

they ceased thrashing by a thrashing machine so I worked for Guerbers for several years, summers, so anyway I feel kind of fortunate to get in on that, you know.

Betty: One of the things I liked best about my childhood was, our folks were very open to other kids and made their home open to other kids, our friends and so forth, and living near the center of the community, near the church and near the school, there were lots of kids around, they even let us play ping-pong on the dining room table. We always had a Sunday afternoon baseball game down at the Helvetia School. The unintelligible would build some equipment down there and we would all congregate down there on Sunday afternoons and so on. Living on top of the hill with hill on both sides, they'd come around with cars that wouldn't start, they could always get a start on the hill here, because it was downhill either way so I think most of us really carried that out in our lives by making our homes open to our kids. I think that was a very happy part of our childhood. The least thing was probably all the oatmeal.

Jean: I still eat oatmeal every morning, but I think Christmas was always the nicest time. We'd go out in the woods and pick out our own tree and bring it in and put it on a sled or put it on the tractor, later and lighting those candles on it. We would make special things at Christmas time. We would make a saar cookie, like the German lebkuchen only we called it baserlechle (*spelling?*), kind of a fruit bar, and then we make these kukles (*spelling?*), kind of like a noodle dough, you'd roll it our round big as a plate and then you would drop it in a deep skillet of hot fat and you would twist it in the middle and it would get all kind of krinkly and you would sprinkle it with sugar. And then we always had the old brachle (*spelling?*) iron, its for a pressed cookie, nowadays they have an electrical machine. We used to do it on the wood burner.

**END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2 (60 minutes)**

\*\*\*\*\*PART TWO TRANSCRIPT BEGINS HERE\*\*\*\*\*

**START OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1 (30 minutes)**

Jean: On Christmas Eve, there was always a program on at church, and we always got this bag that had mixed nuts and old-fashioned chocolate drops and a little bag of mixed hard candy and a big orange in it and that's what the gift was under the tree and the ladies at the church would put together for everyone. And then we used to get half a box of oranges because oranges were not that easy to come by when you didn't have all this shipping so oranges were always a real great treat at Christmas time too. And then we used to open the gifts sometime, we'd open them on Christmas Eve, before the church party because there were clothes under there for you and then you could wear your new dress or your new blouse to the church

party, which were your Christmas presents. But I always liked Christmasses real well.

The thing I disliked the most, I think, was when Betty was off to college and I was still in grade school or high school, I was so much younger than the other girls, was that we were kind of out in the country, isolated from our other high school friends and all, we did have a few high school friends out in the area, but it was hard to stay for after-school activities, you always had to get in that bus and come home. There were no late buses to take the kids home after their activities, like there are in some of the schools around here, that was kind of missing, I think, so... It was kind of fun riding that school bus, except the kids used to always tease us about riding up into the Swiss Alps because we circled around here and they used to make fun of us riding up into the Swiss Alps but I think a lot of them would die for some real estate up here now! (Laughter).

Bob: When we went to school, if you lived in Helvetia, you really lived out in the sticks. You were kind of looked down on, you know, in fact, one time we were having an Easter egg hunt at Shute Park. Some of the eggs would have a dollar in them and you'd get a dollar, you know. I talked Dad into taking me into Hillsboro to see if I could find me an egg with a dollar on it, you know. So, they had all these eggs out there and all these darn city kids went out there and picked up all the eggs before they started. I thought, "Man, what a bunch of cheats!" Anyway, that was the way city kids were then, you know. They really looked down on people if you lived out in the sticks, you know... But, it's turned around. I went to a ball game one time and the lady in front of me was saying something, "Oh so-and-so lives in Helvetia". It was a 180 degree turnaround! (Laughter).

Betty: The intramurals in high school were always the city kids against the country kids and that was always a big dividing line, even when you went to school, Vern. (Vern Nussbaumer). I don't know if it changed later or not. But we were called country kids and they were called city kids.

***Where was the first school that you went to, then?***

Betty: The only school with the only teacher was the Helvetia School, District # 55, it was right across the property. My first year teacher was Mrs. Pollack and after she had enough, she left, a gentleman named Joe Wenzel came and transformed the country and he stayed for, oh boy, it must have been for fifteen years or so. I had him all the way through school ...

Jean: I had him all the way through school ...

Betty: And I think Bob too.

Jean: We worshipped him like he was God, and we still do. But Dad used to get kind of jealous because we would come home and anything if a discussion came up and Dad didn't think the way Joe Wenzel did, why Joe Wenzel was right and Dad was wrong! (Laughter). He was just a real tremendous teacher and took us all over and we did more extra curricular fun activities. Maybe that was what I missed in high school when I said we didn't have these extra-curricular activities like we had in the elementary school. He used to take us into J.K. Gill's to pick out plays for the school to put on and he used to take us out to Salmonberry River to go trout steelhead fishing with him. He taught us how to unintelligible trees, he taught us everything and we just thought he was pretty great.

***How many children were in the classroom, then?***

Betty: There were eight in my graduating class, which was a rather large class in those days, I believe, because there were probably 30 or 35 in the entire school.

