

The following interview is with Mr. and Mrs. John and Olive Mulloy, taking place on April 20, 1978 at their home in Laurel. The Mulloys still live on the homestead founded by Alfred Mulloy, originally a German emigrant, in 1872. Olive Mulloy's (Chambers) father moved to Laurel in 1852. John was born on the same said farm in 1891, while Olive was born in 1894. Both having come from pioneer families and having lived long lives themselves, this couple almost automatically qualifies as contributors to the Washington County Museum's oral history project.

At the beginning of the hour long interview, Mrs. Mulloy remembers back to a time when some of the original Washington County settlers, the Indians, were inhabiting the Laurel area before they were moved to the Indian reservation at Grand Ronde. So little is known of the Indians who inhabited the Tualatin Valley that this is an extremely valuable piece of information. While it might be difficult to substantiate Mrs. Mulloy's reminiscences about the Indians, information of this sort in any form is so rare that it is worth considering and preserving. As of this writing, an anthropologist by the name of Henry Zenk, a recent graduate from the master's program at Portland State University, is conducting a search for any and all information regarding the native American. One is encouraged to refer to his works for further enlightenment on this fascinating subject.

Mr. Mulloy then goes on to relate the colorful chronological history of his life, his farm, and his community. He prefaces his tale by attributing his long and happy life to "a lot of hard work. Three square meals a day. Breakfast, dinner and supper on the farm...Plenty of exercise and plenty of work. And then we go to a lot of dances. Then from 1924 on, when we built the community hall here at Laurel, we've been going to dances ever since. You have to have some fun mixed in with your work."

A most interesting portion of the interview comes when Mr. Mulloy is discussing the dairy industry in Washington County. During 1929, the farmers, frustrated by the refusal of the milk processing plants in Portland to purchase their milk on a consistent and regular basis, began to organize themselves into milk-cooperatives. This only served to raise the ire of the milk buyers who adamantly resisted any association with the cooperatives. With both sides fomenting one another's wrath, the outbreak of what is known as the "milk war" was inevitable. In this short-lived "battle", the dairy farmers refused to sell any of their milk to the processors until they recognized the cooperative and agreed to purchase their milk on a daily basis. Any farmer ignoring the boycott would have their milk systematically dumped by bands of "pirate" farmers in support of the strike. In order not to spoil the rest of the story by relating it here in the introduction, it will be left for the users of the tape to listen to the narrative first-hand. It is suffice to say that it proved to be a victory not only for the farmers in Washington County, but also for the farmers in the entire ~~Washington County~~ Portland vicinity. For a fuller understanding of the milk war and all of its ramifications, please refer to the oral history tape with Mr. Arthur Ireland, a noted dairyman from Forest Grove.

In the second half of the tape, John and Olive expand the conversation to include such topics as the importance of the family and community ties, social organization i.e. church, dance halls, community center, social and recreational activities, and the like. The tape provides a colorful and folksy glimpse of the Mulloy couple and community they live in. For those further interested in Laurel, an excellent book written and published by the Laurel Ladies Social Club, appropriately entitled, Laurel, provides an in-depth historical look at this section of the county.

OK. I think a quick review of what we were talking about. Why don't you go ahead and introduce yourself, tell me when you were born and your age?

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I'm John Mulloy. I was born here on this farm in 1891. Married in 1913. Raised hops for four years, was born and raised in a hop yard. Everybbody had hops in this territory around Laurel. Then I milked cows; that was our main livelyhood, for a good number of years. Later in 1927 we set out a ~~_____~~ orchard. Then later on . . . we . all together . except ~~00000000~~ the ranch, now i have 40 acres of filberts and walnuts. One time there I had ~~some walnuts~~ a hundred acres of walnuts on this farm; there was a 160 acres on the total farm- it was a 160 or a little over.

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And your still working on the farm.

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Yeah, a lot of hard work. Three square meals a day. Breakfast, dinner, and supper on the farm. I mentioned hard work didn't hurt us any.

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Yeah? It that what you attribute your long life to that?

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Well, plenty of exercise. Plenty of work. We go to a lot of dances. And then from 1924 when we built the community hall here at Laurel, we've been going to dances ever since. You have to have some fun mixed in with your work.

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Why don't you go ahead and introduce yourself Mrs. Mulloy.

