

LM

Jane Ibach
Interviewed by Loyce Martinazzi Lee and Karen Lafkey Beach
Tape I THS #9
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Place: Jane Ibach's home at 6031 S.W. Borland Road, Tualatin, Oregon
Transcribed by Toni Martinazzi, Glenview Illinois Nov 1996
Length of Original Tape is 90 Minutes.

LM: Hello. What is your name?

Jl: Well, my name is Phoebe Buelah Eva Marie, Theobald, is my name originally. My brothers, and I was the last one of ten, they all wanted to name me, they all wanted to name me, and my great aunt visited us and her name was Phoebe. So she never had any children, so she wanted me to be named after her. And my brother, Carl, he had a girlfriend named Marie and uh he wanted me to, uh, use that name. And my father wanted Buelah. And Eva was my mother's name so they stuck that in there too, so I had all of those names. [Laughter].

LM: Where did the "Jane" come from?

Jl: Well, her, my aunt, my great aunt's name was Phoebe Jane, so they used to call me Phoebe Jane, but then I didn't like that Phoebe too much so they, they started calling me Jane. So I have called, been called that, but I used it when I sign papers, Phoebe, Phoebe Jane.

LM: Where were you born?

FLORIN

Jl: I was born in [unintelligible] California. It was seven miles from Sacramento and our folks had a farm there and they had grapes. They had a lot a grapes and they had some strawberries on the place, too. Several acres, and they had uh a Japanese family that lived on the property that took care of it. Grapes, uh, I mean the strawberries and the grapes, they hired people to pick them, and then they had a long shed where they brought them in and they had girls who'd take and looked the bunches over, they packed 'em into boxes for storage, you know, so they had to pick out any dead ones, and anything, you know, out of the grapes and look 'em over and pack em in those boxes. And they were there during the season doing that.

~~K~~
LM: So these were grapes that they sold to the stores, not to the winery? They didn't raise grapes for wine?

Jl: No they were eating grapes like, uh, I forget what's the name of them now, [chuckle]

~~K~~
LM: Concordts?

Jl: No, Concordts, they weren't Concordts. They were those red grapes, you know. I'll think of it in a minute, I can't think of the name of them now.

LM: [unintelligible] or Tokay?

Jl: Tokay grapes, yah.

LM: Why, why did your family come to Oregon and when did they come to Oregon?

Jl: Well, it's a long story! [chuckle] My, after having all these children, and all, you know, my mother and my dad weren't getting along so she left, and she left my oldest sister there. She went to Nevada. And she got a job over there cooking in a mining camp. She was a good cook and they had a big tent there, for the cook house, and she, she worked there a couple of years in there and she took my brother Pete and I to Nevada with her and we stayed there and then she met a man there, an Irishman, John F. Costello. He decided that they wanted to get married so they got married and then he kept talking about this wonderful country of Oregon. You see, we were in the desert over there and this looked just like heaven! Sounded like heaven over there. Berries and fruit and running water, streams, and trees and everything, so they decided to come to Oregon after they got married.

~~K~~
LM: Now how old were you, was it several years since all of this starts?

Jl: I was about, uh, nine, a little over nine years old. And so they come to Oregon and they bought this place down in Evans 's Valley. There was a sixty acre farm there was three great big walnut trees, black walnut trees on it. Mother fell in love with those trees! [Chuckle]

LM: That's where you were down by Silverton?

Jl: [laughing] Yes, that's where I was! And so then when we uh she had sent us, Pete and I down to my brother Wallace in Sacramento because he didn't want to ~~keep~~^{TAKE} us along while they were hunting for a place. So he put, he was a railroad engineer, so he put us on the train to come back up to Oregon.

So we came up to Oregon, and they came in a horse and buggy through Silverton. The streets were mud then and brick sidewalks and they come to the depot to get us and we met them there. And then they drove out toward the valley there. And it was we lived, it was three miles out there, in the valley where we lived, from the town.

And so when they come to some old looking shack or something, they'd pretend that they was moving in said we were moving in and first we would say, "OH"..[laughing] and then we would start hollering and crying and we didn't want to live there, and everything, and we finally got out there it was a nice, nice place. It wasn't a very big house but there was trees, and there was those big long trees and there was an orchard and it was beginning to get Spring, you know, so it was looking nice. And so we lived there, I think it was ten, ten, years...and uh...

KLB: And you raised chickens?

Jl: My mother, when they came there, when she came to Oregon and they said you couldn't raise chickens there, she was determined she was going to get into it. But she had been in California where they had lots of chickens down there, you know and she decided she was going to get 100 chickens, pullets, and she did it early, you see, that's the trouble, all the people up here had setting hens, they wait for the hen to set and they let chickens run around the barn yard. But she bought, she left the little pullets, the little baby chicks, you know, and raised 'em up til they were six months old, white Leghorns will lay when they are six months old.

And so she got 'em early in the Spring, about the first of February, or something like along in there, and then when Fall come, they started laying and layed all thru the Winter. And then the people used to come out from Silverton and look at those chickens and looked in the nests, and see the eggs in there, and they was surprized. And then Hansen from Corvallis, he came and he started his chicken business down there, he came and bought eggs from us because our, he looked around at other

places and ours were the nicest and cleanest, nests and everything and chickens, ^{WERE healthy} so he bought crates of eggs from us to hatch to start his business down there in Corvallis.