Jean: When my classmate moved away, and another one was left back a year, I was the only one in the class so he let me take two classes in one year so I only went to elementary school for seven years.

***So, he taught all 30 of the children in six grades?***

Jean: No, all eight grades!

***Interesting, what an enormous responsibility.***

Bob: All subjects, too. It was amazing...

***What were the subjects?***

Bob: Readin', writin', 'rithmetic.

Jean: Geography.

Betty: Civics. He was great at Civics.

Bob: Singing. God Bless America.

Betty: Ol' Black Joe (laughter).

Bob: We used to really sing God Bless America.

Betty: "Were for the night is coming". Somebody said they walked by the school and these kids were all singing "Were for the night is coming". He just cracked up.

Jean: He planted the school garden and he developed these playgrounds. You know, the basketball court out of the dirt playground, and they had high jumping and pole vaulting, what a great sports program. And we would go to the other schools and play them. And there weren't enough boys for the basketball team so I got to play on the boys basketball team.

Bob: At the end of the year we had a picnic with Rock Creek and that was the day ....

Jean: Neapolitan ice cream!

Bob: And everybody would be there, even the parents, and it was a big celebration. That was the biggest day, that was the biggest day of my year, for me...

Glen Grossen: He also led the Boy Scouts and the Helvetia Band and then he led the Community Band and the Boy Scouts stayed the night at Jackson Falls, did you ever stay the night?

Jean: Not the night

Glen Grossen: I spent one night there that was total hell! (laughter) Nearly froze to death. And then there was the big swimmin' hole where we went swimming, we'd play in the creek and try to damn it up and it would work for a while in the summer until it washed out again.

Jean: Remember the Zurchers had a real good swimming pool down there that lasted for years. I shudder to think of all the insurance cases now with anything recreational at all. But this neighbor, she built a swimming pool for all the neighborhood children to swim in and never a thought once about the liability or the insurance needed for it.

Glen Grossen: Unintelligible to see you to get down there (laughter)

Bob: Well, it was the nicest pool around here, around anywhere.....

Glen Gross: Gravel bottom

Jean: It had wood sides

Bob: The Boy Scouts, they built a swimming pool on Yurkevich's creek and they built one over at Jackson Creek and there was one more somewhere, anyway, they'd silt in after a while. You'd go swimming and it would just ooze up through your toes, ....

***How would they build them?***

Bob: Well, with a unintelligible or an old truck or something.

Jean: Well, that was a big one, Jackson Quarry, and going on hikes and cookouts up there was big recreation for us in the summertime. Our mother used to fix us a can and give us cubes of ham and carrots and potatoes and we used to build a fire under it and put the can over the fire and while we went swimming and cook our own stew. One time we went up on top where they had a big flume to wash the gravel in the quarry and we climbed up on that hill and the gate was in and we were just fiddling around, we weren't terribly old, either, old enough to know better. Anyway, we opened up this gate and all of this water came rushing down on the quarry and the men were still down there working and they said, "The damn broke!" and they all came running up the hill and they saw us scared kids trying to get the gate back in there and we knew the men and we knew the men knew our dads and we made them promise that they would not tell. (Laughter).

Betty:

***What were some of the family rules that your parents had?***

Jean: Well they were fairly, not really too strict, but, they were pretty strict. They wanted to know where we were going and who we were going with. I don't think we broke too, too many rules in our day.

***How did they discipline you?***

Betty: We weren't spanked very much. I don't recall every getting a spanking.

Bob: We would run between that door over there and that door here in a circle. I made a few circles around here ! (Laughter) It was hard to catch me when they had two doors!

Jean: I think Mom was the stronger one with discipline than Dad. I think he was the more easy-going one.

Betty: I think he was too, yes he was too. They didn't rule with an iron hand. They were just pretty firm with what they believed. We always had a calendar and on Sundays it would take a long time to get through that devotion that went with that day. On the weekdays we just got through with a little prayer so they were, I don't believe they ever missed a Sunday at church and we were expected to go to Sunday School. It was, I think they were just about the right disciplinarians. I think they did a great job.

Jean: I think after I got out on my own and used to come back to visit, Mom used to not appreciate some of the styles I had chosen, especially some of the shoes and

things, but I was away in the big city and when I came home to the country I was, should have had sense to tone it down, I guess.

***Let's talk about your social life as young adults. When did you start dating?***

Betty: I didn't date very early. Went to the Girls Reserve dance a couple of times. We did a lot of things together. We always went Christmas caroling together, we always went to Young People's Church and we'd go to picnics out at Romer's Rest and a lot of our social life revolved around the church and school. With the community, they always had a social dance, not a Helvetia, no a band concert and then it followed with a dance. This was one of Joe Wenzel's added bits, and so we learned to dance down there and..... but as far as dating, I don't think as far as a few school dances we, or I dated very much in high school.

***Did your parents have rules about who or where you went?***

Jean: Well, I don't think it was that much because usually it was the boys from the local church we would go out on a date with. There were a couple of them I would go out with, so I didn't get much from them. But then when I went to college, I started dating a lot more.

