

Q: OK. So, now we want to talk about the old (inaudible) Tualatin Methodist Church, even before it was called United Methodist, and your time. And you remember that because you were here Tualatin in those days?

IRENE: I was here in Tualatin, but because of Gordon singing the way he did, we went to the Sherwood Methodist Church. We were members of the (inaudible) United Presbyterian Church and I sang in the choir there. Tualatin, as such, did not have a choir. They had a young man who played the piano, and that's about the music that they had until Ella Johnson came in. Ella Johnson was a Scottish lady. She came up from San Francisco where she was a singer in a San Francisco Opera. She was well trained in singing, and she helped Gordon quite a bit, and provided a lot of good music for them down at the Methodist Church.

Q: And that was in Sherwood, you said?

IRENE: No.

Q: No, here in Tualatin.

IRENE: Tualatin.

Q: And you lived where?

IRENE: We lived first up on Avery Road. In fact, we rented the one house from the Avery family. And then we moved

down on Boones Ferry Road in a house where the Key Bank now stands.

Q: Oh, OK.

IRENE: And we had the only ^{Quince} tree in whole neighborhood. Others had filberts and everything else, but we had a quince tree.

Q: And what year did you come to Tualatin?

IRENE: We came to Oregon in August the 19th, 1961. And we moved into Tualatin... about '63. Karen went to Wilson a year and then she had to transfer to ^{Tigard} [Tigert?] High School.

Q: And Gordon was your husband?

IRENE: No. Gordon is my son.

Q: Your son.

IRENE: He went back and studied with Fred [Waring?] for a term after he graduated. And he, he was Oregon's outstanding granger, and when we went to visit various granges, Gordon was asked to sing in the granges but several churches came and asked him if he would be their soloist on Sunday. That was in the eastern part of Oregon where they didn't have too many people visit.

Q: Right.

IRENE: And so, his singing became quite known.

Q: Sure, sure.

IRENE: Karen was also outstanding young granger.

Q: Right.

IRENE: Out of Wynona Grange. We were a member for a while there. But Tigard is our basic one here.

Q: Right.

IRENE: We came from Washington County, Pennsylvania to Washington County, Oregon.

Q: Oh, great. Great. And had your family been farmers in any part of that history?

IRENE: No, not farmers. But that isn't always the basis of grange either.

Q: Right.

IRENE: Well, my dad's family were farmers.

Q: Yeah.

IRENE: So, that was...

Q: So, that's not a requirement for grange.

IRENE: Oh no.

Q: Yeah, right.

IRENE: Anybody interested in agriculture.

Q: Right.

IRENE: So, if you wanted, like, to eat.

Q: That's a good way.

IRENE: That's OK.

Q: (laughter) Great. So, we'll go to the grange, as well, as the old church, but in those days, do you remember who any of the pastors were when you came?

IRENE: When we came, Otis Harden was the pastor. And Gordon and I formed the ~~Pigert~~ ^{Tigard} Junior Grange, and all of his children, Otis's children were in the grange. And because of that, we became closely related to that family, and so naturally, we went to his church.

Q: OK. Because I remember that name. That was before we moved here. I remember Otis Harden had been the pastor. We came in 1972, when [Arshed Hock?] was the pastor. But I heard about Otis and his large family, right?

IRENE: He had five children.

Q: Five children, yep.

IRENE: And he preached at both Tualatin and Sherwood.

Q: And in those days, the parsonage was Sherwood, right?

IRENE: Yes, yes.

Q: Yeah. And so, Tualatin, in those days, had the second service probably?

IRENE: First one.

Q: The first one and then he went over there.

IRENE: And then he went over there.

Q: But it was still a volunteer choir and choir director.

IRENE: Oh yes.

Q: And the organist. Did they have an organ in those days?

IRENE: Yes. And a lady by the name of Ruth Long was the organist. And then, [Meinake?]. What was her...?

Q: I remember Ruth Long. She was still playing when we came.

IRENE: Yeah.

Q: She was very elderly.

IRENE: Yeah, right.

Q: She was having a hard time, but she still did it.

IRENE: Yeah. I can't remember Meinake's first name. Oh well. Somebody will know.

Q: That's OK. That's OK. So, did your family, kids get involved with the church in those days?

IRENE: Oh my, yes. Karen, tell them what all you did?

KAREN: Well, because the two churches did so much together, I was in charge, at one time, of the younger youth group. I guess they now call it like the...junior high age.

IRENE: Sure.

KAREN: Or even younger, maybe. But -- and we met here in Tualatin. The senior group met in Sherwood.

IRENE: OK.

KAREN: And Sheryl Brown was in the group that I worked with. And there were a lot of people there, but I can remember -- she was one of them, and we met there in Sylvie Hall. And I

was telling mom last night, I said, "I remember Halloween party we had there, that we bobbed for apples."

Q: Ah.

KAREN: And they were having trouble with Sylvie Hall even then because the water that came out, just rolled out underneath, between the floor and the wall. So. But we used to do those. We used to do a lot of fun things that -

Q: Right.

