

**Edith "Edie" Crissell Torgeson Oral History  
Interviewed by Mary and Tom Leslie in 2015  
Transcribed by Cynthia Lopez, March 2017**

ML: Mary and Tom Leslie are with Edie Torgeson in Beaverton, near Murray and Sexton Mountain Drive. It's February 22, 2015.

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ML: Rolling.

TL: So how old are you now?

ET: 94 going on 95 [laughs]

TL: Wow. So you lived longer than anybody else in your family?

ET: I don't remember anybody that's lived that long, really. All my cousins, no. I think, "My goodness!" I didn't know I was ready for this. But they're telling me things I don't believe happened [laughs]

ML: Your sister is a year younger than you, right?

ET: My sister, two years.

ML: Two years.

ET: Yeah. She fell not so long ago. And she got bruised. And I've been telling her I think you're getting past walker use now. But she's in a place at Canby where her family took her and put her.

ML: When did they put her there?

ET: A couple years ago or so. And she had a house. Oh, she had the weirdest son-in-law. Oh, terrible. But her daughter got smart and left him. And she's in a condo at Summerview where we lived.

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ET: ...and the place had been settled by somebody already. So there were orchards and I think a barn.

ML: Do you know who the settler was?

ET: I have never checked that out. Never knew.

TL: So where was this again?

ET: Along the river there.

TL: At what location?

ET: Between Butteville and Wilsonville. And they started growing hops early on poles instead of the wires. People came out from Portland from Oregon Electric too and brought whatever they needed to camp out there. Back on the hill. And then we had onions on the swampland too. And my brother wrote in his memoir that we worked hard. He thought we worked pretty hard [laughs]. I don't remember it that way. But anyhow, we picked hops and we didn't pull the onions and we had timber, lots of timber. My dad cut our firewood and hauled it by horse and wagon up to fill our woodshed with kitchen stove wood and a big, wood-burning heater in the living room. And I was remembering that the boys went to Union Hill School, one-room school. I can name practically everybody who lived on the roads where Charbonneau is now. When I started school, we started riding a school bus that was filled under the hardware store at Aurora. They came and turned around at our house. And there were cousins and there were about, oh, six of us who got on the bus right there and we rode down where Charbonneau is.

ML: So who are the six people that got on?

ET: Oh, my cousins. My two brothers and me and cousins.

ML: Do you know the names?

ET: Roberta and Elmer Crissell, and later their sister Agnes. And we went to Aurora then. And we didn't realize how fortunate we were, the Aurora colony had already built the school. And they had to walk up the hill to school; we got to ride a bus and that was one of the first school bus routes in the area. There were woods and the hopyards down where Charbonneau is.

ML: And you rode the school bus and you said you knew everybody on the road? Like who was...?

ET: There were the Eilers. That was a big family, several people by the name of Eilers. That's where the experimental agriculture station is now. That was Wagners? Well anyhow, there were hop yards down there too. And kids had to walk lanes because the homes were built back from the road. Like where we lived, we walked out the front door and got on the bus. And the principle drove the bus the first couple years I went.

ML: And what was his name?

ET: Robert Southwick. And they lived in Aurora and had two daughters. And I used to play with them, too. I wish I'd kept in touch with them. But I never did. Their mother was the first and second grade teacher and her name was Edith. [phone rings]

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ET: Mother had started being a hired girl for relatives. I can name who those were. Some of them were the Hopendens. And the Fellers. She was there in the home for awhile when Nancy was still alive. Nancy had diabetes. Nancy Crissell. She had diabetes and she was eating - what was it that was ripe then? Some fruit. And my mother said "I don't think you should be eating that." And she said "I can eat all of this I want." And she had a stroke. And my mother always thought she shouldn't have said that to her mother-in-law when she was living in her home.

ML: So you were talking about the road to Charbonneau, who lived on the road.

ET: Oh, I was talking about that.

ML: After the Eilers -

ET: Eilers, there were several Eilers that lived there. And you went through, there was Noony Eilers on - and they had three sons. One of them was a coach at Oregon State. I just have a hard time. [pause]

ET: Ellen Eilers was one of the first we knew who played bridge. They had a bridge club and she was in that. None of my family played bridge. This is real early, a long time ago. But the Eilers, they didn't have a road down through there and you had to open gates when you went to see them. They were on the river and they traveled on the river like my grandfather did.