***Well, tell us about a typical Sunday.***

Betty: Well, as I recall, we got up early and we put on our Sunday clothes and our Sunday shoes and I think it was 10:00 we went to Sunday school so we all marched down the road. If you were a youngster you sat up on the front steps with the youngun's and if you were a little bit older you were in Esther Brucker's class and if you were a little bit older you were in Emma Scheit's class and we always went to Sunday school and I don't recall if we always stayed for church until we were a little bit older. But that was always a must, we always said that the people who lived closest to church were the last ones there and sometimes we were the last ones! When all the cars were there, we'd head out the door! And then we would come home and have dinner and usually it was a Sunday dinner, usually it was chicken every Sunday, well maybe not chicken but pork, I remember pork roasts and chicken as being very typical Sunday dinners and then we'd often go visiting somewhere at Aunt Emma's or down at the Grossens, or somewhere and we'd, Dad would always have to get back to milk the cows, of course, what was it, about 5:00? Something like that, so we always had to be back to milk the cows so that we'd back at the church about 6:00 for an hour, a hour and a half. Then it was time to go home and get ready for school for the week. That's what I recall, maybe Bob went to a few ball games.....

Jean: During the summertime there were always picnics to go on, the traditional picnics that would go on different weeks, the Dairy Coop picnic, the Sunday School picnic, I know I came home one summer from the east for eleven weeks and I think

eight out of those eleven weeks we went on Sunday picnics. So, it was real common.

(break)

Jean: That Model A with the rumble seat!

Bob: I tell you, you would shudder today how he hauled people, kids, around. He had a stick and he would open the trunk, the kids would crawl in. Kids would hang on the running boards, both sides, with a couple of kids on each side - can you imagine today doing that?!

Glen Grossen: You know, Joe, for most of the years he taught up here, he was a single guy. I guess he lived a little wild (laughter). It wasn't until later that he met Inez, I guess...

Jean: He used to have reward systems, I guess. I remember going into J.K. Gills and if you did, maybe he based it on your grades or your attitude

Bob: He based it on your reading, the person who read the most would get a star and could paste it in your book and that was really incentive. Had to beat that Dorothy Steelen! (Laughter).

Jean: We just loved him and adored him. We just thought he was

Glen: Were you a classmate of unintelligible ?

Betty: I was Annie's classmate. Unintelligible was ahead of me a bit.

Glen: There was an immigrant kid, Unintelligible. I don't know that he talked English at home very good, but I guess he was an outstanding student. Then went on to college and then to engineering school and then went to work for Westinghouse and then from there Westinghouse got him into a program and they were the guys who worked on the anti-missile missile. So, in the Gulf War he got to see the thing work. He was always curious though. Some pretty hot-shot things came out of that program there.

Bob: Well, anyway, Joe was saying one time on a picnic, he was saying he was talking about his students, there was only one student he knows of that went on welfare.... you know, that says quite a bit.

Betty: The CEO of Meier and Frank, didn't Judy go to school here, maybe just a little bit?

Bob: I don't think so, she was 2 or 3 years behind me and I only had Joe for a few years.

Betty: Well, then she just missed him, but I guess Gerry must have

Bob: She was behind me and then skipped a grade, moved a year ahead

Glen: She was rated as one of the top 10 women executives. She worked for May Company and now she's

Jean: Meier and Frank is still a May Company, but she is the CEO and head of the 8 Meier and Frank stores.

Glen: Yeah, with a 6 digit income

Jean: She's our cousin. Her grandmother was our dad's sister.

***Let's talk about transportation. Let's compare transportation in your mother's and father's period in your childhood to what you knew of how your grandparents got around.***

Jean: Obviously, our paternal grandparents got around with horse and buggy, if that's the way my Dad went to pick them up at the railroad station. I don't know, I doubt, if the grandparents ever had an automobile, but I think Dad did later in his life.

Betty: Oh, I think Dad was one of the first guys to have an automobile.

Bob: Oh, Dad was kind of a sporty guy about cars. He bought a LaPine (sp?) Dodge and he had some other cars that were pretty nice cars.

Jean: Well, that was before he had all of us, I think. What I remember most of all were those FEM pick-ups, six every morning! (Laughter).. That's just exactly what we called it. But I used to love to go to town with him in his pickup.

Glen: He had a 1918 Dodge and unintelligible a starter, and a gear shift when most of the others just had Model T's.

Jean: They had one that had a cigarette lighter that used to be parked down there, it had a cigarette lighter that was on a string, so that everyone in the back seat could use it but the people in the front seat had to be careful because when you let it go, it flew just like that into the hole!

Bob: Al Pieren bought a Model A Ford, 1929 Model A Ford. He told Dad, "Now, that car is the ultimate. There's nothing more they can put on a car!" (Laughter). It

had an electric starter, windows, enclosed car and had locks and there was nothing else they could put on a car. (Laughter).

Jean: I remember Bob, well Bob you drove when you were about eight years old. We had this Model A Ford and he used to drive us around sometimes. Mom used to drive, too, but when I was a small child or baby, I rolled off the seat and she kind of went into the side of the road and I think she stopped driving after that. But I remember Bob and his cars. He had Model A's, I think. And he had a winter one and a summer one and I asked him what the difference was and you said the winter one had holes in the bottom, in the floorboards, or the summer one, and you couldn't use it in the winter. Didn't you have two cars?

