

INTERVIEW WITH:

DENA CLASSEN MAYFIELD

Beaverton Oral History Project

INTERVIEWER

SHIRLEY TANZER

DATE: September 18, 1982

TAPE #1, SIDE #1

- Bought a home in B'vton
1920 w/ first husband
Steve Vasela "Hairworks"
- Priest from St. Cecilia lived
at the Park House Church
was where Demerov F. A. S.
- dau. born in Astoria where P.O. is
now, house moved

DENA ... met in Beaverton ~~where~~ were the Welter girls.

TANZER The Welter girls? Who were they?

DENA Ann Hoboke, and Mary O'Meara, their first two girls.

TANZER Now when was this?

DENA In 1905.

TANZER That's when you moved to Beaverton?

DENA Yes.

TANZER Where did you live before that?

DENA In Portland.

TANZER Tell me, where did your family come from, your mother and your father?

DENA: My dad came from Holland, and my mother come from Germany.

~~TANZER~~ TANZER And where did they meet?

DENA I don't know.

TANZER Do you know why they came to this country?

DENA They heard it was a good place, and my mother came with six sisters. Her mother died and her father was left with all these girls and so they all came to America on a ship and then my dad -- he was single -- he came here alone with a nephew. And they'd met. And were married at St. Joseph's Church in Portland and moved to Beaverton in 1905. Have I got that down?

TANZER How did they meet? How did ~~you~~ your parents meet?

DENA I don't know.

TANZER Did they ever talk about what their life was like in Europe?

DENA Well, no, her mother died when she was twelve, so ...

TANZER Did they talk about why they came from Europe to Portland, Oregon?

DENA: It's before my time (laughter).

TANZER Where were you in the family? Were you the oldest, or the youngest?

DENA No. I was in the middle. I had one brother older; ^{then there were twins--} my brother and I were twins, and then ~~we~~ Speevy(?)

TANZER So there were four children?

DENA Yes.

TANZER Did your parents tell you why they had moved from Portland to Beaverton?

DENA Well, he worked in the sawmill and he didn't like the work, so he says, "I'm going to buy me a farm," and he bought down on Canyon Road. Then, when I got married, I bought downtown Beaverton.

TANZER Where was the sawmill where he had worked?

DENA In south Portland, or is that north Portland? South Portland.

TANZER But when they moved to Beaverton, did anybody help them get settled?

DENA No, but he built some greenhouses where he raised cucumbers and lettuce, and took that to the commission houses.

TANZER Where were the commission houses then?

DENA They were down on Front Street in Portland?

TANZER And did he have a wagon?

DENA Yes. And once in a while, I would go to Portland with them and the roads were so dusty and dirty going down Canyon Road that the horses would fall down and slide in the mud. There was no pavement.

TANZER How often did you go into town with him?

DENA About twice a week.

TANZER And tell me about the trip from Beaverton to Portland?

DENA It took us over an hour to ride to Portland on Canyon Road.

TANZER Did you start from the farm?

DENA Yes. from the farm.

TANZER Now, you said the farm was on Canyon Road. Where was it?

DENA Near St. Mary's, where Snead's Rental is built now, and Herzog Motors is on the place.

TANZER And how large a ...?

DENA Thirteen acres. And it seemed like all my dad's friends, like Mr. Welter, Mr. Froenauer(?)SP) -- they all had greenhouses. Mr. Matsky.

TANZER And what did they raise?

DENA They raised about the same things we did, but they were already in business raising those things, and my dad thought that was a pretty good idea so he joined them (laughter).

TANZER Was it a good business?

DENA Yes. During the season, they would all haul their things to the market on Front Street.

TANZER What do you remember about the market on Front Street?

DENA Not too much.

TANZER

Were there other children that were taken in with their parents?

DENA

I think ~~me~~ once in a while Mary O'Meara and Ann -- they must have rode in some time. But we were going to school at St. Mary's.

TANZER

Now, I'd like to know about the school. You started school at St. Mary's?

DENA

Yes.

TANZER

This was kindergarten?

DENA

No. I guess I was just starting the third grade, and Hazel Peg and I were the only graduates from the ei grade

TANZER

Of the ones that started?

DENA

Yes. Hazel Peg and I.

TANZER

Tell me about the school at St. Mary's.

DENA

Very nice school. Just girls only.

TANZER

Where was the school then?

DENA

Right across from the building that they are at now. There's a filling station there now. On Canyon Road

TANZER

And ~~was~~ was it a convent-like school?

DENA

Yes. Yes. They had day scholars and some that boarded there.

TANZER

What happened to that school?

DENA

They tore it down and built the new one where it is now, on this side of the highway.

TANZER

So were there only two people in your graduating class, did you say?

DENA

Yes. Hazel Peg. Everybody knows the Peg Mortuary. Hazel and I were the only two graduates.

TANZER

Was Agnes...

DENA

She went to school there.

TANZER

But she wasn't in the graduating class with you?

DENA

I think she must have finished at Beaverton school.

