

YUNGEN FAMILY ORAL HISTORY
December 8, 1995

Betty Yungen Powers
Jean Yungen Yaniello
Robert Yungen

Comments from:
Glen Grossen (Cousin)
Vern Nussbaumer (Neighbor)

Interviewer: Anne Cummins
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History Program of the Washington County Museum. The interviewees are:

Robert J. Yungen of 11188 NW Helvetia Road, Helvetia, Oregon. This is Friday, December 8, 1995. It is about 7:30 P.M. With us are his two sisters, Betty Powers, from Nehalem, Oregon and Jean Yaniello from Highlands Lake, New Jersey.

OK, so we want to start this interview off by building a foundation of your family and so what I would like you to do is tell us about your grandparents. What do you remember them telling you about their lives?

Betty: Actually, I was the only one living with my grandparents. My grandmother died in 1925. I was born in 1924. Jean was born in 1929 and Bob was born in 1932. I remember very little about my grandparents. Anything we know about them is secondhand.

Jean: This, of course, is about our paternal grandparents. Our maternal grandparents were living and we knew them here.

Tell us about your paternal grandparents.

Jean: Paternal grandparents? There isn't really too much I remember except they had a number of children. What was it, about 8? And they also included in their family the daughter of one of their grandchildren and that was the person I heard most about, Ella Rogers, who was a niece of my father's but really grew up as a sister, almost.

Tell us the names of your grandparents.

Jean: Abraham and Katrina Yungen

And the names of your maternal grandparents.

Jean: John and Susana Sigrest

And where did your paternal grandparents come from:?

Jean: Between Fruitigen and Autgen, Switzerland (*spelling is not accurate*)

Betty: Between Fruitigen and Actelboden. Switzerland (*spelling is not accurate*)

And your maternal grandparents?

Jean: Came from Sigrest Wheel, Switzerland The story goes that my father came over with his parents when he was four years old but our mother came over with her aunt, Glen's mother and our mother, a number of years later, they came in 1906 whereas Dad's family came in 1890. The story I always remember the most was about when they heard that a family was coming from Switzerland that had two young girls, my Dad said, volunteered to go to the train station to meet them, of course that was in horse and buggy days and so he went and met them and he always used to tell us the story how he gave them a smack and kiss and the horses started up, thought that was their clue to get going.

So, the train station was the train station in Portland?

Jean: Hillsboro, I thought. What do you think Bob?

Bob: I don't know.

Jean: You don't remember that story then?

When your paternal grandparents came here, did they ever tell you how they acquired the land? Did your parents ever tell you how?

Betty: They purchased it from a man named Wolfshalgel (*spelling not accurate*) in 1890; they came in 1889, but they purchased the land in 1890.

Jean: The Wolfshalgels were homesteaders so our family was the first to pay for the land here.

Betty: They came to this community because they had two brothers who came about the same time and I'm not sure which one came first; Jacob and Christian and Abraham were three brothers who came to this area so I'm sure they were influenced by the brothers and where they located and I really think they found the best place.

Once they acquired the land what did they do with the land in those days?

Betty: Made Swiss cheese

Jean: They had dairy cows.

Betty: Bob, tell them about the cheese house.

Bob: Well, about the turn of the century they built the cheese house. Back on the foundation there is a date 1900, it has Fred Bishop's initials on it so Fred Bishop built it, the cheese house, and it was kind of a combination cheese house and winery and they made cheese and peddled it and sold it on the farm and the wine, I don't know, probably sold it too, probably drank some of it, too. In those days, you know, it seemed like we had big families and it took a lot of work, a lot of help to farm, you know, because they didn't have tractors and fast-moving machinery, you know, and then people didn't get married so young, seemed to stay at home until later years.

Betty: I remember a wonderful vineyard that was right down over here right off the road there that had I don't know how many varieties of grapes: there were Sweetwaters and Wyomings. This bottling of grapes was always quite a production to make that grape even when our dad did it, it was a big fall project.

Well, one of the questions I wanted to ask you, what of the Swiss culture did your grandparents recreate in Helvetia?

Jean: Well, certainly the Swiss cheese making.

Right.

Jean: And probably the wine making, too, was part of it. But as they did in Switzerland they were pretty self-sufficient with the crops and the fruit trees, they planted fruit trees, they planted nut trees, an acre of grapes and all of the things that they needed. Even when we were growing up, there were very few things that we needed to go to the grocery store, almost everything was raised on the farm here.