And in his catalog he always put it that they originated at Costello's Pleasant View Poultry Farm. That's what my step-father named the place. And so I don't know whether he is still in the business or not but they had a lot of white Leghorns because they layed quicker than the Red's. The Red's take a lot, oh, a couple of months longer and they was bigger chickens, too, than the white leghorns.

^KLM: What is the story you told one day down there about, that your grandmother or your mother had [riggets?], or something, so she had to jump, she had heads of kale suspended from the...

Jl: Oh, And she use to raise Kale. And you know it is tall, like that, and she'd take it and pull it up and tie it from a rope to the ceiling, you know, at the top of the chicken house, so they would reel it down so the the chickens would jump up and pick the greens off. And that's the way they got their green stuff cause she didn't want 'em running around outside.

KLB: Is that jumping why they had healthier chickens?

Jl: I don't know, it might have, getting their exercise, anyway!
[all laugh]

But uh, we raised uh, down there we raised uh grain and we had our fruit and we had a big field there of grain there by the house.

KLB: And did you have machinery and all that to harvest the grain?

Jl: Well, no, we had to hire people to come in a cut it and thrash it, you know, they had a thrasher/combine. Since then all that ground that we raised the grain in, we sold to the neighbor next door and he's raising grass seed on it. I sent a picture of that ⁰²¹⁴¹⁰⁹² [~~Roosevelt?~~] picture down to that lady a while ago and that lady was real pretty down on the farm. I wished we'd stayed there, I liked that place.

KLB: You were there ten years?

Jl: No, it was only, well yes, I think it was. yes, about ten years. Then

when I was about seventeen or eighteen we went up to Eastern Oregon. That was when the war was on, you know, and uh, wheat was high and my step-dad had dreams of gettin' rich, I guess, and he talked 'em out of going up there and buying a wheat ranch.

LM: So you sold the place in Silverton?

Jl: They hadn't sold it yet, but my aunt had lots of money and she bought it [chuckle] and it was twelve hundred acres and there was just a small house on it and we went up there. And then it wasn't long before the war ended, and then the prices went down and they didn't make anything. They bought a [old Holt?] tractor and they bought stuff like that, you know, and then my brother got drafted into the service, you know, he was goin'ta drive the tractor, so it just all kinda fell apart.

~~K~~ LM: Now have you done with the Silverton home, meanwhile?

(counter at 115)

Jl: Well she rented it to a couple of guys down there. They were, uh, I think they were Armenians, or something. They didn't know anything about chickens, anyway. And the hens all quit laying I 'spose they didn't feed 'em right, or something. And they had trouble with it. She just rented it to 'em. and, uh..

KLB Then did you go back there after the, uh, wheat ranch fell through?

Jl: Well, no. My, uh, dad, my step-dad got sick and they went to Portland and then he died and mother went down to California with my brothers. And my aunt went with uh, my sister Zelda up at Hebo she lived up there at the wheat ranch, she had bees. She kept bees, up there at Hebo there. And I went down to California cause my sister Wanda was down there teaching in the school. A business school. And I stayed with her and I went to school a while there. I was going to learn to type and do all that stuff. And, uh, then the war was over and my sister was married then, you see, so when he come home, well then she wanted to come home, too. So they moved up to, uh, he come up and they went to, uh, Oswego, and bought a little house there.

LM: Oh! Down in, uh [unintelligible]

Jl: ...and uh, then he, he worked there for a while for the uh, his father was a photographer in Portland on Washington Street and they worked in that, uh, in an office there, where the people would come in and have their picture taken, you know. And so I worked there, or I went there, I didn't work very hard, but I, I was a hostess.

LM: Oh really?

Jl: When they would come in I would get their names and address and everything and get them ready for the picture. I would take 'em back into a little room and if they wanted to change their garments or something, or comb their hair, or something, and get 'em all ready for the picture and then I'd tell Ralph to come and take their picture, and all, and I did that kind of work. And then I'd go get things if they'd run out of somethin, I'd go to the stores, down to Sandy's or somewhere.

KLB: It was right downtown, then, that they had the studio?

Jl: Yah, on Washington Street. And, uh, so then I would go back. a course, to Wanda's to Oswego, go back and forth with Ralph. When he'd go to work I'd go with him back and forth.

LM: So you stayed with them in their place in Oswego?

Jl: Yah, I stayed there.

LM: And now whatever happened to your place in Silverton? You said you rented it to those Armenians, did they finally sell it?

Jl: Well, yah, they finally sold it, and I forget who they sold it to that, that time, but these people that are on there have been there thirty-two years. But we bought it, from people named Ferguson and they were Norwegians and these people are Italian there, that are there now. But, uh, I guess they didn't want to farm. So they sold off part of their farm across the road next door. I used to walk to school with him. Now he is dead and his son is running the place, Roger, and raising that, the seed.

KLB:Yah. Let's see, you went to school in Silverton and then when you were up in uh, on the wheat ranch, did you go to school up there?

Jl: No, I didn't go to school anymore. I went to school in Silverton, you see, and I went to high school there. And there was one year there I lived in Woodburn and, uh, it was real hard to get back and forth to school, you see. So a family over there wanted somebody to live in to take care of their little girl while they was, they would go out in the evenings, and everything, and just needed somebody to be there, you know, so I lived with them for, I think, two years.