ML: The Willamette, or -

ET: They had boats. Launches.

ML: And that was on the Willamette, right?

ET: On the Willamette River, mmm hmm.

ML: And who else lived on the road to Charbonneau?

ET: Well, there were Wagners. Near the schoolhouse there were Keil from Aurora colony. They were all around because they'd split their property up from the colony and lots of people were out

in that community and settled there. And their kids, there were Keil kids in the community at Union Hill, was the name of the school there. And we knew our neighbors. They came to the school plays and they came there to vote. They didn't have any kitchen in that school in those days.

ML: Keil, that was the name of a -

ET: K-E-I-L. It's the name from the colony who settled Aurora. And they had a store, they called it "Keel". [laughs]

ML: But it's pronounced -

ET: It's "Kyle" in Aurora.

ML: And now was he one of the leaders of the Aurora colony?

ET: He was the leader that brought them. First they went to Bethel, Missouri and then they came out and went out on the Pacific coast along there they had a colony they'd started there. And it was so rainy, they sent a scout to find a different place. And they settled on where there was a creek, water for a mill. Some of them still stayed in Bethel, Missouri and then some came to Washington. Jane Kirkpatrick wrote so much about them that I actually learned a lot about them too.

ML: The Pacific coast one, that was the one that was in Washington? And then they came down to Aurora?

ET: Uh-huh. And they saw somebody in Portland who suggested they do down where there was a creek and a good place to settle. And that's how come they came. And I'm wondering if my great-grandfather used to go to Portland a lot and he - I'm wondering if maybe he might have even been the one that talked to Keil about coming.

ML: It's possible. Who was that?

ET: Whitney.

ML: So he came out with Keil to the coast?

ET: No, he was already out here. And he was already settled south of - see, I don't remember the place names and things. Maybe I should study all this and organize it and write it! [laughs] And have it so I know what I'm talking about.

ML: But you do have a really good memory.

ET: I'd like to get off the subject to that picture frame [points off camera]. I think it's a homemade -

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ET:...Oregon Electric. And Roberta told me about that. She said she was playing with a ball on the train and it kept getting away from her. I remember my dad kept having to go down the train and find her ball. But I never really heard his illness described. He was there when he died.

TL: Whose illness?

ET: His younger brother.

ML: Robert, you said?

ET: Robert Crissell. And he married a hired girl from the Crissells. Her name was Lauer. Marie Lauer and she had come from a big family, and they lived in Hubbard. But the farm that was from Crissell was divided between the sons, and then his farm was divided between his three children and my dad's. I spent time telling my dad he wasn't fair, is what I did. Because it was Depression time when I was growing up, and we worked and my brother Glen was three years older than me, and he started getting cream checks. And that gave cash to them. And he became a dairy man. They had a big barn and he bought cows and he enjoyed it. And the creamery picked up the milk in those days at the farm. So he got the farm. And none of his family became dairy people. But we had a big hop yard. And we had onions. David was an engineer and all. We knew about the Missoula floods, that was probably from the Missoula flood, all that rich - and I said our farm did not have rocks on it like lots of them.

ML: Like the Missoula flood plain.

ET: Yeah, brought it to other places. One time my mother wanted a rock garden and my dad says "Yes, I know where we have rocks, I'll get you some." And I went with him. It was up where this land was raised, we called it the hill. My dad says "I think the Indians camped here. That's why these rocks are here." And that was unusual to have a farm with no rocks like that. But we had the rich land below that was all around that area, down to the behind people. Homes along the river were - but they were back along the hill too. So yeah. But now that property is all with houses [laughs]. A lot of people have no idea how it was settled early by - we had an orchard that was there, producing. And my dad never said who planted it. He didn't. His dad didn't. It was early settlers that did that. We had things growing in that orchard but they quit cultivating it because of the terrain and all that was there. But it was away from the house across the ditch, which was like a creek to us. And people'd come up from Portland, they found a place where you could get fruit! Help yourself! [laughs] That happened. But my dad wouldn't, he'd just tell them to take what they had and leave, but don't take any more. But we had apples and pears and we even had a great cherry tree. All houses now. But they traveled on the river by

launch a lot. We had the life jackets on the river and they're those thick kind of cork things, you know? And one time I was playing and I got over the jump off and I started to drown, I thought. And my cousin threw out a life jacket and I didn't get it and I went floating down the stream [laughs]. But we had a rowboat. We played on the rowboat too. And I learned to swim.