Bob: No, I had one and you couldn't use it in the winter, it was kind of wet and cold (Laughter).

Betty: We used to make a big trip every summer, maybe twice a year I don't know, to my Uncle's in Independence, Oregon, and this was always a big, big event. Dad would hire someone to do the chores for him and we would get up very early and I think they were Dodges and they had these flaps on them that you snapped on. It took us maybe three or four hours to get to Independence, which now you can do in an hour and a half. So we'd spend the day up there and come back and it was just quite an affair to get the family up there. But, I remember it being very special. I don't know if you kids remember that or not?

Jean: I just remember the pick-ups. I still remember when I went down to college at Oregon State, they would drive me over to Hillsboro Station and I would take the bus down to college. Lots of kids would get a ride to college and I felt a little deprived that I would have to go on that bus all the time but I don't feel that way now - lucky that I got to go!

Betty: I didn't see a real wagon around here, I mean a carriage wagon. Did you ever see one around here? They must have had one..... Do you remember seeing one around your place, Glen? A wagon that they rode in?

Glen: No, they had hacks and they had this old buggy that he courted in, not too long ago, after somebody came in and stole it, we got it back and they decided to sell it and got rid of it. The hack was kinda like the station wagon, you had seats all around and you could haul a whole family in it and sometimes you had a top over them with strings. The old farm wagon didn't have strings, it unintelligible and then the buggy, that was the sports car, with one horse, probably a trotter and spiffed up the harness and a little unintelligible up front and a unintelligible on the side and it was probably unintelligible .

Betty: The most I remember riding was once in a while in the winter when we had enough snow, we had a sleigh or a sled and we took the horses and rode down to

the store with that horse and sled but I don't remember seeing them ride a buggy but I'm sure they did.

Jean: A sled on the snow or on the mud?

Betty: On the snow!

Jean: It never snowed very much around here.

Betty: Well, it did when we were kids. Or at least it seemed like it! (Laughter)

Glen: One of the prettiest snows I remember once was when I was in grade school. It started out like a day like today, kinda cool, like it was going to rain. Pretty soon the sky opened up with a few sprinkles and it just snowed. The entire school was let out in the eight inches of snow. The next morning, I guess we had about 18 inches of snow. And it all layed down pretty, didn't come blowing in on a big wind.

***Let's talk about communication.***

Betty: Three longs and a short. Wait, no, three one. Ours was right over there in the corner.

Jean: It was a party line. If that phone rang, then everyone else would know that phone was ringing and would pick it up.

Betty: And we could always tell who Mom was talking to when she was talking - Mrs. Bishop was German and had a German accent; Aunt Emma had a different dialect. Other people talked a little differently.

**END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1 (30 minutes)**

**START OF TAPE 2, SIDE 2**

Betty: And there was an operator there so if you had to call long distance you'd talk to the operator and

***During the Depression when your Dad put his car up on blocks, did the farmers still maintain communication during that time?***

Betty: Yes, I'm sure they did, I'm sure they did.

***So, they considered that more important than the automobile.***

Bob: Well, I don't think it cost very much.

Betty: I don't think the telephone bill was very much,

Bob: Probably a dollar a month. Probably a dollar and a quarter, maybe.

***When did they first put phones in?***

Bob: Oh, probably at the turn of the century, or right before the turn of the century. I don't know, when was it Glen, do you know?

Glen: Oh, I don't know.

Bob: Right at the turn of the century.

Jean: Some of the people used to have those crystal radios, crystal sets. We used to go over to Aunt Emma's house and there was that John Linder that lived over there and had a crystal set and we used to say that man's crazy, he talks to himself.

Betty: Oh, I don't know, Frank had made himself one, too, Frank was kind of into that and Roy kind of tinkered with that too. They always had headphones and things like that and that was one of the fun things we did when we went to Aunt Emma's was to listen to .....

Glen: I remember in Popular Mechanics they had the crystal set in there and the coils to adjust it. I think that was where I first heard Lawrence Welk and his ballroom (laughter).

Jean: I remember our first radio and the first program we heard was "Amos and Andy".

Betty: And we listened to Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy ... and I don't remember what year that was that we got that ....

Jean: As soon as we got electricity, 1936,

Betty: And I loved the phonograph...

Jean: And the accordian, the accordian that had rolls in it

Betty: There were two newspapers: The Oregonian and the Journal and we always got the Oregonian.

Bob: The Oregonian came in the morning and the Journal came in the afternoon.

Betty: Well, that's right, there was the News Telegram and the Argus, the Hillsboro Argus, that came out weekly and that was always done in a little different print than the others so that usually got saved for a few days.

Jean: And the mail came once a day and Grandma would put it in the mailbox and Melton, Meltie, used to be the mail carrier and he would get in trouble for harassment these days, I think, because when we checked for the mail he would grab your arm and kiss it (laughter) and we didn't like being kissed by the mailman so we used to hide behind the cheesehouse when we saw him coming up the hill and as soon as we saw him leaving we would walk and he would be looking in his rear view window and seeing us and he'd ask, well how come you're hiding from me, and we didn't want to tell him cause he's slobber all over our arm. (Laughter). And then he used to want to give us a ride home from school all the time when we'd come home for lunch, squeeze in there besides the mail, I didn't like that either.

