

Washington County Museum
Oral History Interview with Julia Ramirez
At Washington County Museum Library
October 1, 2012

Informants: Larry and Bill Reiling
Interviewer: Beth Dehn
Transcriber: Pat Yama

BD: Beth
B: Bill
L: Larry

BD: This is Beth Dehn for the Washington County Museum interviewing cousins Bill and Larry Reiling on October 1st, 2012 at the Washington County Museum.

L: My dad was Arthur **:0014 Reiling. I'm the junior of that. And he worked, he was born in 1900 just outside Hillsboro and spent most of his life there. He worked for a canner, a cannery. He worked for ... first he worked for one called Gillette. A man named Gillette owned a small cannery and that's all I know about it. It was somewhere in Hillsboro. I have no idea what happened to it. Later after he went to Oregon State which was in Oregon Agriculture College for I think a year, maybe two, he didn't have any money, probably a year or less.

Anyway, after that he came home and went to work for the Ray Mailing Company which was a partnership with Mr. Ray who was a ... what was Mr. Ray's first name, I just thought of him this morning. He had the race horses and everything right out here on Orenco. Harold Ray. Harold Ray lived in Orenco and it always looked to me like he'd made quite a bit of money. He was a pop dealer. I guess it went to **:18 malters/Maletis for brewing probably. He owned race horses and had a race track over here, a couple miles. Anyway, Harold Ray was a partner with Bert Mailing, B. E. Mailing, hence the name, Ray Mailing Company and they were a canner. And I don't know when the company started, I assume in the late '20s probably - a bad time to start a business. I do remember dad telling me that Mr. Mailing one time when the Depression hit, he cut my dad's salary in half and said he was very fortunate because he still had a job. But he was told to go out and fire I don't know how many people but just let them go. And he was a young man. And he said it was very difficult thing to do.

So anyway the Ray Mailing Company, I think it was first the B. E. Mailing Company and then Mr. Ray stepped in probably to help with financing, is my guess. So then it's the Ray Mailing Company. And in the late '30s they contracted with Clarence Birdseye to come out from back east and they proceeded to do the first consumer size fruits and vegetables in retail size frozen containers.

BD: Oh okay.

L: And he, [I know but maybe everybody does it] but Mr. Birdseye, Clarence Birdseye had discovered the - or came upon the practice of fast freezing with the natives and I think Newfoundland. And he'd watch them catch fish and throw them on the ice and in five minutes they'd be hard as a brick. And so he figured well if he could do that with fish you ought to be able to do that with other things so he progressed from there.

So then the B.E. Mailing Company at some point in the late '30s became I think Birds Eye Frosted Foods and then at some point not too long after that General Foods Corporation bought them and then they became Birds Eye, that Birds Eye Division of General Foods Corporation. And that was that way for a good many years till dad retired which was in 1962. And ...

BD: Where was it located?

L: On ***3:36 **Baseline**. What street is that? About two blocks west of **First**. Can't remember how the streets are numbered there. Anyway it's all torn down now. There may be still a little cold storage there but I don't think so. Yeah. It was a pretty good size plant in its day. And when dad retired in 1962, this is how industry changed – Birds Eye had 11 production plants in the west. They had them in California, Idaho, Washington and Oregon of course and today they have zero. They're a marketing company only. They're not in production at all.

BD: What were they canning and freezing at that time?

L: They were all, Birds Eye was all frozen.

BD: All frozen.

L: I think they probably phased out the canning in the '40s, that's my guess. Which they did a lot of things for the government during the war too I remember that. Oh all the normal veg - strawberries, corn, beans, peas, later broccoli and cauliflower and about everything that's raised in Tualatin Valley.

BD: Okay.

B: What did your dad do in there.

L: Oh, what did dad do? He was, he obviously went up to the company he ended up. He was western division production manager but he did, he managed a plant, see. We lived in Salem for three years while he managed the plant in Woodburn and that was about 1938 to '41 I think. And Mr. Mailling's descendant, there's one descendant of Mr. Mailing that I know of and that's Bill MacDonald and he lives in Sun River.

BD: Okay.