ML: So you were talking about how one of your relatives left the east coast because the civil war was about to begin?

ET: I think it was about that time that - well, things were unsettling and I think that I was somewhere where we were talking and somebody else said that they thought that too.

ML: And which ancestor was that?

ET: My grandfather. My dad's father. He came west. I think he rode a horse and then drove a wagon train for somebody. They were in their - my dad was in - just a young man.

ML: What year was that?

ET: 1847.

ML: Did you hear much about that journey?

ET: That's the part about it that's so strange. We didn't. They didn't talk about things like that. When I was growing up, people didn't talk about things like you'd expect that he would.

ML: And he came out with some other relatives too?

ET: Cimino. They were young men and they came to help with the wagon train.

ML: What was his first name, the Cimino?

ET: I think there was a Dolf Cimino but not sure.

ML: And is that how Ciminos happened to get out here?

ET: Who found him? I talked with the Boone sisters. They said they were very happy. Hmm, I can't -

ML: There's a Sonora Boone.

ET: That was Sonora Boone who married -

ML: Married Vetal Cimino?

ET: Yes. V-e-t-a-l. And they said it was not a real happy marriage. That's what they said about it.

ML: The Boone sisters said that.

ET: Mmm-hmm. We used to visit them.

ML: Where'd they live?

ET: Along the road there that goes near the Sweek House. Near there.

ML: So your Grandpa Crissell helped with the wagon train in 1847. What else do you know about him? Was he married at the time?

ET: No, no. He was just a young man and he left Missouri. St. Genevieve. I was in St. Genevieve and I walked through that cemetery looking for even anybody by the name of Dolf. We were there a short time and I didn't find any, but I knew that's where some of their family'd been buried.

ML: The Crissells?

ET: Some of them, I had no idea who they were.

ML: And the Ciminoles too? They came from St. Genevieve also?

ET: I think so. I'm not sure.

ML: But he was related to, the Ciminoles are related to your grandpa.

ET: Cousins.

ML: They were cousins.

ET: Mmm hmm.

ML: And they came from Missouri and they ended up in Oregon? Were they part of the Aurora colony too?

ET: No.

ML: They came over there sooner. They were there before the Aurora colony.

ET: I think so. We used to visit - oh, I had pictures of Dolf Cimino with his cousin I think. But I don't know where it is.

ML: Isn't it in that book?

ET: I don't think so. But - [opens and looks at book on lap]

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ET:...in Wilsonville, there were more Sealeys taking up land in Wilsonville. Another thing - my dad had money and he got involved in banks. And he was a director in the bank of Wilsonville, and Elmer Sealey - no, he was a different - Dwight Sealey - I remember we went to Woodburn. My dad needed to get some money. And I don't think he got it, came out shaking his head like that, [shakes head] you know. He was the director in the [??] bank, and he lost money. He was going to be in the Canby bank, and my mother said she was tired of [??] in banks and losing money! And that's the only time I ever really heard words fly between them. And I don't know what there was about my dad, that he [laughs] would be a director in a bank and sign notes and lose money. But Sealeys owned a lot of Wilsonville. There were a lot of Sealeys. And they were related somehow to my dad.

ML: Who came out west with the Aurora colony? Which ancestor? [??] or?

ET: [looking through papers] I should find some of my - write a little thing for you - let's see. When we were here, there were lots of things like the grange. And the church was really important. You saw people - I was thinking, you didn't have TV. Canby came along later. But they had their history too. I don't know. I thought I had a better grasp.

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ML: Did you tell a story about your ancestors coming up [??], I vaguely remember something.

ET: When I went to Aurora grade school, I remember we had a picnic where the old colony church used to be. But it was gone already. You're retired now, huh?

