

## Florence Gross Interview

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FLORENCE GROSS

In 1928, when I first met my husband, and then we were married in September and I came out all the time and I went to church. At that time, it was a nice place and they had a water tower. They had the street lights and it was incorporated. Now I read an article in the Oregon Journal once that some man put in and he said that he was the firstplanned city in Oregon. But whether or not it was, I've never been able to prove it. But he did put it in and it was because he was talking about Somerset West which he started, and it was laid out with trees. I wish I could take you over to the church because we have a seventieth anniversary a year ago in May and I was on the committee for it and somebody said, what do we need, and I said, Well, I think it would be nice to have a banner, and they said, what of, I said, oh, just the dates, you know, so and so. But, you know, that ended up, it's really an unusual one, because somebody, well, there's the church and there's the school, and one the plates on the wall there. But this man who's a commercial artist, he sketched the shurch. But, anyway, when they did it, he enlarged that about this much, and that's in the center of this big huge banner. It's about 7 X 12, I think. In the middle of it is the church and then all around it                      and the different circles we had an all that and it's done in many colors. At the bottom it's scalloped and there's four scallops and it's the leaves on the trees that are planted on the streets. This is a nursery town, so the trees are elm and birch and oak, each leaf is there on the boardwalk. It's really unusual. I said, well, it's just like the Bible and magic. Ya say, well, there should be a banner and this is what comes out. Does the church have the banner now? Yes, it's still there. We

have the cross to the church and it was funded with a thousand dollar loan and in those days, you know what you call your main line church, what I's saying is the Presbyterian, Congregational, and all those churches, if you started the church they would give you money and they gave us \$1000 which seems likenot much but when you know the church didn't even cost \$8000. Now these churches cost \$300,000. That would be alot of money, wouldn't it? That's why these loans never had to be paid back. But they owe it and if they ever move out, then they have to pay back with interest. But they help the men, too. The bell, it has a bell that says \$50, tuned to A.

This nursery company came in here, they were true Canadians, Canadian Presbyterians. They were first from out of Oregon City and then they were \_\_\_\_\_. How big a role did the church play in Orenco? The nursery started about 1904 or 1905. The first thing they did was they got the train to run through here. They used to go to school out at Deschutesville. There were children from way out here in Reedville and all of them went to that school. Then Orenco, the one that originally came in, there were so many people that came in. So they were going to build a big school and they said, no, we're not going to take all our kids and make them walk to school, a mile and a half to school. So, in the middle of the year, I never could find out for sure, I looked but there's no record of it - it must of been in mid-yea

So they used a tent. All the rest of that year, they had school in a tent. The next fall they put a board around the bottom part of it. That was how it started. Then there were nine denominations of people at the top. Lots of Hungarians and most of them were Baptists. They came from Hungary just to work in the nursery because that's the kind of work they did there. So they had a little Hungarian church here on the corner and the fourth house down the road is made out of that little church. They moved it down the road and added a back to it. They never could afford a minister very often. He just came up occasionally and they'd have services. Then they said Mr. Rich, who was the manager for the nursery, you know, the Rich nursery people. There was an article in the paper about the Rich nursery people. When his father, Sam's father or Amos's father, whichever you talked to, Chris, he had a large home. So on Sunday afternoon, anybody that wanted would go to their house and they would just sing songs and pray.

One of the men around here who was the son of one of the Hungarian families asked me about talking in tongues and I asked him what he thought it was and he said, well, they go to Mr. Rich's - the Swiss were praying Swiss, the German were praying German, French were praying French and they were every kind of nationality. Not only that, there were lots of tramps in those days. These tramps would come in here and they'd be at Orenco at a certain time and they'd work around the nursery to get a little stake.

It's only been in the last twelve years that they've been able to sell liquor in Orenco. The way they got it was -----to the

golf course. But that's why because these tramps come in - they didn't want them to be able to get liquor. They had a jail, they had a constable. It was two-story. In the bottom part they had the fire trucks, I mean, they were fire carts and they had brass hooks and buckets on them. They would pass buckets along to put out fires but they did have hydrants and water. They had a big water tower across the street. We had a nursery building. Two acres of nursery under cover. Now where was that? Right across from the store building. Wasn't the railroad station right there, too? Yes, catty-corner across. It's still here. You know, where the railraod station is.

That next house is a batchelor. He goes to the First Baptist Church in Hillsboro and he always has a bunch of boys around and he makes jungle jeeps, he calls them. They both float and drive and he's interested in the life of translator down in South America and every other year he takes one of those down there - I guess he drives down to Miami. He's a batchelor and makes so much money it pays him to lay off work every other year. And then he goes down there. He really is interesting.

But they laid the town out and they had a constable, they had everything except they needed a church, well, they had no cars, it was really made (to cover ) five or six blocks. And then all of these little outlying areas were laid out in five acre farms and they would sell them and they would raise pigs, cows, and they would sell butter, cream, cottage cheese and things to keep them in town. But everybody had trees. You don't have trees on you place because that was pasture, but Knutson and trees on their property that was just hundreds of years old. That's right.

Some time about 4 or 5 years ago, a man called me from the historical society - he wanted to let the word around but not put it in the paper for people to come down to Sauvie Island house. Well, that's the Barby-Howe house. They were two men that came from the south and bringing their slaves with them and built on Sauvie Island and the one guy ran out of money and he went down to Gullfields and made money to finish it up. The houses there are just like they lived in, two-story homes. It's real interesting. Furnished like it was then. Then there was a place for the slaves, you know, and the kitchen, they cooked in a fireplace. That's where the historical society has their farm. They have there agricultural products there, so when McDonald, he was president of the nursery, he had a daughter that never married. When she died here about 11 or 12 years ago, she left all of her materials to the Historical Society, but she left all her money to ---- that's why it's Presbyterian. These two people each gave a \$1,000. We went down to the Barby-Howe House and then they told me I could get this material at the Historical Society. When I did, it was mostly bills and payments.

Now the nursery went out of business for one reason, they overextended on the trees. See, Oregon was building and farms coming in and everybody putting in big orchards. They just didn't have three or four trees, they had everything. They had cherry, they sent all over the world. They shipped all over the world. I was going through the Montana history and studying about my husband's family and at one point run across where they shipped to Orenco Nursery Company for some trees. Well, McGill finally pulled out - it got worse and worse.

When I first came here in 1928 I fell in love with the place. It was pretty with all the trees and houses they built.

What was the population? It seems to me like it was around 3,000 people.

I got some materials - there was a paper - Herald - published the first day of January 1914 and we found that old yellow paper and it's mimeographed but I'm not able to give it out. There's one at the church, though. That has alot of information. The Orenco Herald, was that published here in Orenco? Yes, at 5 cents a copy. How many times they copied it, I don't know. In 1914? Yes. It said on the front page of the paper, it was a place for many denominations, many religions and happy bouncing babies. They had the newspaper right here in Orenco. Oh, yes, they had a druggist, they had a pharmacy, they had a hotel, boarding houses, they just about had everything. When I came here there was no constable, nobody like that. But Mr. Carnes - if kids wouldn't behave - they just scared them. I remember growing up voting at that hall. I would peak in the windows. I never knew for a long time that there was only one room. I don't know if they ever had more than one person in there at a time or not. Never heard that they had any trouble. It was a nice place to live. With Oregon Electric, people didn't have cars, but they played games. People came to Portland and played basketball.