L: And he would be about 82 years old. Bill and Audrey. And Mr. Ray I don't think he... I guess he was married at one time but no children.

BD: So what was your impression of - Birds Eye was a significant employer at that time, I would say?

L: Oh very, very. Yes, I have no idea of the numbers but yes they were.

BD: So this is a big Hillsboro...

L: They were... I'm sure the major industry in Washington County then.

B: How big were their facilities here? **5:59 **???** big.

L: It probably covered somewhere between one and two square blocks... close to two with the cold storage.

BD: Wow.

L: If they and if you're looking for information on Harold Ray, **6:21 Gar Pitman would be a good source of information.

BD: What is the name? Gar ...

L: Gar.

BD: Gar.

L: Dr. Gar Pitman.

BD: Okay.

L: It's W. G. - initials. But his parents were Dr. Archie and Ellen Pitman and they were big in this museum when it was founded I believe. That's where my folks.....

BD: When it was downtown Hillsboro.

L: I think so, yeah.

BD: Yeah. Which one **6:49 ??? So then you as a young person growing up, you remember the can...it's not a cannery. I don't want to call it a cannery. It's just a

L: It was a cannery originally and then Birds Eye converted it to all to frozen ** 7:04???.

BD: Birds Eye. So you called it a...

L: Frozen food plant.

BD: Frozen plant, okay. What do you remember about that area?

L: I use to work there.

BD: Yeah?

L: I worked on the Birds Eye farms and I worked picking strawberries and worked in the plant. I can't remember what I did. ***7:23 Trayed off. I remember traying off strawberries coming out of a freezer.

BD: What year was this then?

L: What year would that have been? High school years – 1950, 51, 52.

BD: Great. What about other local people that you remember at that time in Hillsboro. Like so your father was high up in the company obviously (Larry murmurs agreement). What else was happening in Hillsboro at that time?

L: What else was happening?

BD: Yeah.

L: (chuckles) It was a great place to grow up.

BD: Yeah.

L: Use to ride my horse Dixie right down Main Street and tie her to the bike rack and go in and get a milkshake. Yeah and nobody'd mind it. And there were Model A's running around and there were still few horse and buggies from time to time.

BD: Up into the '50s?

L: No, that would be '40s.

BD: Okay '40s.

L: Lots of...well going to high school it was a very – Hillsboro High School, it was Hills High. There was one high school when Marilyn/Meryl and I went. And I think the percent that went onto college was like, it was less than 10% I'm sure of that. And a lot of kids would drop out during the school year, particularly in their junior and seniors to help their families on farms or on a logging or saw mill or what have you. It just, it just happened.

BD: So the main industries were agricultural, logging....

L: (murmurs agreement) Farming of course yeah.

BD: Yeah.

L: What else Bill. I can't think of...

BD: Yeah Bill so how – let's go back to your....okay the relative you have in common then. Is that a good place to start time wise?

B: That would be Charlie and Louisa.

BD: Okay. So you can you tell us a little bit, when they came here - a little bit of the progression that family history. I know we have it all written down. I don't know if there's memories that you have or

L: I think it's in that book when the three brothers arrived.

BD: Or memories that you have of family members in common I guess might be a better place. We have the written history but

B: For me what I remember?

BD: Yes.

B: Well of course neither Larry nor I knew Martin nor Louisa. And Louisa died near the turn of the century I believe back – it's in the book here but we didn't know her. And as a matter of fact I actually can't remember out of all the time I spent with my grandfather and my aunt, I can't remember any mention of Louisa. So I don't know Larry whether you ever heard anything from your grandfather about his mother or not.

L: No, not that I remember.

B: And so you know and Martin lived to be an old man. He was in his 90s when he died I believe in 1933, wasn't it?

L: There's a picture in here of him at 84 working on a side of chicken house for Uncle Charlie.

B: Yeah, yeah.

BD: What do you know about the road then? Was it just their farm road that got named Reiling Road. That would have been named him co's that's sort of the assumption.

B: I suspect that's correct co's....

BD: Okay.

L: That gravel is real dusty.

B. Yeah, still is.

L: Oh is it? I thought it was paved.