KAREN: With the kids of that age, and we had quite a big group, but I can't remember how many or anything right now.

Q: Yeah.

KAREN: And I taught bible school. In fact, Colleen Rivers and I taught bible school over at -- they combined the churches to do that. And they had it over in Sherwood and we taught the preschoolers together.

Q: Oh, OK.

KAREN: And now I never sang in the choir out here. I had back east in our church, but I didn't have time with school and grange and everything to make to another practice.

Q: Right, right.

KAREN: But, you know, people that were active in the grange that I remember them, are the Brinks. I remember, you

know, them, and Ken Eiberg and some, but there's not a whole lot of the same ones that used to go. (laughter)

Q: Right. Now were the Brinks -- at one time, weren't they doing the youth group? Was that while you were there?

They were --

KAREN: No, I think they started it afterwards or before.

Q: OK. Because I remember hearing that the Brinks were very active --

KAREN: Yes.

Q: Well, maybe when their boys were involved.

KAREN: Yeah, I think so because Sheryl was the only one they still had.

Q: She was the youngest, right?

KAREN: She was the youngest. Uh huh.

Q: And now we have new generations of Brinks.

KAREN: Oh yes.

Q: (laughter) So. Yeah.

KAREN: So, we kept very busy and a lot of things. And I taught Sunday School over at Sherwood for years until I finally got to the point I just couldn't do anymore.

Q: Now, did you live in Sherwood or in Tualatin?

KAREN: No, we lived down here in Tualatin.

Q: Both of you did?

KAREN: Well, I lived with them until -- and then we moved, when I got married, I lived in Tigard, but I still came to Sherwood's church. And of course, we belonged to Tigard Grange, and we belonged to Wynona for a while. And then we went back -- I'm a life member in Tigard Grange. But I'm -- until election of officers, I'm still master of the Wynona Grange here in Tualatin. So, I'm a dual member.

Q: Ah.

KAREN: So, but --

Q: Well, let's talk about the grange then, generally. What is some of the history of the grange in Oregon or nationally? Why was it created?

IRENE: The grange was created at a request from the president of United States to seven men to form an organization that was family-oriented, provided entertainment and knowledge, and the significance of some of the officers is the lecture, is the teacher, the chaplain, is the church.

Q: Uh huh.

IRENE: And so it keeps them foremost. That was right after the Civil War. And there were families split, as we all have read. And this was a way of rejoining a lot of them. And it was the only place they had to go for any kind of entertainment. They sponsored a lot of square dancing and

things of that sort, had big family picnics and all. And it helped to heal some of the wounds of the war.

KAREN: And they -- and it should be noted, too, that the grange was from the beginning, men and women equal (inaudible), had the equal rights to talking and a lot of organizations were strictly either men's organizations or women's. But that would -- they included the whole family, and they could join at age fourteen and have an equal right with their parents for them, talking, and stuff. And, you know, their opinions. So, that was...

IRENE: They sponsored oratory contests and so forth and helped the young people just study to be speakers --

Q: Right.

IRENE: -- in various ways. Out of the seven founders, a gentleman by the name of Sanders. Oliver Hudson Kelly was one. But Sanders went on to be the first head of the Department of Agriculture in United States. If you see a picture of the speech that Abraham Lincoln is giving at Gettysburg, there is a gentleman sitting there -- I think it's to his right. He has a real full beard and everything, and that is the Sanders that helped form the grange. That's one of them.

Q: Huh.

IRENE: They also had Oliver Hudson Kelly's niece there to do transcribing and minute taking, which made the ladies a part of forming, because her ideas were expressed, and they adopted a lot of them.

Q: Sure.

KAREN: And another thing that, I don't know how many presidents have belonged to the grange, but Franklin Delano Roosevelt received his 50-year certificate from the grange as a continuous member. And mom has her 50-year certificate, and they have a ledger type thing that they keep at the national office in Washington, D.C., and so her name's on the same list as...

Q: (laughter)

KAREN: I have two years to go before mine will be there, but

--

Q: So, how -- did every little town in those days have granges or was it by county or area or how did it work?

KAREN: Pretty much, every little town had them.

Q: Yeah.

KAREN: Because they helped a farmer. They gave them something to do. That was before TV and before, you know, the movies and things like that, and it gave some place to meet. They had lots of potlucks.

Q: Yep.

KAREN: And when they had their meetings, they'd take, even before, when they took their horses and stuff, they always had provisions so that the horses could be there and the buggies and stuff until a meeting was over, and, but they did -- the granges formed, it's got the local granges, which we call subordinate granges. Then we go to the county granges, which is the Pamona Grange. Then we go to the state grange. And then we go to the national grange.

Q: OK.

KAREN: And --

Q: Well, I do remember, my father was teaching agriculture, actually, in Junction City, Oregon, in the late 40s and the 50s. And I remember going with him to the grange. I think they expected that the agriculture teacher would be a member in that area. And I just vaguely remember this, that I could go in there, but I remember marching around different little tables, and you had to put pennies on these tables or something.