TL: Not yet.

ET: Not yet! Oh, today's Sunday [laughs]. Margie took retirement. And she used it well. [looks at book on lap] My dad was a director on the school board. I think he was really civic minded. Or [laughs] he was a pansy and accepted their invitations! [Showing hardbound book, pointing at picture on back cover] See, this is Butteville. And I remember Butteville. Butteville was really a busy little - we'd go to the store when my dad ran out of smoking tobacco. You can bet we'd go - pipe tobacco. I used to go to Champoeg to sit through meetings. Now that's interesting about Albert Tosier and his sister, Edith [??]. They lived in the pavilion part of the back there, behind.

They lived there. They were present at meetings a lot of the time. And they were written up one time really well. And I always was impressed because her name was Edith. He wore a swallowtail coat. But we'd go up there lots of times on Sundays, just because my folks liked to go there and meet with people. This very out there in the country from Wilsonville. I didn't know that Joe Resh, the neighbor down the way, he was next to the trestle. And he was operating the ferry. She was a German in the colony, the mother. And she died when Elizabeth [??] was born. So she [??] with Joe and his wife. I didn't know that.

TL: How are you feeling?

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ET: [looking through book]...but this picture here, Robert Newell House, we took - I had pink vases that were stripes around and took them to the Newell House. Because they were bought at Bufell. My grandmother Nancy had them up way high on a mantle and they were never taken down. They were up there all my life that I saw. Because she got scolded for spending the money on those vases. And she kept them, but I don't think she enjoyed them like she should. But I didn't know that story when I was a little girl. It had a lower mantle and then the high mantle. So now those pink vases in the Newell house in the bedroom on the dresser where there's special little shelves. [looking at book] But I grew up with Champoeg an awful lot of my life in those days. And then F. X. Matthew is one of the only - and my cousin married the grandson of F. X. Matthew. They have a family that lived in Aurora. Aurora came into being with no apartments, nothing like that, you know. And now they had a development and two of the Matthews now live in Aurora. He was married to an Indian woman, and they had children. And they were going to have a - I don't know that they have an association now. But it amazed me they were interested in making an F. X. Matthew association and start working on that. I just couldn't believe it. Wilson lived with Lester Matthews back when he was young and he thought he was going to help be Lester Matthews' helper. But first day he was there, he went out with Lester Matthews and they were going to pull a stump, and the stump puller came loose and hit Lester Matthews and hurt him in some way or other, I don't know. So he wound up not doing that. But there's a house along the road out between - the road goes between Donald and Butteville. And one road used to go onto Champoeg. And the little house that Willis and Roberta first lived in is still there. And they put a metal roof on it, which tickled me. I told them, I said "That's a memorial to Roberta and Willis Matthew." [laughs] I don't know what that house is doing that. It used to be a hop yard. All that property through there with the butte was F. X. Matthews.

ML: So when did he die? Did he die in the 20th century?

ET: I think so. I think so.

ML: I thought there was a picture of -

ET: [tapping on book] there's a picture of him sitting there long in the back.

ML: At the picnic. Yeah. So do you know anything else about him?

ET: The Butteville store was like a courtroom. It had the rail. He was like a justice of the peace or something. I don't know whether officially. But they used the back of the Butteville store for that way.

ML: Like a courthouse.

ET: Yeah, kinda. The people that ran the store, is another one, Joseph Ryan, to be among the people that are remembered. His wife lived a lot longer and her name was Grace. Grace Ryan became Grace Carter. See they built the grange there in Butteville. That's what I was telling somebody. The masons were predominant in Donald. I didn't know that there was another road over the main road that goes between Butteville and Donald. And they say that used to be a masonic hospital there. Now that's something - and I know I was looking for somebody and I didn't find the grave there, but I found it in that other cemetery. I had no idea it was there. But Donald was a thriving town with hops, hop pickers, and masons. My sister was an Eastern Star. and now they made that building into an apartment house. We used to go to Donald to get a haircut. And that was between the Hovendens and the River. That was where my mother's people all settled on that road out through there. So it wasn't very far. My mother said my dad took her home on the first time she was there of course by buggy. And he put his hand on her knee and kissed her! About the second time he took her home! Oh, that was horrible. [laughs] She went into the house storming. And her mother and her sisters told her that he was a good catch. She didn't think she'd caught him! [laughs]

TL: What was your mother's name?