Bob: One time he came into the schoolhouse, he had a package for the school and Joe Wenzel was walking around and he just came in and walked behind him, just following him around, all the kids were laughing and Joe couldn't figure out what they were laughing about. He was right behind Joe. He was a real clown. (Laughter). He was our mail carrier for many years.

Glen: One time he was drinking a little too much by the time he got to Gil Sneiders and he dumped his car over the bank, he tipped the car over to one side and had to be pulled out. I mean he did all these things and he never got fired. (Laughter). I remember walking home from school and he'd always take time to stop and pull his car over because he'd find pennies because people were always leaving money for postage, you know, and he'd collect pennies, and nickels and quarters.

Bob: He'd also write articles for the Argus.... But he'd always kinda mention Helvetia in those articles. Kind of had a heart for Helvetia.

Betty: I thought all postmen were Melties! (Laughter).

Glen: Well, there were only two routes in the county - they had him out in north county and there was another one that reached out south of him.

Jean: That's unbelievable!

Glen: Yeah, one big route! He started carrying by horse.

Jean: I just couldn't believe tonight as I drove over here, I guess I haven't arrived here by night for years and years - all the lights down there, my goodness, it reminded me that when we used to come out and stay in Manzanita, then we would have to fly back to New Jersey I hated to come in at nighttime because if you flew into the Newark, New Jersey, at nighttime you saw so many lights all over and I

would think, why am I coming back to such a metropolis but when I stood over here and saw all those lights I was just shocked.....

Glen: Well, when we were kids, there were just 20 or 30 thousand people here. I don't think the population of the whole Washington County was over 20 or 30 thousand people. Hillsboro had about 3,000.

Betty: Well, one of the most devastating things I think to happen in our childhood, as far as our community was concerned, was if there was a fire. This was really, really bad and our neighbors up here, and I am not sure what year it was, the Wengers, in fact that chair over there was one of the chairs that came out of Wenger's house. They saved some of their furniture but people just lost almost everything. Wasn't Dave Hershey's house burned down near you? Here we remember those fires as being a real ...

Glen: Yes, we didn't have no rural fire department out here, although they did call Hillsboro, but they wouldn't come out. It started out in the woodshed, I guess, where Dave was smoking his pipe, and then it burned outside of his house. Elmer and I saw the thing, we made a run for it. We got out the water hose and then his water system was just hardly trickling in the hose so that wasn't enough. And then, I thought I'd better get to the creek and get a bucket of water down there and I ran down there and I don't know if I went into shock or what but boy, that seemed like a long way back and my shoes were just so heavy and finally more neighbors gathered around and we waited to see if it was going to be a loss and they started emptying the house out and so took out a lot of furnishings and then they were without their house and they were pretty old people and then in Helvetia they had a fund-raising dance or two, got some money together, enough to buy a truckload or two of lumber and then there were volunteers who came in there and some of them were carpenter volunteers and put up a little house which is down there right now, which we own now.

Jean: I remember it was quite common, too, for barns to catch on fire, because they would put hay in there that was not quite cured and then the combustion would start off. I remember going to more barn fires than house fires.

Glen: Talking about one fire, over at the Hershey house, was burned, Vern's Dad, he was over there, he was looking around, I guess, to see if there was anything else and sure enough, the little barn they had down there, had a fire burning on the roof and the only thing they had was one of them back packs that held about five gallons of water in a trombone pump and I ran up there and just barely squirted that one up and every time I'd give a squirt up there the fire kept coming. I thought, "Oh, my gosh, I better go inside and look", so I went inside and I could see by standing on a pile of hay about that high and I squirted up and got it finally.

Bob: Mentioning fire in a community and you'd go out and ring the churchbell, that was signal there was a fire. Then when Christiansen's house burned down, Mrs. Christiansen's wedding ring was in the house, she was quite concerned about that, it was all in flames, you know, and then, Glen's Dad, Fred, he reached in the window and got that ring and he was a hero! He ruled the day!

Glen: I can remember, he got a big kiss for that! (Laughter). Then the word came down, on the telephone, I guess, that there was a house fire and it was milking time in the evening and they lived way up here at the end of Logie Trail and the question was it even worth going up there because it could have burned down by the time you'd get up there, it seemed. Dad finished milking the cows and then he said, well, we'd better go, so everybody took off and I got left at home to finish up the chores and I guess the east wind was blowing something ferocious that night and I guess it kept blowing the fire away, and the house burned down real slow, like a candle, I guess, so they kept going around through the house and saving things as it was burning down.

***Can you remember any other kind of natural disasters?***

Betty: The Tillamook Burn, oh my, 1933 was a big burn and you couldn't see the church, smoke was just so heavy that it was just terrible. I remember a few years later as a child being so frightened because the sky was really red, you know how it gets in the summertime, I thought it was another fire because it burned many thousands and thousands of acres in 1933 and then it burned again in 1939 and again in 1945. But that was terrifying.....

