

The following interview is with Mrs. Margaret "Derle" Perkins. She prefers to be called "Derle", a monicker given to her by her older brother. When she was first born, he was unable to pronounce his "G's". When proclaiming his sister's gender, he would announce, "It's a Derle!"

The preceding story is not the reason why Mrs. Perkins was selected as a candidate for an oral history interview, however. She comes from a pioneer family. Mrs. Perkins' Grandfather, Thomas Denney, travelled by wagon from Indiana during the Middle Western migrations of the 1840's. Having lived for the entire 20th century and then some (b. 1896), Mrs. Perkins is able to recall some of the occurances, ways of life, and great changes that the last 80 years has wrought here in Washington County.

The farm that she grew up on is now present-day downtown and industrial Beaverton. She remembers the same area when it was timbered forests and idyllic farmland. Another reason for her selection was the fact that she is a woman. It was the interviewer's goal to ascertain, in part, what it was like for a girl growing up on the farm at the turn of the century. Also, she reminences about her Grandfather, who was one of the early and more well-known men in the Beaverton area during the last century. Readers might be familiar with the name since one of the main thoroughfares in Beaverton is named after him (Denney Rd.).

While no pretense is made that the following interview will completely answer all of these questions raised, it does touch upon them and gives a flavor of daily life in this particular locale.

Apologies are made for the poor quality tapes. Although the last half of tape is barely audible, the written transcript includes the entire conversation.

Margaret "Derle" Perkins
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March 27, 1978
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LM: Good Morning.

MP: How do you do? Glad to meet you.

LM: First off, I would like to ask a few personal questions. Your age, when you were born...

MP: Well, I was born on ^{Denney} Denny Rd. on November 20, 1896. So, I'm 81 years old.

LM: You were born in a farmhouse there?

MP: I was born in the farmhouse and I arrived before the doctor, but I had an aunt that was there to take over.

LM: That was the common practice for the doctor to come out to the farm?

MP: Yes, that was the only thing people did. You never could have got to the hospital in time, ~~by~~ by the time you arrived in the horse and buggy. So, they would just have the babies in the home.

LM: Where was the doctor coming from?

MP: Hillsboro. So, he had quite a little ride too! (laughs)

LM: Was there a hospital in Hillsboro also?

MP: Not at that time.

LM: I understand that ~~you're~~ ^{you're} the granddaughter of Thomas Denny.

MP: I ~~am~~ am.

LM: He was one of the original homesteaders in the Tualatin Valley area?

MP: Yes. He ~~was~~ was born in Kentucky and ~~was~~ later moved to Indiana.

LM: When did he and his family come out to Oregon?

MP: He and his wife were married in January, 1849. They had a very bad ~~winter~~ winter in ^Indiana.

MP: (cont.) The roads were ^{"pert} ~~per~~ ^{prt} ~~per~~ ^{ly} near impossible so they had to wait to March to start. It was he and his wife and he had a brother and a sister. There was a number in their wagon train. Of course, they had an ox and two covered wagons.

LM: It was because of the harsh winter that they came over?

MP: They started later than usual. My grandmother wanted to come to Oregon. She wanted to see a real mountain and covered with snow. She wanted to see a big pine tree, and she wanted to see the Pacific Ocean. It was quite a trek. Not too many years ago my husband and I flew back to Indiana to visit relatives.. Going by jet it seemed like such ^{an} awful long time. I don't ^{see} how they managed in a covered wagon. Of course, when you're in a jet you don't see too much but the ground below you.

LM: Was it a major decision on the part of your grandparents to just pick up and come out here or was it because a lot of other people were making the same trip?

MP: Well, I think it's as she said. People there in Indiana said, "Well, there's lots of good land in Indiana. I don't see why you don't stay here." But, I guess they had this wandering lust to see what the country was like. And I'm ~~awfully~~ ^{awfully} glad that they came to Oregon. I think the climate is much better than Indiana. I wouldn't tell the relatives there that (laughs).

LM: Did they have in mind where they wanted to go before they took off?

MP: Well, they wanted to come to Oregon and the Willamette Valley. They had heard about that. But, they spent the first winter in Clackamas County. It seems like that is where most of the people landed.

a/a

LM: Over in Oregon City then?

MP: Yes, near Oregon City. There was a division in their train. They had heard of the gold in ~~at~~ California. But there was quite a number of them that gave up the idea of gold and wanted to come to the fertile Willamette Valley.