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I'm Olive Mulloy, and I was born in 94, and then my father came here from Illinois in 1852. And was a blacksmith. "He was 12 years old then." And he was 12 years old at that time. And there were quite a lot of indians here at that time. He started out from Illinois with 13 wagons, ox team, and got here with three. The Indians were quite bad. Crossing the Plains. He came into Portland. Portland wasn't much at that time. Then he came out here and took up a DNC. His father did. And, He's lived and died on this farm as a blacksmith.

140

Ah, you were telling me earlier about some of the indians that lived here in this area.

142

The indians were here. And one trouble they had was with a family by the name of Dilivoj. They had to surround the house in order to save the family, the neighbors that was here right close to Bald Peak.

154

The settlers had to surround the house?

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Yes the settlers surrounded the house to protect the family from th . . . he got in trouble over clearing land. Indians was hired to clear land at that time and he got in trouble with them. Once you was in trouble with an indian you was in trouble. And so the country what was here protected him

by surrounding the house. And then after that I don't know how long the indians was given the land over at Grand Rhonde. And that's where they settled eventually

182

The indians themselves ^{would} cleared the land here.

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They would work for the whites that was here. The Dilivoysi in paying them didn't do the right thing or something happened and they were in war with them.

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That's just the one family here?

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That's just the one family here that had trouble with them mostly? People were coming in here and taking the land which they were living on. As it is of today they don't like to be chased out of their land. And that's what happened at that time. And then my father had several brothers. ~~and~~ one of them was a minister. He started ~~the~~ Christian Church. ~~One of them~~ They built a christian church at what used to be Farmington. That's where I was raised.

215

When you were little then you remember some of the indians that were still .. Yes, I remember a few of them around. You mentioned before... you were describing the physical characteristics ... They were tall. now there's two different bunch of Indians the ones that were out North that was where the Meeks lived. He came.. the Meek family came earlier than that. here in this country. And they were these were a different bunch of indian.. two different kinds. And I don't remember what the name of either one was. But ...

239

Were they called Kalapuyans at that time?

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No. No I don't remember that. But Meeks had a little different class of indians than were in this place and in the north of Hillsborp.

249

You say they were moved to a reservation.

Yes the Grand Rhonde.

They were picked up and moved, or they just

They just eventually were given land over there, by the government or somebody I suppose. And that's where they settled. ^{new place} The government fixed a place for them.

You mentioned that although the Dilivoy seemed to have problems that some of white settlers got along well with the ~~case~~ indians. Ah, was that the case? Some did. They didn't have any trouble with them. But if you was in trouble with them you was in trouble.

266

OK. I'd like to switch a little bit back to the Mulloy family. You told me earlier how the Mulloy Family arrived in the area.

270

My grandfather, Alfred Mulloy came from Germany when he was 13 years old; he entered somewhere up in eastern Canada, and grandmother Mulloy came from Canada when she was 19 years old. After they were married later on they settled in Iowa. He was a blacksmith also. They did a little farming and blacksmith work. And in 1871 the railroad was completed into Frisco in 69 .. that's when they .. the spike ~~was~~ connected the railroad. Well, they came to Frisco on the Anagon Train and then boarded an ocean schooner and then came to Portland. They settled down around Albany in year 1871. And so in the next Spring in 1872 he came up in this locality and settled in Laurel, Oregon in Washington County ... looked around and settled here. They moved here in April of 1872. My dad at that time was 12 years old.

301
original
move on up
Was that your grandfathers intention when he came to San Francisco ~~was~~ to come to Oregon

Well yeah. They came to Frisco and directly up to Portland.

Did you ever here him say what attracted him to Oregon, or what caused him to come to Oregon.

320
Waise
Oregon was just like everything ... it was all gold pretty much. A lot of it was to Oregon for settling. The climate up here, agriculture, and so forth. Portland at that time, 1870, wasn't much of a town either. Well, they called it a stumptown in 1850. Have you ever read the history of Portland/

A little bit, yeah. I'm not familiar with stumptown.

They called it a stump town. They cut the trees down. In 47 48 somewhere in there Portland was developed.. . got it going.

Your grandfather was German. Did he come with a lot of other German immigrants? No, I never heard him mention much about ~~any~~ any German people at all. There was no German immigration. His family moved into Canada. When he got married up there he immigrated down into Iowa and several states there for a number of years.

357

Why did he pick this particular area here in Laurel. What attracted him to here?

358

I wouldn't know that what attracted him to Laurel.

The Gold Rush? Mrs. Mulloy

What? No, your folks came in 52. That was the California Gold Rush of 49 and 50.

Was his original intention farming then, when he came out here?

I suppose he thought it looked pretty good this valley here. 370 it was

Did he ever say what the countryside was like at that time when he came?

