

In the following oral history, Mrs. Julia Loehden tells the colorful story of the nursery town of Orenco through the reminences of her childhood. Hungarian born, the memories of her early years reflect the Old World class-structures, customs, and mores. A deeply Christian woman, her infectious enthusiasm and radiant joy of simple living underlines her life in Orenco.

The two owners of the Oregon Nursery Company, Malcolm McDonald and a Mr. McKay, moved their company a few miles east of Hillsboro around the turn of the century. The need for industrious workers, not readily available in the labor market in the county at the time, became apparent. The owners, aware of the fact that new immigrants, particularly the ones from Eastern Europe, were a source of cheap labor, advertized for nursery workers in the Hungarian newspapers.

The Kish family, of which Julia was the youngest member, were ostracized from their peers because of differing religious ideals. Also, fearing the outbreak of more wars in what was known as the "powder-keg of Europe" this family followed the lead of thousands of other Europeans and came to America in search of new opportunity and a freer life.

Mrs. Loehden's childhood coincided with the birth and growth of Orenco, the expansion of the nursery, the construction of the town's homes, stores, and businesses, and the landscaping of the area. Her recollections mirror her youthful innocence. This woman's life is similar to other citizens of Washington County, i.e. growing up in a provincial and rural area. The lack of quick and easy transportation and long distance communication tended to isolate these small pockets of people and communitites from the activities and knowledge of the world-at-large.

While the absence of this cosmopolitan aura had its disadvantages, there were benefits to this way of life. Things such as fishing for crawdads in Fanno Creek, playing with a doll, traveling to the next town for Fourth of July celebrations, or county fairs meant a great deal to impressionable young children and adults as well. As Mrs. Loehden expresses it, "Going to Hillsboro was like a trip to Paris."

This naive way of life cannot last forever. Mrs. Loehden grew up and the town of Orenco gradually disappeared as a result of the collapse of the Oregon Nursery Company. The lives of the citizens of this small town did not come to a halt with the closure of the nursery however. Many went on to establish successful nurseries of their own based on the knowledge and skills they developed previously.

Nor is Orenco just an abandoned ghost town anymore. With the coming of the computer firm, Intel, the town is experiencing another rebirth. Much of the land where the nursery stock was grown now has been replaced by a resplendent golf course. The beautiful home of the company's president has been converted into the clubhouse. The pear and apple trees scattered along the fringes of the fairways remind one of a different era and a time past.

This enclave of Hungarian immigrants indicate that the county does not consist of just one particular ethnic group but is a conglomeration of a wide variety of peoples. This oral history tape, along with the interview with Mr. Samuel Rich, another citizen of Orenco, and the many historic photographs in the museum's collection provide a good historical background to this community and also to the expanding growth of the nursery business in the entire county of Washington.

LOH 78-398.2

Julia Loehden Age 73 At her home in West Union

May 31, 1978

Lloyd Meyer

The following interview is with Mrs. Julia ~~Loehden~~ ^{Loehden}
L.M.: She tells her story of her family in Hungary.

As a result of religious oppression and the fear of war, both of which she vividly details, her family ~~immigrated~~ ^{immigrated} to Washington County to work at the ~~Oregon~~ ^{Orengo} Nursery Company in Orengo.

She fondly recalls the joys of her childhood, the high spirited ~~times~~ ^{times} ~~talent~~ of Orengo during it's boom days.

Anyone interested in the history of Orengo would surely find this tape a ~~valuable source~~ ^{valuable source} for information.
~~valuable~~

~~Mrs. Loehden begins interview~~ Mrs. Loehden begins the interview by reading from a diary.

J.L.: " The date was about April 15, 1907 and his majesty ~~Frankos~~ ^{FRANZ} Joseph ^{Emperor} was ~~empee~~ at the time and our family consisted of nine people, Gr~~ad~~ma and Gr~~an~~pa Dobra, Uncle John Dobra, Mother Rose Kish, and then my older sister, whose name was Susie, Sophie, Louis, Julia (that's me) and Elizabeth. Three of us are still living, the others passed away.

We left ~~Ulavarie~~ ^{SPILLUP?} at 6:00 P.M. evening by train. A band of Christians knelt down upon there knees and prayed for us and kissed us goodbye as we boarded the train. They said "we will meet again at Jesus feet." We arrived at Budapest 7:00 A.M., embarked at 10:A.M., came along the ~~Balton~~ ^{SP} Lake to ~~Treask~~ ^{SP}.

There we embarked on ~~Panonia~~ ^{SP} Ship for America and ~~we~~ ^{we} sailed the ~~Adriatic~~ Sea the day before Easter. We entered the Mediterranean Sea, went to ~~Mescianna~~ ^{SP}, to Polarino, Sicily, and passed the Rock of ~~Gablder~~ ^{Gibraltar}, and that was just wonderful to me, to see some-

stood
 thing that ~~soiled~~ in the midst of all that water.