LM: When they came to Oregon City, wasn't John McLoughlin's fort ~~stark~~ still there?
MP. Yes.

LM. Was that where they went?

MP: No, it was called Willes. I don't know just where it would be but somewhere around there. Somewhere around Milwaukee and Oregon City.

LM: How did they come about to decide to settle in the Beaverton area?

MP: Well, there was a man by the name of Fanno that used to come to Willes. He told them that there was land right next to his that he thought would be a good place.

~~Grandfather~~
So, my ~~grandmother~~ came and looked it over and he thought it was good. He was able to get a few boards and made a shanty and he moved there. But my oldest ~~brother~~ ^{uncle} ~~grandfather~~ was born before they arrived in ~~Oregon~~ ^{Milwaukee}. No, he was born in John Day.

LM: On the other side of the family?

MP: Yes, in the family. My grandparents first child.

LM: Was there other farmers already living in the Beaverton area?

MP: Well, I just ~~can't~~ can't tell you too much about that. No, there wasn't. It was all woods. Of course, grandfather's place had a creek on it and that was always helpful. He went back to Indiana and got his mill equipment and it was sent around the Horn. Fanno Creek didn't have too much water in it so he built a little dam, which made the head to run the mill. Of course, in the mills of nowadays ~~nothing~~ ^{it didn't} looked like anything. Just kind of an up and down affair.

LM: A sawmill we are talking about?

MP: Yes, a sawmill.

LM: Do you remember him ~~talking about~~ mentioning exactly where it was located?

MP: Well, I know just about, but it would be hard to tell anyone. It's not too far from where the school district has their busses parked there on Allen Avenue. It's near there. It's in that general location.

LM: Before he did any farmwork then, it was millwork that ~~x~~ he was involved with?

MP: It was millwork yes. He sawed the lumber that was used in Washington County. Even some of the houses in Hillsboro were made from lumber that he had sawed. There was an Ames chapel. A Methodist church that was started by a man named Ames. His sawmill furnished the lumber for that.

LM: That's fascinating that there was a sawmill right down here in the valley.

MP: Well, yes. It is nowadays. You wouldn't think of a sawmill being around here or at least one that was run by water power.

LM: Were they cedar trees or Douglas Fir trees down here?

MP: It would be mostly fir trees. No, it was all big trees. (clock chiming in the background) Even when my older brother went to college he hauled cordwood ~~on~~ on Denny^e road up to Sylvan. There used to be a brickyard there. He had a team of four horses that hauled this cordwood.

LM: Was that what most of the land was like then around here, mostly timber or was there a swamp?

MP: Yes, it was timber.

LM: There wasn't any openings at all?

MP: No, the farmers here had to clear all their land. I can even remember on the farm that we lived where they cut down trees and we had fires at night because they wouldn't ^{carry} the sparks at night on account of the moisture in the air. That was always quite an occasion to see all these fires around.

LM: Was your father and others like him specifically in the mill business or were they clearing the land for future farmland?

MP: No, most of them were clearing the land for future farmland. Of course, my father didn't do any sawmill work, but he did help cut the ties ~~that~~ for the Red Electric that used to go from Beaverton to Hillsdale and then went into Portland on Forth Street.

LM: What year was this?

MP: Well, that was before Dad and Mother were married. Well, I should know what year they were married but I couldn't tell you without looking it up (laughs).

LM: How many acres did your Grandfather ~~xxx~~ claim?

MP: Grandfather had 640 acres. Of course having a wife let him have more land than people who were single.

LM: He had an original Donation Land Claim?

MP: Yes.

LM: I see ~~x~~ on the wall behind you...is the application for the DLC that you have?

MP: Well, I would say so. It is proof of his residence here. You had to show that before you could claim your land.

LM: I know you were rather young when your Grandfather lived during your childhood. Did he ever tell any stories of what it was like settling in this area?

MP: Well, ~~if~~ if he told stories I suspect I've forgotten them. He passed away in 1908. I should remember stories. If I was like some people I could remember but I don't remember them. But he was quite a ~~horticulturist~~ ^{horticulturist}. He had many varieties of apples and plums. I could always remember mother and I up there in the summertime and getting plums and mother making plum cobbler. Was that ever good! Of course you had real cream to put on it instead of 2% milk as you would have now or half and half.