Well, let's move on to your parents, away from your grandparents. and tell me who your parents were, what were their names.

Jean: Robert Yungen, didn't have a middle name and Susie, Susana Sigrest Yungen and I don't believe she had a middle name, either.

***And, what did they tell you about their lives?
Can you compare their lives to your paternal grandparents lives on the same land?***

Betty: I don't believe they were farmers entirely in Switzerland. We were there in 1980 and we saw a hotel, wasn't it?

Bob: It was a grocery store.

Betty: A grocery store, so I don't know for sure they farmed. I rather doubt whether they did. And Grandma Bushlands (*spelling not accurate*), they had a store up in

that other community up above Albobuden (*spelling not accurate;*) do you remember what that was, Missy, that town? So I'm not sure they farmed in Switzerland.

Your grandparents?

Betty: Right.

But when they came here they farmed?

Betty: Yes.

***And when your parents lived on this land, they also farmed?
Did they do the same kind of farming that your grandparents did?
Did they subsist on the land in the same way?***

Jean: Pretty much, but I think they discontinued making Swiss cheese and they shipped the milk. They still had dairy cows and they shipped the milk to the Portland Dairy Cooperative and that was the way they made most of their money, probably, they raised the crops to feed the animals, they raised the grains to feed the chickens. Of course, in those days, the wives were always in charge of the chickens and the chickens provided what we call the "apron money". So the women didn't have to be dependent or didn't have to ask for every nickel they wanted to spend from the farmer, they had their chickens so they could have their own money. And they paid when they went to the feed store, the wife took her chicken money and paid for the mash out of her pocket. And it was kind of interesting, too, because the transportation was not that easy in those days and the meat market man out by Linten New Jersey (*spelling?*) out by St. Helens used to come in a panel truck to pick up the eggs but he also had his truck well-stocked with meat and different types of meats and eggs and things, not eggs but meats, that he would sell back to anyone on his egg route that he pick up those and I remember always liking the days the Linten man came to pick up, we used to call him the Linten "Butch" because he was a butcher, because he used to give us a hot dog now and then.

Betty: Well, I remember when the Trautman (*spelling?*) grocery man from North Plains used to come around. I don't remember the Linten one. I remember hearing about one, do you Bob?

Bob: Yeah, it was Dick Tolley (*spelling?*) and he would come around once a week, like Jean said, he'd always give you a wienie.

Well, one thing I would like you to do is to think about your father and to describe for me an average day for your father from the time he got up in the morning to the time he went to bed.

Bob: Well, he had to milk cows and that's a pretty routine job. He'd get up in the morning and go out and milk and then he's come in for breakfast and then he'd go back and clean out the barn and then he'd hook up the horses and do some farm work and come in at noon for dinner and do some more farm work afterward and then in the evening feed the cows and we'd usually milk after we ate so sometimes it was kind of late by the time we'd get done. By that time, you'd come in the house, we didn't have electricity in those days and it's not much fun just sitting in the dark, so everyone just went to bed.

Now, you say "those days", what time are you thinking of?

Bob: Well, we didn't get electricity until 1936 so we used oil lamps, lanterns.

Jean: Besides working on the farm, he also had to go to the woods on days when the weather wasn't right for farming and cut down the trees because all our heat was by wood, by wood burning stove and he also in the fall or winter would make hand-split shingles for his own buildings, I think, I don't think he ever sold them but he did sell some of, he used to talk all the time about having the Forestry Department come out and do scientific forest management, he would call it, they would pick out the trees that he should take down for the best advantage of the woods, so sometimes he sold sawed logs or board or other trees for piling. I used to go to the woods with him a lot because I really loved the woods and liked going up there with him and I remember he used to find us licorice root, the licorice plant and get the root for us and we would chew on it and another thing he would do when we were in the woods was pick the blossoms of the little wild lady slippers there were so many of them up there and he would bring them home to Mom but he always would want to fasten them together so he would take a hair out of the horse's tail and knot it around the lady's slippers and give her a bouquet of lady's slippers like that from the woods.