When they had a wedding, you should have seen how they wrote them up, you know, the upstanding bridegroom, you know, wearing so and so and the bride and, you know, they never had their pictures together. It was real comical how they wrote it up. They would just tell everything, you know, who was sick, what they had at parties, what they ate and everything. There wasn't that much news, so they would put in everything. The ads were on each side of the page. Up and down each side of the page. You

can't get any pictures because they didn't take pictures. They would say Sunday afternoon so and so and his wife and step-daughter visited someone in Cornelius or come up for ours. I was glad that they did that when I was studying that history project because you could go back to these old newspapers and you can read all about these old families and all these little intimate things - what they had for dinner.

When I was in high school in Missouri, there was a fellow in the neighborhood who didn't go to school. I don't think even finished the fourth grade, but he was always telling big lies, but you could never believe whether he was really telling the truth or not - he was laughable, he was fun. I know one time we were ice skating on the river and we would make a fire and stand around it and then we would always go to someone's house and have cider and something. And that night he and his brothers stayed to put the fire out and after later, his brother came running up and said Clark fell and hit his head and is unconscious. So everyone laughed. But Clark was. Do you know what he became? A doctor. No, he didn't become a doctor. He became a school bus driver and he slaughtered hogs. He had a slaughter house. He was the best bus driver. He told the kids these tall tales and they all loved it. But, later on, of all things, he is writing for the paper and it was really funny. So and so would come and stay all night with their daughter and sister-in-law and then the next item would be they and someone had dinner. They are still doing that, they are still putting that kind of stuff in. Here you can't get anything in. There is so much you don't want to read.

Anyway, it was really interesting in this town and the people. Sam Rich and Julia Loehden, you could talk to. That's Dr. Pitman. Yes, she's a very nice lady.



Now, I don't know, Violet Rush never lived in Orenco. Did someone give you her name? Well, they lived up in the hills, up out of Hillsboro. He went to school in Hillsboro. Dr. Pitman worked during his high school years for a doctor, Dr. Smith in Hillsboro, in fact, you know that building they tore down in Hillsboro last summer, the hospital bought it. They wanted to use it, I think, for children of the workers. But it was a big old house and it was a hospital during World War II. Then it became a restaurant and then they just knocked it down. Beautiful woodwork and everything. It's a shame they didn't let somebody get it. Anyway, they didn't and they came down to the senior center and asked if we wanted to use the land and they would make it courts of different kinds - it is just a block away - but we didn't take it. Anyway, he worked for him and he was a young man and the doctor didn't have time to drive across so he drove his car and I guess Dr. Pitman went into service at age 16. If she did live in Orenco I never understood it, but she does live on between here and Hillsboro. She might just know some of the history.

Well, one of your best bets would be Julie Loehden. Mrs. Otto Loehden. Is she still there? She lives up by the high school, right across from it. What are you doing the report for? It is for two things, one is for history class at school and for the ESD wanted some students to do some history on things around Washington County. Well, they did a good study at Brown. Now, how is your teacher's name? Richards, now he is over at Brown, yeah. Is he still at Brown? Pat Davis would know. If you would go back to the church and ask them, he will let you see the bureau. I'm a historian, but I'm not too historical. And we have a lot of pictures in there, but we can get larger ones, you know. This man had a project for the kids, I don't know where they got all of the materials and he loaned me some things that I used for that, because we didn't have time

to do it, didn't realize it was such a big thing until we got into it. Had they seen any of the old newspapers? We have quite a few of the old newspapers, we own that old store in Orenco now. I haven't seen it, I have seen any old newspapers. The ones that we had at the church and stuff that we started gathering for that. Oh, you found some more of those? Well, it's the ones we had before for the church thing.

Is there anything like map or anything that shows the old layout of the town? Yes, there is and that is in that viewer. There are two guys that are trying to lay out the map of the town. Is where the town is now, is that where most of the buildings were? Just like it always was. What were some of the businesses there? Well, you know where the church is, you were at the church. Well, if you went up to the railroad tracks, that house on the corner there is setting on top of the hotel foundation. That greenhouse? There is a house right across and if you were at the viewer and see pictures, and it shows the town. Now, somebody evidently had been up in the school in the top of the school and they took a picture catty corner across, that's before the church was even there, but it does show that house right across from the church. And then it went catty corner across to the store buildings and that one store building in the middle of the block, this man that owns the house on the corner works on cars, he rents apartments. Now that was right across the railroad track from the depot. Then the post office, there is a little post office and that little post office was put in, though, in the 1930's - now they always had more stores and it was a star route and people had their boxes there and they could, twice a day, and the mailman came out and brought mail and then once in the afternoon they went up and got the mail and brought it down so along time they lost that at the time that man that you bought the building from, that's when they lost the mail route because he didn't take it up. In fact, they said they couldn't have it and so

many people were furious about it. Most of people got mail there, people out in the country didn't want mail put in their mail box so they just rented boxes there. But he had paid some money down and he went away for a month and didn't come back and, in the meantime, they gave us a deadline and he didn't come back and pick it up and it was a shame as Mrs. Davis could just as well of had that down at the filling station. It was kind of nice, everybody gathered there and when the train came in, everybody gathered there and they used the school and they had a gym built there at one time. My husband said a person in Denver and the boys were there and the younger men there and the school board said they needed a gym and we've got some money, but if you will build the gym, and about two years later they closed it up because nobody had been using the gym but the students, so one of the fellows that moved to Portland at that time came out and he had every man's name and every hour that he had worked and said, OK, close it if you want, but you are going to pay us the money, and they didn't close it up. That was still here when we came. They tore it down about '74 or so. They tore it down about in 21 when Brad was six, he's been six so long ago. I don't think so, because we came in 1970 and the old gym was still there then. Oh, you are right, the gym stayed after the school left. The school went and they left it there and they wanted to know if we wanted it and the water was there. I don't know why we didn't pick it up. But the kids got so ornery, they said there was vandalism, so they tore it down. I think it was about '73. We also had a city court. You know, down, you know, where the golf course is - that was all city park, along when you left that church and that building beside that went down. In some of the things I read, they said that the church was going to see the city fathers about building a shed to put the horses in when they came to church. Now, I never did see anything that they ever made it, but then

they did and Mrs. Jack Rogers who died a couple of years ago, whose husband came in from Canada to work and they found.....

Oh, yeah, we walked around it. The house right on the golf course? Yes, the big house was Mr. McDonald's. They would probably let you go in and look. We went down there and the lady there said we would have to go to the office. Oh, really, well, I don't think so. I could talk to Rich. The Riches live there? No, a fellow named Rich. Doesn't she have a sick baby or something? Yeah. Well, see, it's been divided and there's people upstairs and downstairs and it was suites of rooms and it was built with sliding doors. I think it is better than the Pittock Mansion, myself. Pittock Mansion is beautiful, but it is not like a home and this is. It was built with these big sliding doors. Parquet floors, the wall trimmings came from Europe and everything is just beautiful. I asked Mr. Brown who bought it who started the golf course, why in earth they had it, and he said they did not have anything else to put their money in. They had horses and carriages and then they would have houses. I've heard these rumors, that it will be torn down. Do you think that is true? That house? Who's going to tear it down? When they build this new thing that they are talking about over here, you know that they would tear down the house. They don't mean to build up here, they plan to build there.. They could get a mint for that house now. It is beautifully built and curved ceilings and it was hand painted from China you know, it was just beautiful. They had just a daughter and downstairs is a master bedroom and a huge bath. Big as the room. It had a foot bath and everything. Then there is a darling little suite of rooms, bath and bedroom, just beautiful - fireplace, that was the daughter's, and on down this hall is another bedroom and bath and shower and that was for an invalid mother, and upstairs - I really can't tell you how many suites of rooms there were - there were just full suites

