

JERRY AND NELLIE FIALA

Tape 2, Side 1

August 8, 1996

M.O'R.: This is a continuation of the interview with Jerry Fiala on August 8, 1996.

So I also meant to ask you if other families around here survived the Depression as well, or were there people here that had some problems during those years?

J.F.: There was no one here in this locality that lost anything. They were all pretty stable people.

M.O'R.: So really, the Depression didn't have too bad an effect here in this area?

J.F.: No, the farmers were all pretty well heeled, if you say it that way. They owned their land. The farms weren't very big. Some of them were only 30 acres, and they made a living on them, such as it was in those days.

M.O'R.: One other thing I wanted to ask you about from those days is the ways in which you might have used the Tualatin River. Did your family use it for irrigation at all?

J.F.: In 1924, my father took out a permit but he never proved up on it.

M.O'R.: Oh, so he had to have a permit to take water from the river?

J.F.: Oh yes. It was a permit, but he never proved up on it. But we have water rights; after we were married, we took out water rights on this creek that's down there. It's a tributary to the Tualatin, and we're ...

M.O'R.: So you have water rights on the creek, but not on the river?

J.F.: But not on the river. The water rights are deeded to this land.

M.O'R.: The water rights for the creek then, is that -?

J.F.: From the creek for this part of the property, which we are very fortunate. But there isn't the amount of water in there as it used to be.

M.O'R.: Now, did the Tualatin continue to run clear for the entire that time that we're talking about?

J.F.: No. It's a little better now than it was, but at one time our son had water rights on the river above here, and we left the pump in until the middle of October, and the aluminum suction pipe was all eaten up, it was that strong. The sewage in the river ate aluminum pipe right up. There were holes in it.

M.O'R.: So it really corroded in the water, huh?

J.F.: And they said they would clean the river up, and it's never been cleaned up. It never will be cleaned up. Washington County let too many people in.

M.O'R.: When did you first notice the river changing from the days when it used to be a clear stream?

J.F.: Right after the Second World War. The fish were getting less and less, and I used to try to go fishing. Then there was great chunks of algae floating around in the river. I don't know, you might say it looked like great big starfish or something floating, great big balls of that. Every limb that was sticking out in the river, had that algae fastened to it. When I was young, Roamers' Rest and Avalon Park, that was one of the main swimming points on the Tualatin River.

M.O'R.: Did you ever swim there?

J.F.: No, I never swam there. I had plenty of water here. The river here in some spots used to be as high as 50 feet deep.

M.O'R.: That would be during the winter time?

J.F.: No, summer. Great big deep holes.

M.O'R.: Well, I probably should clip a microphone onto Nellie here, too, pretty soon. But maybe I'll just ask your side of the story first. How did you meet Nellie?

J.F.: Well, I guess at a dance. I used to go with her girlfriend.

N.F.: The girlfriend married a man that I had know since I was eight.

M.O'R.: So you met at a dance.

N.F.: In Oregon City, the Oddfellows Hall on Center Street in Oregon City had family dances actually. There was children, grandchildren would come to those dances, and my girlfriend asked Jerry for ladies' choice. And then they went together just a few times. But it turned out then that she married the man I had known that lived near my grandfather up in Appleton, Washington. There were the three boys, and they all went - or men, they all went to the dances up there. So through her I met Jerry. So she and Tom were married two years before Jerry and I were. We still see them, we're still practically family. Our children consider them that way.

M.O'R.: What, Jerry, do you remember when it was that you first met Nellie?

J.F.: Well, to be frank with you, I think I still remember. I had known her sister who was in the same class as I at high school, her sister Marjorie. But I didn't know that they were sisters.

M.O'R.: And was this dance where you met, was it a high school dance?

J.F.: No, no, it was a public dance given by the Oddfellows.

M.O'R.: Okay, oh, that's what, yeah.

J.F.: Oddfellows Hall above Fredericks Hardware Store in Oregon City.

M.O'R.: And approximately what year was this when you met her then?

N.F.: About 1940, '39 or '40.

J.F.: It was before the war.

M.O'R.: Before the war.

N.F.: Maybe a little bit before then, because Katy and Tom were married in 1940.

J.F.: Maybe it was '39.