KLB: That was right next to the Settlemyer House?

LM: OH!

Jl: Yah, We saw the house, I'd like to know who lived there [unintelligible] but that little girl, the neighbors had,,, I was in that house after the neighbors died, they remodeled it, anyway I, uh, I went to school there, and then..

KLB aside to LM: Yah, the day we went down there [Jane Ibach and KLB?] we stopped there and saw it.

Jl: It was after that that I went to Eastern Oregon. I was about seventeen, I guess, or eighteen, when I got there. And they used to have house dances, you know, the neighbors around in their homes?

LM: Yah.

Jl: They'd have uh, clear out their living room and they'd have square dances in there and then we'd stay there. Well, the whole family would go Grandmother and grandfather, and everybody, the kids..

LM: Would you stay overnight there then?

Jl: Well, you'd just dance, and eat the, have lunch, sandwiches or something and stay there 'til it was seven o'clock in the morning [giggle] you know, and then we'd go back and go home. Well, it's not much entertainment, you know, not much entertainment at that time.

(counter at 185)

KLB: And where was this, again, at the wheat ranch?

Jl: Arlington, it was twelve miles from Arlington. I hope they aren't making that dump on that place! I'd like to know where it is, that dump!

There was a place called Eight Mile, I was wondering if there was, remember going over there, there was a school over there, uh, a grade school at Eight Mile, near, near that place.

^KLM: But when you were living at Lake Oswego, was that where you met Hiller? How did you meet him?

Jl: Well, when Ralph come home from the service, uh, he was in Ireland, and Hiller was there at the same time, and they knew each other then, and they were in the same, they were both the Navy. And their, they were at a sea plane camp, I don't know what it was called, anyway they were both there. And when they come home, Ralph got home first, and he come to the studio to work, you know. Then when Hiller come home he come up to see Ralph, and he met me. And then he invited the whole family out to Banks to their Thanksgiving dinner. So we all went out there, and after that we used to go out quite a bit, go out there to their place. We'd go up to Mountaindale for, where his sister lived, and they had a stream runnin' through there and we'd go swimmin' in the stream and stay there, you know, for a picnic up there and everything. And then I got acquainted with Hiller and then he got interested in me, I guess, so we went together about two years. He'd come down, after milking, all tired, I suppose, from workin'...

LM: Now where was that, he lived in Mountaindale?

Jl: No, they lived at, he lived at Banks.

LM: Oh, Banks.

Jl: That's right. near Mountaindale.

KLB: From Banks all the way over to Lake Oswego

Jl: Yah, he'd drive down there to see me and take me to the movies, the movies was in those little, uh, the movies was in the, oh in one of the neighborhoods, you know..

LM: Yah,

Jl: And we'd go to the movies there and then we'd go to another one, maybe, after, [chuckling] all in the same night.

^KLM: That's a long way to court you from Banks to Lake Oswego in an old Model T, or what kind of a car did he have?

Jl: No, he had a, uh, it is one that they don't have 'em anymore, I've forgotten it now, the name of it ..anyway, it's just, no it wasn't a, oh, Studebaker! He had a Studebaker, it was his families' car but he drove it. I don't think the old folks ever knew how to drive it. And he'd pick me up in the Studebaker we went up to, uh, we was going up to Columbia Gorge one time, you know, to see the country there, and he was driving, and we come back and the [heat charger?] ^{STREET CAR?} was on you know that, coming on there, and I don't know what happened but he's running into those ^{STREET CAR} peacocks, into the front of those peacocks, [giggle] so after that he made me drive. [chuckles] ^{STREET CAR.}

LM: Oh, really!

Jl: He never like to drive. [chuckles]

KLB: And how did you learn to drive? Just driving with him, or did you learn how to drive...?

Jl: Well when we lived in Silverton my aunt, my aunt liked to go around and see the country and so she bought a Dodge car and they brought it out and they showed me how to drive it and I was the only one that drove. Nobody knew how to drive it, but me. [chuckle] So I drove them. Every Sunday they'd go for a ride, see, and the roads were awful muddy, kinda like this one out here! And we drove to Mt. Angel to trade over there a lot of times, you know, to see the stores over there. And then one time we were driving by and there was an old Monk there, you know from the Catholic church out there, he was, had a garden out there, on the side of the road and he, he would come over to, he was Irish, too, so he come over and talked to my step-dad. And then he'd give us stuff out of his garden.

KLB: Yah, but who taught YOU how to drive? If your Aunt had the car...

Jl: Well, the man that brought it out.. KLB: OOh. I see! I see2

Jl: He showed me how to drive, right? And I drove it down the barnyard^{yard}, you see, there, to practice on it, and everything.

KLB: Donald Sunde told me the same story about when his dad bought a car in Portland and the salesman or representative of Fords came out once a week and gave his dad a driving lesson, like eight or ten weeks, so that he sold the car and taught him how to drive.

LM: Did you have to get a drivers' license, in those days?

Jl: Well, I don't know, I think there was a somethin' about twenty-five cents, or something like that.

LM: But, did you have to take a driving test?

Jl: No. No, just the garage man where we bought it. Now there was..
[interruption]

KLB: Now, to start the car, did you have to get in front and crank it, at that time?

Jl: I think we did. I'd forgotten how that was. I don't remember cranking it though.

LM: So that was about 1920?

