove. That was the only place where they could get swimming lessons at that time. This was about 1952, and I still wasn't driving. So anyway they all learned to swim and that made me feel better because they were crazy about water, and this was September, October, November, so in February he and I both had the flu, and we were just awfully sick, so finally I got well, and he just didn't seem to get very well and he had a funny grey blister under his nose. So I said, "Honey, you'd better have that checked. I don't know what that is." So it was diagnosed as cancer, and 45 years old, so he was at Good Samaritan so I said, "Well, honey, I don't know what this illness is. You may have to have an operation. Why don't you move to the Veterans' Hospital" because he was a veteran and I thought if the expenses were high that would be the best place for him. So he moved up there. They said it had gone down into his esophagus and, I just assumed they could operate. I thought nothing of it. Everybody said they do wonderful things now, and so forth. So I was out in the hall there at the Veterans' Hospital and the chaplain came out and he said, "Mrs. Weed, I want to talk to you." And he said, "I don't know whether you know it or not but your husband is very ill and he will live less than six months."

So here I am by myself. It seems like a lot of time in my life I've been by myself. And so I went on in and started talking to him. I guess I was pale or didn't say much. He said, "You been talking to somebody?" And I said yes, I was talking to the chaplain. And he said, "I'm really sick, am I now?" He said, "I have cancer and they can't operate on me." And I said, I don't know I suppose today I would have lied about it, I don't know, but I said, "Well, yes, you are sick" so anyway the doctor said that he would be dead in less than six months.

It made me very angry because I thought well who are they, God? to tell me when my husband's going to die. But he lived only three months. And he did come home and he was never in bed except every morning, he'd get out of bed and he'd be five pounds thinner and I'd take him up to St. Vincent's Hospital. By this time I could drive, and he'd have the treatments and he'd come back and he'd be sick all night long.

Anyway the last month, a woman came by and she said, "There's a faith healer down in Ashland. Why don't you go down to see her?" And when you're that sick, you know... So I went to Ashland and I was in the cab with a man from the Medford Airport, and I turned to him and I said, "I'm Rose Weed." And he said, "I'm Earl Wilson. I'm your neighbor." It was so funny. I met him in the same cab down in Medford. I thought that was kind of an amusing thing.

But anyway I did go to Ashland and found this woman, Susie, and she was from the Deep South and there were quite a few people around in Ashland who came to

this woman from all over the United States because of the healing, you know, the hands, and the prayer. So every night at 9:00 we'd go up there and she wore a little apron. You put a dollar in her pocket and she would say a little prayer and so we were down there by ourselves, and so finally -- Greg was five. I was really, I knew I had to be strong. I knew his death was coming, but I had to be strong, so Greg was down there with me and Thurlow was angry because he says, "Well, you'll have your children for a long time, but you won't have me for very long." But anyway, he did go into a coma-type of thing, went to the hospital there and I tried to figure out how to get him home because it was that many miles away, so I called a friend of mine who had a private airplane license. So he came down in the plane, took him to St. Vincent's Hospital -- that was on a Saturday. He finally said, "Rose, I want to go home." Because he said, "I'm not getting any better." So anyway I came -- Saturday, I went to the hospital and spent Saturday evening with him and all day Sunday. In the meantime, of course, this thing had been burned out and he had a tape over the top, and Monday morning at 9:00, they called me to tell me he had died.

TANZER: How old were the children then, Rose?

ROSE: Four and a half, five and a half, nine and eleven. So I knew I had to do it. I'd never had a checking account and I didn't know a lot of things. However, my husband did talk to me a lot about real estate. I learned a great deal about real estate, so I've been able to make money in real estate by buying small houses and selling them, so I've been fairly successful the last few years in doing this. There really wasn't anyone to turn to. We had our friends at church and everybody said, "Oh, don't worry about Rosie, she's smart enough, she'll figure it out." And I'd go to some of his law friends and they'd say, "Well, Rose, there are three things you can do. You can make up your mind what you want to do." So of course, I learned to think and I found I could think and could figure things out. A few years ago I finally met a retired judge from Hillsboro and he said, "Rose, I told you if you ever needed help you should come to me." Well, I'd forgotten all about him, I guess, but he would have been a good person to talk to, so through the years it's been fine. I've made one kind of bad mistake in real estate. I sold this property down here, Shirley, you remember, where the apartments are. I sold it but I should have kept about 100 feet, which had been part of the service station, because -- but anyway, that was about the only mistake I made. It was probably a difference of a couple of hundred dollars a month in income.

TANZER: But Thurlow had made some arrangements for the way the land was to be sold.

ROSE: Well, he left the house and the real estate in life estate for the children through the bank. In other words, I could never sell, but I could rent. I wouldn't have to live in it, which was a very excellent idea, because I think I would have probably have sold it half a dozen times, you know, when I was off to Europe or Hawaii. The service station at that time wasn't doing very well, but of course, it provided money for the children at college, and now things are going better and I've got a couple of nice checks a year and that helps. The land was all platted, but there wasn't as much moeny as people thought. Everybody thought, well, I was very rich. He had a \$10,000 insurance policy, and there had been a mortgate on this house for \$10,000 which I didn't know about, so I immediately had to have that paid off. So there was some money from selling the real estate company, there were some law books sold,

and there was some money in the bank, and I had enough money to go out and buy a Pontiac.

TANZER: Did he have property in Beaverton?

ROSE: Only here. He had looked at property in Beaverton several times but he never really had that much money either, you see. He had just come back from the war; he had the land; he was trying to get established in business. He had a wife and four children. Never really had that much. I remember when he was sick I said, "You know, Thurlow, I wonder if I'm going to have enough money to take care of my children." He said, "Rose, you'll always have money. I don't worry about you. You'll figure it out." But you know, it worked out pretty well.