TANZER

Oh.

DENA

I don't know. But Hazel and I were the only graduates that year.

TANZER

What kind of education did you get there?

DENA

Everything, just like they do at the public school. And I took sewing and artwork and German. I studied German three years while I was at St. Mary's --But I've forgotten it.

TANZER

Were your teachers all the nuns?

DENA

Yes. Yes.

TANZER

Did you have some favorite teachers?

DENA Yes. Sister Clare and Sister Stanislaus. Sister Julianna, who's all passed away.

TANZER Why were they your favorite teachers?

DENA Well, they were very nice nuns. Very good teachers. Very patient.

TANZER Tell me what your life was like in Beaverton as you were growing up.

DENA: Well, we used to go to the ball games, sit on the fence, and root for our boys.

TANZER Now, what ball games were these?

DENA Beaverton gall games.

TANZER This was the Beaverton High School gall games.

DENA Yes. Um hum, the boys from Beaverton.

TANZER (conversation, misc.)
...something about St. Mary's ditch.

DENA Oh, no. We used to go swimming out there. (~~aha~~ laughter)

TANZER What was that?

DENA (Laughter) And we used to go dancing. That was about the only pleasure we had in Beaverton. --At the White Hall.

TANZER Where was the WhiteHall?

DENA Where the Beaverton Drug Store sets now. It was a twostory building, and it seemed like Saturday night was our night. (Laughter)

TANZER Everyone went dancing there?

DENA Every body went dancing. I think Rose (?) told about it, too. She could see it from her house.

TANZER Did your parents permit you to go dancing there?

DENA Oh, yes. That was about the only entertainment in Beaverton. The ball games and the dancing.

TANZER Did you go out of Beaverton for your entertainment?

DENA No.

TANZER There was no movie theater?

DENA Let's see. We didn't go there very ~~much~~ much. It was little. No, not too much. There was one board walk in Beaverton, on Farmington. We used to walk that every Sunday. We'd go down to the Southern Pacific Station to see who went to Portland and who come home (laughter).

TANZER Was that on the Red Train?

DENA Yes. And the Oregon Electric was really great. We'd go down and see who would come to Beaverton (laughter).

TANZER Did you ever see anything interesting? Do you remember anything?

DENA I remember the accident they had where the two trains crashed.

TANZER Tell me about that.

DENA

Well, there was an awful lot of people got hurt. The two trains run together at Raleigh Hills, was it? Anyway, I think it was 14 miles around from Beaverton to Portland on the old Oregon Electric. That was a big addition to Beaverton because everybody rode the trains, and I used to --when I went to work I rode the Oregon Electric cars, and we'd sit in groups -- the Beaverton girls would sit and chat about their boyfriends (laughter).

TANZER

That's wonderful. How much was the fare?

DENA

It seems to me it was 35¢, but if we bought a book of tickets, there was a rate. I think it come to about a ride.

TANZER

When you say you took it to go to work, where were you working?

DENA

At Meier & Frank's Credit Department.

TANZER

Now when did you start that job?

DENA

Well, let's see, when I was going to school, I worked there in the summer months, and then I'd --during the vacation time, and then I'd go back to school. But I worked there ten years when I was a widow, after my husband --when Mr. Vasil(?) passed away I went to work, at Meier & Frank's credit department.

tanzer

Well, let's go back again. You graduated from St. Mary's?

DENA

Yes.

TANZER

And then did you start working immediately?

DENA

No. Well, I did in the vacation time. During summer vacation, till I finished school. I think I was 14

TANZER

When you finished school?

DENA

No, I finished school later, 17. But when I got married in 1916, then I never worked no more.

TANZER

How did you meet your husband?

DENA

I worked in a tailor shop one summer, on 5th & Yamhill, no, 5th & Alder, I believe.

~~TANZER~~~~How did you meet your husband, though? How did you work at that tailor shop?~~

DENA

~~Well,~~ Mother didn't want me to work in ~~the~~ Meier & Frank's. She said, "You have to learn a trade." So she found the job for me. Then I married the boss. He had about six employees. And I married him and I never worked no more.

~~TANZER~~~~Was it a very large shop?~~

DENA

Quite a large shop. They had cleaning and pressing and tailoring.

TANZER

And who was the boss? What was his name?

DENA

He was. Steve Vasela(sp)

TANZER

And did he live in Beaverton also?

DENA

No. But when we got married, we bought our home downtown on Broadway in downtown Beaverton. In 1920.

TANZER Tell me where his family was from

DENA They were from Bulgaria. He came as a young man to visit a cousin.

TANZER Here in Portland.

DENA Here in Portland. And he liked it so well he stayed.

TANZER And then he opened the business?

DENA Yes. He had ~~ix~~ his business place down there.

TANZER Was he older than you were?

DENA No. He was eight years older. We were married ten years and we have three daughters, who all live in Beaverton. There's Dorothy Byrd, Florence Snyder, and Lorene Coleman. We were married ten years when he passed away, so then I had to go back to work.