I have ~~seen~~ very little water in Hungary where we lived. It is just a kind of desert like but it blossomed like a rose because ~~the~~ the soil was just wonderful. We grew great big watermelon and mushmelons and the corn grew so high. It was just like a garden of ~~paridise~~.
 paradise .

Emperor Joseph was very kind to the people, he really was, so it was lovely, but mother wanted ~~///~~ greater religious freedom so we came to America.

When we came here, my father came first and he went to Canada. He took the money and ~~bought~~ ^{estate} real ~~estate~~ and for two years there was either frost or hail or something and the crop was ruined. He had to ~~fill~~ ^{fill} bankruptcy and come to Oregon, ~~and~~ **I** Instead of coming to a beautiful home like we had in Europe; my mother was a midwife and also the county health doctor, she was trained because there the women wouldn't have any dealings with a male doctor; Mother was in charge of that county so she earned quite a lot of money, ~~and~~ so instead of being welcomed to a lovely home, there we were, we were welcome to a tent. Our tent was set up in Tigardville, now it's Tigard. We lived there with a family for about maybe a half-a-year. There was a lovely creek, I wonder what the name of that creek is?

Lloyd: Fanno Creek .

J. Loehden: It could be, oh! we use to wade there and catch crawfish. We just had a picnic! After we were able to put up a tent here ~~in~~ Orenco, so my father and uncles could work in the ^{Orenco} ~~Oregon~~ Nursery Company, we stayed with a Hungarian people by the name of Balough and we slept on straw mattresses. We thought
 spelling

that was fun until winter time came and then it wasn't quite so fun with the rain and ~~we had~~ snow. We finally were all settled in Orenco. It was quite a number of years before we could get lumber to build a home. Our home still is in Orenco, Mrs. Gross bought our ^{home} there, it is quite a number of years old.

12 Lloyd: Just this short time you've covered quite a few years here. I would to go back a little bit and ask a few more details of your experiences.

~~My name~~ You mentioned you came over from Hungary, how old were you at the time?

J. Loehden: Four years old.

Lloyd;: You remember much about the old county then?

J. Loehden: Oh, yes. Well, all I remember is the huge mushmelons and watermelons and I remember going to the station and most all the women had black kerchiefs around ^{their} ~~there~~ heads, dressed in black and then they kissed us and we boarded the train, I remember that. I remember mostly about our trip across the ocean, it took 17 days to come from Hungary to New York. When I saw the Statue of Liberty I yelled out, "Mother, we're entering Heaven!" and she says, "Why?" "Well," I says, "that's Saint ~~John~~ Gabriel there." "Oh, no this is America." "Oh, no," I just told her, "this is Heaven!"

When we went to Ellis Island there was a big place for us to run around and then they served us food, Oh, I really thought we were in heaven and mother says, "well you know this is America, it's the land of the free. You still will have tears and sorrows and even heartaches, this isn't Heaven yet but someday you embak ^g again and then you'll reach the land where there will be no more tears and goodbyes ^{shelso on.} That part I remember.

Then on the train, oh yes, we were waiting in the depoe, I don't know what depoe that was, to take the train from New York to Oregon and there we were sitting and mother was weeping and she had a Bible that she was reading in John and a man came along and looked at her and looked at her, ~~he~~ was wondering what was wrong with her and she was weeping and then ~~he~~ opened up his sachel and he had a lot of Bibles, quite a number of Bibles and he said he was a colporter selling them. Mother couldn't talk a word of English and ^{so} this man couldn't talk Hungarian so then as we sat there he later on brought back a blind man and that blind man told us all to sit down and then he prayed for each one of us. He put his hand on everyone of us and pray for us and commit us to God because they were all ~~so~~ Christians and so were we. Well, mother felt a little better, you know coming to this strange land not one word, well nobody else could talk our language, Hungarian, but the family and they of ^{course} ~~course~~ didn't know what was waiting for them. But, they committed us to the Lord to take care of. Then we boarded the train.

20 Lloyd: You mentioned that it must be very difficult not being able to speak English and coming to a new land. Why exactly did your parents come across, over to the United States?

J. Loehden: Well, there was always the fears of wars there in Europe and well mother loved peace. We all did. You know we're Christians, we wanted peace. She had the money to better herself in this land of freedom because Hungary is just a small country and well they were always afraid that war would start and we'd become under some other government, so that's why we came here.