N.F.: 1938 or '39, somewhere through there, I don't ...

J.F.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: So you began to see more of her after that?

J.F.: Yeah.

N.F.: That was a hesitant yes.

J.F.: Yes, that's been a long time ago.

N.F.: I asked him to a box social at Sunset Fire Hall. I'd seen him in Oregon City. He'd picked me up and taken me up to my sister's. He picked me up, saw me on the road, and I asked him to a basket social at the Sunset Fire Hall, and that was when we started to go together.

M.O'R.: So this would be about the same time then, '39, '40?

N.F.: Pearl Harbor time.

M.O'R.: Pearl Harbor time?

N.F.: Yes. My first date with Jerry was the night before Pearl Harbor, December 6, 1941.

M.O'R.: Really?

N.F.: Yes. We couldn't find a place to live after we were engaged in May of '42. There were no apartments in World War II days, no place to live around; everywhere was filled up with people who were going to work in the shipyards.

But a neighbor of my sister had a sister in Portland, and they thought he was going to be called up to go to war, and we bought some of our furniture, got moved into that apartment and bought their furniture, and that was November 28, 1942.

M.O'R.: So about a year later then?

N.F.: About, yes, something like that, yes.

M.O'R.: Do you remember that date, the night before Pearl Harbor, your first date with Nellie?

J.F.: Vaguely.

N.F.: We had celebrated Marge's birthday, it was December 6th. I don't remember exactly then what happened. He wasn't there at my sister's house. But remember, Jerry, you had picked me up down on the road and taken me up to Marge's. It was my home. Our mother had died, and there was a separation in the family then and so forth. But at any rate, and I asked you to the basket social in Sunset Fire Hall.

J.F.: Yeah, I remember that.

N.F.: I can't remember what the basket social was held for. It was to raise funds for something. I don't know what it was for.

M.O'R.: But now, you moved into an apartment, you said.

N.F.: In Portland. 1109 SW Montgomery Street, an upstairs apartment.

M.O'R.: So you did move into Portland briefly then when you were first married?

J.F.: Yes, I was foreman at the machine shop for Monarch for the 14th Street shop.

N.F.: He bossed - I think it was 13 women. The women went to work in their shop.

M.O'R.: Oh yeah, well, that was because of ..

N.F.: War time.

M.O'R.: War time, exactly.

N.F.: I worked at Doernbecher Furniture Manufacturing, and we made the chests for the Navy men to have, and various other things. I don't know if you know this piece of local history: The battleship *Oregon* was brought and docked in Portland because it was named for Oregon, and it was a very scenic thing. But before then, they took - and it's only the mast standing there now, I believe is what it is - and they scrapped it for iron and sent that iron to Japan before the war.

M.O'R.: The battleship?

N.F.: Yeah, the battleship *Oregon*, and when I was working at Doernbecher's they salvaged some of the wood from what was left of it, beautiful wood, and we made, I think it was in a shield form, you know, like some of those flag type of thing, the red, white and blue shield, and we made shields, probably this large, when I worked at Doernbecher's, and those went to the people who did special things. They were special awards. It was very interesting to go through this, and I loved working with the wood. But then I worked at Doernbecher's until before our first boy was born. And we were living in the apartment then until Memorial Day weekend of 1945, was when we moved out here.

M.O'R.: What did you think about the war, Jerry, about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor? Do you remember that?

J.F.: Well, that was really something. We always said that the Japanese people were very sneaky.

M.O'R.: It must have seemed a little scary even maybe that they were -.

J.F.: Yes, yes. We was all, everybody on the coast was afraid that they might attack the people here. Portland would have been a prime target.

N.F.: And Bonneville Dam. It was new at that time.

J.F.: Bonneville Dam.

M.O'R.: That's right. It was constructed in the late '30s.

N.F.: Yes, yes. They were building it when I was in high school, and I graduated in '34. And so that was, we figured it could have been flooded, as we have had floods.

But, you know, they shot, where Fort Stevens is now, down on the coast, and also, they went under one of the bridges, my, the kid that was piloting the Japanese plane was having fun. He went under the bridge and over and out again, and that was on the southern coast, Coos Bay area, Reedsport area, down in there someplace.