because in those days when people came to visit, you know, they stayed longer, they had to, and it was really something. I worked there, the year my husband died, 27 years ago, The .... had bought it and she was the bookkeeper, the only bookkeeper the house had, so my son had just loved to play golf, it was very interesting to him, and he would go over and he was always puttering around and she sept saying, is there anyone who could do housework that she could rely on, and he said, he didn't know anyone, and he said he'd ask his mother, she knows everybody, and I didn't know anybody, so my son said, why don't you do it, mother? I said, I don't want to do it, and then I got to thinking that I had always wanted to see that house and how much better could I do it. She had four daughters and a son and they were all married and it was a second marriage and he had a daughter, and so, when the kids would come, she would have it opned up there, and one day she said, don't go now. I want you to clean two suites of rooms, it has to be dusted and cleaned out, bathrooms gotten ready. She took me up there and I didn't get out of there for the longest time because I couldn't find my way out. What it was, you went up that front hall, then up steps, then it would turn there would be a landing, and then on either side there were steps, either way, that hall went around. When the Ruby's and Carsons had it, Mr. Ruby was Ms. Carsons' brother and the Carsons, he was a professional man and she had never worked for anything, now come out here and invest in this thing, and we are just going to make a killing. So here she come and here was little Miss Carsons, she was kind of a little, chubby thing and in her 50's and she had never worked. Well, she just huffed and panted because she had to work in the pro shop every other morning and then for two hours they would do the work. So I worked four hours for her. It was fun because they had antiques all over the place. I will never forget her, because the poor thing, she wasn't used to that.

She had changed it. They made a dining room out of one of the bedrooms. Parlor out of another. There were seven fireplaces. They had an electric organ. She was always buying antiques and I learned to never touch anything new because it might fall all to pieces. She was also taking cake decorating because she thought they were going to start an eating place, but they found out they couldn't and live there, so they never did do that. They just blocked it off and put sandwiches and drinks downstairs. They didn't serve liquor. He didn't want to, he said, they took the liquor along with them and they throw the bottles down and it cuts the bills. I quit there because he got to drinking so heavy, and one day he wanted to give me all of the ivy off the house. Well, he felt so bad about my husband being killed. He was a real nice man. He was a gourmet cook in hot foods and she in salads, and beautiful things and you know she just had all these things in line drying like bells, wedding bells, half a wedding bell, dry them and stick them together, you know. You didn't dare touch a thing. Sure couldn't dust them. And then, they didn't have a toilet, they had to come inside to use the toilets and you always had the ladies coming in the house and, of course, they all wanted to come in and see it, you can't blame them, and I'd be working, couldn't hear a thing, that house was built so solid. I would stop and here would be a couple of ladies peering around. The golfing ladies, then? Right.

When the school was there, they had fairs here and I was so surprised I found out that they had just like a county fair. And they gave prizes and it cost you 50 cents to take a flock of chickens in to show, now the school kids every year made gardens and, of course, there weren't these trees.

They were just little fir trees. However, in 1925, when I first came, until the 30s, this was a big woods across here. Up to this road, up to the

fence where that house is. And he finally logged off the big trees and, well, when my husband died in 1952, they were blasting the stumps out. They had cattle in there a long time. The school kids would make these school gardens and they would plant flowers in a way that it would spell Orenco - and then the year - and there is pictures of that. I don't have any, but I have seen those pictures. I guess the people would like to come up on the train and they would come on this side of the train to see it. Was the main street of Orenco, was it Alder Street? That was the main street? Where was the pharmacy? The pharmacy was in that one that Mr. Sharp has, the store building that Mr. Sharp has. That was the pharmacy and Dr. Cunningham was there and there was also a man there from Canada and they like him very much, but he had a child that was retarded, and they made him go back because they said the child couldn't become a public charge. They all said that it was because the doctors were jealous of him.

They use to have spelling bees, they use to have everything, really. I know I have a lot of material in that viewer about the Olympic Chorus. Anyway, it was a male chorus, they came up from Portland once a year and put on a program. Was it you that told me they use to roller skate upstairs in our building? I think that they had dances up there. I remember the, one of the first things I went to here was a man that ran that store and his wife was nice and he was the crabbiest man you ever saw and she was so nice. So they sold the store and the people wanted to tell them farewell, and they had a party and it really was some party. Everyone took something to eat, you know, but he got a drink or so and he went down and broke out all kinds of bologna and cookies and everything and he made his speech. He said, folks, if you would all have turned out to trade with me like you did at this party, I wouldn't be leaving. But they had regular dances there, I guess. They had chivarees - you know what they are. They would come in at night when you're asleep and begin to bang on things.

The church was built in 19 --, actually they started the church June 9, 1971, but it really wasn't really built for about a year, then they built the building, then the school was built later. It shows - What year was the church built? - you say 1971, no 1909. That's when it was organized. It was funny when it was built, one of the things when they got the minister, the money given him for the horses and buggy, they allotted him so much money for the horse and buggy.

No one had a car, horse or buggy or anything else when I came here. It was just that they walked down and went on the train. The train was your main transportation. Yes. Didn't you tell me that you used to go into Portland with your parents with a horse and buggy or something? No. It took a half a day or something like that? I'm sure it did. When I came out here in 1928, you couldn't get from the bridge, there were deep ruts like that. So we all came out of Portland by Nendels. The streets were owned by the building owners. When the town was incorporated, I guess the town probably kept them. When the streets were incorporated, I guess the town kept them up. Then, after the incorporation in 1932-33, then when they would get real bad, they would ask the county and they would come in and do it. Now they did that till they got short of county funds. Mr. Knutson, who lived over there, people would take a petition up and he wouldn't sign it. The bus went down their street and had to slow down, and he was happy to have all those ruts in the street so the bus had to slow down, so that's how they lost their streets. Did you see that article I wrote in the paper about the lady that had the baby, you know, got on the train in Hillsboro and had the baby? Well, I did. She told me that one time. She told me her husband was the man who built the carriages and took care of the carriages and he had to exercise the horses and he would take her a ride around with him and in those days there were no hospitals, but some people would take you - they were called birth-in places.



And there was a lady in Hillsboro about a block from the track that would take you, so she had arranged to go, and one evening he came to take her and they had stayed home for dinner and were going to have a light supper, so he said, I'll be home as soon as I take care of the horses. First, he had to go down to the golf course and she lived like 3/4 of a mile and he hardly got out of sight when she knew she had to go to the hospital. So she told the neighbor, so the man ran up to stop the train, which was due. He ran up and stopped them, the wife and the mother grabbed her and drug her up there and she got on the train, but, I thought it would be a little funny to add a little to it, so I said, but I am thoroughly convinced that if the pot holes are not fixed, that some day it will say John and Mary Doe had a seven pound boy born on the tenth pot hole.