Jl: Yes, along in there somewhere.

LM: Were there still lots of horses on the roads?

Jl: Yes, there was lots a horses out there. And I had a horse and buggy.

LM: Oh, you did?

Jl: My aunt bought me a horse and buggy to go to the high school with. And they also had one, next door, there and we would go to the high school. And one time there was a hill when you were coming into Silverton, and there was a livery stable with big doors. And you would drive down there and then you'd drive into the livery stable and they'd take care of the horse for us, til we came home. They'd have it all hitched up, you know, when school was out. And we, uh,

One day, we went down the hill, we raced down there [laughing] and we'd hit the wheels in the door, down there [giggle hearty laugh] but it was, uh, it was interesting, it was just a little buggy you know, and horse. .yah, a one horse. And we used it, the eggs, you know, we had all of those eggs, and we didn't, couldn't sell 'em in town in Silverton, I mean there was so many of them, so we shipped 'em to Portland. And when I'd go to school, they'd put those eggs in the back of the, a little thing there so you could sit things in, a crate of eggs or two crates, or three crates, or whatever, and we'd go to the depot, and I'd help the man put 'em out, and send 'em up. We'd lift them out in the cart, by the train, you know, and send 'em up to Portland, and they'd send the empty ones back. And I'd have to go down and get the empty ones, with the horse.

Then my Step-dad was a, I shouldn't tell this on him, but he was a proud guy, he always wants to be first, you know, so if we were, if the hens were down on their lay and we didn't have two crates, we'd put in an empty one [laugh], see?. So when we drove by the neighbors they'd still see two crates! [laughing].

He didn't know any thing about farming. And, uh, when he was going to plant the grain, you know, he went out there and he was going like this he took the grain and sprinkle it around like this and the neighbors saw and said "What's he doing out there?" and mother said, "He's sowing the grain." [Giggle] Well, you see, they used to broadcast it like this, take a step and then throw it like that. [giggle] He was doing it like this. [Jane is obviously making the hand motion here, that her stepfather used.]

You see, in Ireland, they had such small lots, and they were so rocky..

LM: Oh, was he from, he was actually from Ireland?

Jl: Ya. They was rock walls, you know, around, and small and if they'd a throwed like this, it would go over to the neighbors, and they sowed by hand... [Chuckle]

I think he got into trouble anyway with all those kids, and he was a batchelor. [chuckles heartily]

LM: Were they happily married, though? Did they get along?

Jl: Oh, they got along alright. They used to argue, of course. Course they argued quite a bit before they got those chickens because he didn't want to do it.

LM: ...he didn't?

Jl: No. But I'd hear 'em arguing at night. She finally went out and got the chickens. She said, "Let's ride it out one year and see what happens". So she pioneered, she did so well that she had long chicken houses, she had about five hundred chickens. She had an incubater, but she hatched some of her own chickens.

One time I was in the house alone, there and she had the incubator in one of the bedrooms downstairs, and there was a kerosene lamp, that's how they heated, they didn't have electricity then we had to use kerosene lamps. And you had to keep them an even temperature, you know, ..in those days, and then you had to turn the eggs every day like the chickens, like the hens, like a setting hen does. Well, I smelled something and I went in there and here they were around that lamp was flame the oil had caught afire someway. So I grabbed that lamp and run to the door and I dropped it it burnt my hand, I dropped it on the porch and I ran into the house to get something, and there was a something laying there, and grabbed it and beat that fire out and it was my mother's new kimono. [Laughter]

LM: OH MY GOSH!

Jl: But I think I saved the house. Did you notice if there was a porch out there, when we were down there?[to KLB?] I must have seen it...When we lived there there was a burned spot...

KLB: There was a front porch! Was it the front porch, or the back porch?

Jl: They had told me to go around to the back because it was easier to get in, didn't they?. We came in through those steps, you know.

KLB: Yah, right! We came into the side through the kitchen, I think we went out, around, the front.

Jl: We didn't go out the front, we went out the back because it was easier to get out.

JLB: That's right!

Jl: I wish I'd a looked out there look, to see if that, it mighta been that little burned place was still there. I don't think I told 'em that story!
[Laughter]

She wants us to come again! She wrote and said that she enjoyed that very much, and she'd like when we're down that way, to come again.

Lot's of tales I could tell her about things, down there. [Chuckle] Oh, I had a varied life.

KLB: It's amazing when you think about it, [unintelligible] churns,and things, you know it would be hard for me to do without machines!
[unintelligible gabbing]

Jl: And how, where we used to get the mail, way up there was quite^a walk, way up there! There is a beautiful little valley there, I wish we'd..

LM: Now, what river? Was that the Pudding River?

(Abieva)

Jl: No, that's the Abercroft River over part of their land there, where we went up and went around, you know? That's the ~~Abercroft~~. My sister had a place up there and we kids used to go over there and swim, you know. We didn't have swimming suits, we'd just put on some old overalls and hop in.

LM: I wanted to ask you about clothes. Did you ever wear, did you ever wear trousers, in the early days?

Jl: No, we had long dresses, somewhere around here I had a picture of ...[end of first side of tape.] (counter at 394)

Side 2:

Jl:..I was sure I had a picture of, you know [sound like she is rummaging around in a drawer] The kids took some pictures I had and copied 'em. I don't know where it is, they had long dresses, and...this is..I don't know whether I put it in here, or not..