TANZER What did he die of?

DENA What did Daddy die of? A tumor, I think.

TANZER But you had mentioned that you think it might have been a ruptured spleen.

DENA Yes.

TANZER Then you went back to work. What did you do?

DENA I worked in the office in the credit department at Meier & Franks, new accounts.

TANZER How did you enjoy that?

DENA I just loved it. I was only going to work that summer and I stayed ten years.

TANZER When you worked, the children were young?

DENA Yes. And Alfreda Wooden was my babysitter. I gave her the downstairs of my house and I moved upstairs.

TANZER in exchange for her taking care of my babies.

TANZER How long did she baby sit for you?

DENA Two and a half years, maybe three.

TANZER And how old were the children?

DENA The baby was eight months and one was six years and the other was eight years.

TANZER And after two and a half years, then who took care of the children?

DENA Dorothy. The oldest.

TANZER Dorothy, the oldest one, the one who was here -- who is sitting here. (Laughter)

How difficult, Dorothy, was it for you to take care of the children?

DOROTHY: Well, when Lorene started the first grade, her teacher kept her after school until Florence and I got out of school, and then we all come home together. And we had to get dinner going.

TANZER So you then continued to work?

DENA Yes.

TANZER Until when?

DENA 1936.

TANZER And what happened in 1936?

DENA I married Mr. Mayfield.

DOROTHY: Well, you married him in 1934, but you worked two years after you were married.

DENA Yes, that's right.

TANZER How did you meet Mr. Mayfield?

DENA

The truck drivers who come to Beaverton to work on the state highway, they didn't have any place to stay. So they stayed -- I rented them my upstairs bedrooms; there was four bedrooms up there. And they rented my upstairs bedrooms. And Mr. Mayfield was staying up at the Heidelberg. He had a trailer house there in the park. That's where the restaurant is now. He had his trailer house. And he come down to see those boys they were going in to see the dog races, and they asked me if I'd like to go and I said, "I'd love to go." So that's how we got acquainted. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~TANZER~~xxx

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DOROTHY: She went with five and came home with one (laughter)

DENA

(Laughter) Yes. We met in May and we got married in November. I had a day off at Meier & Frank's, so we went and got married (laughter) on Armistice Day.

TANZER What did Mr. Mayfield do?

DENA

He worked for the PGE. That was his regular job. He'd worked for them for a long time, but they were laid off that year, and so he went and joined the oiling crew, these boys that were living at my house, and he'd come over to see the boys and we were introduced and ~~xx~~ right away, fell in love and got married in November.

TANZER And how long were you and Mr. Mayfield married?

DENA

Did you ever figure it up?

DOROTHY: Forty-two years.

DENA

Forty-two years. We were married forty-two happy years.

TANZER When did Mr. Mayfield join the police department?

DENA

It was before the War broke up. Because lots of times he would take the servicemen who'd come to visit the folks; he'd take them home in the police car. So it was during the War.

TANZER

So before that he'd worked part time?

DENA Yes. He worked for the Electric company.

TANZER And then he worked part time for the police department?

DENA Yes.

TANZER And during the war he worked full time?

DENA Full time, yes.

TANZER Now, do I understand that he became police chief?

DENA Yes. Ten years.

TANZER Tell me about his job as police chief and how you were all involved in that.

DENA The red light used to come on downtown when a call would come in. And I would answer the phone and send him to wherever he was supposed to go.

TANZER Now, when you say the red light came on downtown, where did the calls come?

DENA The calls came in; it was connected to the house, and if he was near the phone he would answer. But if I was --if he wasn't right near the phone, I would answer and give him the message. He'd call in and take the message. And Beaverton had a lot of saloons, and sometimes they'd have trouble,

TANZER Do you remember any of the particular trouble, the nights of trouble?

DENA Well, like he said ~~in~~ his write-up, I should have that write-up. He said, the kids were his friends. They did a lot of squirreling, but he always got along with the boys.

TANZER So you would answer the police calls.

DENA And take the message. And when he'd see the red light on, he would call me and get the message.

TANZER Now did you switch the red light on? Who turned on the red light.

DENA Whenever the police call came in, when someone wanted a policeman, the red light would come on automatically. It hung there for twenty years. --by Stipes Garage. When he'd see the red light, he'd call to find out where he was wanted. And he would go to wherever it was.

TANZER Do you remember anything particularly about those police calls, Patty?

~~DENA~~ PATTY Well, some of the kids used to ride up on the sidewalk. You know, when the War broke out, they knew they were going to have to go into the service and they just had their fun. And the old man who was police chief then --he didn't drive a car and he couldn't handle the workload on him.

DENA Mr. Mayfield was death on drunk drivers. That's where he ~~and~~ made the city money. But there was no jail in Beaverton, so when he caught a drunk driver, he would always take him to Hillsboro. And he caught a lot of them, and it was always ~~tax~~ a big fine -- \$150 to ~~xxx~~ \$250.

TANZER (chuckle) Did HE decide on the fine?