Betty: Another thing that Dad did, he really loved animals, and if somebody's cow was having trouble birthing, he might become the midwife, come and help somebody with the cow, or if somebody's horse was sick so he was kind of the local veterinarian for the neighborhood and he enjoyed that very much.

Bob: There was a veterinarian who lived in the, over on Jackson Quarry Road, he kind of taught Dad the veterinarian business but he didn't have a formal education so he couldn't charge, if somebody gave him something that was all right but

Jean: There was usually a bag of potatoes, or something like that, there wasn't usually any money, I don't think. He also had his blacksmith shop and people used to bring their horses and he would shoe horses. I loved the blacksmith's shop too and I loved spending time down there with him.

Betty: He had this forge that really blew up a good fire and he'd put the shoes in the hot coals and he was sort of a short man so the horses, he could handle them quite well so he used to shoe all kinds of horses; that was fun.

Jean: He was a very gregarious man, very friendly, easy-going and well-met, I think, had lots of friends. He was on the school board and the church committees and he was always very active. I remember he would always fall asleep at their evening meetings because he got up so early to milk the cows that when those meetings lasted too long he would be having a hard time staying awake.

Bob: Getting back to this blacksmith business. He learned the blacksmithing from Bill Zeegy (*spelling?*) back in the , prior to the railroad coming through, it was probably in the early 1900's. He worked for Bill Figy (*spelling?*), there were a few automobiles around at that time, and if they didn't run good they always thought the pistons weren't good, you know, so they'd take the pistons out, you know, and they'd heat them up, you know and they'd not intelligible some oil and this would make them swell up, you know, so they would fit tighter. And so, he learned a lot of things like that but he learned the horseshoeing business and when the railroad came through he hired on as a horseshoer for the railroad. Well, anyway, he worked there, I don't know how long he worked for the railroad, but this one contractor he was working for got in a big beef with the railroad and they fired him so he took his crew and was going someone else, they cleared out of the area, you know, and wanted Dad to go along with him and he said he didn't want to leave with that bunch, so that was, anyway he worked on the railroad.

Jean: Do you have any idea what year the railroad went through, what years?

Bob: Oh, I don't know, 1910, 1911.

Jean: I'll tell you a funny story about the railroad. When I was back east and wrote and told my mother that I was planning to get married and I was going to marry a Yaniello, who was half-Italian, why, she was a little bit concerned but that was fine, we came out to have the wedding and when I brought Don out, she said, "Oh, I'm so glad to meet you to see that you are large of stature. The only Italians that I ever knew were the little black men who built the railroad out here. I was afraid that Jean was marrying a little man that she could just wrap around her finger. I'm so glad that you are big of stature and can handle her."

Now that we've talked about your father, let's talk about your mother for a while and expand on her life. Let's start by having you describe what one of her days was like, from the time she got up in the morning to the time she went to bed at night.

Bob: Well, we had Farina mush, probably 99 % of the time, I don't think I've had Farina mush for quite a while.

Betty: She was always sure that everybody ate breakfast before they went off to school and she, on Mondays she did the laundry in the big copper wash boiling on the stove and boiling the water. She had a Maytag washing machine, finally there was one with a motor, a gas motor, I guess it was to turn it and had a wringer I think Jean's braids got caught in the wringer one time but it was an all-day job on Monday to get that laundry with a huge clothesline in back with 6 children there were lots of clothes, so that was a big day. I'm not sure she followed exactly the schedule, like Tuesday was ironing day and Wednesday was such and such day, but her days were very full. She was an excellent gardner, just had the best vegetable garden in the country, well, the second best - Mrs. Bishop had the best. She and Aunt Emma and Mrs. Bishop were always talking gardening and comparing who's peas were up and so forth so she spent a good deal of time with that. She took care of her chickens, she always fed those. Sometimes we would come home from school and there would be a number of women sitting around with quilt racks across the dining room chairs and they were tying and pulling making some bedding of that kind. I recall that during World War II, there was excess cotton, I believe that was after the war, so she took a class in Hillsboro, with some of the other neighbor people and made these mattresses. Our mattresses were getting kind of thin, so these were a wonderful addition to the family so there were community activities, as well as the things she did at home.