[Aside to someone, her daughter, Phillis?] Have you ever seen this picture, of Margaret and her husband?

PIG: No? Oh yes,

Jl: I don't know where I put that, Here is Marvin! The kids was over here once and I had to'em [laughter]

[tape clicks off and on. Perhaps a new session is beginning]

Jl: Well, after Hiller and I got married in 1919, we got married, and we lived with the folks, his folks, about three months. And then my mother and father, Step-father, wanted to get, they were living with my sister, at the time, got tired of that, it was too crowed, and that, they talked about going around and finding a place to buy. So, they went, on the train around, and, uh, and didn't go with a car, because they didn't drive, or anything. And they found a real estate man, and he told 'em about this place in Tualatin. So, uh, they got us, Hiller and I, to come down and look at the place.

And we come out on the train, electric, Oregon Electric was runnin' then, and we came, got off at Tualatin. There was just a little store there, it was Mr. Robinson's candy store and there was Robinson's store on the corner there. Brick store and there was a little post office [unintelligible] [low musings unintelligible]..it was an old name...

LM: Shamoni?

Jl: [Emphatically] Shamone running it. And he was kinda cranky old fella. He was the postmaster at that time. And, uh, so we didn't know how we was going to get up to this place. Well, there was a bunch a girls came in a car and, uh, my husband, and my husband hailed 'em down, and it was the Nyberg girls. They were tall blond kids, you know, running around town in their own car! So they took us up to Leuthi's farm. And, uh, 'course Leuthi's, uh, kept their car in Byrom's barn because it was so muddy on the, on the road. They had a Model T.

So, anyway, we got, got up there, and got down to see the Leuthi's, and talked to the people about the place, and everything, and they decided to buy it! That was in, uh, that was just about in 1920, I guess. And, uh, so we had to stay there with them [Leuthi's] for about two weeks because the place that they bought over in Tigard was not into yet, they had sold, it, bought it, and the people hadn't moved out yet. So my husband learned all about the place from Mr. Leithi. And, uh, where everything was, and everything.

So when they left, why, my mother and father, Step-father, came to live with us, too, so we, uh, we bought the farm. There was fifty chickens on it, that went with the place. And a team of horses, and ten cows, and the harness and everything. So all we had to do was go down and milk the cows and gather the eggs and just start right in farming. We had the tools, and the cows, and everything.

KLB: How much land was it? forty acres?

Jl: Yes, it was forty acres. And my husband liked it because there was a stream on it for the cows to go and drink in, you know, and pasture for them and then there was ground that we had grain, and potatoes, and whatever we raised. And there was an orchard on it. We had our own trees, apples and pears, and there was three great big pear trees.

And so my mother and father they took two rooms at the side, there was two rooms in the older part of the house.

KLB: That was already there?

Jl: That was already there. And they took one for their bedroom and one for their livingroom and they had a stove in there, and they lived in that part of the house. And then we had the other part of the house, and there was an upstairs. There was three bedrooms upstairs. And the kitchen, we built on a kitchen, more, in fact the kitchen was right by the livingroom, our livingroom, the kitchen was right there and there was just a archway between. And my mother, she's, that was her plan, she decided that she'd build on, a kitchen outside there and make the porch bigger, so we did, Mr. [sounds like Rasmussen] from Oswego came and built it for us. We lived there 46 years!

(counter at 61)

LM: Well, Jane, I'm curious. Now, in the forty acres, ten cows and a few chickens, could you make a living, from your farm? or did your husband work out, or did you have to...?

Jl: Well, we had, we made a living! We sold eggs, milk, and, you know, we made a living. It wasn't a real fancy one, but we got along...

KLB: How did the...

Jl: And then the depression come along, too, there.

KLB: This was 1920 when you bought the place? about 1920?

Jl: Yes.

KLB: I'm curious to know how the milk, uh, selling operation went. Did you put the milk in cans out to be picked up? or..

Jl: The milk cans, and the milkmen, they would come down, to the house, and get the cans of milk.

LM: Was it whole milk? Or did you "separate"?

Jl: No, it was whole milk. And afterwards, we did "separate" and sold cream, you know, we had a separator down by the barn.

KLB: And who did you sell it to?

Jl: There was a, there was a little place over by Tigard, what was that name?

LM: Not Redrock Dairy?

Jl: Yah, that Redrock Dairy!

LM: OH! You sold it to them?

Jl: Yah!

KLB: And they would come over every day? or every other day, and pick up the milk?

Jl: No, I think they come everyday. Because we didn't have any cooling system, or anything. We had a big tank, cement tank, down by the barn. In a little house there, and we'd set the cans in that cold water that we'd run in there. We had the water piped from up at the house.

KLB: Now when the Redrock Dairy people came to pick up, did they drive down to the barn where the cans were? with the cans in there, or did you have to bring them up to the road?

Jl: Well, we had a cart that we'd put it on and push 'em up there.

KLB: So they, so you had to bring 'em out to the road?

Jl: Out to the road. I've still got that old cart!

LM: Oh, Good!

Jl: It's own at, uh, Phyllis's. Push it, push it down low, you know.

KLB: Now there were 20 cows, you were saying?

Jl: No, ten. There wasn't room enough for that many cows in that barn.

KLB: So Hiller milked ten cows night and morning?