But it was very frightening, yes. All the lights were out. I must, if you want to hear this, I'll tell you something that happened on our wedding night. We were married in the old Oregon City Methodist Church, it was Methodist Episcopal then. It was up on the bluff where the new one is now. Are you familiar with Oregon City?

M.O'R.: Not real familiar.

N.F.: Well, the church is on the bluff above the Singer Hill that leads[?] from downtown to the upper area. And my brother, younger brother, was asked to hold the lights to get pictures, the photographer asked him, and a deputy sheriff came from downtown just below us and said it was blackout, and the light was shining downtown. That was quite something in our wedding. So we have always remembered that, about our wedding. It was a wartime thing, and there were things - well, like we couldn't find a place to live, and then to go to hunt for a wedding dress, they didn't have one. I wore a very simple dress, stylish, but not what you would consider, you know, a real wedding dress. Jerry wore a suit he had that had been made at the Oregon City Woolen Mills, the material had, and tailored by an Oregon City man, and that sort of thing, and not a new suit, and everything was just very simple.

But then we moved to the apartment, and my brother-in-law kidded us forever. They followed us across the bridge from Oregon City when we left from the church to go Portland, and he said Jerry was driving one-handed on the way to Portland. But we lived in the apartment, as I said, until May of '42, of '43, and have lived here ever since.

We moved into this - it was 24 by 24, here, and one bedroom and bath and kitchen. Our bath and kitchen are still too small. We were fortunate to get material and to get plumbing, anything. Under the wallpaper, here but not over there, is of fir tex. That was all the building material we could get to finish the inside of the house. The hall and our bedroom still has fir tex, and the kitchen has also. But Jerry's brother Arthur worked for Holly Gilbert who handled building materials, and we got - our fir tex was what was packed between stacks of lumber, some of it was. And we had all different colors and sizes.

M.O'R.: What's fir tex exactly?

N.F.: It's a crumbly - well, a wall board. It just came in strips like boards and came in various colors. I think we have peach fir tex in here and something else in the bedroom, I don't know, the hall was white. But we did with what we could, whatever there was that we could have. We found what we could to build the house. But it was satisfactory.

Our two boys were born in just our little square house, and then our two younger children were born after we had added the two back bedrooms, so we spread out a little bit. Then that room was built on when our daughter was little, and our youngest son, who lives right up there said, "You didn't do any building when I was little." And I said, "I have pictures to prove it. We put a wall to wall closet in the bedroom," and picture's of Richard playing in that closet.



M.O'R.: So you built the house here in '43, is that right?

J.F.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: Did you build it yourself?

J.F.: No, we had two carpenters from Oswego. One was from Oswego, one was from out here by Tualatin. We had all the subfloor down before they started. They put the frame up and put the shiplap on the outside, put the siding on, put the windows in, and laid the floor.

M.O'R.: And then you did the rest or?

J.F.: I put all the plumbing and wiring in.

N.F.: And all the woodwork and built the fireplace, the fireplace behind the davenport. Things had to be moved around with my hospital bed over there.

M.O'R.: What did your folks think when you told them that you were going to marry Nellie?

J.F.: One thing my father said to me, he was born and raised a Catholic, and he says, "Now that you've picked a woman to be your wife, stay with her." He says, "None of this running around." He says, "You've taken something on that you are liable for." He says, "You have to comply by what you said you would do."

M.O'R.: So he was very impressed by the responsibility of marriage then?

J.F.: Yes.

N.F.: And incidentally, I had not met Jerry's folks till the day after we were married because he was working all the time, working maybe from morning till 2:00 in the morning or something. And when I would see would be only when we would go to a dance or something. And I remember one night we drove in the driveway out there, and he said, "That's where my folks live, where I live." And he said, "Do you want to go down and meet them?"

And I told him no, it was late, something of that sort, and I knew that they'd probably be in bed. So that was the way it went.

But they were very kind quiet people, both of them. His mother was an excellent cook, introduced me to many many Bohemian-type things and the excellent pastries she made, and she baked all the time. And his father was kindness itself. He was used to living at home because he hadn't married. There'd been other women in his life, other friends, girlfriends, but he was 33 when we were married, and I was 26, and I don't - I'm wandering here. Perhaps you'd rather ask questions.