Glen: You know, I had that too. I hadn't really related it back .... the East wind was blowing most of the time, blowing back over the ocean and I remember going to sleep on the porch on summer nights and you could just see the sky all aglow out there, the fire just a raging. Yeah, it was spooky. Then, it was later in the fall it was still burning out there and it blew all this smoke that was thicker than fog. Then ashes would drop in all over the place.

Jean: Didn't Joe Wenzel take us out there to replant trees?

Bob: Yeah, after the fire, they reforested and we went out on a trip with Joe Wenzel and planted trees.

Betty: I think there was a program in the Portland schools, but I'm not sure it was as early as Joe Wenzel because he always seemed to be a few years earlier than everybody else, but all sixth graders in the western part of the state, pretty much, planted trees out in the Tillamook Burn and I've seen films on the Tillamook Burn since ....

Glen: And here I thought the earth was scorched and they'd grow another tree, I guess that was the beginning of that and now they are starting to reharvest that, but they are reharvesting smaller trees and they say they are getting more board feet than off of the big trees, smaller logs, so it's ran a whole cycle, here.

***Do you want to talk about the Indian experience that you've had?***

Jean: I remember Dad finding lots of arrowheads, indicating that there were lots of Indians in the area. As he was farming, he would find them in the ground but I don't remember too much about Indians around here.

Bob: Missy, do you recall that movie?

Jean: Do you remember anything about the Indians?

Betty: No, I just remember a few stories that apparently there was an Indian family that lived down about where Abe Yungen's house was but I don't think we had any confrontations with the Indians or anything like that, I think we were pretty peaceful dealings that we had but there were areas in a few other zones that indicated there were Indians living throughout here.

Bob: Kanai (sp?) was an Indian. Kanai lived on unintelligible Road and unintelligible, his daughter, married Keffer. Mrs. Keffer was an Indian and they had a daughter, Mabel, and she married Frank Williams who owned Williams Potato Chip Company in Portland but I knew her quite well. She used to give me a ride home from school when I was, when I stayed after school in high school for sports and I'd have to hitchhike home and she somehow would be driving home, you know, and she'd pick me up, you know, so I got to know her quite well. Anyway, it came out, there was a story that went around that they were white but she didn't know anything about that, she didn't like that story so anyway, they were really fine people, these Williams, but let's see, who else were Indians around here.

***Do you remember stories? Were you told stories about the Indians when you were children?***

Bob: Well, I was told about Kanai, you know, that he was a, he built, he'd hew out bolts, the ribs in ships and he's hew these out of logs and then Dad hauled them down to the river for him. Anyway, there was good money in these hewing out these bolts and Dad used to haul them down for him.

Jean: Dad really had a lot of Indian arrowheads but somebody came by and bought a lot of his things...

Bob: There was a museum out of Roy that a gentleman said he would put them on display so that people would see them forever and he died and they auctioned them

all off, which was kind of dispersed the whole museum all over. But there was one field up there on our place and there was one Thanksgiving or Christmas that the whole family was here and we went up for a walk in the woods and I was mentioning that Dad used to find a lot of arrowheads in this field and....

Betty: It was kind of a clear day after a rainy day, wasn't it?

Bob: Yeah, and anyway, maybe they just plowed too deep and maybe they were plowed under and just as I said that, Betty looked down and here was this arrowhead laying there in the dirt.

Betty: Actually, it was Karen. And Bob said, "I've never found one!" and my daughter looks down and picks one up. (Laughter).

***Tell us about the sporting events that happened in the community. Swiss wrestling?***

Betty: Oh, too bad Bert isn't here. He was a big man, with long arms.

***Bert is your brother?***

Betty: Youngest brother. He's in California. But he's got long arms - big man. And he was very good at that and after he had finished school, he worked out of Sacramento, was it? There was a Swiss community down there and this crown of laurel thing that was up in his room for the longest time. They gave him a crown, a cross, of laurel, so he was a Swiss wrestler of the family. I remember going to Swiss picnics at Oaks Park, was it? No, Cedarville and watching him do this and he did some around here, too, didn't he?

***Describe what happens in Swiss wrestling.***

Betty: Well, it seems they take ahold of the pants, right here, don't they? Hey, Vern knows, he's be a good one.

Glen: Yeah, Vern's won a couple of crosses....

Vern: About 70 of them... You have a pair of canvas pants and a leather belt and you take a grip, actually it comes from the mountains of Switzerland, and when you were throwing, you always had to have a grip on the pants, a round goes for five minutes around the sawdust and once you started, almost anything goes, as long as you keep a grip on the pants. One hand.

Bob: I remember one hold that was called the "Schluck" and I always thought that was the neatest word. "Schluck". (Laughter).

Jean: Didn't you do some Swiss wrestling down at Tillamook?

Bob: Nah, I never did.

Jean: Well, arm wrestling. What did you do down at Tillamook when you got hurt?

Glen: Unintelligible he was always dragging me down there to go Swiss wrestling. They just used me for bait. Practice on me. (Laughter).