B: Yeah, a lot of... I don't know. We were out there the other day. I know a lot of them are still gravel but since, that one could be paved. I can't tell you for sure.

L: Yeah.

B: I thought it was gravel but anyway. You know most of the roads out there were just named after old pioneer families who had been there for a long time. And you know thinking back to Hillsboro when you were asking Larry about that just to digress a little bit here – you know it was something you would have to see in the movies today almost to get the quaintness of what Hillsboro was. You know it was obviously the county seat back then. But there were no, as I recall when I was little I don't think there were any chain grocery stores or anything like that. They were all just local and small businesses, many small businesses around. So it was a totally different atmosphere. I remember around courthouse the old retired farmers would be sitting around there playing checkers or something during the day on a nice day. They had benches there and so on. And you know pretty much all of them in their overalls that they had lived in, you know worked in all their lives. That was just who they were and it was really true small town America.

BD: Small town.

B: Yeah.

BD: (looking through book) ***12:39 Souvenir.???

B: I think the road naming probably had as I recall - Reilings I guess starting with Martin and then Uncle Charlie had property on both sides of the road.

L: I think I remember Uncle Charlie talking about clearing that, the north side.

B: I think that's correct Larry.

L: Yeah.

BD: So tell us about this. This is Agnes Reiling – teacher. Do you know?

L: I don't think you've seen this Bill.

BD: Have you seen this?

L: She was a teacher in Roy.

BD: That's interesting.

B: I don't know who that fellow was.

BD: Souvenir.

B: Wonder what year that is co's it's interesting, my mother taught Roy School.

L: That's right.

B: She taught at that school, yeah, yeah.

L: And dad went to school there.

B: Yeah. And that's – if you want another story that's interesting.

BD: Yeah.

B: My dad stayed on the farm quite awhile and my mother came from Portland and she was a newly minted teacher out of normal school at **13:41 Monmouth. Jobs were really hard to come by and she got a job teaching at the Roy School which as I recall was a parochial Catholic school but also served as the public school in the area. So they needed to hire a public school teacher for the children who were you know, who weren't going to the Catholic school. So my mother that was her, either her first or almost first job came out there. And she taught I think she had eight grades just right out of the block there - either eight or four. And so, and then, but she didn't have a place to live. The Reilings boarded the teachers and so my mother boarded there and that's how she met my father.

BD: I see.

L: This is 1907.

B: 1907 okay. Well mom would have been there in the early '30s so...

L: It just says Agnes Reiling - teacher. She must have been the teacher probably.

B: Yes, probably.

L: I mean your mother would have been too.

B: Well mom in the '30s – see they had nuns ...

L: Oh, okay.

B: Running the ...

L: Yeah that's awhile later.

B: Yeah that would have been about, you know 25 years later or something so, yeah.

L: I can think of two interesting stories.

BD: Okay.

L: I don't know how significant the story would be. But one I think of, it just popped into my head was Bill's father was Leo Reiling and he and my dad were first cousins. And at some point there was a family down the road, west of the Reiling farm, just across the next road as I recall, west. And, no that's where he lived later.

I'm thinking of Leo Ackerman. There was a kid named Leo Ackerman and his family lived out there somewhere and they had more kids than they could feed. And I think this was done back in those days and they brought Uncle Charlie and his wife Laura brought Leo Ackerman into their household. Never changed his name; never adopted him so there's two Leo's so Leo Reiling, Bill's father became known as 'brother'. They called him brother....

BD: Brother.

L: And they Leo Ackerman, Leo. And he was really a nice, he was a super guy. I really liked him. That was one and the other, Bill?

B: Well you know I thought I had maybe a picture here of Leo that I was going to share but, you know I mean that is....

L: Okay.

B: That is correct. He lived there. Actually I didn't, now that you mention it I guess I had heard the story about where my two aunts got to calling dad 'brother' instead of Leo but ...

L: **16:34 ? confusion.

B: Yeah, yeah, that's right. That's right. So yeah.

BD: And they referred to him as brother the whole....

B: Yeah right. I mean that's ...

BD: That was the thing.