ET: Florence. That's my middle name.

ML: And she died like at 45 or something.

ET: Yes, she did. See Aurora had a women's club and she was active in the women's club. They had a recording, they had a secretary and she was some kind of secretary that was not very important. But she was a - yeah, they served hot meals at one time. They didn't have any hot meals or kitchen or anything like that. And me and my family would just eat soup when our mother made it. She made good vegetable soup. But another girl's mother always made tomato soup. Us kids wouldn't eat it. [laughs]

ML: But your mom, she had something that maybe penicillin could have helped, or - ?

ET: She had diabetes. And that's what I have.

ML: Didn't you say she had, was it scarlet fever?

ET: Mom had it.

ML: You said it slowly killed her or something? Because there was no medicine for it, or - ?

ET: I guess that's it. She said that she had most of the childhood diseases as an adult. And her first baby died of whooping cough. And she had whooping cough. My dad, I think he had diabetes too. But he didn't wind up - yeah. He was 79.

ML: He was quite a bit older than her.

ET: He was 39 and she was 19.

TL: When they got married?

ET: When they got married. But he didn't look like an old man. My sister was left at home and Glen, my brother with the dairy was there too, and she said she was thinking she was pretty impatient with our dad when she was there. She was unhappy to be there too. She came back home when I got married, because that's what I was doing, I was being a housekeeper.

ML: You said that the Butteville store burned down at one point.

ET: It did and it's a different store.

ML: So do you know when that happened?

ET: I don't know I wasn't living at home.

ML: Did you say that something caught it on fire somehow, a truck or something?

ET: I don't remember it at all. The school bus was on the Canby High School route and we would come up into the road and stopped at the Butteville store so the driver could have a cigarette [laughs]. And kids from Donald and Butteville went to Canby High. Now they've got North Marion High School. Big High School out in the country. See all my mother and her sisters married older men. Her younger sister, half sister, because her father had died. My mother's father died just a few months after they were married. Not so long. And my aunt Charlotte married a Colvin from a big family and he died in the flu epidemic. And then she married an older man. He had property at The Dalles. I remember driving that highway, boy I got carsick a lot when I was a kid. And that was - yeah.

ML: You were saying the exhaust was getting into the car.

ET: It was - well, my mother said, she thought probably that was it. The Aurora schoolbus, she asked if I could sit where I got air when they opened the door and let kids in. And then I didn't get sick like I did. I remember coming into the school and having to be washed up.

ML: Because of the soot?

ET: Because of the fumes and throwing up. Yeah.

TL: What year was that?

ET: In 1926. [laughs] See I was born and a country doctor came and stayed all night because I was born at 4 in the morning. And my mother said "Now, don't give him any of those - " They'd butchered and they had these ribs and stuff, you know. And she says, in the bedroom downstairs, she says "Just don't give Dr. Weaver any of them." He gave him some and the doctor was so delighted! You know in the middle of the night, he had a feast! [laughs] My mother saw it because the bedroom mirror reflected, so that's one of the stories I heard. Yeah, he was a country doctor. It's in that scrapbook.

ML: Do you remember his name?

ET: Weaver. In fact, I'm not sure, but I have the vague memory that my mother was proposed to by his son, Guy Weaver. And she told him she was going to marry a farmer. And she hadn't met my husband yet.

ML: She hadn't met her husband yet?

ET: When she said she was going to marry a farmer instead of him. I was around home, let's see before I got married and left home, I was around and heard a lot of stories from her that I wouldn't've - and my dad was pretty good. He told about going to - he and another farmer, they were going to go back east and go to the something. Anyhow, they got there to New York, they stopped in Chicago, they got to New York, and then went to the Iroquois Theater to ask to buy tickets to the grand opening. And they were sold out. And that night, the theater burned and hundreds of people perished. He would have been in that if there had been tickets!

ML: And this was who?

ET: My dad!

ML: Your dad!