MP: He had grapes and cherries. Even a persimmon that he brought from Indiana. Around the house was a wire fence and at the top of it was 4 guess you would say a two-by-four. Over this way was a cherry tree. I would get up on that two-by-four to get over and get cherries.

LM: All these fruit trees that he had, he planted them on his own then?

MP: He planted them on his own, yes. I think that's all his children and great-grandchildren have profited by it because ^{they} ~~of them~~ are interested in trees. As you can see, I have around here. Plants and flowers and shrubs.

LM: Was that the common practice of the farmers in this area once they converted their land to farmland? Plant fruit trees?

MP: He had more fruit than anybody around. Other people would just have very few.

MP: Did he harvest these fruits for just your own family or was there some ^{his} commercial use also?

MP: Well, now I don't think he made any commercial use out of them. He had seven children. When they all ~~is~~ were married and lived not too far away they loved to come there and get fruit.

LM: Was that was the land was originally used for then, fruit?

MP: After he put the sawmill there he got to an age where he couldn't do much. He didn't care about agriculture so much, but as his sons got older they did the farming. He liked to raise pigs. He did that when he was quite elderly. When people thought he shouldn't be doing it but he did.

LM: ~~You~~ raised pigs. Was it also a dairy farm?

MP: Well, they had a few cows but nothing like a dairy.

LM: Your Grandfather and his children were pretty much self-supporting.⁷

MP: Well, yes they were. They really were. Of course, in the summertime they'd dried^{dry} fruit and corn. I remember Mother drying corn and putting it on boards. and putting ^{mosquito} nets over it to keep any insects from it. It's been a long time since I've tasted any dried corn.

LM: I've never heard of that before.

MP: Oh! Well, they did. Some people dried prunes that same way. But, they are thicker and it takes longer for them to dry.

LM: This corn, you would have that during the winter months then?

MP: Yes. Of course, people in those days did a lot of canning. They made their own bread. I know it was a wonderful treat to have baker's bread. It was really something. Now it's a treat to have homemade bread.

LM: We've gone full circle. Where did the farmers go for other supplies?

MP: Well, there was a store in Beaverton or there was a store up at Sylvan. Then of course, a lot of times they had to go into Portland to get supplies.

LM: Speaking of Portland, were some of the crops, produce raised on the farm taken into Portland later on?

MP: Well, later on it was, yes. My father used to send loads of hay. At that time it was loose hay. A wagon load of loose hay and take that into Portland. Then sell oats too because all of the ^{? spelling} Dray people had horses. The Fire Department had horses so horse food was quite in demand.

LM: Who were these people you mentioned at first? The ^{SP} Gray people?

MP: Hauling ^{Dray} ~~Drage~~. Now they are the ~~em~~ the ones that haul things from one place to another. Transportation people I guess you would call them.

LM: It's hard to imagine now, but it seems like the people of Portland really depended on the hay grown out here in the Tualatin Valley.

MP: Well, they depended alot on the things that were grown in the Willamette Valley.

LM: Everything was horse-powered then?

MP: Yes.

LM: The surrounding area. ~~T~~ I understand that there was a swamp in this part of the country. I'm ~~K~~ correct in that assumption?

MP: Yes. It's down where Hwy. 217 is and crossed the Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway. That was swampy land. A man by the name of Grand George, he used to raise horseradish. Of course, now in Beaverton there is a horseradish manufacturing plant. But they get their horseradish from many places.

LM: You mentioned last time that there was a place where you would go ice-skating~~g~~.

MP: Oh yes. That would be near Fanno Station would be on Hall Blvd. Down here where Fanno Station used to be. Mr. Fanno used to raise onions which were widely known. In the wintertime there would be heavy rains then there would be a freeze and that would have wonderful skating. ~~PEOPLE WOULD~~ I think the other day I ~~at~~ said there was young people but there was older people too. There was some Swedes that lived around there and they had ice-skated in Sweden. They really knew how to skate. But we younger children just skated without having any skates on. Just kind of enjoyed it and slipped and fell down. Then in the evening they would have a bon-fire nearby and we would get together.

LM: You mentioned Swedes. That ~~xxx~~ raises a question in my mind. Was there different ethnic groups that settled in this area such as maybe Swedes or Germans or different nationalities?

MP: Well, there was ^{four} families of Swedish people right there at Progress. Just a little way from them was a family by the name of Kasmlski that were Polish.
Koswalski

LM: What was your Grandfather's ancestry?