KAREN: Oh.

Q: Marching around, and each station or whatever it was called, meant something, I guess. Is that a common ritual? People marching around?

KAREN: Yes. Marching around, but not the pennies.

Q: OK. OK.

KAREN: They have, a lot of times, have a coin drill, at the end or something like that, at the meeting that they -- each one of the stations in the grange is based on -- I guess it's the old English --

IRENE: English farms.

KAREN: -- where they have the master, who's owner type thing, and then the overseer who oversees the whole thing, and then the steward who --

IRENE: Is in charge of labor.

KAREN: -- is in charge of the labor and stuff, and they go through each office represents something. And she said the Chaplain and the (inaudible). And the graces -- what we call the graces -- Serious, Pamona, and Flora -- represent the goddesses of fruit and grain and flowers of the old ancient --

IRENE: It's in Greek.

KAREN: The Greek mythology.

Q: Right.

KAREN: Just kind of ties agriculture all together there with those things. And so --

Q: Well, I remember going to fairs then, state and county fairs. Maybe for state, the state, for sure. And there would be these big displays -- beautiful arrangements --

KAREN: Yes, right.

Q: -- for the county level. Is that the Pamona, in that case?

KAREN: Yeah, mmm hmm. Yes.

Q: Somebody did a lot of work, each time, figuring out how they were going to set that up.

KAREN: Yes.

IRENE: Yes. They would start planning from one year to the next.

Q: Is that kind of contest between counties?

IRENE: Well, yes. Well, here in Oregon, over in Washington County, at the fair, they have judging, and they get a monetary prize.

KAREN: And that's, each subordinate can put one in there.

IRENE: Yeah.

KAREN: And then the winner of that one used to go to the state. Lately, they haven't been doing it, but I've been told just real recently, the winner of each county, that's the one that put it in the state the next year.

Q: I see.

KAREN: So.

Q: What was the ^{Tigard} Tigert grange called. You had Wynona in Tualatin. Did it have another name over there?

KAREN: No, ^{Tigard} Tigert.

IRENE: No, it's just ^{Tigard} Tigert.

KAREN: It started out to be ~~Bute~~ ^{Butte} grange, and that was a long time ago. And then it changed to ~~Tigert~~ ^{Tigard} grange and that's what it's been ever since.

Q: Yeah.

KAREN: The building in ~~Tigert~~ ^{Tigard} was built in 1926. The one in Wynona, here in Tualatin, this building was built in 1940, but the grange has been in continuous existence in Tualatin since 1895.

Q: Wow.

KAREN: So, they met above stores in different places and other halls and things, but they built their own building then.

IRENE: ~~Tigert's~~ ^{Tigard's} grange is older than that. It's just like after the granges were started. I want to say '67.

Q: 1867.

IRENE: Uh huh.

Q: Hmm.

IRENE: You might be interested in knowing the first time when we got here and drove around and looked at different places, we came down and Tualatin's sign was up and there were 272 people.

Q: Population of Tualatin.

IRENE: Yeah, population of Tualatin.

Q: Yeah. 1962, you said, or so.

IRENE: '61.

KAREN: Yeah.

Q: '61. So the freeway was not in yet.

IRENE: Oh no.

*(wrong - I-5 opened in the mid '50s)
Lh*

KAREN: The freeway? I thought the freeway -- they were just finishing it. There were parts of it that weren't, but.

IRENE: No, the Columbia Gorge had that but five wasn't --

Q: I-5 was still in the planning stages.

IRENE: Yeah.

KAREN: Yeah.

Q: And there were still some big farms around Tualatin in those days, though.

IRENE: Oh, that's it. It was big farms.

Q: Yeah. No dog food factory yet. Or did that -- has that income yet by '61?

IRENE: Yeah, the dog food plant was there when we --

Q: It was there. OK. OK.

IRENE: Yeah, yeah. Because when we rented down on Boone's Ferry there, where the key bank was. That's where -- pretty much where the house was. You could tell what they were cooking for the dog food. Some days it smelled like beef stew. And other days, we weren't sure what it was.

(laughter)

IRENE: But it gives you one of those things -- oh yeah, I remember that.

Q: Right, well, I can remember that, too, because in '71, when we moved here, they were still going strong.

IRENE: Yeah.

KAREN: Yeah.

Q: And Harold Brink, was in fact, working there --

IRENE: Oh.

Q: -- then. I remember. He unloaded railroad cars full of grain or something. So, the grange had activities for kids. What did you do with youth work with the grange?

KAREN: Yeah.

Q: Job's daughters, is that part of the grange?

KAREN: No. Job's Daughters is Masonic. And Rainbow Girls are Masonic. But, we had a junior grange, and the junior grange is for kids age five to fourteen, and I was real involved with that.

Q: And what did they do?

IRENE: They had set up their hall, the same as the, the same as the subordinate is set up. They do their marching. We had a drill team, one time, go in.

KAREN: Yeah, I had a drill team of 16 kids and boy, we even had straight lines, going around and stuff. They went to the state competition, which is wonderful.