B: That's what I remember. That was just so natural to them. That's just what they did.

L: That's what I remember her **16:48 Retha and Herb? calling him.

B: Yeah.

L: And they were grown, grown people.

B: Right. Right. Right. Yeah Leo was for all intents and purposes just treated as part of the family as time went on.

L: And then he - I was confusing myself, he bought a little house and farm just west of the Reiling place.

B: There he is, right back there.

L: Oh yeah.

B: And that's his wife Ann, first one on the right.

L: There was another picture of him we showed....maybe it's in here when Ken, Ken Porter?

B: Okay.

L: That owns the farm - who we came out and visited.

B: Oh no Peters. Ken Peters.

L: Yes, Peters.

B: Yes, right.

L: But one day he said, he said well I'll be darned that's Leo Ackerman. I'm going to have to show that to his, was it his son or Ken's son?

B: Yeah, Kenny, Yeah Ken who lives down in the house, yeah.

L: Oh he does. Okay. Now Peters name shows up somewhere else. I noticed it just the other day.

B: Oh does it.

L: It goes back several years. There were Peters farms around there.

BD: So to clarify then, we're talking, sort of this general area of Hillsboro but part of it is Verboort...

L: Verboort.

BD: Verboort, I'm saying it wrong. I'm assuming North Plains is also – did some of the farmland that your family is was that considered your....

B: My grandmother came from North Plains. **18:25 Laura? came from North Plains. I don't know if there were any direct tie into North Plains before that. I mean that's very close today when we have cars and things back the turn of the century probably was (laughs) a lot bigger distance. Certainly took more time.

L: Yeah but North Plains, that was a farming, pioneer farming community.

B: Absolutely.

L: But it was a little bit of a chore to get there in those days.

B: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

L: And my dad again Arthur Reiling was born in 1900 on....oh it's north of the old Scotch Church about three-quarters of a mile. You cross ... what's that first road you cross going west.

B: West (thinking). You mean from the church?

L: The road going to North Plains, yeah.

B: Glencoe wasn't it or Glencoe Road, maybe. You cross that and then not too far after on the right there, there's a small grove of big old poplars and there use to be a very large old wood frame house there. And dad was born there. At one point it had been a county farm and my dad's uncle, my great uncle, G. W. **19:39 Tamesy delivered my father in 1900. And then he delivered my sister in 1930 and then he delivered me in 1935 which is ??? interesting. Marie and I were born in hospitals. Dad wasn't.

But Dr. Tamesy was also married to our aunt.

L: Yes.

B: Our great aunt.

L: Yeah.

B: Who was one of Martin's children.

L: It's confusing.

BD: It does. I'm trying to – yeah.

L: These are **20:11?? stories. We're sorry, we should have been better prepared.

BD: No, no, but I think that that's the, sort of the interesting part. And then do you have specific – no notes you guys brought.

B: This came from Jean McNamara in California who's married to – she was, she came from Reiling's block I guess. But it talks a little bit about – oh here it talks more about Lorenz, it comes from Germany. Came on a 30 passenger vessel Olympia and arrived November 7th, 1831 in New Orleans. Should have read this more carefully.

I have the original handwritten will made by Theresa/Teresa. Says Tracey/Tracy but she was Aunt Trace. David Bay, 11th, 1895.

L: **21:20??? I think that's a previous ???

B: Oh is it? Okay. That's probably right because 1895, yes. Anyway it tells how her things were split up. And Martin Reiling got one barrel misspelled worth \$6; a lounge worth \$4; a trunk and cargo worth a \$1 and two comforts spelled comphorts for \$2.

BD: Comforts. Must be a

B: You're welcome to copy every thing you would like.
(turning pages)

BD: Great. Now who in the family started the genealogical research? Would you say - co's somebody....

B: That would be Norm Creights.

BD: Norm Creights.

B: Who made the book. He brought one out to the museum here and this has I would guess copies of a lot of this information from ... from Jean McNamara. There are a lot of things in this book are copies of the communications that she had sent to Larry so you have quite a bit of that in here, yeah. And if you find that you don't, Larry, I'm sure Larry's right or one would be happy to make this – yeah Larry here's Tracy here.