More or less timber here. Hda to be cleared.

The clearing operations. Did he do the clearing? Or did they have hired labor coming out here?

No, they done a lot of the clearing themselves.

Formed around stumps.

She mentioned some of the indians did the clearing. I also understand that some of the Chinese would come out and clear land.

Well my dad when he was he was nineteen years old work up just north of Hubbard Oregon on the Hubbard place and they had Chinese up there that came and camped and cleared the land. The Chinese would do work for them. Chinamen. That was over in Hubbard, Oregon. Hubbard is just north of Woodburn,

401

They didn't come out to this particular area.
No never settled out in this country.

Oh, when I got married a couple years afterwards I hired a bunch of well from Portland . . . Men! They were all Finns. You could contract out. They would clear it. There was some left to clear.

410
What years are we talking about here now?

That's 1915 -16 on there.

415

How would that work? Would you go into Portland?

Well we went in with a horse with what we call a hack team. It would take us 4 hours to go to Portland. We'd take on a foreign produce. My dad would go in with butchered ~~horse~~^{hogs} and veal and take butter. That was in the late nineties That's when we were living in the old house. He built the house up here in 1901. The house where I was born. You can go in get up about 1:00 and start out about 2 o'clock and get into Portland and then he'd buy some supplies and get home about 8 or 9 at night.

436

WOW.

Its a long day. The trip with a team.

They only make those trips in the summer time but the roads they were dusty.

What was the road into Portland?

They were dirt roads.

Was it going up where highway 219 is now?

Same road as Farmington.

OH! iI see.

You were mentioning the Fins that came out here. Were they immigrants themselves?

Well there were a lot of Finns in the country hunt ^{the} work.

They were inmigrants. Mrs. Mulloy

Did they settle here?

No. They were just out men looking for work.

Then come the Model T days when we got the Ford in 1917. Things were a little bit better for traveling then. Get it running. Crank it.

464

When your grandfather arrived here and he was a farmer what were his original crop

Was it mostly just to survive?

Potatoes, and a couple few cows. And then they'd make butter and ~~they'd~~^{they'd} haul the butter to the creamery this side of Farmington. They'd take their cream down there. Making butter. I can remember that.

Where was this creamery that you'd go to.

It was on Farmington Road from the junction- just about a mile and a half.

Right across from the Shoemaker farm.

How many people were living out in this area at that time?

was it just a few families?

In the 70's I don't know. But in 1900 it was quite a lot. We had about 30 or 40 kids at school, but we took in quite an area. Was their a community of

Laurelwood at that time?

Laurelwood is over the mountains. That's no connection with Laurel.

Laurel had two P.O.'s at one time in the early 1900's, i think 1904.

505

I understand your grandfather was the first Post Master.

He was the first Post Master in 1879 I believe. But in 1886 my ~~first~~ dad was made Post Master. Of Laurel. Grandfather Mulloy would go over and pick up the mail over the mountain over in Chehalem. Somewhere over in there with a horse. And go and pick up the mail for all the settlers over here. And they'd come to his house and pick it up. And in order to get a P.O. at Laurel with the increased people living here in 79 they had to get it together and have a name for this community. So the settlers had a meeting at *_____ Williams 524 just first ranch north of Laurel Store. They called it Laurel after the Laurel Phenocr on tree, called Laurel wheat. That's how it happened to be called Laurel.

530

Mail service must have been quite important. Was that your only contact with the outside world?

Yeah, most of the contact with the outside world was through mail.

Was it correspondence with relatives? Or Newspapers?

Newspapers.

That must have been the lifeblood then, of communication. Today we have all the modern conveniences of TV, News, and programs.

You know everything happening all over the whole world today.

You got mail once a week. Mrs. Mulloy

Then we got mail twice a week. Then later on we got mail every day.

553

OK. Back to some of the crops that were raised on ^{this} ~~some of the~~ farmland. I understand some of the original ones were grains, you ment on potatoes. I understand Hops were a big thing in this area. Could you tell me a little bit about how they started?

559

Well yeah, Along in the 1900's or in the late 1890's and all through there this area, well all of Washington County was ~~all hop~~ quite a bit hop yards. Pretty nearly every ranch had a hop yard. Oh down in the Reedville area and ~~down near~~ Cornell Road some large acreage as much as a 100 and 200 acre hop yard. Most of the hops had always grown around Independence and Salem. That's in Oregon; that's the main Hops section. Then people would come out from town from Hillsboro and Portland and they had camps for them. And they would be about two weeks on the farm ... hop pickers. Our hop crew was always 35 or 40 pickers. That was about the size of our crew.