IRENE: It --

KAREN: Bruce Hendrickson, I don't know if you know him.

Q: I've heard that name.

KAREN: His dad was Henry Hendrickson. Anyway, his wife --
Bruce's wife made the dresses for the girls for this team.
So, we'd have them all alike. They were all red and white
gingham dresses. It was just really nice. They learned to
march. They learned, you know, to follow the, whatever.
And it worked out really... It was fun. It was fun.

IRENE: In the junior grange, they teach them Parliamentary
procedure. The easy way. Show them how to do motions and
carry them through and so forth, which is -- they also have
speaking contests where it gets them in front of other
people in school, children, where they get to express
themselves. They're dying out, but it's really a bigger
loss to the people than they'll ever realize.

Q: Yeah.

IRENE: Because -- I just thought of something else -- the
year that Karen was outstanding granger, they met in
Pendleton and Mark Hepfield took his sixth degree that
year. And that was the governor.

Q: So, he was another grange member.

IRENE: Oh yes. You go down the list, you'll find they are
all very prominent people and interested in helping other

people. They're -- cleaning the grange hall used to be a big event. The men brought their tools. The ladies brought the food. They made it an all-day affair, and then usually ended up with some square dancing. And the children got to know other ones. And the men would do any repair work that had to be done or any painting or anything like that in the building. And the ladies would clean the kitchen and cook a big meal for them, and it just made it, as we say, it's a family affair.

Q: Right.

KAREN: And at Wynona grange, down at Tualatin, they had a huge -- the way I understand it because got in at the end of it, but -- youth group that did a lot of dances and things like that. And Henry Henrickson was the one that had the records, the music to go with it. But a lot of the ones like Lois and a lot of the others, that's where they used to go to have a good time --

Q: Sure.

KAREN: -- because they used to... And I think they did that every week, they had, because there was nothing, there was no school functions that went that --

Q: Right.

KAREN: -- late or anything. So, and they had a good time. And their families -- a lot of them belonged to the grange.

Q: Now, how did they build the building. That must have cost a lot of money in those days, for some of those buildings.

KAREN: I'm not sure how they did Wynona, whether some of their members could take out loans to help them or how they did because a non-profit organization usually couldn't get a loan.

Q: Yeah.

KAREN: And now ^{Tigard} Tigert, they just, well bought -- well, I guess, most of us donated type wood and stuff like that. And the people built it that were grangers. And it started out just where we have a stage, used to be the only, the whole building. And they turned it around and added a whole bunch in it afterwards. But the granges are noted, at least in Oregon, especially, with the beautiful hardwood floors.

Q: Yep.

KAREN: And they rent to a lot of square dance groups and things like that because those floors are wonderful to be dancing on and things.

Q: Yeah, well, we used to square dance when he had young family and had time. In those days, we needed something cheap.

KAREN: Yeah.

Q: And you could go for a night of square dancing for -- I forget, it was cheap.

KAREN: Yeah.

Q: Five dollars or something.

KAREN: Something like that.

Q: And, yeah, they love those grange floors because they give a little bit. That wood is not as bad as concrete.

KAREN: Right. And, as you say, it's entertainment that it doesn't cost them as much. Most of the granges don't charge a whole lot of rent to people. I mean, the building -- you could rent it for a lot more because of the space and stuff, but they have tried to make it so that the square dancers and stuff can still rent it and have their groups. And --

Q: Right.

KAREN: -- that makes a big difference because, you know, to rent a school or something like that is so much more expensive. And then the floor's not as good for dancing.

Q: Right.

KAREN: So, that's one of the things, because down at Wynona now, we rent to two square dance troops. We rent to a church, and I don't know if aerobics is still meeting down there but we have several groups we rent to and now this church group that we have now which is really nice, they do

all the cleaning for any extra days that they want. They pay us rent, any -- you know, because you have to have it to maintain that building.

Q: Sure.

KAREN: But --

Q: Do you have to hire somebody to keep maintenance going there.

KAREN: You do if you don't have somebody volunteer. See, this is -- the church group is volunteering to do it.

Q: Oh, I see. I see.

KAREN: And so, it doesn't cost us extra because we were paying somebody and it -- they just don't do as good a job when they just come in to clean your place. If they're actually having functions there, they do a much better job.

Q: Sure. Oh yeah.

KAREN: And this church group has really done good.

Q: Yeah.

KAREN: So, but --

IRENE: She touched on a subject, the churches coming into the grange hall. There have been more churches in the ^{Tigard} Tigert area get their start in the grange hall. And when they got built to where they were financially able to start, they would go to their own church, but you'd be surprised how many of them got started there.

Q: It's a perfect place.

IRENE: There's no liquor allowed in the grange, and it eliminates some people renting.

Q: Sure.

IRENE: And, again, as I say, it's family-oriented and that takes a lot of -- what do I want to say -- Prestige from... I guess a lot of prestige is what I'm saying.

Q: Yeah, right, right.

IRENE: To the ones forming and things like that.