Betty: Did you ever wrestle Rick?

Vern: Did I? Unintelligible a ghost. For 20 years I used to wrestle unintelligible

***Describe when you are doing it, what are the things you are hearing, you are feeling?***

Vern: Just how strong you are - you can beat that guy - you can beat him no matter. But they have these wrestling matches up and down the coast . . .

Glen: But how do you pin him - he has to have his shoulders down . . .

Vern: Touch, fall, touch, fall and it's fast sometimes. It's over in 1 second, it's real fast. And they still do it. We still have the contests in Portland there's one in August, the first weekend in August, in unintelligible there's one the second week in August and they go to California and a lot of the guys, they travel up and down the coast following the unintelligible; there's probably twelve of them a year.

***So you have one hand on their pants, you have to throw them down on the ground and then their shoulders have to touch, one shoulder?***

Vern: Both shoulders have to touch and sometimes if you get them down one way and then any way you can, roll them over to their back and get their shoulders down and he's bridging and trying to get away, too.

***Does it have to be for a certain time?***

Vern: One second, just one second. And you just touch.

Glen: And when they have a Swingfest, that is the day they have it, it starts out as their picnic goes along.....

Vern: You are matched up with somebody who compares to you and as you go along and win you are matched up with somebody else who compares to you and gradually there's a first, second, third, fourth place and you wrestle for points too and they have a big party at night . . .

Bob: You get to kiss the girl . . .

Vern: You get this laurel wreath; it used to be we'd get medals or trophies, too, and then they have other prizes, too.

***Is it by age or weight?***

Vern: All ages, open to any weight and any age. Now, it's from 15 on up.

***So how do they match you up?***

Vern: Against somebody with the same experience, the same number of crowns, and you go from there and you keep . . .

***So this is a tradition that has been brought back from Switzerland. But anybody can participate?***

Vern: Mostly hardly anybody except Swiss decedents participate in it. We start practicing in March sometimes, we put sawdust shavings in the barn to practice wrestling and then we go there in unintelligible Valley in March and then in May and June we're up and down the coast.

***Do you wear special pants?***

Vern: Yes.

***Leather or ?***

Vern: Pants, kind of canvas, real strong, kind of heavy. They come down to about here, you roll them up and get your grips and start.

***They're shorts?***

Vern: Yes.

***With cuffs?***

Vern: One hand goes around in back and one had in front, the hand in back as the belt and the one in front has the same position and goes...

***And you each have to have one hand on each other at all times?***

Vern: No, if you throw him you have to have a hand on him. The one guy who is trying to get away, he can get away anyway he can; crawling out of the rink or

anything. At the same contest, though, later in the day, after wrestling, there is a rock throwing contest. These are anywhere from 140 to 165 pounds, some of them you can barely pick up and throw eight feet. And then after that they get to partying and they dance all night! (Laughter).

***You call them "Schwingfest" (sp)?***

Vern: Schwingfest.

***Can you spell that?***

Vern: Schwing.

***What other sporting events did you participate in, do you remember?***

Bob: Well, didn't you play tennis?

Betty: We tried.

Jean: Ping pong on the dining room table, here. The dining room table was square then. We'd put the net across the table and we'd play quite a long of ping pong. We played quite a lot of board games: checkers and Chinese checkers ....

Glen: Well, you know when we had the kerosene lamp about all you could see was the table ...

Jean: We played dominoes...

Betty: Those softball games that we played - did you guys every come up to Freelow's (sp?) - we used to play down here in Helvetia - Jeff Dapp's place?

Glen: I played down there.

Betty: Yes, we used to play every Sunday. In the summertime we used to have this ball game going so I think we played a lot of softball.....

Jean: I used to ride my bicycle all around.

Glen: One of the times I was going to school there, the softball team was a likely to have as many girls as boys because we didn't have enough boys to field a team, so we were integrated, so you had to be nice to girls so they would play ball! (Laughter)

Bob: We used to ride our bicycles around at school at recess, you know, and you'd go as fast as you could. But during the Depression, the WPA put a basement in the school and they dumped the dirt out in front of the school and then it was built up

pretty good and then there was a drop-off that went down towards the road, we called that the "Tickle Hill". We'd go down that hill as fast as we could go and you'd drop off there.

Vern: Down there by the school, there used to be a well, down across the road, and for a long time we'd carry water to the school across the road and then it got to where there was a pump down there but the pump would quit once in a while and we could always find excuses to spend half a day working on that pump! (Laughter). We had to get it going so they would have water - never did turn out very good. But it was a good excuse to get out of school!

Bob: At the school they had - Joe Wenzel started this too - this fall, the WPA put all this dirt - he planted in a garden, a flower garden. Every graduating class would plant a plant there and there was a lot of other flowers. For punishment, if you'd done something wrong, you'd have to go out there and spade the garden. So, one day one of the kids was out there

**END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 2 (60 minutes)**

**START OF TAPE 3, SIDE 1**

Vern: Ant-I-Over (*sp?*) and he threw the ball over the school. A kid would catch it on the other side and then you'd run around the school and see how many kids you could touch or hit with the ball, and then they were on your side .....