ET: They were farmers and they were going to go to the Iroquois Theater.

ML: So did they go on a train?

ET: They went on. They went on. They had gone there by train and they went on and he said he thought they would've both been killed if there had been tickets because they were going to really live it up and have tickets to the Iroquois Theater. You can look that up and see how many people perished.

TL: What year was this about?

ET: 18- [laughs]. My dad was born in 1874. So it was -

TL: Probably in the 1890s.

ET: 1890s.

TL: And you said that was in New York?

ET: Uh huh. Yep.

ML: So why did they go back east?

ET: They were going to sell hops themselves. They were hop growers and they had to sell them to a middleman and he didn't think he should be getting the money for selling them. So they go back and sell them themselves.

ML: Were they successful?

ET: I don't know that they were. He used to - they had middlemen that sold their crops for them is what they had. They thought they couldn't do it, you know? [laughs] This other fellow was a farmer. He was a Dentel and he married a Gooding, and Goodings were people with lots of property through that part of the valley. They were friends, we'd go visit, and they'd visit us. And they just thought they were gonna be smart and sell the hops themselves. And they slept on the way [laughs]

TL: So who was the other person that was with -

ET: Fred Dentel. Fred D-e-n-t-e-l.

TL: And they were both just neighbors?

ET: Well actually, the property of Krisel came out to another road, and they were on another part. That's one thing I - Peggy Mala, who goes to Frog Pond, my dad inherited but his father thought he should have another piece of property. So he gave him another piece of property. And a road here came out. And Peggy Mala, who went to Frog Pond Church - well the deal is, my dad was

feeling like he got more than he should have. So Elmer was the son of his brother who had died. He sold that property to Elmer, and Elmer sold it and people bought and made a road from there. And I told Peggy, that's where my sister and I used to take all our [??] and a big suitcase and go back by that creek there, where somebody's built now. Our property was almost down here, and [??] here then. Now it's developed back in there. And I haven't been back there. But I also heard the people there were Pearsons. They were out on this road. And she was from Kansas? Midwest. She didn't read nor do arithmetic. She had not gone to school. And her son graduated from Canby High and he went to college and he became somebody - somebody, really. Because he really was a great student. Now that's a story that somebody should write. The thing is that Elmer's mother knew her and knew that this other woman - but her husband delivered the morning Oregonian. Leroy's father delivered the morning Oregonian and I think went to Linfield or something like that. But that little spot was where Laverne and I go down the dusty lane and go through the woods and on to play with our dolls back there by the creek. And I think we did that about a half-hour and figured it was time to go home. We walked quite a ways [laughs].

ML: You had a long way to go back.

ET: But I do have memories of a really nice childhood. My mother and father loved each other. I knew my big brother they thought was wild [laughs]. He started to school - six years older than me - to Canby. And they were starting students to Canby and they didn't have a bus because there were too few kids. So he rode with somebody, and coming home - they don't have it anymore - a place you leave the highway and go across the railroad tracks. And they almost got hit by the train. So he came home and he was really upset and he told my folks he needed a car so he could drive to school. The kids out in that community were going to Portland on the Oregon Electric, see. And he wasn't going to do that. He was going to go to Canby High. So he talked them into buying him a car. A Ford Roadster, 1929 Ford Roadster. And I went along with them. And my mother made me go somewhere else because I would have told them that he was not 15 years old like he was telling them so he could drive that car. He got the car and drove. He'd take other kids and my mother even drove that car a few times too. He had the car and he said other kids had the money so he drove them and my parents were thinking he was pretty wild, he was going out, you know [??]. He was too wild, that's actually what they thought. My dad one night - he came storming in and says "Pop, what did you do with my car!" And he says "I didn't do anything with your car." He said "Well, it's gone!" And so he took the other car and went out to the neighbor, a Chinese man, Ming, to have him go with him to the telephone office, because you had to report to the police at the telephone office. Then they were going to go up to Aurora to the telephone office and meet the police. Well when they first got there, low and behold here came that car by! And they jumped into that car and went south a little ways on the highway and got it to go into the bank, hit something you know and stop. It was two boys from the reform school who'd stolen the car! And he had been putting the keys in this place up near the top, and they had come - the dog barked its head off, but we didn't pay any attention to it. And they backed the car out and got it on the road, went down the road to Eilers and waited til dark. Then they came and that's when Bill discovered the car was gone. And they were there when they came and got the car! [laughs]

TL: Oh boy!