TANZER: Do you still keep the Beaverton contacts you had?

ROSE: It's been a lot of years, Shirley, you know. I went to see Helen Hensen the other day. They've sold their place out there across from Barnes School. Maybe you know him. He's one of the doctors down at Dammasch now -- Vern Hanson? So I lost track of them, and of course, Dr. Kane and his wife are both dead.

TANZER: But you used to go out to the Elsie Stuhr Center?

ROSE: Oh, yes. I was there this morning and I had to drink a cup of coffee, and I bought a chance on a quilt, and a cute little book. I go down there. I saw Mary Gordon out there. She's an old-time teacher. Some of these people are in their 80's and they're still so bright and so nice.

TANZER: What did you learn?

ROSE: Oh, I learned many things. I learned that I could think. There were people I could ask. In fact, people used to say, "Rose is always asking for advice and then she does as she pleases," and I'd say, "Well, it's like putting things into a sifter. You put all the good stuff in and then when you sift it, then you pick out what you think is going to work for you." And I saw businessmen, people that I talked to who made mistakes. And I decided some of them weren't very smart about some things. I prayed a lot, and I think I was just very fortunate in my business dealings and very fortunate with my children and very happy in the neighborhood with friends like Shirley.

TANZER: Have you had problems as a businesswoman?

ROSE: No. I think the important thing a woman alone is she should have a good attorney, someone she can depend on, and I did have a good attorney in Aloha. She was a woman who had graduated from Willamette, and a friend of my husband, and at first I was very annoyed that I should have a woman attorney because I think the women in law, they don't seem to think quite straight through a problem. They seem to go around in a circle and it used to bother me, and I used to wish I had a man attorney because I liked his thinking better. But she was kind of a mother, and she'd spend a lot of time explaining things to me. I've always been grateful to her because she had the time to talk to me and explain things to me.

TANZER: So this was Hope Bassett?

ROSE: She was the first woman attorney I'd ever known. She was in Aloha. She was declared legally blind about seven, eight years ago, but she was still in business. Her son would take her to work and come and get her and she had a secretary. She was kind of a mother hen.

TANZER: Was that Rosanna's mother in law?

ROSE: Yes. And she had the two grandchildren that became Miss Oregons? You know Rosanna?

TANZER: Well, I taught with Rosanna at Mountainview, yes.

ROSE: Yes. Well her mother was quite remarkable. She graduated from Willamette and she was a divorced lady for many years and reared three children alone. Quite a remarkable woman but like I say, I was very annoyed at first because I'd go out there to see her and I'd be there all afternoon, you know, and I wanted to get the problem solved and get out. Then we'd go through this and she'd explain this to me. She was very kind to me.

TANZER: And you've done a considerable amount of traveling, Rose?

ROSE: Yes.

TANZER: But you've always come back to Beaverton?

ROSE: Right. Well, I did it because, well because I had the house, but I always did it because I felt I didn't know what I was doing to my children, uprooting them the way I did but I felt as long as they had a home to come back to and the Weed name, that they would be secure. Because they really didn't have a father and the brother in laws had families of their own.

TANZER: Who were the brother in laws?

ROSE: Oh. My sisters' husbands. I think my children have survived all right in their traveling. I used to talk to the teachers at the school and I'd say, "Well, what am I doing to my children, taking them to Switzerland and Hawaii and Mexico," and they'd say, "Well, only you as a mother would know, because at that time the only people who ever did any of that type of thing were people who were in service, you see. And of course at that time, we had very few people come in from out of state. I remember in 1947 there was a fellow from California that wanted a job and my husband said, "Well, why did you leave California?" and he didn't hire him because he thought, well, you can't be having problems in California because no one would ever leave California.

TANZER: How did the children reflect now upon these travels and the opportunities they had?

ROSE: I think they enjoy talking about it. I sometimes think that my daughter does not like to travel. Of course, I took her to Europe several years ago because I wanted her to be the link between my family and Switzerland, but she doesn't want to go any place. She loves Beaverton and she loves Portland. Of course, all four children had each other and they played games and

they played chess and they played checkers and they read and they got books from the library. But I don't think any of them really want to do much traveling. They seem to have been there, I guess.

TANZER: How do they get along now as siblings?

ROSE: Very well. It's very interesting. I've really tried very hard to impress that they be good friends. I remember I was on a trip to California this winter and I came home and all four of them had been out to dinner; they'd been down to Beef 'n Brew and they'd come back and had a glass of wine, and Bonnie and Greg seem to be close and then Ron, who is the oldest, and Mark -- whether Ron thinks he's kind of big brother; of course, he left when he was 18, you know, but he spent a lot of years helping me.

I sometimes think I couldn't have done it without Ron and maybe I was kind of hard on Ron, being the oldest. I really think I expected too much of him as I look back, and I think maybe that's one of the reasons he went to live in San Antonio, Texas. He said to me one day, "You know, Mother, you gave me a lot of responsibility." And I said, "Yes, but I didn't think I gave you any more responsibility than you could handle." But I think that as a 12, 13 year old, 14 year old, I think maybe I expected maybe a companion -- but I needed his help, I trusted him.

I remember after Thurlow died, I'd bought a fur stole which was Hope's idea that I buy a fur stole. She said, You don't have a fur coat. Fur coats were very important. And I said, "Well, if anything I wanted was a mink stole." Well, that to me was like asking for the sun to drop out of the sky. So anyway I did buy a mink stole and it was \$1100, which was a lot of money. And I hid it under the bed. So Ron came home one day and he said, "Mother, I found a fur wrap under the bed and if it's mink, which I think it is, you take it back because we can't afford it." --Twelve year old.

TANZER: Did you take it back?

ROSE: No, I kept it. I loved it. (Laughter)