Jean: A little bit about her background, though, she went to schools out here and then there was no high school here, of course, so she went to Girls' Polytecnic and one of the courses she studied was milinary because there was always some milinary makings around. But when she was a student at Girls Polytecnic, Governor Oswald West, who make the whole Oregon coast private, I mean public, open to the public, needed a governess for his children in the summertime, at their summer home down at Cannon Beach and she had gone down there for more than one summer, I think it was several summers and she had lived at Cannon Beach at the governor's house and took care of his children and so she always thought Cannon Beach was real special and that's always where we went if we ever got the opportunity to go to the coast and now it's kind of ironic that every one of us, all five of us, have homes within 20 miles of the beach.

She passed that love on to you, didn't she?

Bob: I remember when I was a kid, we always had bread she'd made, you know, every week she made bread and go to school and some of the kids had bought bread, man, I thought that was really something else, boughten bread! But since then I've kind of changed my mind, went back to thinking that that home bread was really a treat. I remember she used to go down to the Grossen's to help make bread. They had six boys, you know, and that bread came out of the oven didn't last long!

Let's talk a little bit about when there was sickness in your family. I don't know if you remember when births, death, how were those things, what was the culture like at that time, how were they handled?

Jean: Our two older sisters were born in this house with a midwife but you were the first one born in a hospital, weren't you Betty? Betty and the other three of us were born in the little Jones Hospital in Hillsboro and we never did have much opportunity to go to the doctor because we never got sick. A couple times I can remember the doctor coming out here when one or the other children was sick, but there wasn't much illness, I don't think.

Bob: If there was anything wrong, we drank some wormwood tea, it was really pretty rank tasting, pretty bitter. I think you felt better when you quit drinking it! I mean it was supposed to be a cure-all, I think.

Jean: There was a green plant that grew right out in back of the house there, but I can't

Bob: Sage tea, wormwood, and linden tea and

Betty: In 1922, there was a birth and a death on the same day. Our sister, Lou, was born on a September day and that same day, Abraham (Grandpa) was out on the front porch visiting with his friends and he just keeled over with a heart attack. Isn't that the way you remember it?

Jean: Yes, he was pretty old ... 82.

How was the funeral handled in those days?

Betty: I don't remember how Grandma and Grandpa's funerals were handled, but living right next to the church, we observed many, many funerals and I think everybody stopped farming and went to the funerals and if it was a big funeral, the cars came clear up to the driveway and if it was a huge funeral, they were parked all the way around the barn and our driveway and in the field even. People attended funerals just for everybody, it seemed, as I remember.

Jean: They didn't have lying in state in the funeral homes, like they do in many places, now-a-days, people didn't go to the funeral home they only came to the church and all of the funerals in the family were held in the church, never, a lot of funerals are held in the funeral homes, but in our family they all came to the church and brought the bodies out to the church and the cemetery is right beside the church and all the stonemarkers are there and we have all our plots in reserve there.

Betty: I think that maybe Grandma's and Grandpa's they had right here in the living room. Do you remember hearing about that, Bob? That they displayed their bodies

here at home? But not in our lifetime do we remember their doing that. But I think that was the custom in those days. This room was a living room and a kind of a family room and that room over there you went in only on Sundays, practically and it had a one of the leather couches, like this and a pretty fancy table and that sort of thing and I think that was pretty much reserved for the living room and unintelligible for those kind of activities that occurred in this part of the room with six rambunctious kids that the folks decided they needed the space rather than a formal living room.

What else can you tell us about the house?

Bob: Well, in older days, people were more socialized more. Every Sunday someone, you'd go visit someone or somebody would visit at your house I mean it was every Sunday, you know, Sunday someone from church would invite you to dinner, maybe he'd invite someone else to dinner, people were more intertwined then.

Jean: I think Dad would invite every visiting preacher to who came to church home for dinner. Sometimes I felt sorry for Mom.

Bob: Why, lots of times a stranger would come to church why you'd bring him home for dinner ...

Betty: We had a beautiful view from the front porch here and I can just see Dad sitting there with his leg up on the railing and he always served a little wine for the company in the afternoons and I recall my first wine was hot water with a little cinnamon with a little wine in it, even the little kids got some of that, you know. Mom was a

END OF TAPE 1, FIRST HALF (30 minutes)

BEGINNING OF TAPE 1, SECOND HALF

Glen Grossen: Somewhere along the line, I know, their mothers were going to school down there, unintelligible and these colored kids they came to school up there and they weren't what you'd call Swiss. Until we got an English-speaking teacher and she told them to cut it out but it was all bi-lingual there for a while.