DENA Yes.

TANZER So there wasn't a justice of the peace or anything like that?

DENA At Hillsboro. He'd take them to Hillsboro because we didn't have no jail; we didn't have any toilet facilities.

TANZER Well, there never was a jail at Beaverton?

DENA No.

DOROTHY(?) ...down by the railroad tracks down by Bob Holland's place, down in there somewhere? It just seemed to me.

DENA No. He took all his drunk drivers to Hillsboro.

DOROTHY(?) ...well at that time, but when I was little -- you were married the second time then. But when you were a little kid, there seemed to me that there was a jail somewhere and I think if I....

DENA They couldn't keep them down there because they had no toilet....

DOROTHY ... it was just a little building. It wasn't half as big as this room. And they would put them in there and they got them transferred somewhere. ^(Someone else:) Ask Mrs. Stipe. She may remember. My sister would remember it better. Mrs. Stipe, because you see my sister and brother went to school here.

TANZER Well, if you could find it out, that would...

DOROTHY: I'll write and ask my sister.

DENA (reading) "Even though Mayfield enjoyed his work as a police ~~man~~ chief, Don Newell won't have to worry about competition for the job." Who was Don Newell?

DOROTHY He was one of the policemen, wasn't he?

TANZER Is he the one who took Mr. Mayfield's place?

DENA No. The man... He was a police chief from Pendleton, Oregon, and he got fired. I don't remember his name. Mr. Bagley. Washington County Police.

TANZER What was your relationship with the county?

DENA They worked together.

_____ ? Wasn't that the Bagleys that had the Bagley hop field up at Lees(?)ville?

DENA Yes.

TANZER Well, now tell me about your family life now that you were married to Mr. Mayfield. He was the police chief. You had three girls growing up. And was there anybody else?

DENA We bought a sand pit and he went into the sand and gravel business.

TANZER And where was the sandpit?

DENA At Tigard.

TANZER When he went into the sand and gravel business, did he leave the job of police chief? What was his salary?

0 police chief?

WENA Oh, it tells in the paper here some place. Where did I see it? (Reading)"...working alone, Mayfield patrolled each evening from 5 to 2:30 a.m. During the day he worked as a contractor."

ANZER I see by the article that Mr. Mayfield's pay was \$250 a month and he supplied his own car at first. So it was difficult for you to live with a family on that. Is that why he went into ~~xxxxxxx~~ his own business?

WENA Yes. Yes. He went into his own business because he couldn't live on the city wages.

ANZER But he still worked for a while as police chief?

WENA Yes. Ten years.

ANZER Then what happened after he left the city?

WENA Then he bought some trucks and went hauling from our sand pit, which was at Tigard.

ANZER What was life like in the Mayfield house? By the way, did you girls take the Mayfield name?

ROTHY: Lorene did, but not Florence and I, because we were quite a bit older than Lorene when they married.

ANZER So you went under the Vasela name?

ROTHY: Yes. All through school.

ANZER Tell me what kind of father he was.

ROTHY: Oh, he was a great father. We all loved him.

ANZER And he had no other family?

ROTHY: No.

ANZER So you were really his family. What kind of activities did you have at home?

ROTHY: Well, we three girls got to go to a show about twice a month, went to the Beaverton Theater.

ANZER Oh, by that time there was a theater in Beaverton? And was there more to do in Beaverton than there was when Mother was growing up?

ROTHY: Oh, yes. Sure. Beaverton was ... that was just before the war, I guess. But we were pretty much grown by then by the time he was on the police force full time. In fact, I had moved into an apartment because I was riding to work with him, when he was working for PGE. And when he went on the police force full time, I was clear over on the east side. ~~xxxx~~ It was too much back and forth transportation.

ANZER What were you doing at that time?

ROTHY I worked in the Safeway office in Portland, Billing orders for Safeway Stores. Twenty years.

ANZER Did you do that right out of school?

ROTHY? No, I worked in a cannery for a while.

ANZER Dotty, did you go to high school in Beaverton?

ROTHY Yes, started the first grade in Beaverton, finished high school in Beaverton High School.

ANZER What school?

TANZER

What school?

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DOROTHY

Well, it would be where the Merle Davies school is now, and then the regular Beaverton High School. I graduated from there.

DENA

All three started school and finished high school.

TANZER

But you had gone to Catholic schools..

DENA

Yes, St. Mary's.

TANZER

And you decided not to send the girls to the Catholic School. Why didn't the girls go to the Catholic school?

DENA

Well I thought the Beaverton school was more modern and up to date.

TANZER

Well, was there a safety reason?

DENA

Yes, there was a safety reason, because they didn't have the fire escape, and I told Father ~~Ryan~~ O'Flynn I wasn't going to send them there as long as they didn't have a fire escape for the children.

TANZER

Did they ever get a fire escape?

DENA

They sure did

TANZER

And did you send the children (laughter

DENA

(laughter) They were already started at Beaverton school and they were doin' fine so I just continued.