L: Oh that's ???22:53, yeah.

B: These are old pictures that she sent us from Ohio that she had gotten from Carroll County Ohio where the family was. These are grave stones out of Verboort in the cemetery. If anybody goes out there you need a bit of a map to get to the cemetery because it's down a little alley between a couple pastures to get into the cemetery. Beautiful cemetery when you get there.

Anyway, there's a lot of information in here that will

BD: That will fill in the past.

B: That expands on what you've got.

BD: Okay.

B: yes I think you'll find that would and Norm Creight's did this. I don't know if we told you but he is the grandson of Dr. Tamesey.

BD: Okay.

B: And Charlotte or 'Lot' Reiling.

BD: Reiling, okay.

B: they married and old Lot, Charlotte was the sister to our grandfathers.

BD: I see. So it's a very long history. When – okay so – I'm putting this together in my mind and so Arthur coming from Germany is...no.

B: No Lorenz.

BD: Lorenz coming from Germany.

B: Or Lawrence, yeah.

BD: And then so your family's had a history here which is a bit different because I mean it's not an Oregon trail history. It's not a – how did he arrive? Did you explain that part or do you know that part?

L: This says Lorenz came on the steamship, the Olympia to New Orleans.

BD: From.....New Orleans and then...

L: I don't know how he got from there to Ohio. And then I guess it was his offspring or Martin, Francis and

B: Anthony.

L: Anthony I would think were his sons and they came out here in 1871? Have you ever contacted a Father Scott ***25:02Vanderhey/Van Der Hey/Vander Hey.

BD: No. I've heard the name though.

L: Yes well he's at Verboort I believe. This says that he is finishing another book on German families who came to visitation parish in Verboort.

BD: So that's a good ...

B: That's where this book came from – you see there's that church and...

L: You might try to contact him. He might have some interesting information.

B: You know I think back in those days communities were formed. In fact if you to go the Midwest you'll still see it and those are formed around the church. I mean if it was a Catholic church, there was Catholic community. If it was a, you know a Presbyterian church it was probably mostly Presbyterian. So I think out there you're going to find roots going back to that church for an awful lot of the people.

L: Probably.

B: There were German people who went there and there was a lot of Dutch people and that's where you get all the 'vans' or if you were in Holland, 'vons'. So you see some of those particularly the – a lot of the Dutch type names recurring out there a lot.

BD: Okay. So that's the main. Now in your lifetimes you've seen a great deal of change. I mean you described riding your horse down Main Street in Hillsboro and that's something we often use oral histories for kids to think about the changes that have happened in the county. Can you give other examples that sort of demonstrate that or things that come to mind that just – I mean we're talking agricultural to now so we can

B: Well my grandfather was last of an era because when I was little, in fact up until he died, he never farmed with anything but horses. So Larry and I were both talking about riding, you know getting set up on one of the work horses while he was working them and that's where you were for the balance of the day. And there weren't many horse farmers around anymore. There were still some but on the farm, on the big farm – see he sold the farm at Roy and moved to Hillsboro and his farm was where the Poynter School is now – the Poynter – is that a junior high school?

BD: Yes.

B: On Cornell Road. That was his farm. That was his farm in Hillsboro when he left. And he farmed that with horses.

L: The house is still there. It's right on the corner.

BD: Okay.

B: Yeah the house is there but the school ground ...

BD: And so how long did he farm with horses?

B: Talking about all his life. So he came there in about '45 or '46 and he continued to farm that to some degree up until, oh I would guess you know maybe the – I don't think he farmed through the '50s but I mean that actively but at least for probably 10 to 12 years there he farmed with horses yeah, which was a – you're not going to see that around Hillsboro anymore.

Another thing I think was unique back I mean was more common back then, were the farms of 30 or 40 or 50 acres which with horses or even a small tractor took quite awhile to farm. Today and there were I remember hunting pheasants and that was, they were there I think primarily because the small farms all had fences between them. And all the fence rows grew up in wild berries and things like that which covered for the birds. And nowadays the farms are huge. You know Larry would know that too. The farms are huge, the machinery is huge. The investment is mammoth and....