Q: Sure. Well, that ^{Tigard} ~~Tigert~~ grange is so visible.

IRENE: Yes.

KAREN: Yes.

Q: You know, that's real boom benefit.

KAREN: There was talk at one time that we'd have to take the front section off because they'd widen the street, but they decided, no, it was too much of a historic thing. They -- a lot of -- they built the sidewalk right into the building, almost.

Q: (inaudible)

KAREN: But they didn't widen that side of the road. They widened the other part so that you could -- because there's no place for them to go now.

Q: Yeah.

KAREN: Except, they'd have to tear it down, and they don't want to do that. Not a building that's been there, in continuous use since 1926. That particular building. So.

Q: Well, 1926, is the same year that the Methodist Church was built there.

KAREN: Yeah.

Q: So, now does the local grange -- or did I understand that the state grange has title or will have titled the building for the Wynona if it were to ever close?

KAREN: The way that the con -- what do you call it -- bylaws and things reads, the state grange owns any grange property in the state of Oregon. And to sell it or anything like that, you have to go through the state grange to OK anything like that. And if it, the grange doesn't keep up, then they can decide whether they either sell the building or what they do with it. Individuals can't profit from it.

Q: Right.

KAREN: It has -- any, you know, if they sold it, anything they'd get from it would go to the state grange for -- they'd keep it in existence for like seven years for them if they would re-establish and need it. But otherwise, it's --

Q: Well, I remember, too, my cousin's husband in Tennessee used to sell insurance for the grange.

IRENE: Right.

Q: Is that still a program available?

KAREN: Yeah, they have Grange Insurance Association that sells in Idaho, Washington, I think California, and Oregon used to be strong in Oregon. But they recently, a few years ago, opened it up to non-members. Before that, you had to be a member to have that insurance.

Q: Oh.

KAREN: And each state has their own --

Q: Governance? Yeah, right.

KAREN: -- way to do it. It depends on which, the rules of the state are, whether they let, like Ohio. They used to have lots of members because they had the insurance. And then they opened theirs up to nonmembers. The state of Ohio insurance commissioner did that, and they lost a lot of grangers because they didn't have to belong to the grange to have the insurance. And some of the other states have found the same thing. But, in Oregon, we used to also have the grange in a mutual insurance. And it was homeowners and then they did branch out and have car insurance and things. But it was just in Oregon, and there just wasn't enough, a couple of years of losses with fires and floods and things.

Q: Yeah.

KAREN: They couldn't keep on going and stuff.

Q: So, what are your hopes for the future of grange. I know
Loys^e has been working to rebuild members --

KAREN: Yes.

Q: -- for Wynona.

KAREN: Yep. And we're doing more community service type
work. I think it's more back to what they used to do then
they -- for a while, it got to be so involved with, you
have this -- you do this for the state level and you do
this. But now, it's in the community. And we're trying to
give support to the food bank and to the Wynona Cemetery,
we gave a contribution. And they just are trying to do
more within the community.

Q: Right, right.

KAREN: And anything that they find -- last year, one of the
things we did at Christmas time because -- well, it was icy
and we didn't have our meeting so it was after that before
we got them there, but we decided to collect new stuffed
animals and gave them to the fire department to give to
kids who have lost everything. And they said the police
department uses them just as much. You know, they shared
them with them.

Q: Sure.

KAREN: But we gave them, I don't know, about 20. And some of them were beautiful, big stuffed animals, you know. But when these kids have lost everything --

Q: Sure, sure,

KAREN: -- it's really great to have something like that that's theirs and they can cuddle and squeeze and that type of thing.

Q: Right.

KAREN: But we tried to do something. I don't know, they'll decide next meeting what it is they do this year if it's the same thing or something else.

Q: Right, right.

KAREN: But we try to do that. And we let our hall be used without charging rent for some groups for different things. You know, a one-time meeting or something like that. The VFW, actually, started out meeting in the grange hall down here in Tualatin.

Q: Oh really, huh.

KAREN: And there's talk about maybe somebody buying their property and putting a new building up, and if they do, they've discussed with us, to see if they could possibly use our hall --

Q: Come back.

KAREN: -- to meet until they get the building done. So, you know, they -- we try to work with the community.

Q: Sure. Sure.

IRENE: You know that the grange is the ones that started the crawfish festival?

Q: No.

IRENE: Yeah. Yep. They put the community on all the recommended places to go during that month.

Q: Yep, yep.

IRENE: Well, you'll find that Tualatin's on there for the crawfish festival. And it all started with an idea of the grange.

Q: That's good. So, some of the kids today, are they taking leadership or did they -- is it harder to get leaders now? Are they getting so many other interests that I guess that's the hard part, huh?

KAREN: That's the hard part.

IRENE: That's the part that's interrupting.

Q: Like Craig Lee. You would think, Lois's son, maybe. He's still farming, but again, you don't have to be a farmer, I understand. But still, it's going to be those new generations that have to carry it on.

IRENE: Well, she said he's coming into the grange.

Q: Oh, that'd be good.

IRENE: Yeah.