Lloyd: You mentioned there was a ~~certain~~ amount of ~~religios~~ ^{certain} persecution also. religious

J. Loehden: Well, a little, yes, ~~In that town because they didn't,~~ it was something different. You see they all had a state religion and it's because they didn't understand, ~~There's no persecution anymore,~~ we have many friends among them. That's why it was in away. ~~Let's see where were we.~~

Lloyd; You were talking about the train trip.

J. Loehden: When we boarded the train and towards evening ^{a porter} they brought us each a pillow and we thought well that's wonderful, ~~And~~ all kind of food! We just thought America really was a land of milk and honey. This went on until we came to St. Louis then we had to change train. We boarded the train and then when evening came no more pillows, no more food, we didn't know how, how that came about. It was the very same man that came and saw mother weeping that told the porter that he would pay for all the food and make us as comfortable as he could, but it lasted 'til we got to St. Louis. Then as he left he said we'll meet him someday in Heaven.

Then we came to Oregon here and that was quite a disappointment, instead of coming to a home, there we were living in a tent for quite awhile. My father and uncle helped to build the road from Quatema to Orenco . There was no road there just a, well, not even a bridge there, ~~We~~ just had a log over that creek there.

Lloyd: What was Ellis Island like? ^{Other} Was there quite a few immigrants there?

J. Loehden: Yes, Yes and one family because one of the children were sick were sent back to Europe. Oh there was quite a commotion. Everyone of us, there was five of us, we just passed the test like nobodies business. Mother being that she knew how to take care of us was able to keep us quite well. So yes there was, ~~and~~

J. Loehden: (cont.) I remember the fear of caring it from the boat to Ellis Island and I was so afraid of water, it was just like a narrow plank. Oh yes, when we were on the boat there, when we got to the Mediterranean Sea there were ships in the water, or little boat in the water and people threw down pennies and they would dive to get 'em. There was another boat full of wonderful oranges and they threw oranges about this size upon the boat there. I just gathered a big apron full of oranges and somebody ^(shows with her hands) bumped me and my oranges went all over. So, all I had was one left. Oh, those things stay in my mind.

The Hungarians here made formal gardens. They loved gardens, they loved everything neat and later on they improved their homes and everything. They were good cooks and well, we just had a very enjoyable time. It was, living next to nature, ^{it} was so wonderful and most of Orenco was all heavy forest. I think firs grow to great big trees there.

Lloyd: Your father then he came before you did? And went ^{Through} ~~thru~~ Canada?

J. Loehden: Yes, a couple of years before.

Lloyd: How did he hear about Oregon then from up in Canada?

J. Loehden: Oh, Well these people came to look for work, they were friends of ours from Europe, Mr. and Mrs. Bolough and family and they settled in Tigard, Tigardville at that time. They told us that my father would find work here, but we had some relation in Saskatchewan, Canada and they were doing very well ^{as} ~~at~~ farmers. But it so happened for two years that poor dad lost the crops, then of course investing in so much machinery he just couldn't go on and came to Oregon where the weather was milder.

Lloyd: There were quite a few Hungarian and Eastern European people in Canada at that time?

J. Loehden: Yes, Yes there were. There was just a handful here in Orenco and on the Quatema Road I think there was about five or six families, Grandma and Grandpa, and then we were next to them and my uncles and oh yes these people from Tigardville also moved up here. Just the families of Hungarians. They used to call Quatema "Hunky Town". They would say let's go down and see the Hungarians, the Hunky^{"s"} down there. They didn't think much of us at that time. We were had working people and we did prove ourselves, that we wanted help and leave this world behind better than we found it.

L.M.: There were quite a few Hungarian families here in Oregon before you arrived, your family arrived?

J.L.: Well no, we just knew of one family, maybe in Canada, but we didn't know any other families. No other family, just us. Then the ~~Motlets~~ came, I don't know what year they came. They were Romanians. Just our family. I had two uncles, they got married and settled down there. It was so wonderful that we as children would go to one house or the other when we were ^{hungry} hungry. Every home was home to us, ^{whether} whether it was Uncle ³ eating we just sat down, they didn't even have to ask us. It was just like heaven, just wonderful.

L.M.: All the Hungarian ^mfamilies were related then?

J.L.: Yes, ^{except} except the Balough, They were not related. They had two older boys that were willing to try a new country so they braved that trip. You know for ^{or} mother with five children it took quite a lot of courage to come and knowing that father lost ^{the} money and wasn't able to build a home right away but we ^{ca} ~~w~~ethered it. It didn't hurt us one bit but mother often would say, talk about the beautiful, ^{warm} warm.

J.L.: ^(p. 4) ~~carved~~ furniture we had. You know in Europe they had a lot of walnut and men would do the carving by hand. We had furniture like that and what we had was one by twelve benches, some kind of box to sit on, but for children it was just lots of fun. We didn't have to do any dusting.