TANZER

Let me ask you about the fire escape episode. You say they put the fire escape

DENA

..on the building, yes.

TANZER

Where was the building?

DENA

Can I cover it up for a minute?(chuckle).....

TAPE 1, SIDE 2

INTERVIEW WITH:

DENA CLASSEN MAYFIELD

INTERVIEWER

SHIRLEY TANZER

DATE: ~~October~~ Sept 18, 1982

TRANSCRIBER

ROSALIE WAKEFIELD (Transcribed September 29, 1983)

ANZER Let me ask you, where was the St. Mary's School?

ENA Right near our farm.

ANZER Dena, let me ask you about the church. Now the church in Beaverton where the children went was St. Cecelia's.

ENA Yes. They went to church there.

ANZER Did you continue to go to church there?

ENA Until I married Mr. Mayfield, who was not Catholic.

ANZER Mr. Vasela -- your first husband was Catholic?

ENA Yes.

ANZER I see. Now where was St. Cecelia's in Beaverton?

ENA Right where Damerow Ford is.

ANZER And then the priest lived...

ENA At The Dark Horse. (laughter)

ANZER But the girls, they also had a church school

ENA Yes. Catechism.*

ANZER Aside from the religious school, that was where the children did not go to school because of the fire escape?
Is that correct?

ENA Yes.

ANZER O.K. fine, but eventually there was a fire escape, you told me, but the children had started the Beaverton school
ENA So they continued from the first grade through -- all three of them did. Beaverton Grade School and Beaverton High School.

ANZER I see. And then after they graduated, did they continue to live at home?

ENA Yes. Well, until they went to work. They all got jobs. Let's see.

DROTHY Florence was married at 19, and I moved to Portland because of transportation problems, back and forth to work.
I lived with a girlfriend and worked for the Safeway offices. And then I went to work for the bank for

about eight months

TANZER What bank was that?

DOROTHY U.S. National, downtown. Then I went to Consolidated Freightways and worked there 30 years and 6 months.

TANZER How many years?

DOROTHY Thirty years. And six months. And then I took an early retirement.

TANZER Was this when they merged?

DOROTHY Well, they were getting bigger and bigger and bigger all the time, and it was getting too hectic; too hard on my nerves. And my husband retired, so I did, too.

TANZER Now did you continue to live in Beaverton?

DOROTHY Well, when Andy and I got married, I moved back to Beaverton.

DENA The Post Office bought their property and their home.

DOROTHY We lived where the Beaverton Post Office is now, so they moved that house and then we lived on Farmington where the Dr. Kelly's office is now, and then they moved that house, so now we're out on Sugar Plum Court.

DENA They always buy out homes.

TANZER Well, that's good. But it doesn't give one the opportunity to set roots. (Laughter)

DOROTHY Well, we lived quite a while in each house.

TANZER What were you saying about growing up in Beaverton?

DOROTHY: Well, I think I liked it better than I would if I'd been in a big city.

TANZER Did everyone know one another?

DENA Yes. We were all just like that.

DOROTHY: Of course, it isn't like that any more, you know,

TANZER But don't the people who live here together still know one another and keep in touch?

DENA Yes. Like Alfreda.

TANZER Do your sisters still live in the area?

DOROTHY Yes.

TANZER How close are they?

DOROTHY Well, Florence lives on 8th Street, off of Watson, and Lorene lives ~~off~~ out on Florence Street in Aloha off 165th and I live out on Sugar Plum Court.

DENA They all own ~~they~~ their own homes, all paid for.

DOROTHY We're all about two miles from Mother.

TANZER Now, tell me about your life, Dena, with Mr. Mayfield. Then, did he continue in the sand and gravel business? And what about the construction business?

DENA We had five trucks that we hauled gravel with and sand. All the buildings at Tektronix have Mayfield sand under them.

TANZER What about the building business?

DENA We built two buildings in Beaverton. --The Cook Building --still. They'll pay the rest of my days.

TANZER Was this on family property?

DENA Yes. Just Henry and I. Well, let's see, no. Mr. Vasela bought the property but Mr. Mayfield finished up the house

TANZER Where was that house?

DENA It's right on Broadway, at the Hair Works.

TANZER How much property was there?

DENA We had a little over an acre right downtown where Wasco Feed is and where the attorney building, Thompson & Adams had rented from me.

TANZER So it went from the railroad tracks across Canyon?

DENA Yes.

TANZER What about your family, the Classen property?

DENA Well, they bought property, too. My brother Speedy had the Pier One property, and they had a house on Franklin Street. They lived there.

TANZER Did you keep that after your brother died?

DENA No. No. Kathleen and Speedy Classen; that was their property.

TANZER What was life in Beaverton like?

DENA Very friendly people; good people.

TANZER Was your entire social life around your friends in Beaverton?

DENA Yes. Um hum.

TANZER And what about the family, your brothers and their families.

DENA They all lived in Beaverton.

TANZER Did you do a great many things with them?

DENA Well, they're all gone now, all passed away.