MP: Well, he was just an American I'd say. ~~Amix~~ A mixture of various ancestors.

LM: We mentioned a little bit about going into Portland. I'm curious about the transportation methods and the roads going into Portland.

MP: The transportation was either by what we used to call a hack or a buggy. Of course men who were taking produce or expected to bring something back went in the wagon. The roads were very rough and muddy. The main road, it was quite a time before that was rocked even. Then, most of the people had to do that themselves by giving their time and labor.

LM: We're talking about Canyon Road?

MP: Yes.

LM: Did you ever have an occasion to go with your Grandfather or your Father into Portland?

MP: Oh yes! Many times. I never went with Grandfather. He never traveled around much. I would go into Portland in the buggy with Mother. My brother was just older than I am fell out of an oak tree and hurt his hip. Mother had to take him into Portland three times a week for treatment. I guess from an osteopath. And he had to lay on a board in-between times. He always was lame. If it would have happened now, why, doctors would have known how to care for him.

LM: Was this road well-travelled?

MP: Oh yes. The Scholls Ferry road went out to Scholls which is about 10 miles out here south. Farmers from there would come up Scholls Ferry Road and then up to ~~Sylvan~~ Sylvan and then ^{down} ~~up~~ the Canyon Road.

LM: There was always someone travelling then?

MP: Yes. In my time. But, that was quite a bit later than early days.

(Clock chiming in the background)

LM: I'll let the clock ring.

MP: It didn't know that it would be recorded.

LM: Well, at least everyone listening to the tape will know that it is 10 o'clock. (laughter)

LM: Did you ever get stuck on any of your excursions over into Portland?

In the winter months?

MP: No, not at all. It was something. I always liked animals, horses especially.

It was always interesting to me when we drove into Portland. We would have to take the horses to a livery stable. Of course, there were farmers from everywhere with their horses in there. I thought at that time well when I grow up I would like to have a livery stable.

LM: Where in Portland were these crops taken? Right down on the waterfront there?

MP: Well, to the various business places.

(End of Track I SINEX Tape I)

Track II Tape I

LM: You mentioned something when the tape was off. What was that you were telling me?

MP: Well, I don't know who the man was. He's long since gone so it won't make any difference. He as well as some other people would go into Portland and have a little too much liquor. They would get so that they wouldn't know what they were doing. Their horses would take them home. They knew the road better than the man did.

(T) This might be interesting. A man by the name of ^{John Richardson} ~~Mr. Grimstead~~ that lived in this general area had some apples. He sold them for a dollar apiece. He bought a pair of boots by selling eight apples.

LM: Boy, a dollar an apple? That's even expensive by today's standards.

MP: I ~~said Grimstead~~, but it was John Richardson. He came to this country in 1847. So, you see, that was ~~x~~ a long time ago. ^{L.M.} [We alluded to in our previous conversation about the Fannos and some of your neighbors. Could you tell me a little bit about the Fannos themselves?

MP: Well, I couldn't tell you too much. Mr. Fanno, the original Mr. Fanno, I think his name was Augustus. He was the one that told my Grandfather about the land that he thought was good right next to him. Of course, his son, August^us, is the one that raised the onions. They were really good onions. Every winter my Father would go there and get a sack of ~~themx~~ onions. Of course, those were the medium sized and we used them for boiling. Of course, they had the larger onions. They shipped them to various places. Anything you shipped by car in the early days had to Beaverton. They were shipped from there. ^{go to}

LM: Were some of the other original families that settled in this area still around when you were a child?

MP: Well, yes. Robinsons, Ralfe^hh Robinson was about the age of my Father. They used to visit back and forth. They knew each other quite well. He had sisters that he knew.

LM: Were the farming families fairly close then?

MPL No, there was quite a little distance between them. At the time they would have 320 or 640 acreas. Why, that covers quite a bit of territory. Until some of them sold off their land, why there wasn't too close neighbors. Where we were on Denny^e Road, I didn't have anybody to play with. When I was a child, I would talk to the chickens. Little chicks were always interesting to me and I liked and I liked calves. Maybe I was more of a 'tom boy' than a girl before I went to school.

LM: Did you have any brothers and sisters?