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L.M.: How did you come from St. Louis then?

J.L.: Oh well, from there it was really something, no pillows, and no food, just the dried bread and sausage that we brought from Europe. We really almost starved in away, we were so ^{hungry} ~~hungry~~. I don't know why Mother didn't buy things, maybe they did but I don't quite remember. All I remember ^{was} no more pillows until we reached Tigardville.

L.M.: You were living on food that you brought from the old country then?

J.L.: Yes, bread, oh yes loafs of bread, They just put it in ~~a~~ a blanket and put it over ^{Their} ~~there~~ backs, big bundles. They just tied it on suitcases. Oh no, it was really something to carry all our clothes and everything. When we came to Ellis Island mother dressed us up in two cashmeir dresses, handmade. I remember the doctor saying " Oh, my, " ? we were all dressed in pink, Mother was ^a quite proud lady being that she did have a profession and now of course our son is a surgeon. He picked up the torch, I guess it was a year after mother passed away that he was finishing medical school.

Mother help deliver children here in Washington County.

The Csergie, I don't know if you know them, oh yes, that's another Hungarian Family. The older people passed away,

J.L.: (cont.) George Csergie and Andy Csergie.

L.M.: Then there was a Hungarian family in Tigard when you first arrived?

J.L.: Yes, Yes they were there first and then we came to Orenco first.

L.M.: What were your experiences in Tigard then?

J.L.: Oh, it was pleasant, we, my sisters and I would go down to that creek there and we would be crawfishing all day long in the summer and pick berries. The wild strawberries. Oh, they were just so, so ^{tasty} ~~tasty~~, so sweet, ^a different flavor than even our strawberries and ^{They are} ~~these~~ wonderful. There were all kinds of blueberries or Oregon Grapes. That was delicious. Mother acquired a hog, a little piglet and they raised that and we would get skimmed milk from, ~~over~~, I guess they were settlers, American people. They would give us the milk for nothing. Being ^{that} Mother was able to work too, it helped get us on our feet again. We started from scratch but we got along okay.

L.M.: You lived in a tent when you first arrived?

J.L.: Yes, oh yes, I remember one winter the snow would come ^{Through} ~~thru~~, well it was a tent and then ^{Later} on they built, they had lumber about five or six feet high and then a canvas over, the snow would just come ^{Through} ~~thru~~ the one by twelves. They would kind of all shrink away, or dry up and leave about an inch space between them. Oh, we had a Christmas tree, popcorn and things like that, that we made. It was so happy. Such things.

Old Mr. McDonald was president of the Orenco Nursery Company.

J.L.: (cont.) He had a sled and some horses and he would come Christmas Eve and we would hear him with the sleigh and horses, he would have bells on them. He would give us each a gift. He would leave and in the morning we would find it. One Christmas I know Mother was weeping because she had no money to buy gifts or anything and in the morning she found a twenty dollar gold piece, They had gold^{at} that time. Mr. McDonald would give us dolls, and different things children would like. It was so wonderful, always so appreciated. How wonderful that God took care of us. You know we really ~~do~~^{did} have to live by faith and we got along just wonderful.

L.M.: How long were you in Tigard then before you came out to Orenco?

J.L.: Oh, I think maybe about six months at Tigardville. Now My nephew, Andy ~~Frabler~~^{Frabler} lives there with his family. Well his family of course are married and have moved away but they lived there and he has his electric shop there. ~~is it~~^{is it} it strange?

L.M.: How did you hear about Orenco, How did your family?

J.L.: I believe what I heard here, that they advertised in the Hungarian paper that they need^{ed} men that can do garden work or nursery work. Of course the European ~~people~~ people, all worked in the fields. My father of course took care of horses. You see my mother married into the middle class being that she did so well in training. Father took care of those ~~Lipistaw~~^{Lipistaw} horse for ~~France~~^{France} Joseph. He did not own them but he trained them and took well care of it. They lived ~~a better classed, I mean,~~ a higher class life than we did. My mother was a peasant. After she was

(cont.)