When was the golf course built? He was working on the golf course in 1952, and I really can't tell you if he opned it up to big-play. It was open two or three years - it takes a long time to make a golf course, because she wanted help and I went over then and helped. It wasn't too many holes and it was rough. He never made any money on it. Anyone that makes a golf course has to keep it for a long time before they make any money. But he had a bad heart and, fortunately, they just got the papers signed and the next morning he died. She died right after that, too. We were shocked, they were young people in their early 50's and - oh, she was a beautiful lady, but he suddenly - What were their names? Brown. He had a funeral home back in Iowa someplace. They had funeral home pictures pasted all over. Then he would come in and insist we eat the food.

I think that Orenco was a place that people liked. If they went away, they always came back. People liked it in Orenco and there are now just a lot of people going. It has such an interesting history. It is kind of a shame, it is ideal for nursery stock. Of course, we have nurseries all

around here - Stout nursery has been sold out and they are going to build a building there. Then there is this other Motts, the Western Plant Nursery, that's all been sold out. Then there was Mr. Oliver, he had a nursery and Mr. Solvo had a nursery. What they did was, they would burn alot of the stock and the guys would take clippings and put in their lunch pails and took it home and it grew, you know, and that's how a lot of them got started. It is really better than burning it. They had what they called Orenco apples. If you went down to Barby-Howe House on Sauvies Island, there they have acres and acres - it's this big place I started to tell you about it. Barby or Howe - I don't know which one built that house, both of them built houses, but one was the larger. When he got into race tracks and got more interested in racing than living out there. There is a track out there, he had his own track, so he sold. The Historical Society owns the house and they have started a pioneer nursery and they have all of those old trees and some of them are from Orenco, and her friend, Carol Knutson, that time I started to come down, there they were - featuring Orenco apples and I always thought I had Orenco apples - it's a real red apple on the outside, it looks rather dingy and you wipe it on your pants and it just polishes up just as red as it can be. The insides are real white and makes real good cider. The man next door is a state nursery inspector, and he was out and liked that apple, but it won't keep. Is what you have the Orenco apple? No, I guess not. I get them from Knutson. Bob Rich came over and said it is not, because that kept. But there was trees and orchards all around here when we came here and people would sell them out and put in lawns. Lots of them were pioneer apple trees. They say the Orenco apple, some pioneer had brought it and it was in a cemetery in Oregon City and that's where they got the cuttings for it.

So the nursery played a real important role in the town? That's all it was, just a nursery town. It was planned out. They wanted a town where

people didn't drink, they wanted a church town, they wanted it so it would be self-sufficient. They even started to give people shares in it. They wanted their employees to have shares and have an interest in it. They were one of the first companies to do that. What made it go broke? Because they just stuck the fruit trees and didn't diversify and start in shrubs and things. See, all over Oregon people were coming in and claiming land and homesteading and they wanted to have orchards. They would plant all kinds of trees to break the wind from their house. Well, you can only have so many apple, pear and cherry trees. Other nurseries sprung up. Now, one of them was on Thomason. That's the house that you like so well. That was Thomason. He went from here - they had a nursery - there is still Thomason Nursery down on Sauvie Island. It's a big nursery, but they diversified - they had shrubs and all kinds of things so that they would have something to sell. It's just like today - if you go down to a nursery, you wouldn't just buy trees. I suppose the depression had something to do with it. See, the depression started coming on - in fact, I think I have always lived in a depression. Even when I started to high school. You couldn't get a job then and things were bad. It was a bad time because you aren't going to go out and buy trees if you are hungry. You are going to buy bread or flour or something. And that was a bad time. McGill, the one that pulled out of the nursery first, he went down to Gresham and McGill Nursery is still down there.

That is nursery land around Gresham. There are certain places that are good nursery land. For example, over across from Cornell, that all that land was nursery stock, and can you imagine? That was when we came here, my husband and I worked - he worked in a nursery for just about eight months. Some wise guy got the idea of making houses in there. They went and laid it out into lots, acres and acres so that nursery land was laid out in lots, put street signs in there. Have you ever been over there? There are only

two duplexes and a house and they were put in there because he sold there so they could build.

That man, in order to keep them from going to jail, he put that house in the front, then you go a long ways, two blocks, you feel like you are in a big bowl and then there is that old duplex down there and one time a friend asked me to go with her - she was delivering Christmas baskets and a woman lived there with three kids and she had only asked for games because she had a boy that had been injured and had a head operation. She wanted to play games with him. That was part of the therapy and she also asked for sweaters. Delores and I went down there and Delores had raised a lot of potatoes and she just put a box of potatoes in the car. I tell you, I felt just like there was evil down there, all that rain was pouring down - it was just like you were in a big bowl with the water coming down on you and she told us that her husband had gotten out of work, and that they sat there because if the husband wasn't working, you got better welfare, and on account of the boy, and they were sending her to school and trained her to be a dental technician and she said, I have to take my classes at night and I just can't leave the kids alone here a lot, and I don't blame her. She was trying to transfer to Pacific. That's the only time I've been down there - the only time I wanted to go down there. I never was so depressed in my life. But see, there was water down there because it was so low. Now those places are sitting there - they can't find the owners. People bought the lots and couldn't build on them and they have kissed them good-bye and left. You can't farm them because there are roads and signs. They say there is junk in there - they just take junk in there and throw it any which way. You mire down, you can't get out. It's really something. The school bus runs along there. The road goes straight through, but it don't go down that steep hill.

I don't know, I think Orenco has been a good influence on the community. We've never had much trouble in Orenco.



Florence Cross

LOH 86-600.10.1

In 1928, when I first met my husband and then we were married in September and I came out all the time and I went to church. At that time, it was <sup>a nice little</sup> on high <sup>place</sup> school place and they had a water <sup>tower</sup> chower, they had the street <sup>lights</sup> logs, there was a <sup>incorporated</sup> perforator. Now I read an article in the Oregon Journal once that some man put in and he said that he was the first plan city in Oregon. But whether it was or not, I've never been able to prove it. But he did put it in and it was because he was talking about Somerset West which he started, and it was laid <sup>out</sup> ~~in~~ with trees. I wish I could take you over to the church because we have a 70th anniversary a year ago in May and I was on the <sup>committee</sup> team for it and somebody said, what do we need, and I said, <sup>well</sup> I think it would be nice to have a banner, and they said what of, I said, oh just the date s, you know, so and so. But ya know that ended up, it's really an unusual one because somebody, well there's the church and there's the school, and all those bricks you can see on the wall there. But this man who's a commercial artist, he sketched the church. But anyway when they did it, he enlarged that about this much, and that's in the center of this big huge <sup>banner</sup> banner. It's about 7 x 12 I think. In the middle of it is the church and then all around it \_\_\_\_\_ and the different circles we had and all that and it's done in many colors. At the bottom it's scalloped and there's four scallops and it's the leaves on the trees that are ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ <sup>planted</sup> painted on the streets. This is a nursery town, so t he trees ar e elm and birch and oak, each <sup>leaf</sup> leave is there on t he boardwalk. It's really unusual. I said well it's just like the Bible and magic. Ya say, well there should be a banter and this is what comes out. Does the church have the <sup>banner</sup> banner now? Yes, it's still there. We have the cross to the church and it was funded with a thousand ~~xxxx~~ dollar loan and in those days, you know what you call your main line church, what I'm saying is the ~~xxxx~~ Presbyterian, Congregational and all those churches, if you started the church they would give you money and they gave us a \$1000 which seems like not much but when you know the church didn't even cost \$1,000 Now these churches cost \$300,000. That would be a lot of money, wouldn't it? That's why ~~xxxx~~ these loans never have to be paid back. But they owe it and if they ever move out, then they have to pay back with interest. But they help the mans too. The bell, it has a bell that says \$50, tune to A.