MP: Yes, I had two brothers that were older. The one nearest my age was seven years older and the other one was nine. So, I, in a way, kind of grew up by myself because by the time I was seven or eight they were big enough to^do the chores and things of that type. Our parents always made us mind. Once, when my brother was about four and the other six. They loved to go to Grandfathers. Mother miss4d them one day. She thought that was probably where they were. She went up there and got them and turned them around toward home and had a little switch with her. They knew they had to march home and they never tried that again. I don't think she used the switch on them but they knew where they belonged and they'd better stay there. There was woods between the two places and it ~~wasn't~~^{wasn't} a safe place for children to be travelling, by themselves.

LM: Why would that be? ~~Was~~^{were} there any wild animals in the woods at that time?

MP: No, there really wasn't any wild animals between that time and then. At the same time it was all woods and there was cattle running loose. You can't tell what will happen or what a child will do if there's cattle around. Cattle might chase them.

LM: Now, the little children have to watch out for the automobiles?

MP: Yes. That's true.

LM: What was it like growing up on a farm as a little girl?

MP: I liked it. I wouldn't trade it for city life. I'm really just a farmer at heart myself. As I said, I loved the animals. I used to have imaginary friends I took piano lessons and started in on the organ and I had to walk about a mile. When I was doing that walking I would always imagine I had friends with me, or there was a certain place where friends lived.

LM: Did you have a certain amount of chores to do yourself? Farm chores?

MP: No, ^{I would} never had to do any farm chores. My brothers were always there to take care of that. In the ~~sum~~ summertime, sometimes drive the horse when they were unloading the hay. They had a fork when they were loading the hay. That was attached to the pulley and rope and you had to drive the horses a certain ~~xxx~~ ^{distance} and get that up to the hay ^{mow} ~~mow~~. I used to do that which I didn't mind. There was kind of a pleasure in it.

LM: Was that the common practice on the farm to let their brothers do most of the work on the farm?

MP: Well, yes in most cases. Of course there was some instances where girls didn't have brothers and then they had to do a certain amount of farmwork. I could hoe a bit in the family garden. That wasn't too bad.

LM: Did the mother start training their girls for domestic things quite early?

MP: Yes. One thing I'll always remember is having to wash the dishes. Now I knew it was good for me. I did other household chores. After we had land cleared and we had grain, well, we always had to have that thrashed and ~~xxx~~ the thrashers would come. The ^eman that came with the thrasher machine. There was usually four of them. They usually stayed overnight.

MP: They ~~it~~ slept in the barn or someplace like that. They had all three of their meals there. When it was time to do the thrashing, why, ~~neither~~ ^{neighbors} would come in with their teams and wagons and haul the bundles ^{of} and grain to the thrashing machine. At noon and at evening you always had to give them meals. It really kept the women quite busy ~~because~~ because they really gave them a meal.

LM: Supper time must have been a big event on the farm with all the menfolk coming in.?

MP: Yes that was. Sometimes the thrashing crew would be there three or four days depending on how much grain you had. Later, you had hay to bale and that took longer. That was more of a hardship because it took longer to do the bailing. After my brothers got going in the business they had dairys.

LM: Who were these men that were hired to do the thrashing? Were they local men?

MP: Well, I could remember one was from Tigard. I just don't remember. No, they weren't too local. Finally, my brother and another fellow bought a thrashing machine and they did thrashing just right around the neighborhood. Usually, they had travelled some distance and they had to wait for them to get there. They didn't always get to ~~everybody~~ ^{everybody} in turn.

LM: When you got to school age, where did you go to school?

MP: I went to McKay school. It's in the present location of the McKay school. But the first school in the Whitford area was called the McKay school. It was on Fanno Creek ~~on~~ Hall Blvd. That was only there a few years before they moved to the present location. Of course, I had to walk on a muddy road. Then, I think we had more snow in those days than I think we have now. Recess time was sort of interesting because you got out and had snowball fights.

LM: How many children went to this school? Did all the grades?

MP: Oh yes. When I first attended it was just a one-room school and had all eight grades. After about four years after I had started school they made it a two room school. They just put a division in the building. We all carried our lunch and had a good time at ~~a~~ noon time. We went out somewhere when the weather was good and ~~eat~~ ^{ate} together, seeing what someone else had in their lunch, and so forth.

LM: That is something that has always confounded me, how a teacher could teach so many children at different levels. ^{M.P.} Well, they did. I think the younger children learned from the older ones, by hearing them recite their lesson. I guess teachers would pass out now if they had to teach eight grades.