Jl: Umhum, yah! He had to milk ten cows. So later on we got a, uh, milker.

LM: How long did it take him to milk ten cows?

Jl: Oh, I don't know. He'd get up early and build the fire, that was one nice thing he did. In the wood stove. And then he'd go down to the barn. And when it would get warm out there, then I'd get up. [chuckle] It was so cold. And I'd get breakfast, and everything. I never milked. And so he'd milk and then he'd come up to the house, and he'd have his breakfast, and then he'd go out and check his team, or go out and plow, or whatever he was gonna do in the field.

And, uh, so it was just hard work. And they dug potatoes by hand, you know. Now they have a machine, but I remember one year we had quite a little patch of potatoes and he dug 'em all by hand. And then I went and picked 'em up and put 'em in the sack, you know. And then he'd get the horse slide and go up and haul 'em to the shed. Under that building that you saw...it was a brick and there was a room under there for potatoes, and he'd put potatoes in there.

KLB: And did you sell potatoes, or was that just for your own use?

Jl: Yes, we sold potatoes. We used to take 'em down to Robinson's store, you know, in Tualatin. And uh, one year it was awful. People were out of work and everything, and Dad had some the men come and picked for shares. They took potatoes for shares. In other words, they'd pick some up and they'd get to keep some. Cause times were hard then, you know. Fifteen cents a dozen for the eggs. Not very much price, you know.

LM: Did you sell your eggs at Robinson's store, too?

Jl: Yes, we sold some there, and the rest of 'em we had to ship 'em to town, there wasn't any place else that would take that many eggs!

KLB: How many chickens did you have?

Jl: A lot a times [sic] we had, oh, not here! Oh, I don't know, I had a couple a hundred, I think.

KLB: Now how did you sell them in Portland, did you take them down to the, and put them on the train in Tualatin?

Jl: No. One time, in one of those real bad years, everything was so cheap, I took the old Model T, I put Phyllis on the seat, a little baby and I took the crates of eggs on the back seat, and I went to Portland and over on the East side, I went over there, and I went around to house-to-house and sold eggs!

And you know, I got acquainted with those people. They was a lot of Italians over there, and they loved to make noodles, you know. And they liked the fresh eggs. And I got acquainted, I made, I got a route worked out, I went every week, around there, and they was always happy to see

their eggs, fresh eggs. One day, I went to the door and a man come to the door with a great big long rolling pin, about that long, and I thought I was gonna, I was really gonna get it now! [chuckle] He was rolling the dough out on the table with that big rolling pin. [Hearty laugh.] But he always paid. They always had money to pay me.

LM: Do you remember what you charged for the eggs, back then?

Jl: I think I paid, I charged them twenty-five cents, [unintelligible] I don't think they paid very much.

KLB: Delivered?

Jl: Yah, but gas was real cheap, you know.

LM: Now, can you remember the route you were driving to Portland? You would go on Boones Ferry Road across the Tualatin bridge, and then, what would be...

Jl: Let's see. I'd go to, uh, I'd go to Oswego, and over the bridge there.

LM: Sellwood Bridge?

Jl: Yah, I got to Powell Valley, Powell...

LM: Oh, Powell, o.k. yah!

PIG: Ross Island Bridgel

Jl: Ross Island Bridge, I'd go over there. And, there wasn't so much traffic, you know, like there is now. And, I'd go there and I got it started, you know, a route I'd go down one street and up the next one.

KLB: Now what prompted you to go over there in the first time? The very first time that you, uh, went over there.

Jl: Well, I just decided, we weren't makin' anything outa those eggs and I thought, "I'm gonna try to sell some in town!"

KLB: So you decided...

Jl: So I decided I said to Dad, "We'll just take some eggs and put 'em in the car and see what we can do. See if we can sell 'em".

LM: Did you try Lake Oswego, places closer around? Did you try there, also?

Jl: No, I didn't do that, no. I had a, a basket, a big, uh, laundry basket I put in the back. Right in there, too, sometimes for Phyllis to lay in there. I put a big pillow in the back. She was just a little thing, and she'd lay in that basket and sometimes I'd have her on the seat, here beside me.

KLB: That was in the late 20's then?

Jl: Ya, but she is 62 so she was, that was quite a while ago.

LM: When you had your children, did you go to the hospital?

Jl: I did for the first one. I went to, uh, there was a women's hospital in Portland. My sister knew about that. It was a women's, I forget where it was, it was over on the East side somewhere. Anyways, she took me down there, that was Louella. I had Louella. And I had a bad time that time, I don't know what it was. It was something pulled loose, anyway I lost some blood, anyway I had her

(counter at 160)[bad spot on the tape until 162]

...She was helping me, you know. I was kind a weak. With Howard I went to St Vincent's Hospital and had him. And Phyllis was born at home. She was in a hurry.

LM: I see, so you didn't have time to get to the hospital?

Jl: She had always been in a hurry! [chuckle]

LM: Well, did you have a doctor or did your mother just help?

Jl: Well, mother was there and I was upstairs in the bed and the water broke and I come down and I told mom it's gonna be right now!

Jl:(continuing) ..so she put me in her bed she put a lot of sheets under me and everything, and then I had her. It didn't take long! I was pretty quick! And then she just lay there so Dad went over and got old Doc Rucker.

KLB: Oh, my, I remember him!