M.O'R.: Oh, that's all right. So your folks decided to give you the land to build the house on, or at least to let you build here and live on the farm?

N.F.: May I answer that, about the land, honey?

J.F.: Well, mother was the one, after my father passed away, my mother wanted to be sure that we had a deed to the property.

N.F.: We had built the house on land we did not own.

M.O'R.: When you first built the house?

J.F.: We had it surveyed. There's two and 77 one-hundredths acres here where the house is.

M.O'R.: I guess I'm wondering why you decided to move into Portland at first and then move back out here. Was that because you just had to get the money together for the house, or I mean, was it always a plan that you would move back out here?

N.F.: When Jerry asked me to marry him, or before he did, he said, "Would you live in the country?" I had lived in the country in the White Salmon area, and I said yes, and I said, "It's beautiful out around Carus where you can see the mountains." I didn't know that this was the only country in his mind. But it's all right. First time I ever lived where I couldn't see the mountains, though. But there's hills above us here.

M.O'R.: Well, you did decide at first to live in Portland, though, rather than out here.

N.F.: Well, we didn't have the material, you see. There just was not material available at that time in 1942. So we bought from a neighbor's friend, a neighbor of my sister's up in Sunset area, and her sister's husband thought he was going to have to go into the engineers. He was an engineer, and then he was not called, and they had taken just a housekeeping room, and that's where they lived then because they'd sold all their furniture to us. So we couldn't have - you couldn't buy anything to speak of.

But that was the way, and then we started to build here right away, and we would come out on Sundays and build, and the family would help and so on and so forth.

M.O'R.: And so you were always welcome to come out here and build, but it was just a question of having the resources available to do it.

N.F.: Yes, the materials weren't available, and it was after Jerry's father died that his mother insisted that we get this into our names. This was kind of funny, but she insisted that my name would be on it, too, and I've always been thankful to her for that.

[End of Tape 2, Side 1]

JERRY AND NELLIE FIALA

Tape 2, Side 2

August 8, 1996

M.O'R.: Well, so it was 1943 then when you moved here from Portland?

N.F.: 1945. Our eldest son was born in Portland, and then we moved out here. He was born January 26th, and we moved out here May 30th, so he was just tiny.

M.O'R.: Well, let me ask you, Jerry, did you like living in Portland for that four years?

J.F.: No, I was almost crazy.

M.O'R.: You liked living out here in the country, huh?

J.F.: Well, I could hear then, and the noise was too much.

M.O'R.: You lived right on Montgomery Street there, in downtown Portland, huh?

J.F.: Yeah.

N.F.: Yes, the streetcars would come up 11th street, and they would go two blocks beyond us and go west a block, and come back Montgomery - he made a square up there, and turn the corner and go back down 11th. And there was a streetcar that had a flat wheel and it seemed it always ran at 2:00 in the morning or something like that. It was a noisy thump thump thump.

J.F.: No, just before that, I had been working double shift all the time. I took care of the day shift and I took care of the night shift.

M.O'R.: And this was at, at which company again?

J.F.: Monarch Forge and Machine. Double shift.

M.O'R.: And so you were working long hours then?

J.F.: Long hours, and sometimes I don't remember getting home, I was that tired. It was all precision work, setting that stuff up within a thousandth of an inch.

M.O'R.: Machine parts, is that what you were making?

J.F.: I was putting it together and before it was finished machining, we would clamp everything together and check it and move it and finish machining it, and then put the final assembly on. That was the parts for the Liberty ships. Engine, engine parts, and everything, when it went to the shipyard, had to be so that it would fit. We made steering engines, the vacuum pump assembly, and the reversing assembly. When we started out, we had six a month to make of all the parts, and when we finished up, when the last Liberty ships were built, we was making enough for 42 ships a month.

N.F.: And that was when they opened another shop, and that was where he had - the women were the crew.

M.O'R.: Oh yeah.

N.F.: And it was a subsidiary of the main job they had. Then they later opened still another one which wasn't far from our apartment. It was called Union Ironworks, I believe. Am I right, Jerry, the shop up there where Slim was bossing was Union Ironworks, wasn't it, that Monarch took over, where they made parts under Monarch, something of that sort, and it was all war effort.