LM: Was there a lot of individual attention from the teacher?

MP: Well, if you wanted to stay after school she was always willing to help you.

LM: There was just one teacher for the whole school?

MP: Just one teacher at first, yes. Mary Jane Stott was the first teacher in the Whitford area. That was in 1847.

LM: Where would these teachers come from? Would they travel out from back east also?

MP: No, most of them were Oregon people. Most of them were. This Mary Jane Stott was a local product. Then, when I was in the one room school there was Elizabeth Downing McGowen was the teacher. ^{And} ~~it~~ believe me, she kept good order. You didn't do any monkeyshines when she was there. Children knew it and they behaved themselves. They didn't chop up their desks or do any ^{mischievous} ~~mischievous~~ things. She looked at them and that was enough. They knew they better do what they were supposed to do.

LM: Was your teacher and teachers at that time, did they have any special training?

MP: Well, of course they hadn't had too much training but there was some training at Monmouth.

MP: But this Elizabeth McGowan^a, I don't know really where she got her training. She lived at home, but some of the other teachers had to board with other ~~real~~ people in the district.

LM: We talkèd a little bit about the social activities on the farm. I would like to continue on with that. You mentioned last time about your Father walking over into Tigard for debates. Could you explain a little bit about that?

MP: Well, they thought nothing of it. They had debating societies. Tigard people would walk over here. Of course, this Ames chapel that I spoke of was used as a center for ~~differe~~ different activites. There was what we called Union Hall which was just north of McKay School. Mr. McKay donated that land as long as it was used for a community project. They used to have school social times in the hall. Later in the WWI the Ladies got together and they did Red Cross sewing there. Later in the early 1920's, there was a chorus organized there. We hired a professional leader to come out from Portland to come out and direct us. They put on several ~~operettas~~ ^{operettas} there at the hall. We did go to two or three other places and put those on.

LM: Did you participate in these operettas?

MP: Yes, I was in some of the operettas. Then, the young people had a tennis club. We used to have a lot of fun playing tennis.

LM: These debating societies. Were they made up of farmers of the community?

MP: Yes, there was a group there around Whitford, ~~Prog~~ Progress and one in Tigard.

LM: Did you ever have a chance to go with your Father to any of these debates?

MP: No, they were before my time. That was before my M Father was even married.

LM: Did he ever talk about some of the debates?

MP: Well, not the particulars, but just the fun they used to have debating. Then there was the Good Temperance organization which was opposed to the drinking of liquor. That used to meet in the hall.

LM: Was there a local church in this area?

MP: Ames ~~Chapel~~ Chapel and as I said before, my Grandfather sawed the lumber for the church. There was a man by the name of Mr. Ames that organized the church. It was a Methodist church. The building stood on the southeast corner of Scholls Ferry Road and Hall Blvd. I don't remember, but there was big fir trees around it. There was a fair-sized platform in front of it, which made a good place for the people to ~~congregate~~ congregate after church and visit. It was painted green on the outside and the windows were stained glass. The inside was painted white. It was later moved south to make room for the Harry ^{spelling} Leander Sr. grocery store. It would have been a nice landmark if it could have been saved. They had ^{Eliander} ~~priests~~ men that preached ~~that were~~ called circuit riders.

LM: This was during your childhood or was this earlier.

MP: Well, part of it was during my childhood and most of before. I used to go to Sunday School.

LM: Were there any fairs, county fairs or community fairs. ?

MP: There wasn't any community fairs. Of course there was the county fair over at Hillsboro. There was a time when they had county fairs over at Forest Grove.

LM: Did the farmers get excited about the county fair? Did they have a chance to get ~~MR~~ out to Hillsboro?

MP: Oh yes. They ~~went~~ went out there but I ~~don't~~ don't know if they got too excited about it. The Granges had the booths at the county fair so all the Grangers were interested. When I was growing up my mother and Father used to work for the booth of the Beaverton Grange ^{quite a bit} ~~very much~~. They had everything all over the house it seemed to me and I thought, "When I grow up I'm not going to have anything to do with the fair!"

MP: Later, when they were gone, and we had fairs, I took part in them. We didn't congregate things in a central place as we did then. They would gather their grain and their ^{Sheaves of} ~~sheep~~ and hay of all kinds. Then there was the fruit and all kinds of baked goods. It was kind of fun. But, now, there has gotten to be such a community at home that there isn't so much agriculture here and there isn't so many crops to gather for display.