Glen: But you had to catch the ball first ...

***You had to catch it before it bounced? If you didn't, what happened?***

Jean: You'd divide up the sides evenly to begin with, half the kids on one side of the school, half on the other.

Vern: Eventually, you'd get down to where there was maybe one or two kids on the other team and all the other kids were on the winning team.

***Interruption***

Bob: ..... Well, you had a stick and you'd nail a stick of wood on there probably about 6 inches long and then, I don't know, probably some blacksmith that used to make these hoops, probably about 18 inches in diameter, about an inch wide ....

Glen: Some of them came off of wagons ...

Bob: And then you'd stick that stick inside that hub, or that little hoop, you know and then you'd start rolling and you'd push it and you could push it all over, you'd kind of steer it around.

Jean: Was there any competition with it?

Bob: No, there was no competition with it but we'd try to keep it rolling...

Vern: There was the highest swing set I'd ever seen down at that school, too. You could swing about three kids ....

Glen: Oh, man, Helvetia had the best swings in the whole country!

Vern: And you could catch that kid and get a ride up there about ten feet, too!

Bob: You'd get up there on top, you know, you'd get that thing going really up there, man, it's a wonder nobody got killed!

Vern: That's right!

***That's why I asked about broken bones!***

Bob: Why, some of those guys would pump up there, you know, way up clear to the top ...

Vern: And you'd come almost straight down!

Jean: I think Joe Wenzel was the only one who got the broken bone - pole vaulting or something? In his book he was telling about it.

Bob: Pole vaulting was a big deal in Helvetia School. Joe Wenzel started that, too. Even Irene Ritter was a pole vaulter - and she was a good one.

Vern: Helvetia was the only school that had a play shed, too. It had a good sized roof and it was really neat - it had a dirt floor, but it was really a good play shed.

Jean: You needed one in this rainy weather.

Bob: The floor was always kind of wet in there.

Betty: Talk about broken bones, though, Bob, you were unintelligible and that was his sport in track in high school and he broke his ankle twice two years in a row

Bob: Sprained it, sprained one and then about two weeks later sprained the other one. Was back in crutches again!

***Is there a subject that any of you would like to add? That we haven't talked about tonight?***

Jean: I think we've covered the waterfront. (Laughter).

***I have one last question and then we can wrap it up. You've seen a lot of changes since the time that you've been here and I'd like to know what you think about all the changes that have happened?***

Betty: I think we have lived in a very exciting time in history where we have so many changes, although we hate to see what's going on between here and Portland, all the development that's going on, it's bound to happen and Oregonians will meet the challenge.

Jean: I'm just delighted every time when I come back from New Jersey to see a community that has developed and has grown so nicely and the old homes that I remember are restored and the new homes look so nice. It's so much in contrast to where my husband grew up in Patterson, New Jersey. He lived on the street where one of the Vice-Presidents of the nation lived, which was a very nice residential section and it's just completely gone down, completely, it's just a shame what has happened there. It's just such a contrast. And then to come out here to see where I was born and where I grew up, it's just exactly the opposite, it's a beautiful, beautiful area and I'm just real thrilled that it's that way.

Bob: Well, I look at the old days were good days but they were hard days, you know, we have it so much easier now. Life is a lot more, I don't know if it is more pleasant or not, it was more social back in those days, but life was really pretty tough. You'd have to get up and go to the old outhouse, that wasn't a very pleasant thing, you know, and you had to work hard, you know, and you didn't have tools to help you, riding lawnmowers - well, we didn't have a lawn.....

Glen: Stick the bull out there .. (Laughter)

Jean: But in the meantime, I think we developed pretty good work ethics that we passed down to our children, I think Grandma and Grandpa would be real proud to know that there's three or four of the great-grandchildren who have their PhD's and all, it's a lot easier for them and I don't know if they appreciate things as much as we do, having it easier all the time, but still I think they continued the work ethics that we developed.

Glen: There was a question I was going to ask you girls, it used to be the woman stayed home, kept the house, did the cooking, all those things and looked after the kids. Then we got electricity, that took the chores out of a lot of jobs, almost

automated, so she thinks she has time so she runs off to town. Is it easier to have that job now or would it be easier to stay in the house?

Betty: Well, I was a working mother after our children were all in school and I asked them, "Do you feel deprived that I went back to work?" and they said "No, not at all." Of course, I had summers off when they were home but I think they developed a lot more responsibility than they would have if I were home.

Glen: Do you think if you kept the house it would have been easier or....

Betty: It wouldn't have been as much fun, it wouldn't have been as challenging

Glen: The job?

Betty: Yes. (Laughter)

Vern: It sure is more comfortable if you get up in the morning, the house is warm, instead of getting up out of a cold bed, having to start the fire ....and you get a shower every day instead of once a week.

Glen: Betty talks about heat and water when we were kids with the stove, I can remember, you could fire that stove all day long, but I don't think we got half full of hot water; seemed to max out about half. With a family of six kids, the first two or three got a warm bath, so we'd have a discussion first to not take all the hot water! (Laughter)

***Thank you very much.***

**END OF TAPE 3, SIDE 1**