J.F.: And we also made cable shears for cutting cable up to two and a half inch.

M.O'R.: So big shears then, huh?

J.F.: Well, they were hand-operated.

M.O'R.: Now, you continued to work at Monarch after you moved back out here, after built your house?

J.F.: Oh yes, oh yes. I worked there for I think it was 13 years. Then I quit there and I went to work for Western Machinery,

what was at one time Hessiersted Ironworks, and there we was making parts for the anchor windlasses and the deck winches, repair parts for them.

M.O'R.: And what did you do yourself? Did you operate a lathe or what kind of -?

J.F.: Well, I operated, not a lathe so much. I operated horizontal boring mill and milling machine, shaper, planer. In fact, when I was at Monarch, I was what they call one of these pinch-hitters. If somebody didn't show up, I took their machine until they got a replacement.

M.O'R.: And that was because you knew all the machines?

J.F.: I knew all the machines.

M.O'R.: How did you learn this ironworking skill?

J.F.: Well, through apprenticeships.

N.F.: And also, you were used to having your father do it.

M.O'R.: Right, that early blacksmith work.

J.F.: Then I worked for - I used to go over and work for my cousin. He had a shop in Portland. I used to run lathe over there.

M.O'R.: This was before Monarch?

J.F.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: Well, once you were living back out here, how did you get to your job at Monarch?

J.F.: Oh, we had two cars.

M.O'R.: Oh, you had cars by that time?

N.F.: And we could get the gas during gas rationing because of farming out here. Helping his folks with the farm, producing food. And also because he had an important job building ships.

J.F.: During Depression days, I bought all kinds of gas for seven cents a gallon.

M.O'R.: Wish we could buy it for that price today.

N.F.: Instead of a dollar seven anymore. They had their own gas pumps down there for fueling the machinery.

M.O'R.: Oh, is that Monarch you mean?

N.F.: Down there at the house, at the old house. Did Shell bring the gas out here for you, dear?

J.F.: Well, first of all, it was Standard Oil Company. That's who I bought from at that time. During Depression days, it was Standard Oil. At that time, they wouldn't sell any gas unless it was COD. It had to be paid for it when they dumped it.

M.O'R.: You had a big tank, then?

J.F.: There was a tank in the ground, and they also furnished drums.

M.O'R.: And so much how gas at a time would you buy from Standard Oil?

J.F.: Well, if the tank was empty, about, I think it was a 500-gallon tank in the ground. \$35 in them days was a lot of money.

M.O'R.: When did your family first get a car?

J.F.: My folks' first car was one that my mother's sister's husband from Portland brought out, and let my father use it. It was a 1912 Rio. I still remember the tires on it. They were four inches wide, and the wheel was 40 inches in diameter. That was something. You almost had to have a step-ladder to get in the car.

M.O'R.: And so that was the first family car then?

J.F.: And then my father bought a Hupmobile. That was a little car, much smaller. Both of them were righthand drive.

M.O'R.: When did you get your first car?

J.F.: My first car was a Model T coupe. I bought that during Depression days for \$65, in 1925. Then towards the end of the Depression, I bought a good Studebaker touring car for \$65. But those were all cash money. They had to be cash. There was no time

charges on those. Then I bought another Studebaker. Here on the road, timing chain went out on it. I had \$3 in my pocket. Fellow give me the title and took the \$3 and went on.

M.O'R.: And so you repaired the timing chain then and got it running?

J.F.: No, I took a link out of the timing chain and put it back together.

N.F.: Can't you do that with ours now, dear?

J.F.: No. No.

N.F.: That's why our car's sitting there. He was going up the hill the other day, and I think it was the timing chain went out.

M.O'R.: I've had that happen, too. So was it the Studebaker then that you owned when you lived in Portland?

N.F.: It was the big brown car, that was the Studebaker.

J.F.: That was the '37 Studebaker.

N.F.: That's what you had when we got married, yes.

J.F.: Yeah, '37 Studebaker sedan. Before that I had a '32 Regal sedan, Studebaker Regal. I traded that off on a '37.

M.O'R.: And when you lived in Portland, how did your folks do here on the farm without your help? Did they have any ...