LM: You mentioned the Grange. I know you are quite involved with that still. Could you tell me a little bit about the inception of the Beaverton ~~Grange~~ ^{and} ~~or~~ the inception of the Grange itself?
Grange

MP: Well, the Grange movement commenced right after the Civil War. The agricultural people were trying ^{to} form some kind of cooperation between the North and the South and get them closer together. The Beaverton Grange wasn't organized until December of 1902. Last December we celebrated our 75th anniversary. I have belonged 65 years. Of course, I went to Grange meetings before I was old enough to attend. When my Mother and Dad went I could always remember being brought into the room before they were and seated ~~beside~~ ^{Chaplain} beside the ~~Chapel~~ and it happened that I. My Mother and Dad told me that I wasn't supposed to tell anyone what went on at the meeting and believe me I didn't! When we got home my brothers wanted to know who played the ~~pa~~ piano and I wouldn't even tell them that! I got to attend lots of the meetings when I was growing up so when I joined it wasn't anything new to me. Later, when we had what was called the *Pomona* Grange and that's all the subordinate Granges in the County meet together quarterly at one of the Granges. I got to meet other Grangers in the county. I still have friendly connections with some of those that I met many years ago. When Mother and Dad first belonged of course you had to travel by horse and buggy and they had day meetings and it continued into the night. It was quite a little distance to come home so they got to stay all night with some of the Grangers of the local Grange. I always thought that was wonderful. But, when I joined, that had ceased.

LM: Now that you are a little bit older, are you allowed to tell what went on at those meetings that you weren't allowed to tell before? In other words, what were the objectives and the goals of the Grange?

MP: It's purpose was to educate and elevate the American farmer. Of course, they taught a great deal about agriculture and so forth. They did talk about legislative problems. Then, they thought the legislative problems were very hard. Just as much as we think now. They think the same things that we are thinking,

LM: Such as? What ~~xx~~ was some of the legislation they wanted ~~x~~ to see say back at the turn of the century?

MP: Of course, the Grange was instrumental in getting the rural free delivery and labeling of clothing. All your clothes will be labeled as where they were manufactured and something about them, the material that was in them. The Grange was responsible in large part in getting initiative and referendum.

LM: Before they had rural free delivery, did you have to pay for your mail or go to the post office?

MP: You had to go to the post office. You had to go to Beaverton to get your mail.

LM: I think I asked you this before. Did the Grange tend to be a political organization or a social organization?

MP: You should never say it's a political organization, because they never discussed partisan politics. They would talk about measures, but never political affiliations or for anybody running for office.

LM: From what you say, it sounds like the Grange was fairly strong in this area and county.

MP: Yes. We have 13 granges in the county now.

LM: Did most of the farmers belong to the Grange?

MP: I wouldn't say most of them, but ~~most~~^{many} of them did.

LM: Why didn't more of them join? & Were they afraid of organizations?

MP: Oh yes.

LM: Was it also a social organization? A chance for farmers to exchange ideas and information?

MP: Yes. In days gone by they was always day meetings. They always had the noon dinner and there was time for people to talk informally. In the evening they had supper. After dinner there was always a literary program which consisted of material prepared by the members. There was one person in charge and she was responsible for the program. It was educational,^{recreational} and inspirational.

LM: ~~xxxxx~~ Were the women quite involved with the Grange?

MP: That was one of the organizations that women had equal rights with men. They would discuss women's problems also.

LM: That must have been quite unusual for an organization back at the turn of the century for women to equal footing with men. ~~Why~~^{Why do} you think that was so?

MP: Well, I guess the farmers of the order figured the farm women were of some importance and they were willing to recognize that. They played quite a role in the farmer's life.

End of Track II Tape I

LM: We talked a little bit about transportation in our previous conversation. I'm curious, we talked about the Oregon Red Electric. Could you tell me a little bit about that?

MP: Well, the Oregon-Electric was different. There was two trains, electric trains that come out of Beaverton. One was the Oregon Electric and the other was the Southern Pacific. That was the Red ~~Electric~~ Electric. It went into Hillsdale and down into Portland on 4th Street. The Oregon Electric went to Garden Home and to Multnomah and then landed up at Jefferson station and then would its way around to Hoyd station.

LM: That must have been quite popular with the farmers out here?