TANZER I'm thinking about a long time ago. I'm speaking thirty years ago.

DENA Yes. We were a very close family.

TANZER Was the same thing true of you, Dotty? Were your social activities around family?

DOROTHY Mostly, yes.

TANZER Have they continued to be so?

DOROTHY Yes. Very much so. Mother and us three girls are real close, aren't we?

DENA Yes. She has to call me every day. (chuckle)

TANZER And what about the next generation? Are they also very close, the cossins?

DENA Yes. My grandchildren.

DOROTHY Well, not us girls. But they are close to Mother.

TANZER Do they live in this area as well?

DOROTHY A lot of 'em in Portland. Some of 'em in Beaverton.

TANZER Do you ~~fax~~ have family reunions?

DOROTHY? Well, my husband's family has quite a reunion. We have about 71 turn out every year at Silver Creek Falls.

TANZER Is your husband's family from this area also?

DOROTHY Well; they lived in Beaverton since 1946, and his mother and dad lived right in the area until they died. But Henry was in the gravel business right up -- and still driving a truck right up to a week before he died.

TANZER This is Henry Mayfield you 're talking about. Tell me about him. He built this house. Is that correct? So he worked and he drove his truck?

DENA Yes.

TANZER How old was he when he died?

DENA Seventy-nine.

TANZER So, when did you build this house?

DENA In ~~1969~~ 1967.

TANZER Why did he decide on this particular area?

DENA Because down by Cook Cleaners our house there was like this -- people parked right ~~on~~ on ~~our~~ our doorstep. The back yard finally turned into a parking lot for Cook's and the attorneys, Thompson & Adams. They had a 25-year lease.

DOROTHY They bought the property next door to here and Mother was in there one day painting and she said to ~~my dad~~, my dad, "What am I doing this for? I want a new house." So then ~~my dad~~ they bought this property and built here.

DENA He said, "Well, Mommy, if you don't want to move in this house (that was next ~~door~~), we'll buy that lot and build another one."

TANZER So that's what you did!

DENA That's what I did.

TANZER Was this the first new house you've ever had?

DENA Yes. I lived in that house till 1967, in Beaverton.

TANZER So how many years would that have been, because the house had originally been purchased by your first husband?

DOROTHY Forty-two years in that one house.

DENA In the hne house.

TANZER So you saw a considerable number of changes in downtown Beaverton!

DENA I couldn't go out to my garbage can unless someone, like Rosie (chuckle) Biggi, and all the people around would stop and morning would be gone before I could get started with my breakfast (Laughter).

TANZER How close did you life to the Biggis?

DENA Let's see. They were right in back of us at the time. No. They were at the White House, they had the boarding house in Beaverton. You know where Pianovi's dance place is? They had a big hotel there.

TANZER What was the name of the Hotel?

DENA Merlo's. --Her folks.

TANZER Oh!

DENA It was the Merlo Hotel and I knew her mother, her father, all the kids.

TANZER And that was the hotel the family ran?

DENA Yes.

TANZER And were there any of the sisters that you were closer to? --Because they were all assorted ages.

DENA You mean the nuns at St. Mary's.

TANZER No. I mean the sisters -- Mrs. Pianovi, Mrs. Botteri, Mrs' Biggi's family.

DENA Yes. Their youngest daughter was named Dena just like me. (laughter) Do you remember her. And Theresa Pianovi.

TANZER Let me ask you about whether you experienced any of the anti-Catholic feeling that was in Beaverton at the time

DENA We always got along with everybody there and I still chum with the women that want to church there and still go there

TANZER Well, but I understand that the Catholics stayed together, that they were friends, but that there was anti-Catholic feeling.

DENA I hadn't noticed it.

DOROTHY I don't remember any of that.

DENA I don't remember that either.

? My first sweetheart was a Catholic in Beaver ton.

DENA Oh, is that right? Oh, yes. Joe Muessig(?) Musik(?) His mother and sister broke us up because I wasn't Catholic

DENA Yes, the Musik family were very strict Catholics.

TANZER But there were a good number of Catholics.

DENA Yes. Beaverton had a ~~xxx~~ big congregation, the largest church in Beaverton. You're Catholic, aren't you?

TANZER No. The other Tanzers are ^{but} are not. But I had heard this from people who were Catholics and said that, yes, they had experienced some ~~am~~... but it may have been those who were older than you were, Dotty.

DENA Yes, they was older. It was before the children's time.

TANZER What about the changes in Beaverton?

DENA Changes? Well, I don't think we have as many taverns as we used to have. (chuckle)

TANZER Tell me about the taverns.

DENA Well, let's see. The Rossis had one; they called it a saloon. Did I used to do my drinkin' at Rossi's?(Laughter)

No, I didn't drink

DOROTHY: Oh, she covered her microphone(laughter)

DENA No, I never did drink. I don't like beer. Thyng's, were old timers. Who?

DOROTHY Did ?Cooperman?? sell beer, too?

DENA Oh, yes.

DOROTHY He had the pool hall.