This nursery company came in here, they were true Canadians, Canadian Presbyterians. They were first from out of Oregon City and then they were \_\_\_\_\_.

How big of a role did the church play in Orenco? The nursery started about ~~1945~~ <sup>1904 or 1905</sup>.

The first thing they did was they got the train to run through here. They used to go to school out at Deschutesville. There were children from way out here in Reedville and all of them went to that school. Then Orenco, the one that originally came in, there were so many people that came in. So they were going to build a big school and they said, no we're not going to ~~take~~ take all our kids and make them walk to school, a mile and a half to school. So in the middle of the year, I never could find out for sure, I looked but there's no record of it.

It must of been in mid ~~June~~ <sup>year</sup>. So they used a tent. All the rest of that year, they had school in a tent. The next fall they put a board around the ~~the~~ bottom part of it. That was how it started. Then there were 9 denominations of people at the top. Lots of Hungarians and most of them were Baptists. They came from Hungary just to work in the nursery because that's the kind of work they did there. So they had a little Hungarian church here on the corner and ~~the~~ fourth house down the road is made out of that little church. They moved it down the ~~the~~ road and added a back to it. They never could afford a minister very often. He just came occasionally and they'd have services. Then they said Mr. Rich who was the manager for the nursery, you know the Rich nursery people. There was an article in the paper about the Rich nursery people. When his father, Sam's father or Amos's father, whichever you talked to, Chris he had a large home. So on Sunday afternoon, anybody that wanted would go to their house and they would just sing songs and pray.

One of the men around here ~~that's about a hundred years old and~~ <sup>who was the wife son of</sup> and one of the Hungarian families asked me about ~~-----~~ <sup>----- talking in tongues</sup> in songs and I asked him what he thought ~~of those~~ <sup>it was</sup> and he said well they go to Mr. Rich's, the Swiss were praying Swiss, the German were praying German, French were praying French and they were every kind nationality. Not only that, there were lots of tramps in those days. These tramps would come in here and they'd ~~beat around till~~ <sup>beat Orenco at</sup> a certain time and they'd work around the nursery <sup>to get a little sleep</sup>.

It's only been in the last twelve years that they've been able to sell liquor in Orenco. The way they got it was ----- to the golf course. But that's why <sup>these tramps couldn't</sup> because ~~we stress to you~~ <sup>them be able to</sup> they didn't want people to get liquor. They had a jail, they had a constable. It was two story. In the bottom part they had the fire trucks, I mean they were fire carts and they had brass hooks and buckets on them. They would pass buckets along to put out fires but they did have hydrants ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> moving water.

They had a big water tower ~~across~~ <sup>creek</sup> across the ~~street~~. We had a nursery building. Two acres of nursery under cover. Now where was that? Right across from the ~~city~~ <sup>store</sup> building. Wasn't the railroad station right there too? Yes, catty-corner across. It's still here, you know where the ~~Union~~ <sup>Railroad</sup> Station is. ~~That~~ <sup>That</sup> next house is a bachelor. He goes to the First Baptist Church in Hillsboro and he always found a bunch of boys around and he makes jungle jeeps, he calls them, they both float and drive and he's interested in the life of translator down in South America and every other year he takes ~~a bunch~~ <sup>one of those down there</sup> down I guess he drives down to Miami. He's a bachelor and makes so much money it pays him to lay off work every other year. And then he goes down there. He is really interesting. ~~But~~ <sup>But</sup> they laid the town out and they had a constable, they had everything except they needed a church, well they had no cars, it was really made 5 x 6 blocks. And then all of these little outlying areas were laid out in 5 acre farms and they would sell them and they would raise pigs, cows, and they would sell butter, cream, cottage cheese and things to keep them. <sup>in town.</sup> But everybody had trees, You don't have trees on your place because that was pasture, but Knutson had trees on their property ~~on their property~~ that was just hundreds of years old. That's right. Some time about 4 or 5 years ago, a man ~~told~~ <sup>called</sup> me from the historical society, he wanted to let the word around but not put it in the paper for people to come down ~~Sauvies~~ <sup>Sauvies Isl.</sup> house, well that's ~~Byby Hall~~ <sup>House</sup> they were two men that came from the South and bringing their slaves with them and built on Sauvies Island and the one guy ran out of money and he went down to Gullfields and made money to finish it up. The house ~~there~~ <sup>there</sup> are just like they ~~lived in~~ <sup>lived in</sup>, two story homes. Its real interesting. Furnished like it was then. Then there was a place for the slaves, you know, and the kitchen, they cooked in a fireplace. That's where the historical society has their farm. They have their agricultural products there so when, ~~McDonald~~ <sup>McDonald</sup>, he was president of the nursery, he had a daughter that never married. When she died here about 11 or 12 years ago, she left all of her materials to the Historical Society, but she left her money to . That's why its Presbyterian. These two people each gave a \$1,000. We went down to the Barby Hall House and then they told me I could get this material at the Historical Society. When I did it was mostly bills and payments. ~~Now~~ <sup>Now</sup> the nursery went out of business for one reason, they over extended on the trees. See, Oregon was building and farms coming in and everybody putting in big orchards. They just didn't have three or four trees, they had everything. They had cherry, they sent



all over the world. They shipped all over the world. I was going through the Montana history and studying about my husband's family and at one point run across where they shipped to a <sup>Orengo</sup> rental nursery <sup>company for some trees</sup> for beef. Well McGill ~~finally pulled out it got worse & worse~~ ~~finally told Al~~ and when I first came here in 1928 I fell in love with the place, it was pretty with all the trees and houses they built. ¶ What was the population? It seems to me like it was around 3,000 people. ¶ I got some materials there was a paper, <sup>Harold</sup> published the first day of January 1914 and we found that old yellow paper and it's mimeographed but I'm not able to give it out. There's one at the church though. That has a lot of that information. The Orengo <sup>ea</sup> Harold, was that published here in Orengo? Yeas, at 5¢ a copy. How many times they copied it, I don't know. In 1914? Yes. It said on the front page of the paper, it was a place for many denominations, many religions and happy bouncing babies. They had the newspaper right here in Orengo? Oh, yes, they had a druggist, they had a pharmacy, they had a hotel, <sup>board</sup>ing houses, they just about had everything. When I came here there was no <sup>constable</sup>, nobody like that. But Mr. Carnes <sup>if kids wouldn't behave</sup> they just scared them. I remember growing up voting at that hall. I would peak in the windows. I never knew for a long time that there was only one room. I don't know if they ever had more than one person in there at a time or not. Never heard that they had any trouble. It was a nice place to live. With Oregon Electric, people didn't have cars, but they <sup>play</sup>ed games, people came to Portland and played basketball. ¶ When they had a wedding, you should have seen how they wrote them up, you know the upstanding bridegroom, you know wearing so and so and the bride and you know they never had their pictures together. It was real comical how they wrote it up. They would just tell everything, you know, who was sick, what they had at parties, what they ate and everything. There wasn't that much news so they would put in everything. The ads were on each side of the page. Up and down each side of the page. You can't get any pictures because they didn't take pictures. They would say Sunday afternoon so and so and his wife and step-daughter visited some one in Corneilus or come up for <sup>hours</sup>. I was glad that they did that when I was studying that history project because you could go back to these old newspapers and you can read all about these old families and all these little intimate things, what they had for dinner. ¶ When I was in highschool in Missouri, there was a fellow in the neighborhood who didn't go to school. I don't think even finished the fourth grade, but he was always telling big <sup>lies</sup> class, but you could never believe whether he was really telling the truth or not, he was laughable, he was fun. I know one time we were