MP: It was. The Oregon Electric was built in 1908. I can't say when the Southern Pacific was, but they used to be steam trains.

LM: The Oregon Electric must not have lasted very long?

MP: No it didn't. Of course, when I went to high school, I went to school on the Oregon Electric from Whitford. Whitford got its name not from any local people but from a man by the name of White and one Bedford who were promoters and capitalists from New York. It was named for them. It seemed like it should have been named for some of the pioneers, men of the county.

LM: They never lived in this area then?

MP: No, they never lived in this area.

LM: They did business out here?

MP: Well, they were interested in the Oregon Electric and they were capitalists.

LM: What exactly is the Whitford area?

MP: That was just the name of the station. That was all. It was where Scholls Ferry road and Allen Avenue come together at the four ~~corners~~ corners there.

LM: How much did it cost to ride?

MP: Now you're asking something (laughs),

LM: It must not have too much.

MP: NO, it wasn't prohibitive. I really can't tell. ^{When} I took the Oregon Electric to Lincoln high school where Portland State is now.

LM: You had to go all the way into Portland to go to high school?

MP: Yes. There wasn't a Beaverton High School when I started. There was before I graduated, but being that I had started at Lincoln I kept on going there.

LM: At Lincoln High School, people must have been coming from all over.

MP: Well yes. I have freinds and still have ~~friends that~~ a friend now that lives in the town of Lake Oswego that come in for here school. Then, some from Greenburg and I suppose Tigard. I know a few people from the Greenburg station. Of course, we had to pay tuition.

LM: It was either paying or not going to school?

MP: Yes it was.

LM: Did most of the farm boys and girls go to high school then? Could they afford it?

MP: Well, they went various places. Now, both of my brothers went to Pacific University. They used to have an acadamy there, ^{which took the place of the} high school. So, they went there. From there, one of them went to Oregon State. The other one ~~was~~ was lame and I felt bad about that. You know, if anyone has a little deformity how ^{young people} ~~everyone~~ picks on him? I think that's the reason he didn't go on to school.

LM: That's too bad.

LM : What were some of the later crops that your Father grew on the farm?

MP: Well, of course, when they had the dairy they raised lots of corn. They used to have grass for the cattle. As Father got older, he always took charge of the ~~the~~ calves. It was his project.

LM: When did you ~~ex~~ i move off the farm?

MP: After I graduated from Lincoln, I went to Oregon State for a couple of years. Then I took library training at Portland Library. At one time they had a library class there. A librarian from one of the New England states was the instructor.

LM: Was it your brotheres then that took care of the farm?

MP: Yes, they took care of the farm.

LM: Is there any of the original Denny^e homestead still in family hands?

MP: No, the last little part of it was sold last summer after my sister-in-law passed away. We all felt very bad about that. getting out of family hands. It seemed like all the Granchildren were settled down and the Greatgrandchildren were in various places and going to school. It just couldn't be. Now the Denny^e Donation Land Claim is covered with manufacturing plants and ranch-style homes.

LM: Did the Denny^e place just gradually disappear?

MP: Well, a lot of it was sold bit by bit. ~~Kixsar~~ Kaiser did buy quite a little bit. The magnate Kaiser.

LM: You must have been sad to see all that land disappear?

MP: Yes, to see it all covered with houses. Even my brotheres could come back alive they couldn't recognize all the changes that have been made let ^{alone} my Father and my Grandparents.

LM: Do you think the progress has been worthwhile?

MP: I suppose you have to think so (laughs) It seems sad to have good farmland covered with houses and business plants. We need the food good farmland can raise.

LM: Well, I think that's all the questions that I have. Do you have anything you would like to add?

MP: Well, I could say that Grandfather only lived in that shanty he built for only a year or two. They built a modern type home. There was plenty of room in it. As a child I always liked ^{to} ~~and~~ go upstairs. When I was there. The upstairs was always open and vacant. I liked to go and poke around in this or that.

LM: Must farmhouses were built fairly large then?

MP: Yes they built big farmhouses. When you have seven children, you need someplace to bed them down.

LM: Families were quite large then?

MP: Yes.

LM: Why do you think parents had so many children? To help on the farm?

MP: Well, it seemed like everyone used to have large families. Families were quite close together.

LM: Well, I thank-you very much.

MP: You're very welcome. If it gives anybody any pleasure to hear this I'm happy.