BD: Now you had a reference to the old growth, fir logs.

B: Well I remember my grandfather talking to me about it, that in fact he had an auger there in the barn. Larry may have heard that story too. But he'd talk about that they would use that to bore holes and he said the thing was that in order to farm they were cutting down you know old growth, fir timber and or whatever kinds of tress but most of it would be that which were just

huge. They had nothing to handle it with and so they needed to farm. So they just in place they just bored holes in it, poured probably kerosene I believe he said poured kerosene in them. And in fact when I was here with Adam, this room has changed a lot over here but they had pictures up there where you could see around where they were, where people were clearing and you could see smoke coming up from these logs around there. And I'm sure what they were doing was just burning them in place.

And then, I still have today my grandfather's old scythe and it was something that he really valued. Today we would just consider it a horrible insult to have to run that. But he said that was then how you cut your grain and stuff among the stumps because those stumps were huge so they just farmed around them. And so that's kind of the story of the trees and if you think about it, I mean the machinery that they developed to handle those big trees is, I mean, the guy with a farm of 50 or 60 acres (chuckles) was plenty busy doing other things.

L: Well and another interesting point they could raise, they could make a pretty good living off of farming, at least feed their family. Where today I think a person would have a heck of a time surviving on 30, 40, 50 acres unless they were really into something – a real niche that made money.

B: Yeah.

BD: Now.... Sorry.

L: Another way of thinking about the history I think is the schools because, well I still have friends around who went to one and two room schools. And one's out at Hazeldale – Rosedale school. And there was a school Lacy Vale where my mother went to school where Lacy Vale's just out this side of Roy a little bit or was, right by where Judy lives about a quarter mile from there. But I went to – I guess first, second, third grade at Peter Bosco which is now torn down and it wasn't really a significant building. but then I went for, I guess...what grades, fourth, fifth, sixth or fourth and fifth to David Hill which was down the south part of Hillsboro and that was torn down which is unfortunate. I think there's a school there but it had great high ceilings and long, long tall windows with ripple glass. It was a, you know they wouldn't, it wouldn't be torn down today. It would be restored or kept at least. But we had a lot of kids you know and every year a few more would come in from these one room schools around and figuring out how to get into here and then get to high school it was the same way co's that was, Ohio was a unionized school. Hillsboro, unionized school I guess.

B: And kids came from a long ways. Some of them would catch that bus at 6:30 in the morning out at Dixie Mountain or Pumpkin Ridge or some place.

BD: How many folks were in your graduating class, can you recall?

L: Well Bill would remember better than me but I think Hillsboro High School had about 1,000 students and I think we started with 300 and probably dribbled down to about 200 graduating, round numbers.

BD: So kids were coming from a distance.

L: And today they're what, four or five high schools here. And of course the town was 5, or 6,000 people. **33:44 Tektronics ???Fujitsu or yeah. That's what I was trying to ...

BD: I want to take a step back. Do you would have been very, very young but do you remember stories of what was happening agriculturally during World War II or did family members tell you? We're working on some projects about that right now, I'm just curious if ...

B: Well I know my grandfather, you know, the young men were gone and it was hard to get help, I think actually didn't that Bracero program come in during the war to let the Mexican laborers come in?

L: I think that was later.

B: Was it? Okay.

L: Well for the shipyards there were - they use to talk and I don't even know where gypsies come from. It's part of Spain isn't it?

BD: Yeah or

L: The gypsies came here at that time - Romania and there were not that many African Americans around here at all when we were kids. And a lot were brought in I think for the shipyards and also the military.

B: Dad worked, my dad worked in the shipyards and he talked about that, that people, a lot of people from the south came up to work in the shipyards. And of course, they were living out of at Vanport which you may have or may not have heard of co's that was why that was there primarily was to house the labor for the shipyards.

L: I think, I know that the government.... I don't know if dictate is the right word but the government guided the food processors into certain products and they needed things that would ship overseas. And like Birds Eye here I said they got out of canning business but they also, during the war canned turkey. They were in large cans probably close to a pound. And like a large tuna can, that shape and that was canned turkey. And they were all in kind of a khaki colored can to go overseas some place.