ML: Wow.

ET: But think of that! We had no way of telling the police that a car was stolen!

TL: So what year was this?

ET: About 1930, it'd be about 1930.

TL: So that was a pretty new car then.

ET: Oh, it was brand new.

TL: It was brand new, wow.

ET: Oh, yes. And they got the best deal, you know. And they'd go down that road and be hidden, no traffic there, and [??]. [laughs] That's another thing. We had a Chinese family that we went to the same school and...I look at that little house and I think how many people lived in that when they were that Chinese family.

ML: So what was their last name?

ET: Kee - K-e-e. My brother still saw Wilson and Ted for years. They ran around together. And then Ming still lived there and he married a white woman. Beulah was well accepted in the neighborhood. But the mother was - they came I think to work on the railroad. I think. I'm not sure. Big family in that little house. And there was Anita in my grade and Jeanette in Laverne's grade. And they'd bring candy for us in their little hands like that, you know? And my mother said [whispers] "You shouldn't eat that! No, throw it away." What happened there in that community was the railroad came through and made little pieces of property that other people bought and settled on. Little pieces of property, otherwise they wouldn't have been there. We had three families from England. They came over and settled on a little piece of property that had been cut off from the railroad. Somebody near Butteville, she said if they hadn't done that, she couldn't have stayed in her home. She got some money when her father died, they had money from that little piece of property.

ML: When Kee died?

ET: I don't know who lives in that house now. Somebody. But it's just backed up to the railroad and the road. I went to see Anita one time in Portland. She worked in Lipman's.

ML: So you went to school with her, right?

ET: I went to school with her. She had a cousin that lived with them and went to school, Philip Jan. And they were a family of Kees. But somebody said their name was something different in China. [pause] Yeah, Ben was a good friend of Philip Jan too. [pause] See the Butteville cemetery is - I've forgotten what year it was started - on Memorial Day I told - he's an airline employee and he loves to come and do the cemetery for Memorial Day. And I told him you know, I'm really not a fussbudget about walking on the graves. I said I just brought up that you shouldn't do that too, but I says now people are using this area to haul their trash. Go down and put their trash in a barrel and come back. And it's my ancestors, the Crissells and there's a path getting in there. And he says where was it before? And I said well, it was near the gate. And he says he went and moved it, you know and he fixed it right away. And then somebody was there and she says well, I want to tell you something. There's a lot more land belongs to the cemetery than here. And we're gonna move the fence.

ML: Did they?

ET: No. [laughs] I don't think the person that said that is even on the board anymore! [laughs] But the day was, when we went to the cemetery, you didn't walk on the grave! [laughs] But you oughta drive up there sometime and go through it and see. There's a big Shire, he lived up above where Butteville went down to the river. I mean close to the river. Shire. He knew all the steamboat captains [laughs]. We used to hear a steamboat coming. I think they used to blow their whistle so that kids know they're coming. But we'd get in the rowboat and ride the waves on the river. [laughs]

ML: So were there a lot of steamboats in your day?

ET: Yeah, there were steamboats.

ML: How many?

ET: Not a lot. But my folks had a launch. I can't believe that one time we went across the river to a lodge. Laverne and I were little. And we went to something. And we had to walk up to the lodge hall which was above the store in those days. Foggy November night. And here we were, four adults and two children, in a rowboat with no life jackets! But they didn't think anything of it at all. Yep, we had close ties to Wilsonville too.

ML: Did you go to Tualatin much? Tualatin town.

ET: No, just to see the Cimos [laughs]

ML: Oh! And you were related.

ET: We were related, mmm hmm. Yeah.

TL: What area did they live in Tualatin?

ET: Huh?

TL: Where did they live in Tualatin?

ML: Near the heritage center.

ET: I think they were along - I don't know, though.

ML: Wasn't that over by the Sweek area?