KAREN: They -- and there's a push, a lot of them to try to promote the organic farming.

Q: Oh yeah.

KAREN: And they thought that might be something that will interest some people that, you know, they try to find little --

Q: Right.

KAREN: -- spots here and there and stuff.

Q: Maybe the ^{Loch} Coach family. Were they ever part of this one or (inaudible)?

KAREN: Now, I don't know.

Q: Did Sherwood have a grange.

KAREN: Sherwood has a grange.

Q: (inaudible) working over there?

KAREN: Yeah, I think it just merged or is in the process of merging with ^{Schoal} Shoal's grange. But up until just recently, yeah, they've had an active grange down there because the old -- that old grade school that sits in the corner of or across from where the junior high is -- that big building there.

Q: Yeah.

KAREN: That -- the grange ended up buying that and had that for years, and then they sold it.

Q: Oh really? Huh.

KAREN: And rent from somebody else. But, yeah, it's kind of -- it was really an act of --

Q: So, what brought you west, Irene, from Washington County, Pennsylvania to Washington County, Oregon?

IRENE: Well, the winters were getting so severe and so cold that my son, in the middle of the night would wake -- sometimes not even wake up, but have terrible nose bleeds. And the doctor said, "you've got to get to a milder climate." And they didn't like the idea of the heat in the Arizona area or anything, and I had a cousin living here and she said, "why don't you try this? This is a milder, and yet it's not extreme either way."

Q: Yeah.

IRENE: And so, we talked it over with the doctor, and he said, "well, the best thing to do is to try." And that was the answer.

Q: Great. So, you just packed up and came west. Were you born yet, Karen? Were you born?

KAREN: Yeah, I was 15 when I moved out here.

Q: OK. So, you remember Pennsylvania a little bit?

KAREN: Oh yes.

Q: And she graduated from Tigard, got her certificate --

KAREN: From Portland State.

IRENE: Portland State. And she got a nursing degree or the -

-

KAREN: Medical assisting degree.

IRENE: -- medical assistant degree attached to her teacher's certificate. So, that gave her a double thing.

Q: Sure.

IRENE: And she's a licensed X-Ray technician.

Q: I remember, when I first met Karen, you were doing doctor's work --

IRENE: Medical assisting, yeah. Yeah.

Q: -- of some sort.

IRENE: I used to show up to a lot of meetings in my whites because I didn't have time to come home and change.

Q: And then you were always Methodist in your background? No, you said you started out as --

IRENE: Presbyterian.

Q: -- Presbyterian. Well, that's close.

IRENE: Well, Scottish, remember.

Q: Sure, right.

IRENE: Graham is -- well, they are descendants of the
? (inaudible) Montrose of Scotland, and that is really strictly Presbyterian, and although my family background is also Scottish, it isn't, you know, the same.

Q: Sure.

IRENE: Probably Episcopalian would have been ours, but I don't know.

KAREN: Yeah, the bishop we had before this one. The (inaudible[?]) or whatever?

Q: Pop.

KAREN: Yeah. He was born and raised near where I was back in Pennsylvania.

Q: Oh.

KAREN: And he had said something about it and one of the, since I was lay delegate, I went up to him, and I says, "oh, you know what a gum band is?" He said, "yes. You're from western Pennsylvania." No place else do they call a rubber band a gum band, except in western Pennsylvania.

Q: Is that right? (laughter)

KAREN: And he said, "yeah, and I know how to red up a table too." Which is ready up, get it ready for, you know, whatever.

Q: (laughter)

KAREN: But his -- now did he tell me? I think he said his father was a Presbyterian minister near Pittsburgh, but it was interesting to --

Q: Well, what's some of those foods that you remember from Pennsylvania country? Do you still make those foods?

Pennsylvania Dutch apple pie or is that another part of Pennsylvania.

KAREN: Oh, Johnny Bull pudding. What was it?

IRENE: That's English.

KAREN: English, oh. I can remember my aunt used to -- my aunt, well, yeah, my aunt.

IRENE: I didn't make --

KAREN: My great aunt used to make that.

IRENE: I didn't do that kind of.

Q: Yeah.

KAREN: So.

IRENE: That's more in the central part of Pennsylvania, you'll find all of the good old Pennsylvania Dutch cooking, which is German.

KAREN: German, and isn't the Amish.

IRENE: German and Swedish.

KAREN: And the Amish and stuff are all in there and they, you know, all have the same type of thing. Back there, they had those beautiful barns because they -- that was their barn and their art on the barn and stuff, that they don't do out here.

IRENE: That's where they have the electric and have all their (inaudible).

KAREN: Yeah. And the --

IRENE: No electric in the house.

KAREN: In the house, but they have it in the barn.

Q: (laughter) That's a great story.

IRENE: Yeah, that's --

KAREN: That probably, a lot of it started, when they got the electric milkers. And the only way to keep up with things for the farms and stuff was to use those, and you had to get electric in. But it only went to the barn, and anything else, you know, the lights and things. In the barn, but not in the house. (laughter)

Q: That's the Amish?