J.F.: Well, my father took care of the cows.

N.F.: His sister was home then, too, and he was here helping all the time. He didn't like staying in the apartment. He was out here with his folks as much as possible, helping with the haying, helping with this and helping with that, and that is how his folks managed. And then after we moved in here, he still was - everybody was helping his folks, and helping his sister until she died. It's been kind of a family affair all along.



M.O'R.: Well, it's getting time to where I probably have to go to my next appointment, but I would like to come back and continue the story.

[interruption]

N.F.: Jerry's dad was the kindest gentlest person I've ever known, and he was loved in the whole neighborhood. I am very sorry that all of our children did not get to know him. None of them did. He died when Wes was just a few months old.

M.O'R.: And what year was that then?

N.F.: 1945. I think it was June of '45.

I've always told Jerry that he did not know the Depression as most of us did. I did. We were living in White Salmon a great deal of it, and my folks had separated. There was a stepfather and a stepmother in my life eventually, and we were in White Salmon for six years. My mother's family was up in that area, so we'd always known it. But we knew the Depression, really knew the Depression. The sawmills would go broke, the lumber wasn't bought that the men had worked for. Jerry had always had the background of a very firm family here. He didn't move around, and they had always their cows and their cream. They weren't wealthy. They were - what do I want to say? - they were careful of everything, the money. But he did not know the Depression as most people did.

M.O'R.: So your experience was different.

N.F.: Yes, that's right; very, very different.

I wanted to tell you about the big barn that Jerry helped his dad build. He stayed out of school a year of high school in order to build that big barn down there, and it's been photographed. People are looking at it as an historic barn, and it's been repaired, it's being repaired so it won't go to pieces.

And I remember the two horses hauling hay - it was when we were first married - and my sister and brother-in-law came to help.

One of the horses' name was Nellie, and somebody would speak to me and the horse would take off or stop or something. And I remember pitching the hay up into the barn, all working together.

And I wanted to tell about Jerry's grandfather who came from Czechoslovakia. He was a professor of music at a school in Czechoslovakia. The grandfather played the violin, and his father also did. They loved their music, and they had an old phonograph they would play, and Jerry's mother taught him to dance at home to that phonograph.

They used to go to community things, the old schoolhouse up there, the Azalea schoolhouse which burned just a few years ago, arson they suspected. I had gone there to - they used it as a community center. The home extension group meet there, there were dances there, there were neighborhood parties there.

N.F.: Jerry, what was the man in Oswego? Mr. Sabbig was a banker - Red somebody, who was Mr. Long's friend. Red ...

J.F.: Red McVey?

N.F.: Yes, for McVey Avenue.

J.F.: He was a constable.

N.F.: Anyway, I knew those men. They were still around, some of the real oldtimers. Oswego wasn't very old or very built-up when we moved here. It was the freeway that changed our area.

M.O'R.: We'll talk to you about that a little bit later. Actually, before we move on here Nellie just tells me that your father played the fiddle.

J.F.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: And so there was music here when you grew up?

J.F.: Oh yes, and my grandfather used to listen to somebody play around the country, and he would say, "Well, he sure chopped that up."

M.O'R.: Now, your grandfather stayed in Oklahoma, or did he come out here?

J.F.: No, no. My grandfather never lived in the south. He lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. And while he was there, I guess they had - he used to play the bass viol, and he used to go around. My mother always used to say that the violin was bigger than he was.

M.O'R.: And what kind of music would your father play?

J.F.: Well, I remember very well him playing the Black Widow Waltz.

N.F.: The Merry Widow Waltz.

J.F.: Merry Widow Waltz, that was it.

N.F.: A black widow is a spider.

J.F.: And the black dog used to crawl under the house and just howl.

N.F.: I think that he probably played a lot of old dance tunes.

J.F.: And my father used to play the concertina.

M.O'R.: The concertina, oh, really?

J.F.: He used to play at dances in Portland. And the violin is still upstairs.

M.O'R.: Your father's violin?

J.F.: Yeah, a Stradivarius replica.

M.O'R.: And did you yourself play music?

J.F.: No, I never mastered anything. I played saxophone and clarinet until I lost my teeth, and then I had to quit. You can't play one of them wind instruments with false teeth.