Jl: Yah! And he came and finished up. And after, after that I was sick. I don't know, nobody could find out what was wrong with me. I had a high fever, I thought it was the flu or something, they took me to the hospital over by the doctor over in Oregon City ..[one word unintelligible but then there is laughter from the ladies].

LM: Cough Cough

Jl: Anyway, they couldn't find out what was wrong with me, but it turned out that I had an internal, like a boil, inside of the intestine, and that broke, and then I knew what it was. So I went to Doctor Rucker and he said, "Drink mineral oil, keep that flushed out" see, so it would heal. But I had an awful fever, and I couldn't eat, I was, I was only 110 pounds, I weighed, and I...

LM: Were you able to nurse Phyllis?

Jl: No, we had to get the cows milk. I was bad with fever.

LM: Now, did you boil the cows milk, or just feed it raw?

Jl: Well, I think we had to, I think we heated it, somehow. We had to cool it down, you know. But sometimes he'd put it, I think, he'd put a little on my wrist and I'd say "Well, that's too hot!"

~~[unidentified woman]~~ ^{TAKES} Phyllis was pulling at her leg, or want'in that milk!

could tell that was too hot. give it to her anyway [laughter]
I think there was somekind of a mixture they used to use, put something in the milk.

LM: Do you think it was Karo Syrup?

Jl: Well, something, anyway, she's, she lived. And, uh, I was sick, I had a hundred and three fever, you know, I was real sick, with that. But anyway

I got over it, but I was weak for a long time. Mother was there always, to cook and do all of the work and take care of the baby. She loved to sit and rock the baby.

~~EM~~: You had two others who weren't that much older, Louella and Howard.

Jl: Ya, ya. Howard was 2 years older and Louella was four years older. There was two years between the kids. I lost one in between.

LM: Oh.

Jl: [long silent pause] Anyway, [low, sad voice] it was a long time ago!

LM: Was your father living still? Or had he died.

Jl: Yah. he had...

LM: I mean your step-father.

Jl: My own father, my step-father was living with us, too there, when I had the children, and my own father, he moved up to Portland. And he was living over in that area where I delivered the eggs and I'd go see him, too when I'd go around with the eggs in the Model T.

~~JLB~~: I remember your old Model T!

Jl: [Happy chuckle] I wish'd we had one now! They are real expensive!

LM: Oh, ya! What was the grain harvest like back in the twenties?

Jl: Well, I guess it was pretty good, uh, we always had a great big bin full in the granery. I don't know just what you...

LM: The method of harvest. You know, did you use horses, or did you use tractors?

Jl: The combine, you know, you combined, and the bundles, you get the bundles, and all? And then you had the threshers come in, you know, and when you go to combine it made bundles then you stood the bundles up, like this, you know, so they'd dry, and when everything was dry you'd stack it into a big stack and then the thrashin' machine come up along side that

stack and then there'd be people on the stack throwing into it.

LM & KLB: Oh, Hi, Phyllis! [sound of a door slam and women greeting someone who came in the door, from the conversation, it is Jane's daughter, Phyllis. She obviously has not been present during this second session T.M.]

LM: Did you see our car on the road?

PIG: No, there was no sign of life here, or anything, I was wondering if you was comin' down here or not, or what was going on here!

Jl: What 'cha got? some mail for me?

PIG: Oh, I got you a Lane Bryants catalog and Greenpeace, they sent one to Emmitt and one to Phyllis Grimmit!

Jl: Oh, dear!

LM: [talking aside to someone about the tape recorder "Push this down to Play, too." and a click as if the tape had been off for a bit.]

Well,ok, now, what thrashing machine came out, was it Sagert's?

Jl: Well, there was Sagert's, then there was Sheckla's, remember the Sheckla's up by, uh...

LM: Sheckla's in Tigard.

Jl: Well, there used to be Sheckla's up here somewhere along the road there and, uh, then when the'd come, when I was first married and come here, I'd never cooked for a big gang like that, you know. They'd come and they'd have dinner. So I always had to cook dinner for 'em.

POG: That was noon, the noon meal was dinner?

Jl: Yah. They'd come, Orpha Sagert would come around and she'd say that they'd be over to your place, at a certain time,you know, she was, with Fred. And so the first time that I had to cook for 'em they come over and said they were coming. Well I didn't have any meat, so I was rushin'

down to Tualatin in my Model T and I, my brother Carl, his wife was commin' up the road and I hollered at her, I said, "The thrashers are comin." [Laughter!] and she said I sounded like the Devil was after me!

[laughter by all] So I went down and got the meat but she come over and helped me then, to get cookin'.

LM: Carl's wife or Orpha?

Jl: No, Carl's wife. Clara was her name.

KLB: Now, how many thrashers did you have to cook for?

Jl: Well, sometimes, you see, they had teams of men working, and maybe there'd be ten or twelve men and I had that long dining room table. I put it as far as it would go out there and then turned side and fried. One time I fried chicken and sometimes I had a roast or a kinda thing like that and biscuits. I made biscuits, sometime. They liked those, and, uh, and so then they'd water the horses by the well.

You had to pull the water out of the well, at that time, cause we didn't have any electrical well, you know, outside, to pump it. You pulled it up on a ch, a rope, you see, the bucket would go down and you'd pull it up. And then we had a big tub outside there, we'd pour it into and the horses would drink there, by the back porch. That's the way they were watered. But, then, you know, after we got the other well, the drilled well, and our electrical motor, we had electricity to do everything, for us. But anyway, they, they all seemed to get there and eat. They ate a lot, too! [chuckle] They were hungry men!