DENA Yes, but he sold beer, too. ~~■~~ Lillian and Dode.

TANZER Now where was the Rossi's tavern?

~~SEKK~~ DENA A few doors away from me.

TANZER Dena, you were telling us some wonderful stories about Beaverton. Tell us about the Halloween tricks.

DENA Yes. Fishers lived downtown and they had outdoor p~~x~~plumbing and every Halloween when I would go to church on All Saint's Day, Mr. Fisher's toilet was out in the front of his house in the middle of the street.(laughter)

And they did that every year. Every year they put that toilet out there.

TANZER Did they ever find out who did it?

DENA Well, there was such a bunch of boys that did it that they would never squeal on them. (laughter)

TANZER What other things ~~adid~~ did the boys do?

DENA Well, one night the Negroes from Portland came out in a car and they raided our chicken house. We lived right downtown. And they raided our chicken house and they had broom handles and they were killing chickens and I slept in the back bedroom and I heard all this commotion and Henry jumped out there in his pajamas and gave chase and he caught them way down at Raleigh Hills on the highway and he brought them back -- took them to Hillsboro jail.

TANZER Now this was when you were married to Mr. Mayfield. How did they know? Did you have a large chicken house?

DENA Yes, we had quite a large chicken house and a big yard where the Cook Cleaner building sets. And they were out there killing these chickens one at a time and they were putting them in sacks. Some of them were still alive. And they drove off real fast and Mr. Mayfield chased them and caught them at Raleigh Hills.

TANZER Now this was the middle of the night?

DENA In the middle of the night, yes. And I don't remember what her name was but he took them to Hillsboro and had them arrested.

TANZER What other stories can you tell us about, about Mr. Mayfield's arrests?

DENA Well, he was shot at one night. Some boys had stolen a car and the bullet went right through the back window and into the dashboard. And the boys jumped out and run, ~~farxix~~ and Henry Mayfield caught up with them at --it was South of Aloha on Farmington Road, he caught up with them .

TANZER Well, he liked children so much...

~~TANZER~~DENA Oh, he LOVED children.

TANZER He must have handled young people very well.

DENA He did. The boys really loved him. And they always wanted a ride in the police car with him.

TANZER I understand he did take some of the children...

DENA ...the servicemen when they come home late at night and there was no taxicabs -- no way for them to get home, so he would say, "You wait -- 2:00 comes, and I'll take you drive you home." And lots of boys from up around Cooper Mountain, like Paul Sorbett -- remember how he used to take him home when he used to come into Beaverton?

TANZER They came into Beaverton by bus at that time? The Red train wasn't running any longer?

DENA No. It was the Southern Pacific train, and he would take them home. He said, "You wait and I'll be off duty pretty soon. I'll take you home.." Lots and lots of times he took different boys home that lived out of Beaverton.

TANZER Did he just patrol the city of Beaverton up and down the streets by car. Is that what he did? And would he stop in any of the shops and check things out?

DENA Yes. He used to be called to -- well, I shouldn't mention the tavern up there...

TANER You could just say it was a tavern . And then what would he do with the people who were misbehaving?

DENA He would take them to Hillsboro, throw 'em in the jailhouse at Hillsboro.

TANZER But ~~not if they were~~ even if they were just drunk, not if they were drunk drivers?

DENA Drunk driving. He was death on drunk drivers.

TANZER Why was that?

DENA Because he thought they are the ones who should be arrested. If they're driving while they're drinking that way, he said it wasn't good, and he used to--right away, take them to Hillsboro.

TANZER How did Mr. Mayfield get along with the people at City Hall? You don't have to mention names.

DENA He got along with everybody. What was that man's name. He was religious and he was the City Recorder. What was his name? Real nice guy. Dodie! Mr. Dodie was the recorder wasn't he, and he was a very nice person. He and Henry were just like that.

TANZER Was there a mayor at that time?

~~DOROTHY~~DOROTHY: Yes, didn't we have Fisher for mayor?

DENA Yes. He won over... He always wore a celloid collar...

TANZER Did Mr. Mayfield have problems with him?

DENA No. He loved him. He said Mr. Mayfield was the best policeman that Beaverton ever had and he give him lots of compliments.

TANZER Did he get along well with the fire department as well?

DENA Very well. They were real chummy.

TANZER No w who was the fire chief?

DENA Archie Olson.

TANZER And then there was another fire chief after Archie Olson.

DENA Yes. Harvey Williams. Yes, took his place.

TANZER And so what year was it that Mr. Mayfield left ~~police work~~ the police force?

DENA About '56, '58.

TANZER Was he the ~~only~~ only police person then?

DENA He worked at night. He always had the night shift.

TANZER How many people were there during the day?

DENA Archie Olson took one night on Henry's night off, and Ray Shearer, Harvey Williams, they took the nights off.

TANZER Who was on during the day?

DENA During the day. I think Ray Shearer went on in the afternoon.

TANZER But when he was police chief he worked full time, didn't he?