KAREN: Yeah. So, it was kind of fun.

Q: Was that apple-growing country for Pennsylv -- for Washington County, or is that another part? I remember a lot of good apples come from Pennsylvania.

IRENE: Well, they come from more in that Amish area, Lancaster, Gettysburg and around that area.

KAREN: No, we were the steel mills and the coalmines.

Q: OK.

KAREN: That sort of thing was more --

Q: Yeah.

KAREN: And that, right now, they're having coalmines, you know, the ones that played out, that type of thing, are

caving in. They're taking whole streets with them,
unfortunately --

Q: Oh my.

KAREN: -- because they're built on top of them. Yeah.

Q: And now you went down to Arizona, a few years ago, to get
some of that good warm weather, finally.

IRENE: My aunt was there, and I went down to help her, and
she only lived -- went down mother's day, May, '70, and she
died August 20, no 18th. August the 18th, '71.

Q: Well, you started spending your winters down there?

IRENE: I just started to live down there.

Q: Just to live. Yeah, good.

IRENE: Yeah.

KAREN: And when my dad retired. He worked for Fred ^{Meyer's} Myers and
when he retired, then he moved down there.

Q: OK.

KAREN: So.

Q: So, he worked for Fred ^{Meyer} Myer a long time?

IRENE: Yes. Yeah.

KAREN: From the time, pretty much from the time we came out
here until he retired -- whatever year that was?

Q: What was he doing for them?

KAREN: He worked in the apparel warehouse. He was the
working foreman. Working foreman there. But see, he had

worked in steel mills and glass factories and things like that back east, so it was quite a change. But a lot easier working. It wasn't the back -- it wasn't as hard on his back and stuff as --

Q: Sure.

KAREN: Yeah, I have a set of dishes, well, I have part of it, because my sister had part of it and so did my brother, of a set of dishes that he built with his little Atlas Company. And he had mixed the glass and the color and everything. It's a green color.

Q: Wow.

KAREN: And it's kind of neat that --

Q: Wow. And that's again, another industry we'll never know out here in the west.

IRENE: No, and they don't do it back there much anymore either, not like they used to.

Q: Sure. Well, are there any other things we should talk about today?

IRENE: Well, we sort of skipped the church part.

Q: We can come back to that.

IRENE: I can't think of --

Q: Any funny stories --

IRENE: Well, we were -- Gordon and I were singing in the choir at the church at --

Q: Sherwood?

IRENE: -- Sherwood was dedicated.

KAREN: Yeah, because they had, yeah. They had the little white church. That's where I did more of my Sunday School teaching and stuff.

Q: Yeah. I remember the little white church.

KAREN: That's the one I was married in and stuff, too.

Q: And we used to go over there on Saturday, and I remember Clayton ^{Nyberg} Eiberg going and we would have the doughnuts.

IRENE: Doughnuts.

KAREN: Yeah.

Q: The sandwiches and those big brownies.

IRENE: And --

KAREN: They still have that doughnut thing going. They paid off the debt to the church. They got enough money for that. They do that down at the --

IRENE: Odd Fellow.

KAREN: -- Odd Fellow's Hall now because the church is kind of off the beaten path enough.

Q: Right.

KAREN: But, yeah. They still do it.

IRENE: And I worked in that. I was also the women's -- and I can't remember the right title of it. I represented the Methodist Church, anyhow, when we met, and --

KAREN: It's like the United Methodist Women now.

IRENE: Yeah.

KAREN: But whatever they called it before that.

Q: Well, it used to be the Women's Society of Christian Service.

KAREN: Oh, OK.

Q: SWCS.

IRENE: Yeah, that's me.

KAREN: She was --

IRENE: I was chairman of that.

KAREN: And she represented the both churches.

IRENE: Yeah, because Otis still had both churches.

Q: Right.

IRENE: And --

Q: Yeah, I remember. That was -- the women were really strong in those days in the churches. Kept the kitchen going and a lot of other stuff.

KAREN: Yeah.

Q: The bazaars were big and --

IRENE: Right.

KAREN: They used to -- weren't they the ones that started a Thanksgiving auction?

Q: I don't know.

KAREN: I think so.

Q: Yeah.

KAREN: But --

Q: But I know that's, now, I remember it was on Thanksgiving morning when we came. And now it's not, you know. But, I guess. Remember we couldn't -- we still had to go home and still fix the dinner there or eat at home. And do you remember any funny stories of the church?

IRENE: Well, of course, the water running out.

Q: Yeah.

IRENE: From the Old Sylvie Hall.

Q: Yeah. Halloween.

IRENE: Well, that's where I met Colleen Rivers. We were -- had gone out to Camp McGruder for a meeting of the women's --

(doorbell)

Q: That's your --

IRENE: There's your --

Q: Want me to go get it?

KAREN: That's your meals on wheels. If I can get up, I'll be all right.

IRENE: That's where I met her and I did teach out there. I was one of the instructors.

Q: Yeah.

IRENE: You know, I've done a lot of things.