J.L. trained in Europe. Then, well my father's mother needed a nurse to take care of her, she was ill so mother went there and my father fell in love with her. Of course that caused a quite a difference because Mother was a peasant, ^{and} she wasn't use to high society. Father and my Grandpa and Grandma on the Kish side ~~they~~ were used to real social life and, well, when they would entertain, they really had a big feast, wine and all that. Mother was a Christian and she refrained from that, she says 'no! I just can not.' After they were married that insulted my Grandpa so much ~~that~~ she would insult his high classed company because after they ^{would} drink lot like that they began to, well, get kind of intimate and all that and mother was a strict Christian and wouldn't allow anything like that. Then mother's father-in-law told mother unless you will treat my people, these high society people, the way I want you to treat them and be sociable to them and drink with them we'll have to disown you. Then he had a large banquet ^{to this} again (because, well) to show off those ~~and~~ all you get into a higher class of people. Those wealthy people thought that mother ^{was} very lovely, ~~and~~ something that, well, you cannot have they desire even more and Mother would not drink or would not allow any intimacy from anyone. Then her father -in-law said this is it, 'you and my son will have to leave, leave our home and we'll see how your God will take care of you.' He was an atheist, he didn't believe in anything. My mother says well she was very

J.L.: (cont.) sorry but she had conviction and she couldn't go against it. She stood up for her convictions and he stood up for his so they had to part. They settled near the Romanian border where the people were very, very poor, and he said, the father-in-law, said one of these days you'll come back, you'll come back crawling for food because those people won't be able to support you neither will your God feed you. So they went, all the father-in-law gave them was a black goat and that's about all so that the children would have milk. We went there on the Romanian border, It was a very high hilly place and they had a artesian well there and that was for the group of people that she would serve, The water was there too, but because my mother wasn't in the same denomination they put a paddlock on ~~there~~ artesian well and they would not allow mother to, or our family, to have any water. They had to go down to the bottom of that, oh it was a huge, high mountain or hill and at the very foot of it they would have to get water, in barrels and by the time they'd bring it up that very high hill or mountain half of it would spill out. The water to us was very, very precious. Well, Mother did do a lot of praying and weeping and ask God to undertake because she did have faith in him and she had to have the freedom of her conviction. They were there about a month and then some illness broke out and then they came to Mother. Then ^{with} the help of God was able to help everyone and there was not one death there. Then the paddlock went off the artesian well. She delivered many babies there and not a one had any problem. You know why? Mother depended upon the wisdom of God also

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J.L.: (cont.) she was well trained in Vienna. Then they began to love her and they ~~knew~~ ^{knew} that she wasn't a demon or something that they thought she was, you know, because we weren't of ~~those~~ ^{their} faith. After that they, oh, every Easter they would bring us ~~blessed~~, all kinds of rolls and bread and put it on our porch. They'd take it to the ~~priest~~ ^{priest} and have it blessed. We would have more bread and some would bring us chickens and different things like that. That's the way they payed mother. The government only payed a little there. If she would have stayed with her father-in-law she would have taken care of the high classed people and trained and paid very highly but then she would have to socialize with them and she couldn't do that.

L.M.: So then part of the reason that she came over was this very reason?

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J.L.: Yes, that was the reason. Then during 1918 father-in-law passed away and gave all the wealth to his son, my father and my mother but then here came the war and the banks took all the money, so the money wouldn't have done us any good. My, we were spared so many wars coming to America. Our prayer is that God will keep this shore from war, that we may still live in peace here.

End Track I

L.M.: I'd like to turn now attentions to your experiences here in Oregon, here in Washington County. You talked quite ^{a bit} ~~abit~~ about your Mothers Christian faith and a ~~certian~~ ^{certain} ~~persecution~~, or the oppression that your family felt in Hungary. Did you find religous freedom once you arrived here in America? Here in Washington County?

J.L.: Oh, ~~yes~~, absolutely. They built a little Hungarian church there in Orenco and I think the build^{ing} is there but it's made into a house. We worshiped there, there was not one to hinder, ~~we~~ had all the freedom we desired and I think that's the way it should be, don't you?

L.M.: How did you hear about Orenco then, when you were in Tigard?

J.L.: Well, in Europe they said that there would be work in nursery for anyone who would come to Orenco Nursery Company.

L.M.: So you had heard of Orenco Nursery even before you came across to America?

J.L.: Yes, yes we did, ~~and~~ Then Mr. McDonald was the president, ~~and~~ I remember when they ~~were well~~ the Oregon Electric train ~~that~~ was our only transportation, or horse and buggy, that was delightful. They had a great celebration when the train ^{depot} ~~depoe~~ was built in Orenco, they didn't have a ~~depot~~ there. I don't know when the Oregon Electric train began its service there but I remember the big celebration when they dedicated the station, ~~and~~ they had a man there that would send wireless telegrams. I would love to go there and hear him tick away, it was so interesting. We thought every new building that went up there was just like fairy land.

J.L.: (cont.) They had a hotel there. ~~We~~ saw them build that and the beautiful home of Mr. McDonald and the office for the Orenco Nursery Company. That also was built and that was beautiful. They would have gatherings of the people, workman that worked in the nursery, once a year, a great big picnic. The times were so precious. I remember many happy days there.

L.M.: You saw the actual building construction and the growth of the town?