ice skating on the river and we would make a fire and stand around it and then we would always go to someone's house and have cidar<sup>or</sup> and something. And that night he and his brothers stayed to put the fire out and after later, his brother came running up and said Clark fell and hit his head and is unconscious. So everyone laughed. But Clark was, Do you know what he became? A doctor. No, he didn't become a doctor. He became a school bus driver and he slaughtered hogs. He had a slaughter house. He was the best bus driver. He told the kids these tall tales and they all loved it. But later on, of all things, he is writing for the paper and it was really funny. So and so would come and stay all night with their daughter and sister-in-law and then the next item would be they and someone had dinner. They are still doing that, they are still putting that kind of stuff in. Here you can't get anything in. There is some much you don't want to read. Anyway, it was really interesting in this town and the people. Sam Rich and Julia <sup>Loechden</sup> Logan, you could talk to. That's Dr. Pitman. Yea, she's a very nice lady. Now I don't know, Violet Rush never lived in Orenco. Did someone give you her name? Well, they lived up in the hills, up out of Hillsdale<sup>borow</sup>. He went to school in Hillsdale<sup>borow</sup>. Dr. Pitman worked during his high school years for a doctor, Dr. Smith in Hillsboro, in fact, you know that building they tore down in Hillsboro last summer, the hospital bought it. They wanted to use it, I think for children of the workers. But it was a big old house and it was a hospital during World War II. Then it became a restaurant and then they just knocked it down. Beautiful wood work and everything. It's a shame they didn't let somebody get it. Anyway they didn't and they came down to the senior center and asked if we wanted to use the land and they would make courts of different kinds, it is just a block away, but we didn't take it. Anyway, he worked for him and he was a young man and the doctor didn't have time to drive across so he drove his car and I guess Dr. Pitman went into service at age 16. ~~Yes, Mrs. Rush was an eye doctor.~~ If she <sup>did live in</sup> ~~was~~ I <sup>Orenco</sup> never understood it but she does live on between here and Hillsboro. She might just know some of the history. Well one of your best bets would be Julie <sup>Loechden</sup> Little. Mrs. Otto <sup>Loechden</sup> Little. Is she still there? She lives up by the high school, right across from it. What are you doing the report for? It is for two things, one is for history class at school and for the ESD wanted some students to do some history on things around Washington County. Well they did a good study at Brown. Now how is your teacher's name? Richards, now he is over at Brown, yeah. Is he still at Brown? Pat Davis would know.

If you would go back to the church and ask them , he will let you see the bureau, I'm a historian, but I'm not too historical. And we have a lot of pictures in there, but we can get larger ones, you know. This man had a project for the kids, I don't know where they got all of the materials and he loaned me some things that I used for that, because we didn't have time to do it, didn't realize it was such a big thing until we got into it. Had they seen any of the old newspapers? We have quite a few of the old newspapers, we own that old store in Orenco now. I haven't seen it, I have seen any old newspapers. The ones that we had at the church and stuff that we started gathering for that. Oh, you found some more of those? Well it's the ones we had before for the church thing. <sup>old</sup> Is there anything like map or anything that shows the <sup>viewer</sup> ~~whole~~ layout of the town? Yes, there is and that is in that <sup>viewer</sup> ~~bureau~~. There are two guys that are trying to lay out the map of the town. Is where the town is now, is that where most of the buildings were? Just like it always was. What were some of the businesses there? Well, you know where the church is, you were at the church. Well, if you went up to the railroad tracks, that house on the corner there is setting on top of the ~~old~~ hotel foundation. That green house? There is a house right across and if you were at the <sup>viewer</sup> ~~bureau~~ and see pictures, and it shows the town. Now somebody evidently had been up in the school <sup>in</sup> at the top of the school and they took a picture catty corner across, that's before the church was even <sup>there</sup> ~~in~~, but it does show that house right across from the church. And then it went catty corner across to the store buildings and that one store building in the middle of the block, this man that owns <sup>the house on the corner</sup> Also the plumber, works on cars, he rents apartments. Now that was right across the railroad track from the depot. Then the post office there is a little post office and that little post office was put in though in the 30's now they always had more stores and it was a star route and people had their boxes there and they could, twice a day and the mailman came out and brought mail and then once in the afternoon they went up and got the mail and brought it down so along time they lost that at the time that man <sup>that you</sup> ~~Chewballa~~ bought the building, that's when they lost the mail route because he didn't take it up. In fact they said they couldn't have it and so many people were furious about it. Lot of people got mail there, people out in the country didn't want mail put in their mail box so they just rented boxes there. But he had paid some money down and he went away for a month and didn't come back and in the meantime they gave us a deadline and he didn't come back and pick it up and it was a shame as <sup>mrs.</sup> ~~this~~ Davis could just as well

of had that down at the filling station. It was kind of nice, everybody gathered there and when the train came in everybody gathered there and they used the school and they had a gym built there at one time. My husband said a person in Denver and the boys were there and younger men there and the school board said they needed a gym and we've got some money but if you will build the gym, you can always play in the gym so they all got in a built the gym and about two years later they closed it up because nobody had been using the gym but the students so one of the fellows that moved to Portland at that time came out and he had everyman's name and every hour that he had worked and said okay, close it if you want, but you are going to pay us the money and they didn't close it up. That was still here when we came. They tore it down about '74 or so. They tore it down about in 21 when Brad was six, he's been six so long ago. I don't think so because we came in 1970 and the old gym was still there then. Oh, you are right, the gym came after the school. The school went and they left it there and they wanted to know if we wanted it and the water was there, I don't know why we didn't pick it up. But the kids got so ornery, they said there was vandalism so they torn it down. I think it was about 73. We also had a city court. You know, down you know where the golf course is that was all city parking lot when you left that church and that building beside that ~~xxxx~~ went down. In some of the things I read, they said that the church was going to see the city fathers about building a shed to put the horses in when they came to church now I never did see anything that they ever made it, but then they did and Mrs. Jack Rogers who died a couple years ago <sup>whose husband came</sup> lets about coming in from Canada to work and they found

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Oh, yeah, we walked around it. The house right on the golf course? Yes the big house was Mr. <sup>McDonalds</sup> ~~McBills~~. They would probably let you go in and look. We went down there and the lady there said we would have to go to the office Oh really, well I don't think so. I could talk to Rich. The Riches live there? No, a fellow named Rich. Doesn't she have a sick baby or something? Yeah. Well see, it's been divided and there's people up stairs and down stairs and it was suites of rooms and it was built with sliding doors, I think it is better than the Pittock Mansion, myself. Pittock Mansion is beautiful, but it is not like a home and this is. It was built with these big sliding doors. Parquet floors, the wall trimmings came from Europe and everything is just beautiful. I asked Mr. Brown who bought it who started the golf course why in earth they had it and he said they did not have anything else to put their money in. They had horses and carriages and