Some of these pickers were Chinese?

No, they were all local.

585

Why do you think hops were such a big farm thing? Was this land especially suited for Hops?

Yeah, it really adapted good for hops.

What happened to the hops?

Well with WW I it was most all plowed up

and they had to raise beans for the government. They forced you to raise beans. for the Army. Navy Beans. Help was scarce and so forth. Everybody pretty much went out and it developed into dairy. ^{many} Everybody. This country then everybody was getting into dairy business. The shale mountain was pretty noted for potatoe growing. But they had mountain burbacks they've always called them.

How about Black Caps? Were they grown in this area?

607

Well later on the Black Cap industry come along in the 1920's. Oh no, later than that. The 1930's. 35 - 40. Along there. Berries. And the canneries developed in Hillsboro. Birds Eye was built in the 1930's somewhere along there. You

You mention that after hops dairy became the main crop.

625

Well, in 1903⁰⁴ the ^{organized businessmen of Hillsboro started} dairymen built a condenser. That's what started up the dairy business in Washington County. Milk Condenser. Ah, that's where the dog food plant is now. By the R.R. That was in 1903 or 04. In later years they sold out to Carnation milk company you know. A larger outfit.

Just because of the fact that Hillsboro had that condensery there, did that help the city of Hillsboro.

636

It helped the Dairy business all over Washington County. They'd pick up teams and haul the milk in - it was all trucked in by milk wagons ^{yes} teams - different milk routes.

Did that help the growth of the city of Hillsboro?

Oh, I think so. Yeah. It was a good industry. We got a milk check once a month. That helped out you know when you got ~~checked~~ ^{spread news milk} checked. People go into town and buy more

Something that I find interesting that I don't know too much about is the milk war.

656

I know all about the milk war. Alexander at the Argus has the tape on that.

In 29 or 30 we were shipping the milk more grade A milk going into Portland, and the processing plants wouldn't recognize the farmers who had organized what we call dairy co-ops. Co-operating. Sell their milk. Handle their business. And the different businesses, ~~creameries~~ ^{creameries} in Portland wouldn't have anything to do with the Dairy Co-Ops. This was August of 31. They hired a man from Seattle, Will Henry, and he was a good one. So, Henry couldn't get no satisfaction with the Dairy Co-Op. Nope, they were going to pay the dairymen themselves and they wanted to assess our milk and cheese so little why that was up to them/ and so we had plenty of that going on. So we had a milk war. It started on a Saturday ~~morning~~ morning. And all dairymen who went to Portland had a meeting on Thursday night, no I think it was on Friday night, and Saturday we was to notify all Dairymen ~~that we~~ to keep their milk at home. Or dump it out - or separate it. If you had a separator you could make cream out of it, you could sell it to the creameries you know, so you didn't have to dump it. Well on Saturdays we was dumping milk.

And we just dumped the milk that was headed for Poetland.

Did you just Shanghai the truck then?

Yeah. We just Shanghaied the truck. Hi Jacked em Take their load of milk and dump it. Well, one thing that made it good for the farmer, the dairymen,

well Julis Meirer of Meirer & Frank was governor. And John Connell was sherriff of WASHINGTON C_ounty. ^{This was - 1933 W} And so Julius Miver had told the State Police to lay off the farmers, and so the police ~~was~~ would tell us if we see you doing something unlawful dumping milk. Don't get into an arguement with us. Just say alright get in your cars and go on down the roads He said what happens a mile down the road to that trucker doesn't make any difference to us.

So they was on our side. And John C_onnell the Sherrif on Sunday night he got up on a spbox and whooped it up. He told the dairymen to go to it. So the dairymen had the law on their side you know. So they sent out a truck from Carnation. ^{Whowas his operator}

~~That~~ was Riverview Dairy. They sent a truck out to the condenser here in Hillsboro. ⁱⁿ

Condensed milk. You know that was grade C milk. They loaded up a tank truck ^{from Westlawn Kyon}

So it got down to Beaver. I wasn't in on that but some of my buddies ^{can tell you} all about it. They dumped the whole I guess it was about a 500 tank truck ~~right~~ by the where the Cedar Hills Blvd. the green line as you go out the TV highway. They caught it on that corner and they dumped it. And the milk run in on the filling station on the corner and down the street a littl ways from the house. It was a terrible upset. ^{see}

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milk run in their assent