ET: I don't know where the Ciminos lived. But I was there. In fact, I went to Portland with Ken and another couple and on the way home where Hall street ends that way to the high school, could've gone straight ahead but I said "Turn here!" and he says "Here?!" And turned here into a ditch! [laughs] And we had to be dug out of the ditch. And I was standing there and I said, "The only one I know in Tualatin are the Ciminos." And he was a Cimino standing there beside me! And I didn't know it! [laughs] That was I thought really - it was before that high school went in I think. Right there where the high school -

**[new video file begins here]**

ET: ...was a big change for us. The schools were just being desegragated.

TL: Where was that again?

ET: St. Joseph, Missouri. And when we said which school our daughter, they said oh good, that's the best school. Well we had no idea that it was the best school. And I don't know if it was Wendy or Margie, I was talking about my children, and she said something about being in the best school, you know? Y teens, they were invitational, definitely. That was 1940-something. Anyhow. But it was kind of hard, I felt sorry for the girls. But turned out, they got in the best school and the best club. I worked at the state hospital. I got a job through the employment office. But it wasn't anything I wanted. And we were driving by. I said "I'm gonna go work for the state hospital." I went in and they were starting social security then where you were putting the social security numbers on the case files. And we had one car and Ken could drop me off at the hospital and he could go on to work and they were looking for somebody to do that. It turned out to be a good job. Because I was secretary to the registrar and the secretary of the - anyhow, I got to know all the doctors and the lady who was the registrar and head of the department of secretaries and clerks became really a best friend. And it was on the way to work and I can't believe it worked out like that. But they say they tore most of the hospital down since. It was getting old, and -

ML: This was in Salem?

ET: St. Joe, Missouri.

ML: Missouri.

ET: Uh-huh. And they had a place where patients peed out of the window. Or chewed tobacco and spit out of the window. And those buildings did get in pretty bad shape! [laughs] They've got newer hospitals now.

TL: So when did you come here? What year did you come to Oregon?

ML: Well she came back -

ET: Came back. We went to Missouri and we were there quite awhile. And went to Ohio too. Ken's company had plants there.

ML: Paper plant, right?

ET: We were in Atlanta too. In Atlanta, I managed to get a job there too. But moving the kids, I'm surprised we did as well as we did and they handled it as well as they did, too. The lady I worked for, she was one of those that founded the company Recovery Inc. for people with mental problems. And what she had happen to her, she went to - I don't know whether it was Arizona or somewhere, but anyhow she was engaged to be married to some fella and his mother put a stop to it. And she had a breakdown. She said she really came back to St. Joe under really sad circumstances. I thought my god, my kids went through a heck of a lot! But not quite like that! And we had another friend in Dayton, Ohio. She said "I think I haven't lived until I see Oregon." So she was always going to come see me. Her name was Zula. Zula Harvey. But she never got to make it. But I still go driving the countryside around and think, "Wouldn't Zula have loved this!"

TL: So when did you come back to Oregon?

ET: It's weird how I can't remember things.

TL: You can remember things way back.

ET: I know, see, that's what I'm thinking now. I can't put my hand right on the things. Ken died when he was 67. We lived in Tualatin, at Summerfield in a condo. I can't remember years and things.

ML: You have it in this book that you had me type. [??] I thought maybe 1962 or something.

ET: Maybe that will help me maybe.

ML: Yeah because I just read it. 1962, is that when you came back?

ET: It was '67. I'm 94! He was the same age as me. My sister-in-law, his sister, lived in North Carolina. And they came out to see me after Ken died. And John went to the hospital to have his heart checked and he was there 80 days and died. But they bought property out near John Edwards. Remember, he ran for President? And we saw where they lived and all, and John Edwards kind of across the pond or something. And she said they were also mad at his wife, thinking he could run for the President when he had this other woman. They lived in the same house, they never moved and I thought, boy, what that would have been for us if we had stayed in one place. [counting on fingers] Missouri...now I can't even remember where all we were. Atlanta -

TL: You said Ohio.

ET: People in Ohio, some of them had us come stay all night or [??]. I said they were really quite a change from Missouri. Missouri-ah! [laughs] And we went to different churches, places like that.

**[new video file begins here]**