

Person Interviewed: DeLoris Grossen

Interviewed by: Winn Herrschaft and Juliane Schudek

Other people present: Deloris' two daughters

Location of Interview: 8320 SW Canyon Dr. Portland, OR 97225

Date: 4/1/2011

Special Conditions: 51:30 – 53:00 pause in interview as Deloris looks through photo album, camera gets turned toward ceiling for about a minute, 54:50 – 56:30 camera angle change to floor and interviewers shoes, then hand moves over lens

General Description: family history, farming, urban growth boundary issues, Save Helvetia, music and food, working for Washington County Farm Bureau

1:05 – 5:00 Deloris talks about her family history, her past growing up and going to school in Washington County, taking public transportation, house burning down and rebuilding home that now stands (no fire service to put out fire), father planting by hand without machines

5:15 –7:05 talks about farm labor, grain threshing machine and crew

7:20 –8:10 Delores talks about her responsibilities on the farm, sewing and hauling grain sacks

8:10 –9:00 talks about religion, conversion to Baptist to Presbyterian upon marriage

9:00 – 11:25 talks about her work experience after high school working at a fort, Oregon shipyards during WWII, farming

11:25 – 12:25 getting married and moving off of farm, building car service garage that her husband and son worked in

12:30 – 16:00 being involved in politics through job at Washington County Farm Bureau, structure of Farm Bureau from national to local level, relevant agricultural issues like urban reserves and development, fertilizers and pesticides

16:00 – 18:45 focusing on recent urban growth boundary issue, antagonistic toward county and metro over issue, trying to make her land urban reserve and how that affects her ability to farm, talks about Save Helvetia, suggests the idea of a “rural reserve” instead of an urban reserve, Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC).

20:15 –22:00 Deloris talks about her land, 125 acres, nephew farms for her on a share basis, what she learned about farming from her family and community. Deloris owns farm, but doesn't farm.

22:20 – 24:15 talks about traditions and culture (music, food preparation and recipes, etc) growing up in Washington County, making homemade laundry soap in 1930s and 40s, going into Portland to buy sacks of bread

24:20 – 26:00 talking about her family and neighbors

26:10 – 28:00 growing up and going to school in West Union, going to Beaverton High instead of Hillsboro High

28:10 – 31:40 talks about her involvement in recent commission because they want to convert her farm to urban land, she does not want her land becoming urban, talks about future of Washington County agriculture going downhill and how that affects small companies related to the agricultural industry, mentions empty industrial land north of Helvetia (Jean Edwards Muir talked about this unused urban land as well), proposed highway interchange off Helvetia Rd that will consume rural homes and land, talks about relative newness of the issue (not faced by her parents).

31:45 – 33:40 Delores daughters talk about growing up on farm in rural area of Washington County.

33:43 – 34:45 talks about picking filbert nuts by hand, lack of imported labor in Helvetia, community members helping each other. Also 4H, garden

34:45 – 40:40 talks about larger community and community organizations (4H, Garden Club, Community Club), their role that played in learning farming and other domestic skills growing up. Community fundraisers (West Union Ham Dinner) and new restrictions on fruit picking, fundraisers such as restrictions on baked goods.

41:00 – 43:10 talks about role of music in community life, Helvetia Band, women in musical bands, community dances, women's role in community events through food, no all-women bands

43:35 – 44:35 talks about role of church in community life, doesn't have much memory of large church role in community life, but remembers gender segregation in West Union Church.

45:00 – 45:55 daughters talk about helping Deloris with vegetable canning and bread making as children, Deloris playing piano and accordion

47:00 – 48:00 talks about taking an extra year of school and learning short hand and using that skill with Farm Bureau and in other office work as a secretary.

48:35 – 50:20 talks more about playing piano, prevalence of piano playing among that generation, homemade clothing, quilting bees

51:00 – 51:30 Helvetia dance as social event for community

53:35 – 55:00 photo of 26th and Groveland Rd field where house current sits, hauling lumber to build house, other photos of construction process

57:40 – 1:00:50 shots of various family photos

1:00:55 – talks about parents losing money in bank during Great Depression, mother raising geese for extra money and Deloris' picking and cleaning butchered geese

Tags

Farming, Agriculture, West Union School, Washington County, Beaverton High School, Beaverton—Oregon, Bethany Baptist Church, Bethany Presbyterian Church, Astoria—Oregon, Ft. Stevens, WWII, Washington County Farm Bureau, Save Helvetia, Land Conservation and Development Commission, Music, Piano, Food, Community, Helvetia—Oregon, West Union—Oregon, Swiss Society, 4H, West Union Garden Club