Did you ever get any broken bones?

Betty: I think we drank enough milk that we didn't have that problem!

Bob: I had a horse bite me on the lip when I was a little kid.

Jean: No, I don't think we had any broken bones. We had lots of milk so we had strong bones.

Bob: I had to explain this here lots of times because they thought I got in a fight or something.

Betty: Lou had a big scar from the time she fell on her, she and Helen were always in some sort of trouble, some kind of mischief and I don't know how she got that bucket over on her leg and she still has a scar but I don't recall broken bones.

Bob: There was a story of Lou and Helen poking a stick through the barnyard at the cows and the cow kicked the board off the barn. They were always pulling some kind of

Jean: Then there was Maxwell's car, they found some green paint and they went and painted the headlights of the car green.

You were mentioning about this not being the original house?

Jean: Well, they built this house in what year?

Bob: Well, originally they bought the place and there was a log cabin here and then they built the house, probably in 1902.

That was your grandparents?

Bob: Yes. After about two years it burned down so they built this house. Their first house burned down. This one here they kind of put up fast but it seemed to last real well so it done all right.

Betty: It says 1906 on the chimney, so it was built in 1906.

Bob: But its remarkable the boards are sawed so straight how the carpenters could do such neat work with the tools they had. There's no splinters on the saws, where you see a joint, there's really good workmanship.

Betty: The wood is so straight-grained and free of knots, that sort of thing, that it's not surprising that a house can last a hundred years.

Bob: Well, this house, when the wind blows, the wind blows through, there's no insulation and there's space between the siding and these walls kind of leak here. But actually, for timber, air is good, you know, if timber can't breathe, well then it rots. New houses that have all this insulation are not going to last as long as this one cause they don't breathe. There sure is a lot of air circulation that's been through this house! Used to be before we put a basement in, the wind would blow

and we had linoleum on the floor and it actually would raise up off the floor, I mean if you got a real bad wind, you know.

Tell us about the modern conveniences, do you remember when the modern conveniences were brought to the house?

Bob: Well, I remember when we first got electricity, I was probably about four years old, I didn't go to school yet but anyway it was a real miracle, you could hardly believe that was happening. You just brought you out of the dark, in the evening it was pretty dark

Jean: Then you were able to have refrigeration and I think it took awhile after we had electricity before he converted from his gas engine pumping the water from the well. We always had running water without the electricity because he pumped the gas engine out in the pump house but Mom cooked on that wood-burning cook stove for a long, long time. I do remember when she got the electric range and Betty still cooks on the wood-burning cook stove as a secondary stove in her home. She put it together piece by piece and went to the hardware and bought all the bolts and put it together.

Betty: It's a beautiful thing, we love it, we love it.

Was that your mother's stove?

Betty: Yes. It has coils in it that heat the water and we have different coils and it heats water and it is a good trash burner and a wonderful heater. Occasionally I put a bottle of sauter when we are in the basement. I'm very thrilled to have it.

Bob: Well, the water system, too, there were a number of wells around on the place but none of them were very good. Then they dug one 118 feet, how that was dug, I don't know. I know I wouldn't go down 118 feet.

Jean: Well, it was a small hole

Bob: No, no it was bricked all the way done. But whoever dug it had to get out when the water started coming so he didn't stay in there long enough, I guess, because we are kind of short of water.

Betty: And I believe they determined where to put it by using a couple of willow sticks and doing like this and where it drew down is where they put the well and some people swear by it.

Bob: So anyway, to water the cattle, the creek, Schabel's creek, just missed our place by 30 feet or so, you know, the corner of our property just missed the creek by 30 feet so Dad bought a right-of-way from Al Pieren to 200 feet by 200 feet so that

our cattle could get on down to drink water. And then he put in a ram to pump water over the hill but it never did work out too good because there would always be leaves in the creek that would plug up the ram. That was quite an event to have that ram send water over the hill.

What is a ram?

Bob: Well, it's where there's water that goes into the ram and it builds, I don't know, how does it work, Glen?

Glen Grossen: Water flows through the thing until it pops the valve set and builds up a little pressure there and then it shoots the water off in a different direction and then it releases again, water rushes in and it fills about as much water as a pump. It's the movement of the water from the fall that gives the force that pushes the water up the hill.