DENA Every night. And I think Harvey Williams took his place one night a week. That's the only night he had off.

TANZER What did you do on your night off?

DENA Oh, boy! Went to the dog races!

TANZER Did you enjoy that?

DENA Oh! We were crazy. We rented rooms to the dog owners and we knew most all of them. And we'd work on our program all day. All day.

TANZER Did you make money?

DENA We'd win one night and lose the next.

TANZER But you had a good time.

DENA Yes.

TANZER That's the most important thing! Dena, what businesses do you historically remember in Beaverton?

DENA Peg's Mortuary was on the first floor of the Grange Hall ~~and~~ on Angel Street. When someone died, their body was taken to Angel Street.

TANZER And there were some funny things with the mortuary, too...

DENA The police always checked the door at night, and one day someone filled a glove with water and (chuckle) when one of Mr. Mayfield's helpers went to check the door, this hand come out (laughter) and it was COOOOLD! (laughter) and that fella was scared to death. He would never go back and check another door.

TANZER (laughter) Those are the wonderful things that happen in small towns...

DENA ...And then Mr. Fisher's didn't have any toilet in the house. They had an ~~and~~ outdoor toilet -- that's what it was. Outdoor toilet, and every Halloween night the boys would get that toilet and put it right in the center of town, on Broadway.

TANZER Did anyone ever play any tricks on the saloonkeepers?

DENA No, I don't recall...

TANZER Someone once told me that the horses -- that sometimes the men who drank a good deal, their horses were so used to having them drink, that they would just load them onto their horses ~~and~~ and their horses would go home.

DENA Yes. my mother did a lot of sewing for the Walkers on Walker Road and she'd stay there for maybe a week at a time, and one morning she got up and she looked out the door and there stodd a horse and buggy and the horse was harnessed up to the buggy and the Walker boy had gone to Portland for the day and he liked his liquor pretty good and the horse brought him home from Portland, and when she looked out, here he was curled up in the buggy and his pants was hanging on the wheel of the buggy. (Laughter) So they said, well, that was nothing new, they were used to that. That's what the Walkers, Miss Laura, said.

TANZER Where was the Walker house?

DENA It was where the furniture store is up on the hill on Walker Road -- there's a nice furniture store up there. They built that about four years ago on Walker Road.

TANZER Is it Cedar Hills Boulevard or beyond that?

DENA It's beyond Cedar Hills Boulevard. Just above Murray. That's where the old home was, and I was there many,

many times and stayed there all night. Grandma Walker used to sit in the dining room in the corner knitting all the time, and I have a shawl that she knit for my mother, and it's 75 years old now.

TANZER

Are there any Walkers living?

DENA

Yes. I think there's two boys living, but I don't know. Somewhere in Hillsboro, somewhere, are the Walker boys and one of them is named Robert, I know, because he was named after ~~his~~ his father, the one that I was talking about. And Grandpa Walker was killed at Orenco. He was going into Portland one day to change his will and he saw the train coming, but he was farsighted and the train hit him. It was so close. And my mother and I was on the way over there, we got almost ~~x~~ over on Cedar Hills Boulevard, which wasn't Cedar Hills Boulevard ~~x~~ then -- and they were coming down after my mother to come to them right away for help, and so I went back home and my mother went there and stayed with them all during that funeral and everything. Mother made Laura Walker's wedding dress, which was ... Is that on? It shouldn't be. Because Laura married Well, she was engaged to a doctor in Portland but she broke her engagement and she married their hired man. They had a hired man there named ~~x~~ Sam Olds. And she married him. ~~xxxx~~ It wasn't a very happy wedding with the other folks; they wanted her to marry this doctor. And I have the ~~xxx~~ ruby, two rubies in the ring that she got from this doctor as an engagement ring. She gave me that, Aunt Laura did. Of course, they were Aunt Laura and Grandma Walker to me.

DENA:

There used to be a fellow who used to have his beer at least once a week and he'd get as far as the ~~farmymess~~ flour mill -- you remember?

?

Yes. Right across from the ~~Musik's~~ Muessig? Musik?'s house.

DENA

Yes. The Musik's and he passed ~~out~~ there on his way home, and I was always ~~xxxx~~ scared to go past that place. That's the only place in Beaverton I used to be afraid to walk, because he'd drink beer downtown; he'd get that far and pass out. And he was always laying next to the railroad tracks.

TANZER

Where was the flour mill?

?

Where that Mobil Sales was, in between Farmington and TV Highway, just across, going across.

TANZER

And whose flour mill was it?

DENA

Musik's.

TANZER

Are there any Musik's around?

DENA

Yes. There are -- Johnny is alive. Betty is alive. Joe's alive.

And Ann's still alive.

DENA

Is ~~xxx~~ Ann Still alive?

?

Yes. And Mrs. Gross -- Mary Kemmer.

TANZER

Oh! That's good to know because she's on that list.

DENA

Yes. . Mary Kemmer.

TANZER

So she was a ~~MM~~ Musik?

DENA

Yes.