And frozen of course was more difficult to get to some of these spots so they did kind of go back into canning for that purpose.

B: If I can just go back for a minute to something Larry said about Birds Eye and I said about how small Hillsboro was. Today a facility like Birds Eye that covered maybe two blocks would be no big deal (chuckles). It was a *big* deal back then. I mean, I just remember it – it dominated the west end of Hillsboro.

L: Yeah that's true.

B: Yeah and it you know, you have to put perspective on that.

L: There really wasn't any other industry of any consequence – factory type industry.

B: No, I think....didn't Friskies make some kind of dog food out there I think.

L: At the old ???**37:02, yeah.

B: ?? Carnation I guess or something, yeah. But that's about the only other thing of consequence that – and I mean and interesting that that would be consequential because (laughs) today we wouldn't even think about it. And then I think in Forest Grove there was – wasn't there was nut processor out there I think. There was a flax plant out there too I think.

BD: When do you recall seeing an influx of sort of high tech or I guess it could be any industry. I'm assuming it was mostly high tech that started.

B: Probably when the – I can't remember their names now I'm going blank but started Tektronics when they invented...

L: Vollum.

B: A oscilloscope.

L: Howard Vollum.

B: Yeah, yeah.

L: Yeah so it was right after the war when he and his partner, what was his name. He was killed in a plane crash years ago.

B: Yes. Yes.

L: They had a little building over there by where St. Vincent's is and started building oscilloscopes. So that all came from war time knowledge and training.

B: And that really was, I mean and that was a *big* deal. I mean that was the talk.

L: It was. I guess the early '50s almost when it started. I think it was a little later getting out this far. These are some pictures I took and you've probably seen the same thing. This is the church.

BD: And this is in Germany?

B: (chuckling) Actually you sent me copies and I was looking at before I left home so....

L: ??38:40 There's the kin but it's Lorenz was married to a...what's going on...his mother was Magdalene Schuster/Shuster. And then we found current gravestones that have Shuster on them out there where Reiling's married – here's one – where Reiling married a Shuster. So there must be a lot of double cousins or something over there in that little town.

B: Yeah. And that's right here in this book that was Georgio Martino Reiling. Yeah, George Martin and Magdalene. Yeah Magdalene Shuster. So you, you know...

BD: It'll be in the book.

B: In your book you'll have it.

BD: Okay.

B: But here's at least one other Reiling married a Shuster.

L: In this picture I thought, this is on the edge of the town and I thought it was, they had hoes or some kind of tools. Well this lady in California, Jean McNamara and somewhere I've got it, she **39:47??? it up for me. Probably sent it to you too Bill.

B: I think so.

L: Yeah some sort of a celebration. I think it's at the end of winter. And I think they had a big bonfire of some sort up on a cliff and they start hurling pieces of the bonfire out over the valley or some darn thing. With these long handed deals they're not, they're not – well they're a tool but not for farming. It's some big annual celebration. I guess they still do it.

B: I don't know but those traditions over there seem to carry on from what I've heard.

L: Those people are Reilings. We talked to them. They were tending this grave. This plot. And they couldn't speak a word of English and we couldn't speak a word of German. And so finally I got out my driver's license co's I had my photo on it...

B: sure.

L: And said Reiling on it and they nodded. And then I said I wanted to, I said like can we take a picture of you. So she got the camera out she immediately starts (everyone laughs) – make sure it **40:49????

BD: ????? When did you take this trip? Is it a few years ago?

L: Five years ago ???? So I don't know.

BD: I don't know where to go, there's so – I mean we can do the whole history. I was just curious of some of your, some of the stories that you've heard from your relatives or your experiences...more recent.

L: Well life was sure simpler before cell phones and computers and all that. And I think maybe it was better I'm not sure.

B: Oh I think I was certainly spoiled by that and by today's standards people would think that they were really deprived but you know you were really happy as a child. I can't imagine anything better than being there on my grandfather's farm where Larry's horse Dixie lived. And Larry was out there from time to time so we say each other. Larry's a few years older than I am but you know we, that was part of our shared experience was there on that little farm.