J.L.: Oh yes! Absolutely, and the little Orenco Presbyterian church there, we saw that built and dedicated. Also the school, I think there was a small school, but later on they built a big school. A couple of years ago they had to burn ~~it~~ down on account of fire hazards. The school we went to was built, we ~~saw~~ also built. The trees in Orenco, we saw everyone of those trees planted there. They had a grocery store there and at Christmas time in the large window we could see those dolls and train. Oh, how we wished we could get one and finally after a couple of years we did get one for Christmas, like I told you before. ~~It was~~ I was a very, very happy and pleasant time. Living in nature, we didn't worry about anything, I know ~~perhaps~~ ^{perhaps} Mother and Father did but we children, well, we had everything so wonderful. Going down to the creek to swim and bathe and crawfish. There weren't fish there I don't believe, but just natural things like that, that made us happy. I think when you don't have an over abundance of things you appreciate things ^{more}. We did, when we received those dolls we thought we just had everything the world could offer, we were so happy.

L.M.: Was that the spirit of the whole town then?

J.L.: Oh ^{my} ~~may~~ yes, at Christmas time the whole town would go to the ~~Prespetirian~~ ^{Presbyterian} church there and we would have a program. ~~and~~ Santa Claus would come and give each child a bag of candy. That was quite something because we didn't have candy at that time. It was just precious, I don't think anyone could regain that wonderful, free ~~lib~~ing that we youngsters had. The wonders of Christmas when we were given gifts, why, we thought we had found a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. It ~~ment~~ ^{meant} so much to us ~~or~~ ^A ribbon ~~in our hair~~, for our hair, we wore ribbons at that time, oh that was wonderful. ~~IN~~ our early life we had to pick strawberries and also weed them, which we did. ~~and~~ ^{we} bought our clothes that way. When we were six years old we worked too and when we got ~~tired~~ ^{tired}, sat down like a mule, you know you can't make a youngster work if he doesn't want to. It didn't hurt us one bit and I recommend it. Now they aren't allowed to pick strawberries ~~until~~ ^{until} they're ~~there~~ ^{they're} twelve years old. Well after that you don't feel much like picking.

L.M.: Then the Hungarian relatives, they lived on Quatema road. What is Quatema, is that Hungarian?

J.L.: That's an Indian name, I really don't know I was told but I could find out from Mrs. Gross, ~~She~~ ^{She} lives in Orenco and she bought our place, not from us ^{but} from some one else.

L.M.: Did your ~~real~~ ^{real} relatives hang on to a lot of the old traditions? Here in America?

J.L.: Yes, they did, oh yes they did.

L.M.: What were some of these traditions?

J.L.: Well, the women would wear those kerchiefs on ~~there~~ ^{their} head.

J.L.: (cont.) Oh, people would stare and make fun at us. Then, shawls instead of coats and long full skirts. Just like the pilgrims, ^{pilgrims} they dressed in that Europeans way. Some of the same styles came back, in America. Nobody laughs at them now, but they did, ^{then.} When we were dressed up for church we'd have those pretty little white aprons we put over our pretty dresses and people would laugh at us ~~cause~~ ^{because} we wore aprons to go to church with or to go down town. Now some of the most expensive little girls dresses have those little aprons. Isn't it funny, when it's in style anything goes. Well now, ~~the tradition they would~~ ^{traditionally}, for Christmas they would make a ~~certain~~ ^{certain} kind of sweet bread and things like that ~~and~~ Always a feast, you know, like chicken and roast pork or something like that. Have a little gathering and singing, that was the great thing. My uncle had a zither he made himself and he'd play that and finally they got an organ and somebody played that. So, they just created, made there ~~own~~ ^{own} pleasure and joy.

L.M.: Mr. Rich told me, I asked him the same question, if the Hungarians kept ~~there~~ ^{their} traditions, he said when he was young he could remember going to family and eating their Hungarian meal and they were so unique. Can you describe ~~describe~~ some of these meals? [?] Were they typically Hungarian?

J.L.: Well yes, like they would have cabbage rolls, and ~~I~~ ^I don't think Americans, or even Germans, ~~know~~ ^{know} make it ^{The same way.} they think they ~~know~~ ^{know} how to make it but they don't. It just doesn't taste like the Hungarians make it. Then we would have fried chicken, something like that man that became so famous, [?] What's his name? ^{"The Coten Colonel"} ~~The Cornet.~~

Colonel

L.M.: ~~Colonel~~ Speck?