KLM: Yes, Mom used to tell the story about these threshers. They were hungry, you know, they worked hard and they had a good appetite. And ten or twelve of them came around, I think even twenty.

Jl: Yah, you had to get it out there! Get everything ready in time!

LM: Yah, it was tremendously different from now-a-days!

Jl: Yah, you don't have to cook for 'em.

KLB: But the noon meal was the big meal. Now it's at night.

Jl: Yes, yes, well, sometimes they'd need longer for some people it would be late, it would be supper, what they call dinner now. But anyway, uh, that middle meal, is lunch now, we have breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

LM: Yah.

Jl: Farmers don't have suppers anymore, suppers are way late, about 12 o'clock! [laughter]

LM: Well now, was it always Fred Sagert who came with the Sagert's, or did you ever see Lou~~ie~~? Lou Sagert?

Jl: Oh, yes, we knew Lou~~ie~~. We knew all the Sagerts.

LM: What were they like?

Jl: Well, they were nice people. They were just, uh, farmers, like we were, you know, and they were part of our

KLM: Now, well the Sagerts had their own fields but they had the threshing operation where they went around and do other fields for other people?

Jl: Yah, I don't think Lou^{ie} run that, uh, one that did that. *Fred was the*

LM: Yah, I think originally, it was Lou that did that.

Jl: It might a been him, but when he got older, then when he got older then Fred and Orpha did it, but she would go around and tell people when they would be ready. She did, I don't know what other things she did, but she always a good person.

was
LM: She was a hard worker!

Jl: Yah, she was.

PIG: [something like" PTA"

LM: Well, when did you get a refrigerator in your house?

Jl: Oh, that was a long time there before.. I don't remember what year it was, about 34? When we got electricity, you see.

LM: Now, when did you have electricity in the house? You didn't have electricity in the house... when...:

Jl: No, we had lamps, I still have a couple a lamps.

LM: Kerosene lamps?

Jl: Kerosene lamps.

PIG: That was before I was born.

Jl: Well, yah, Phillis, that's right! When Phillis was born the electricity come on. We just got it on when she was born.

LM: Is that right!

Jl: So that was 62 years ago.

LM: Well, I wonder if they went around, if that's when electricity was brought...

KLB: ...Electricity was brought to a lot of the farm houses.

Jl: Well, I tell you, it wasn't down to our place, yet, and it was up to Sunde's. It hadn't come any further. There wasn't enough houses down there, they said, to the to the company..

KLB: So Byrom's house didn't have electricity, either, until you did, then?

Jl: I guess not. And then, and then they begin to get more homes back in there, you know. Back of us.

PIG: It come to Coleman's land.

Jl: It come to Coleman's, a man come one day and they wanted to sell us all that land for eighty dollars, back there. That was right in the depression.

LM: Yah.

Jl: We didn't have any money to buy it! [chuckle]

KLB: Yah.

Jl: I wish'd we had of!

LM: Where would that have been in relation to your place?

PIG: That was right out behind our place.

Jl: Joined our place, right at the back.

LM: Over Van Loo's?

Jl: Yah!

KLM: [unintelligible question?]

Jl: All that over there is...

PIG: [Unintelligible]

Jl: Over at Norwood and Tonquin areas [several people talking, unintelligible..] And they sold it off in five acre patches, you know. Campbell got five acres.,

+IMBREA

KLB: So five acres times eighty acres, four hundred dollars for a five acre tract? Four hundred dollars for a five acre tract?

Jl: No, Bert paid a thousand dollars for his place. They had five acres.

[several talking at once and unintelligible]

PIG: Back in the thirties, that was in twenty seven I was born, the first one..

KLB: Well how much was a five acre tract then? About four hundred?
(counter at 358)

Jl: Well, I don't know ..

KLB: If they offered eighty dollars an acre...

Jl: I don't remember what year it was they offered it...

LM: Well, when electricity came, when you first got electricity, besides electric lights, did you get any electric appliances, right away, or? How did electricity change your lives?

Jl: Well, during the war you couldn't get any refrigerators.

PIG: During the war, but before then..

LM: Well, yah, but before then, say early thirties, you got the electricity in twenty..seven.

Jl: Seven!

LM: So was it just the light, primarily or did you have....

Jl: Well we didn't have any appliances or nothing', we just had lanterns. Then we got those, when the war was on Dad was working in the shipyard and he got paid and made some money and he drilled a well. And then we had electricity, for the pump, for the pump, see. And we had water pumped into our house.

PIG: So there was a hot water heater.

LM: But before that, before the war you didn't have running water in the house?

PIG: Yah, we did. We had it pumped up into a tank out back.

Jl: Well, we put a pump in there in the well, but when we first came we had a bucket and a rope and then Dad fixed a, a well it was kind of a high and we put a barrel up there, and we would pump the water up into that barrel from there it would flush it down into the kitchen when we turned the faucet on it come down in the kitchen and get in the hot water tank see, there, so we'd get hot water..

LM: [interrupts] Hot water tank in your stove?

Jl: Yah, yah! there was...

End of Tape 1, Side 2, (counter at 392)