L: It was idyllic, it really was.

B: Yeah idyllic is the word I sure would use.

L: We shared Uncle Charlie's granddad who was, he must have been as patient as Job because he was, you know we were – I started going out there when I was about 12 I think, when I could – maybe 10. I'd ride my bike out there. Early in the morning you know, you'd finish milking and I'd **42:35? fixed breakfast for us or for me. Retha?? was our guest wasn't she?

B: Yeah.

L: It was great for us, you know too old or too young to work for money but he'd find little things for us to do and help clean out the barn and I guess we thought we were helping.

B: Yeah, well and the thing that nobody does today is cows were all milked by hand. I mean it was a rather labor intensive. And if you had, you know, 8 or 10 cows which I think was the most that he ever had there on that farm, I think that would be all stanchions that he had there probably but you know that – and he was getting older by that time. But I think out on the other farm, out at Roy – see I came up – I was about three, three and a half, maybe four when he sold that so I have kind of fleeting memories. I just remember in the barn it to a little guy that barn just seemed to go on forever. It was, it was really long. And of course there were, they had hired milkers there to work with them. In fact, you know one of the people that you probably have crossed paths with is Bob Herb who was the Chamber of Commerce manager in Hillsboro.

BD: (murmurs negative)

B: Know Bob. And he owned the Hill Florist for quite a period of time. But...

L: Classmate of Marilyn.

B: Is that right?

L: Yeah.

B: Well his family lived out on the farm for awhile and ... You know a lot of families who started from fairly meager beginnings out in this whole area that have stayed around you know, many of them have become ...

BD: Prominent.

B: People well and I think I don't know that Larry really gave his dad all his due in what he talked about co's your dad was on what City Council or what public – your dad, I know his name is up on the plaque Trask River Reservoir that provides the water down here.

L: I didn't know that (laughter).

B: Yeah because I think he was on the, I think he was on some commission at that point. But your father was involved in quite a bit around here as I recall.

L: He was always very active – Chamber of Commerce, Rotary. After he retired he was District Governor of Rotary. And he was on City Council and he was very civic minded.

B: I suspect he was on the City Council when they opted to do that because my dad and I drove up through there when they were first putting it in.

L: Is that Hagg Lake?

B: It's – no it's not Hagg Lake. It's on the, in the head waters of the Trask River.

L: So it goes the other way?

B: Well and they pipe it back and I think that water comes to Hillsboro and Forest Grove if I'm not mistaken.

L: Oh. ???46:21??

B: Yeah because when they were doing it you could see over the hills where they had logged and dug a ditch and they were....you know pipes was going in there.

L: Didn't know that.

B: But anyway.

BD: Now you both ended up outside of the county it sounds like.

B: We're both in Clackamas County now.

BD: Okay.

B: We didn't get far (both laugh).

BD: But did you leave after high school after a certain

L: Essentially I left after service. Four years at Oregon State and then I worked for six months and I was about to get drafted so I went in the Coast Guard for three and a half years. And came out and Portland was where I could get a job in the food business that I wanted – sales and marketing.

B: When I got out of college I went to - just an item of interest that I find worth telling is – you've heard of Jesuit High School. Yeah I was in the first class, first graduating class, yeah. So anyway that and that was, we had our 50th reunion a couple of years ago so. But anyway when I got out I got a job with U.S. Bank and went to Coos Bay for a couple of years. And then came back and they had an opportunity at Gresham and so I came back to Gresham and then worked downtown some but we've always lived out at the Gresham, Damascus, Boring area since then so, yeah. Didn't particularly want to leave the area, the greater area if you will.

L: Where's Joanne **48:12 from??

B: Salem.

L: Okay. You met at school or?

B: Yeah. Met at college, yeah. In fact that's – she was student teacher under my mother (both laugh).

BD: That worked out.

B: Yeah. It gave me the opportunity to go over and introduce myself.

L: And your mother lived with the Reilings?

B: She did yeah when she taught at Roy and that's how she met dad.

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