N.F.: May I say that he never really mastered those. He wanted to play, wanted to play them, and he never really got very - well, he didn't have a lot of time, but he didn't ever really learn to play.

M.O'R.: Well, you could go ahead on your list there.

N.F.: He was talking about the well, and they put the water in the kitchen? They had to drill several wells on the place before they got enough for a good water supply, and we are not blessed with, we put up with hard water in this area, and our well is just - it's not really hard. It was hard, I blessed it when detergents came along because the soap didn't work very well. But we have a 186-foot well that serves two families now. But they had a time finding water, good water.

And the schoolhouse, he mentioned he went to Azalea schoolhouse? It was a community hall, became in my day, and we went to home extension unit meetings up there, and the neighborhood parties, like for the old gentleman in Oswego, Mr. Long and so forth. I don't know what all was there. But our children, the school stopped having ...

Mary went to one year, didn't she, up at the school? Jeannie, I think, went to one year up at Azalea schoolhouse, and the next one in that family was just a year older than our son, and Peggy started in Willamette, so our children all went to Willamette School. The old schoolhouse was not their school.

And he talked about the peach orchard being flooded out. Our eldest son, who lives down there, tried it also, and we tied magazines around those peaches to save them from the animals, but they killed them all. They would eat the bark. What were the animals that killed Wesley's peach orchard? We tied magazines...

J.F.: Beaver. Chewed them all off. About two foot off ...

M.O'R.: Just took off all the bark, huh?

J.F.: Cut them right off. That was during the flood of ...

N.F.: '64. No, '62.

J.F.: Whole flatland along the river was water, but it wasn't as high as ...

M.O'R.: As '36, huh?

J.F.: '36 and '37.

M.O'R.: Or '96, huh?

N.F.: Yeah, in '96 it came up within feet of Wesley's brand new house a year ago. They went and got sandbags and it stopped just - they saw it inch by inch coming up to [it would have hit - they have a split-story house, and it would have flooded the basement that they just finished.

But his father was very interested in the weather and the water, just as Jerry has been. Jerry and the whole family has been raised with thermometers and barometers and these things, and Jerry has kept track of that for many many years until just lately. It's been, as I say, the whole family, even the little grandchildren, are conscious of that and interested in that.

His folks were very hard-working folks, people. His mother canned everything. She would can meat when they butchered, and she would can the fruit and the vegetables, and they had a root storage, a root house, and Wesley has built right near that and has saved it as a storage place, and that was where she kept her things she had canned. So when they moved out here and before they built this house that they're living in now, their son, Wesley's stepson Jason, found very interesting old jars in there. He went through that root cellar and found treasures, the old blue jars.

You asked about where they shopped. She never ceased to be a Portlander. She had loved the days when she lived in Portland, and I think that she could have been happy staying in Portland. And they did go shopping. They'd go to Oswego and catch the train and go to downtown Portland.

And I think I'm right on this, Jerry. The property was paid for before they moved out here, wasn't it?

J.F.: Yes.

N.F.: Yes, they paid a bit at a time while he was working in Portland and then moved out here, and it was an old log house and they added to it. And Jerry did a lot then of adding to later and modernizing it for them and putting the water into the house and a bathroom, and so about the time we were going together, he was doing that, helping them.

This Mr. Patella, who opened up the area: Many many many years later I fought in the homeowners against building a house on on every little place around here. We were fighting to save wide open spaces. And Jerry worked for the man who first brought it in here.

M.O'R.: Of course, it was a different context then, the wide open spaces were wider and more open.

N.F.: That's right, yes.

When they were first here, Johnson Road stopped right up here, and they would work through to Willamette, through the woods to Willamette.

When did Johnson Road go through, Jerry, to Willamette?

J.F.: It was built in 1928.

N.F.: The year you finished high school?

J.F.: Yeah.

N.F.: They used to have to walk to the end of Johnson Road to catch the bus to go to high school, and because they were so little and had to walk so far - that was when they went to grade school, that they held his sister back and he and she and his older brother started to, they went together simply because it was walking so far.

J.F.: No, my father and mother gave 30 feet to the County, to have a road.

[End of Tape 2, Side 2]