J.L.: Yes, yes, I make fried chicken like that and everybody loves it. You know it tastes so good. We would fix it up so we take a little time to do it, no hurry up and it would taste delightful. ^A And of course the Hungarian Chicken Stew, that's very special. The recipes that I have seen in the books are nothing like the ones we would make. Then delicate pasteries like Vienna Pastry. They all made that. A ^{pastry} ~~pastry~~ that Mother would make, she would spread the dough over the table, they would put a sheet on it. One time a lady came over and she saw mother spreading the dough over the table and then she would take butter and put butter on it and then fruit. The lady said, "why are you doing that to your table cloth?" and Mother couldn't talk ^{English} ~~at that time~~ ^(English) and then mother would take the dough and roll it up, then cut it up in about six inch ^{lengths} ~~lengths~~, then put it in a pan and bake it. That was delightful. They thought it was so funny ^{and} that Mother must have lost her marbles to put fruit and butter on the table cloth. ^B But that was a thin dough, like tissue paper, then you rolled that up. Oh that's really something! Apples, walnuts, ^{raisins} ~~raisans~~, and some with cottage cheese. It was very good.

30 L.M.: You mentioned that your mother couldn't speak English at that time. ^{Was} ~~Was~~ that really a problem when you first came out here?

J.L.: Well, it was in ^{the} ~~away~~ ^{because} ~~cause~~ we kind of liked to mingle with ~~a~~ people who were here and she couldn't converse or communicate to ^o well. Oh a little, but not very well.

J.L.: (cont.) ~~So when we did~~ Of course we youngsters picked up the language real quickly. Mother lived with us right here and that is why my English isn't perfect because I would ~~Speak~~^{Speak} Hungarian and then my husband is German and, well, I could speak those languages better, more fluently ~~than~~ than I could speak American. I don't have the command of the words. We had to get out to work and I just had a elementary education because ~~we~~ in those time unless you were well settled and your family had money we had to go out to work, ~~so~~ We didn't have the high school education like many others would have, so that's why I don't have the command of language. But our family does.

L.M.: Then the Hungarian children they would pick up the English language in the school then?

J.L.: Oh yes, yes we would, but when we come home ~~to homes~~ we would talk the mother language. I guess if we would have talked the English language Mother would have picked up the language much faster, but she finally did.

L.M.: What was the reception or the feeling between the Hungarian community and the rest of the town of Orenco? Were you ~~accepted readily?~~ readily?

J.L.: Yes, we felt we were, yes, we felt we were. They saw that we were industrius^s and clean and that we liked pretty things, like we would have the most beautiful ^{floral} formal gardens, like we went back to Europe, like we've seen there. Daiseys and different beautiful flowers and ^{floral} little ~~formal~~ gardens. Beautiful roses and carnations, oh our carnations were so fragrant and wonderful. There were so many beautiful butterflies at that time, we would really catch butterflies and we

J.L.: (cont.) didn't even have to have a net. Grandma had to have a flower garden all the old fashioned flowers, I can't even think of it. Everything mixed up, that was so full of the beautiful butterflies in that to. We would sneak up behind them and catch them and let them go again, it was so much fun. If we would pick off one of her flowers, she would spank us.

L.M.: Isn't that in Hungary then?

J.L.: No, this was right here in Orenco.

L.M.: Your Grandmother was out here?

J.L.: Oh yes, we came with Grandmother and Grandfather.

Yes, we had grandma and grandpa and mother and dad and our two uncles and the Balough and the Csegies around here.

L.M.: Then it was only called "Hunky Town" until they got to know you?

J.L.: Well, no, it kind of stuck.

L.M.: Was it an affectionate term or what?

J.L.: No, I don't know what it was, but I didn't really like it.

But I didn't know the meaning or anything, but they really accepted us after awhile but at first of course the way we were dressed we were different. It's like moving into a family of Indians, with their costumes. They wouldn't go to church with out having there bandanas on. The older women wore black and the younger women of course all kinds of bright colors. We all had to wear those kercheifs on our head and the little aprons to finish the costume. They were beautiful but I guess to the Americans it seemed funny.

L.M.: What kind of work, did you work in the nursesey yourself

L.M:(cont.) after awhile?

J.L.: No, we worked for Mr. Holmason, he was a Romanian, he had a lot of seedlings. He started a business and we would have to count them and put them in groups and also strawberries, we would count them in bunches of ten and somebody would tie them. We did that after school, we worked there and in the summer time in the fields and get enough money for our clothing. That's the way we made our living.

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L.M.: When you were younger did you spend most of your time in the town of Orenco or did you have a chance to go into Hillsboro or to Portland?