then they would have houses. I've heard these ~~roomers~~<sup>rooms</sup> that it will be torn down. Do you think that is true? That house? Who's going to tear it down? When they build this new thing that they are talking about over here, you know that they would tear down the house. They don't mean to build up here they plan to build there. They could get a mint for that house now. It is beautifully built and curved ceilings and it was hand painted from China you know, it was just beautiful. They had just a daughter and downstairs is a master ~~bedroom~~ bedroom and a huge bath. Big as the room. It had a foot bath and everything. Then there is a darling little suite rooms, bath and bedroom, just beautiful, fireplace, that was the daughters and on down this hall is another bedroom and bath and shower and that was for an invalid mother and upstairs, I really can't tell you how many suites of rooms there were, there were just full suites because in those days when people came to visit, you know, they stayed longer, they had to and it was really something, I worked there, the year my husband died, 27 years ago, ~~the house~~<sup>the house</sup> had bought it and she was the bookkeeper, the only bookkeeper the ~~hospital~~ had, so my son had just loved to play golf, it was very interesting to him and he ~~would~~ would go over and he was always puttering around and she kept saying is there anyone who could do housework that she could rely on and he said he didn't know anyone and he said he'd ask his mother, she knows everybody and I didn't know anybody so my son said why don't you do it, mother. I said I don't want to do it and then I got to thinking that I had always wanted to see that house and how much better could I do it. She had four daughters and a son and they were all married and it was a second marriage and he had a daughter, and so when the kids would come she would have it opened up there and one day she said, don't go now, I want you to clean two suites of rooms, it has to be dusted and cleaned out, bathrooms gotten ready. She took me up there and I didn't out of there for the longest time because I couldn't find my way out. What it was you went up that ~~hall~~<sup>front</sup>, then up steps, then it would turn there would be a landing and then ~~that hall went down~~<sup>on either side there were steps, either way</sup>. When the Ruby's and the Carsons had it, ~~the~~ Mr. Ruby was Ms Carsons brother and the Carsons, he was a professional man and she had never worked for anything, now come out here and invest in this thing and we are just going to make a killing. So here she come and here was little Miss Carsons, she was kind of a little chubby thing and in her 50s and she had never worked. Well she just huffed and panted because she had to work in ~~the~~<sup>both the work</sup> pro shop every other morning and then for 2 hours they would ~~close~~. So I worked 4 hours for her, it was ~~find~~<sup>fun</sup> because they had antiques all over the place.. I will never ~~forget~~ forget her because poor thing, she wasn't use to that. She had changed it. They ~~had~~<sup>made</sup>

made a dining room out of one of the bedrooms. Parlor out of ~~one~~ <sup>another</sup>. There were seven fireplaces. They had an electric organ. She was always buying antiques and I learned to never touch anything <sup>new</sup> because it might fall all to pieces. She was also taking cake decorating because she thought they were going to start an eating place, but they found out they couldn't and live there so they never did do that. They just blocked it off and put sandwiches and drinks down stairs. They didn't serve liquor. He didn't want to he said they took the liquor along with them and they throw the bottles down and it cuts the ~~balls~~. I quit there because he got to drinking so heavy, and one day he wanted to give me all of the ivy off the house. Well, he felt so bad about my husband being killed. He was a real nice man. He was a <sup>gourmet</sup> cook in hot foods and she in salads and ~~beautiful~~ <sup>drying</sup> beautiful things and you know she just had all these things in line like bells, wedding bells, half a wedding bell, dry them and stick them together, you know. You didn't dare touch a thing. Sure couldn't dust them. And then they didn't have a toilet, they had to come inside to use the toilets and you always had the ladies coming in the house and of course they all wanted to come in ~~in~~ and see it, you can't blame them, and I <sup>id be</sup> working couldn't hear a thing, that house was built so solid. I would stop and here would be a couple ladies peering around. The golfing ladies then? Right. ~~When~~ <sup>just</sup> the school was there, they had fairs here and I was so surprised I found out that they had <sup>just</sup> like a county fair. And they gave ~~parties~~ <sup>prizes</sup> and it cost you 50¢ to take a flock of chickens in to show, now the school kids every year made gardens and of course there weren't these trees. ~~They~~ <sup>They</sup> were ~~just~~ just little fir trees. However, in 1925 when I first came until the 30s ~~this~~ this was a big woods across here. Up to this road, up to the fence where that house is. And he finally logged off the big trees and well, when my husband died in 1952, they were blasting the stumps <sup>out</sup> ~~off~~. They had cattle in there a long time. The school kids would make these school gardens and they would plant flowers in a way that it would spell Orenco and then the year and there is pictures of that. I don't have any, but I have seen those pictures. I guess the people would like to come up on the train and they would come on this side of the train to see it. Was the main street of Orenco was it Alder Street? That was the main street? Where was the pharmacy? The pharmacy was in that one that Mr. Sharp has, the store building that Mr. Sharp has. That was the pharmacy and Dr. Cunningham was there and there was also a man there from Canada and ~~he~~ they liked him very much but ~~he~~ he had a child that was retarded and they made him go back because they said the child couldn't become a ~~public~~ <sup>charge</sup> public child. They all said that it was because the doctors were jealous of him.

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They use to have spelling bees, they use to have everything really. I know I have a lot of material in that <sup>viewer</sup> ~~bureau~~ about the olympic <sup>chorus</sup> ~~course~~, anyway it was a male <sup>chorus</sup> ~~course~~, they came up from Portland once a year and put on a program. Was it you that told me they use to roller skate up stairs in our building? I think that they had dances up there. I remember the, one of the first things I went to here was a man that ran that store ~~xxxxx~~ and his wife was nice and he was the <sup>crackbrest</sup> ~~treavious~~ man you ever saw and she was so nice. So ~~they~~ they sold the store and the people wanted to tell them farewell and they had a party and it really was some party, everyone took something to eat, you know but he got a drink or so and he went down and broke out all kinds of <sup>d</sup> ~~bolony~~ <sup>bolonya</sup> and cookies and everything and he made his speach. He said, folks, if you would all have turned out to trade with me like you did at this party, I wouldn't be leaving. But they had regular dances there, I guess. They had chiveries, you know what they are. They would come in at night <sup>when your asleep</sup> ~~at their place~~ and begin to bang on things. <sup>works</sup> The church was built in 19, actually they started the church June 9, 1971, but it really wasn't really built for about a year then they built the building then the school was built later. It shows What year was the church built-you say 1971, no 1909. That's when it was organized. It was funny when it was built, one of the things when they got the minister, he money given him for the horses and buggy, they <sup>all</sup> ~~alotted~~ him so much money for the horse and buggy. <sup>P</sup> Noone had a car, horse or buggy or ~~anything~~ anything else when I came here. It was just that they ~~walk~~ <sup>transportation</sup> walked down and went on the train. The train was your main ~~thing~~ <sup>thing</sup>. Yes. Didn't you tell me that ~~xxxxx~~ you use to go into Portland with your parents with a horse and buggy or something? No. It took a half a day or something like that? I'm sure it did. When I came out here in 1928 you couldn't get ~~far~~ from the bridge, there were deep ruts like that. so we all came out of Portland by Nendels . The streets were owned by the building owners, When the town was incorporated, I guess the town probably kept them. When the streets were incorporated, I guess the town kept them up. Then after the incorporation in 1932-33, then when they would get real bad, they would ask the county and they would come in and do it. Now they did that <sup>til they got short of</sup> ~~so they got~~ county funds. Mr. Knutson who lived over there, people would take a petition up and he wouldn't sign it. The bus went down their street and had to slow down, and he was happy to have all those ruts in the street so the bus had to slow down so that's how they lost their streets. ~~Viola started to town to take Able to the doctor and they told her it was from those streets.~~ Did you see that article I wrote in the paper about the lady that