Q: You have. And McGruder is a big --

IRENE: Yes.

Q: -- wonderful place now.

(background conversation)

IRENE: Is it Velma Dickinson?

Q: Velma?

IRENE: She's gone now, I think.

Q: Velma Hughes. But yeah, it used to be.

(background conversation)

Q: Yeah, yeah. But she married Stan Hughes later. Velma.
Yeah.

IRENE: Well, she and I were roommates upstairs in the lodge.

Q: Oh yeah?

IRENE: At McGruder.

Q: Yeah.

IRENE: And, of course, she got to be the nurse for the group.

Q: Yeah.

IRENE: And --

Q: Yeah, that's a great organization. The women's group. And
the camps. The camps we have now are wonderful for the
kids.

IRENE: Yeah.

Q: And adults.

IRENE: That one was really nice that year.

Q: Yeah.

IRENE: I went out that.

Q: Yeah, that's -- we took our grandchildren to a camp there at McGruder this August. They have a -- they call it Grand Camp. It's only for grandparents and grandkids.

IRENE: Oh.

Q: For a weekend. And it's just really fun.

IRENE: Oh, I bet it would be.

Q: And now they have donkeys and little stuff like that to ride around on.

IRENE: Oh.

Q: Of course, the beach is further out now. They kept washing in and filling in, making more land.

IRENE: Oh.

Q: Yeah, the next time you come up, we'll have to drive over there and look at that.

IRENE: Well, that -- well, it was very nice when we were out there. We had a lot of fun. That one -- Colleen could tell you. We were practicing for some kind of play. I don't know. But everything just seemed to be funny. And we were upstairs practicing, and there was a whole group downstairs. And they kept wondering why we were up there laughing so loud and they could hear us.

(laughter)

IRENE: They didn't know and we had more fun over that.

Q: Yep.

KAREN: Well, she told me not too long ago something about during that thing, I don't remember what it was, the one night, they all sang, "good night, Irene" to mom.

(laughter)

KAREN: So, it was kind of nice. The memories are good.

Q: Yeah.

IRENE: Yeah.

Q: Now, was Mildred Wells still here then? Was she always around here, her mom?

IRENE: I don't know.

Q: Do you remember that name, Mildred Wells? Because her mom is still coming to church.

KAREN: Yeah. She's met her and talked to her, but --

Q: She must have lived somewhere else.

IRENE: I don't know.

KAREN: I don't remember her then. But she could have been there beside her and I'd have forgotten.

(laughter)

Q: Because they still are active when we do the bazaar here again.

IRENE: Yeah.

Q: I think, in a couple of weeks, they'll be making the soup and --

KAREN: Yeah, they just --

Q: But I've got to get over to Sherwood again and get those doughnuts. I just love those doughnuts.

KAREN: Well, they're down at the Masonic Hall or the Odd Fellows Hall. That's where they do it.

Q: Of course, you and I are not supposed to eat that, but we can still have the soup.

KAREN: I don't know if they still do the soup. I think they mostly do the doughnuts. But I don't know that they do the soup. But, nevertheless, it's --

Q: Yeah.

IRENE: You know, a lot of the -- they were going to close it down, and a lot of the people in the town -- not church members, but just people in the town -- they sort of protested.

Q: (laughter)

IRENE: They said they could go there and visit with the neighbors and so forth --

Q: Sure.

IRENE: -- and they liked that.

Q: Sure.

IRENE: So, it's still going.

KAREN: So, actually, what? It's third generation, because then, my sister, mom worked in it, and then my sister did. And now her daughter, they call on her every once in a while and say, "oh we need somebody."

Q: So, she still lives over there, your daughter-in-law.

KAREN: Grand.

IRENE: Niece.

KAREN: Her daughter, well, my sister that passed away.

Q: OK. Right.

IRENE: Yeah.

KAREN: But her daughter lives over there.

Q: OK.

KAREN: So, her grand -- great-grandson's over there. Because one's in Iraq. And then the other one just had a baby. She's down at -- well, her husband's a marine and she's down at Camp ^{Pendleton} [Pennelton?] area, and just had a baby. So now she's got a -- another great-great-grandson.

Q: Oh. That's wonderful, yeah.

IRENE: I'm going to live to be 100.

Q: Yep, you've got --

KAREN: She's told me that since she, I was a little kid, that she was going to live to be 100.

Q: That's good.

KAREN: So. She has to to keep us all going.

Q: Right.

IRENE: That doctor - I still get a laugh at that one, when he told me I was too old to take care of her. Oh, he said it so nasty-like. And when we went back in, he said, "you're doing a fine job." I said that was a guy eating crow, but it didn't give me quite much pleasure hearing it say it that way, doggonit.

Q: Well, I notice your lunch has come.

KAREN: Yeah.

Q: So, we better say farewell for this one. Well, thank you for coming.

KAREN: Thanks for --

Q: We'll --

KAREN: I hope you can get something out of that jumbled mess?

Q: Oh, I think we will. We sure will. And, let's see here. Let's see if we can --

End - WS30041