J.L.: Well, once in a blue moon my uncle would take us, like ^{on} the Fourth of July, to Hillsboro on the train. That was like heaven to me, oh, to ride the ferris wheel and all that, and to buy weiners, that was so delightful. Oh, we just had such a wonderful time. We would stay in Orenco, we would only get out occasionally when our uncle would take us. One time he took us to the rose festival and that was, OH, everything seemed heaven to me at that time. It was wonderful, on, the joy we had. He took us on a motor boat trip, He paid I don't know how much it was but, on the Willamette River He was such a precious, kind uncle. He would take us out and we enjoyed that so much. The rose festival was very delightful in those early years, they would put so much work on it. There were so many more roses at that time, I don't know what happened to the roses. Of course they are bothered with these bugs and I suppose people don't like to take care of them. Every home had

J.L.: (cont.) roses. That's why it was called the rose city.

L.M.: Then it must have been quite a treat for just about any youngster to be able to leave Orenco and go to Hillsboro?

J.L.: Oh yes, oh my, it was like us to go to Paris, to go to Hillsboro to a fair once a year or Fourth of July. That was all we wanted, we were satisfied.

L.M.: The Fourth of July celebration in Hillsboro was quite an event?^{then}

J.L.: It was, it was they had races with horses and oh it was a big event, they would have homemade ice cream, oh that was so good, so delicious. Just wonderful.

L.M.: What happened to the Hungarian families living down Quatema Road once the nursery went out of business?

J.L.: Then they had to look for other work, that's why my uncle went back to Cleveland, Ohio, he was quite a young man yet. There he met his wife, she was Hungarian and they moved back again. That's what happened to most of them.

L.M.: What other kinds of work did they become involved with? Did they continue on in the nursery business?

J.L.: NO, no, then they worked in factories, I believe. Oh yes, my uncle worked for a millionaire back there taking care of his beautiful landscape. Took care of the flowers and everything, oh he had a wonderful job, cause he understood plants. My aunt was working as a maid in that home and he met her there and fell in love and they got married. Then during the depression or before they moved to Oregon, they moved back here. My uncle passed away a few years ago, my aunt is still living.

L.M.: It must have been quite sad, especially for the children and yourself to see the town gradually grow smaller, disappear.

J.L.: Oh, really it was, like a part of you dieing, really, when I go back there and see those lovely trees that my uncles and father and the rest of them planted. there so big and lovely and everthing deserted and the building look quite shabby, there delapitated now. It really broke our hearts.

50 L.M.: Was the demisse ^{demise} a slow process or did it happen all at once?

J.L.: Kind of slow, they wanted to stay with the nursery as long as they could, so the nursery president was ^A lying off men that weren't there as long as our people. We were about the last one to be layed-off. I mean my uncles and dad and so on because they really worked hard. The Europeans, they always want to do more than people expected of them and the boss appreciated that. There's a little left over to do they finished it whether they got paid for it or not, so they thought they were quite valuable to them. They tried to revive the nursery but, I don't know what happened to the nursery, some miss calculation or something, that they kind of went broke. that part I don't know. All the Hungarians would have stayed there if the nursery would have given them work.

L.M.: How about your mother and father, where did they go?

J.L.: Well, we came back here because mother was able to support us and then we youngsters went out to work, I went to do house work rich people and went to school so that way we were able to keep the family together.

L.M.: This is all very interesting I don't have anymore prepared question. If you would like to add something in closing about your experiences in America or the town of Orenco. What you really remember when you look back.

J.L.: Well my memories of Orenco were very pleasant, very pleasant, because the people were so real, you just felt that every home was your home. NO matter where we went, if it was their supper time all they did was, here is your chair, you sit there, and we took it for granted. It was such a homey, there was so much brotherly love. I have never found that since we left Orenco, the earlier part of Orenco.

L.M.: Do you think it was because it was such a smaller town and everyone knew each other?

J.L.: That perhaps and maybe because we were so dependant on one another in away. We would help out if there was someone who needed a barn to be built there they were. In there spare time they'd all get together and whistle as they worked, they were happy. It was just like one great big happy family, it was really a family affair. We had precious time, the people there, I think most every one believed in the Lord so it was just we had Gods blessings along with these other wonderful, happy things. It was just a complete body, soul and spirit was meant, it was such a pure sweet way of living. One thing I remember that was sad, my sister who was eighteen years old died of a heart attack. She was to be married to a minister who was coming from Europe and he came a week, let's see, my sister passed away in May and he came just a week later. Instead of meeting my sister at the depoe

J.L.: (cont.) there in Portland, she was suppose to wear a white flower, he would know her, he ment her tombstone right there in Hillsboro. It says Susie Kish, I forgot what year she passed away. That was very sad.

L.M.: Your Families name was 'Kish' then?

J.L.: Yes, Kisk.

L.M.: Does that have any meaning in Hungarian?

J.L.: Well Kish means "little." Just like in the Bible, the first king of Israels name was Kish, Sol Kish. Whether our family roots go back there I don't know. My great grandfathers name was Sol Kish, also. It means little.

L.M.: Alright, I think It has been an enjoyable conversation.