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~~that about the fishing~~  
had the baby, you know, got on the train in Hillsboro and had the baby? Well, I did. <sup>The baby</sup> She told me that one time. She told me her husband was the man who built the carriages and took care of the carriages and he had to exercise the horses and he would take her a ride around with him and in those days there were no hospitals, but some people would take you - they were called birth-in places. And there was a lady in Hillsboro about a block from the track that would take you so she had arranged to go and <sup>one evening he</sup> ~~Monahugh~~ came to take her and they had stayed home for dinner and were going to have a light supper so he said I'll be home as soon as I take care of the horses. First he had to go down to the golf course and she lived like 3/4 of a mile and he hardly got out of sight when she knew she had to go to the hospital. So she told the neighbor so the man ran up to stop the train which was due. He ran up and stopped them, the wife and the mother grabbed ~~her~~ her and drug her up there and she got on the train, went by herself up to Hillsboro, the little boy ran down to tell the husband to tell him she had gone. He caught the next train and she had the baby on the train, but I thought it would be a little funny to add a little to it so I said but I am <sup>thoroughly convinced</sup> ~~firmly convinced~~ that if the pot holes are not fixed, that some day it will say John and Mary Doe had a 7 pound boy born on the 10th pot hole. <sup>JP</sup> When was the golf course built? He was working on the golf course in 1952 and I really can't tell you <sup>if</sup> ~~when~~ he opened it up to big play. It was open two or three years, it takes a long time to make a golf course, because she wanted help and I went over then and helped. It wasn't too many holes and it was rough. He never made any money on it. Anyone that makes a golf course has to keep it for a long time before they make any money. But he had a bad heart and fortunately they just got the papers signed and the next morning he died. She died right after that too. We were ~~so~~ shocked, they were young people in their early 50s and - oh she was a beautiful lady but he suddenly. What were their names? Brown. ~~She had had~~ a funeral home back in Iowa someplace. They had funeral home pictures pasted all over. Then he would come in and ~~xxx~~ insist we eat the food. ~~Do you girls~~ play golf? I'm learning how, my dad's teaching me. <sup>JP</sup> I think that Orenco was a place that people liked. If they went away they always came back. People liked it in Orenco and there are now just a lot of people going. It has such an interesting history. It is kind of a shame, it is ideal for a nursery stock. Of course, we have nurseries all around here, Stout Nursery has been sold out and they are going to build a building there. Then there is this other Motts, the Western Plant Nursery, that's all been sold out. Then there was Mr. Oliver, he had a nursery and Mr. Solvo had a nursery. What they did was they would



burn a lot of the stock and the guys would take clippings and put in their lunch pales and took it home and it grew, you know, and that's how a lot of them got started. It is really better than burning it. They had what they called Orenco apples. If you went down to Barby-How<sup>on</sup> House and Sauvies Island, there they have acres and acres it's this big place I started to tell you about it. ~~Vivour~~<sup>Barby or</sup> Howe I don't know which one built that house, both of them built houses, but one was the larger. When he got into race tracks and got more interested in ~~XXXXXX~~ racing than living out there. There is a track out there, he had his own track, so he sold. The Historical Society owns the house and they have ~~strated~~<sup>started</sup> a pioneer nursery and they have all of those old trees and some of them are from Orenco and her friend Carol Knutson that time I started to come down there they were featuring Orenco apples and I always thought I had Orenco apples, it's a real red apple on the outside, it looks rather dingy and you wipe it on your pants and it just polishes up just as red as can be. The insides are real white and makes real good cider. The man next door is a state nursery inspector and he was out and liked that apple but it won't keep. Is what you have the Orenco apple? No, I guess not. I get them from Knutson. Bob Rich came over and said it is not, because that kept. But there was trees and orchards all around here when we came here and people would sell them out and put in lawns. Lots of them were pioneer apple trees. They say the Orenco apple, some pioneer had brought it and it was in a cemetery in Oregon City and that's where they got the cuttings for it. So the nursery played a real important role in the town? That's all it was, just a nursery town. [ It was planned out. They wanted a town where people didn't drink, they wanted a church town, they wanted it so it would be self-sufficient. ] They even started to give people shares in it. They wanted their employees to have shares and have an interest in it. They were one of the first companies to do that. What made it go broke? Because they just ~~stumped~~<sup>STUCK</sup> the ~~fir~~<sup>fruit</sup> trees and didn't diversify and start in shrubs and things. See, all over Oregon people were coming in and claiming land ~~in those days~~<sup>and homesteading</sup> and they wanted to have orchards, they would ~~xxx~~ plant all kinds of trees to break the wind from their house. Well, you can only have so many apple, pear and cherry trees. Other nurseries sprung up. Now, one of them was on Thomason. That's the house that you like so well. That was Thomason. He went from here they had a nursery - there is still Thomason Nursery down on Sauvie Island. It's a big nursery, but they diversified, they had shrubs and all kinds of things so that they would have something to sell. It's just like today, if you go down to a nursery, you wouldn't just buy trees.

I suppose the depression had something to do with it. See, the depression started coming on, in fact I think I have always lived in a depression. Even when I started to high school. You couldn't get a job then and things were bad. It was a bad time because you aren't going to go out and buy trees if you are hungry. You are going to buy some bread or flour or something. And that was a bad time. McGill, the one that <sup>pulled</sup> sold out the nursery first, he went down to Gresham and McGill Nursery is still down there. ~~XXX~~ That is nursery land around Gresham. There are certain places that are good nursery land. For example, over across from Cornieil, that all that land was nursery stock and can you imagine. That was when we came here, my husband and I worked he worked in a nursery for just about eight months. Some wise guy got the idea of making houses in there. They went and laid it out into lots, acres and acres so that nursery land was laid out in lots, put street signs in there. Have you ever been over there? There are only two duplexes and a house and they were put in there because ~~the~~ he sold there so they could build. ~~P~~ That man, in order to keep them from going to jail, he put that house in the front then you go a long ways, two blocks you feel like you are in a big bowl and then there is that old duplex down there and one time a friend asked me to go with her she was delivering Christmas baskets and a woman lived there with three kids and she had only asked for games because she had a boy that had been injured and had a head operation. She wanted to play games with him. That was part of the therapy and she also asked for sweaters. Delores and I went down there and Delores had raised a lot of potatoes and she just put a box of potatoes in the car. I tell you ~~xxx~~ I felt just like there was evil down there, all that rain was pouring down it was just like you were in a big bowl with the water coming down on you and she told us that her husband had gotten out of work and that they sat there because if the husband wasn't working you got better welfare and on account of <sup>the</sup> boy and they were sending her to school and trained her to be a dental technician <sup>nicar</sup> and she said I have to take my classes at night and I just can't leave the kids alone here a lot and I don't blame her. She was trying to transfer to Pacific. That's the only time I've been down there ~~the~~ the only time I wanted to go down there. I never was so depressed in my life. But see, there was water down there because it was so low. Now those places are sitting there, they can't find the owners. People bought the lots and couldn't build on them and they have kissed them goodbye and left. You can't farm them because there are roads and signs. They say there is junk in there they just take junk in there and throw it any which way. You mire ~~?~~ down, you can't get out. It's really something. The school

bus runs along there. The road goes straight through, but it don't go down that steep hill. I don't know, I think Orenco has been a good influence on the community. We've never had much trouble in Orenco.