Bob: You didn't need a pump because it is its own pump, you know. Self-watered power pump.

What about inside toilets?

Betty: Oh, we had a little privy out there that always had a catalog by it and it was kind of around the corner and it wasn't too much fun when it was snowing, when it was wet and raining, they always had containers in the bedrooms for night. I can't remember when we got plumbing.

Jean: I remember, though, the WPA, Public Works, the thing that build Mt. Hood Lodge and all had a program and they sold or built, had people build better outhouses and we were the recipients of one of the WPA two seater toilets.

Betty: I remember when the book fell into it.

Bob: It was right after WW II, though, when we got indoor toilets.

Jean: We had big, green enamels tubs that we used for sponge bathing or bathing when we were kids, I remember that.

Was that in the kitchen?

Jean: Yes.

So when was the bathroom built in the house, then?

Bob: About '45, '46, right after the war.

Betty: I never really knew until much later, why there were so many lilac bushes out there, I guess that was the thing you did, they always planted lots of lilac bushes around the house.

Why, was that because they were tall?

Betty: No, that was because they smelled nicer! They grew very nicely and they smelled nice.

Do you remember political conversations that your parents had or other adults had and if you do, what was the political flavor of the times?

Betty: I remember Dad quitting the Oregonian when they criticized dumping the milk, it was that issue that they took a different stand than he did and he quit it for a few months but couldn't really get along without it. Another thing I remember, is when the New Deal came through, somebody had asked him to ring the church bell at 6:00 every night, to peel out the tidings of this New Deal, and Dad, being an agreeable sort of person, went and rang the churchbell the first night and all the neighbors came running, "What's the emergency, what's the emergency?!" I think he quit that. My political leanings I think I got from discussions down at Glen's house.

Glen Grossen: Yeah, that's pretty fertile ground.

Betty: That's pretty fertile ground, especially when your Mom named him Franklin Delano, we turned him to Ben Franklin, we turned him into Frankie, we turned him into Ben, I guess!

Jean: I remember when Social Security was first available for farmers and back in '57, or something like that, to them that was kind of disbelieving, but they all got excited about it and we had these wall-cranked telephones and that telephone really rang off the walls in all the homes as they were telling each other about the "rocking chair" money. They soon became believers about the rocking chair money and we sometimes still refer to it yet.

Bob: I think Dad signed up for Social Security and he wait for three months, but he got back pay. Retroactive. But he died the day he got his first check, sent it back.

What about the Depression?

Jean: It wasn't as hard on farmers as it was on people to were on wages that I don't think we felt it as much as a lot of people did.

Bob: Well, Dad had a herd of cows about 32 during the Depression and he got bangs in the herb, that's a disease where they don't carry their calf and so he had to get rid of it, they come around and test for it every year, so he had to sell the whole

herd, and that was during the Depression and that was a pretty hard thing to do, you know, because there was no income and things were really very tough there for a few years.

How did you restore the herd?

Bob: Well, he never did. Well, he milked so he probably milked twelve, fifteen cows, but he eventually got rid of the bangs and went back....

Betty: I remember the car he was driving at the time was up on blocks in the shed because he couldn't afford tires and gas and that sort of thing, so to save what was left of the tires, they put it up on blocks and it stayed there for quite a number of years, didn't it Bob?

What about Prohibition? What do you remember about it? Or what do you remember being talked about Prohibition?

Glen Grossen: Well, Betty, you remember about when the Japanese, the Inaharas, the Inasakes (*spelling?*), were renting property up there unintelligible, they were in the berry business pretty big, too, and so all the young kids, and they picked strawberries and also there was some migration from the Dustbowl, they came out here too. Oh, it was some, all kinds of commotion going on out there in that area, but then the war came along and the Iwasakes (*spelling?*) and the Inaharas (*spelling?*) were interned out there, in Idaho. Yosh, unintelligible I saw his picture in the Argus a while back unintelligible he was having a hard time, the big chains and Art and his kids have a big nursery business over on Walker Road.

Bob: Well, the Argasakis (*spelling?*) were neighbors, unintelligible on the Smith place, they were awfully fine people, and when the war came along, they were interned and then they came back, right after the war and they wanted to rent some land from Dad, unintelligible, but he was kind of criticized for renting to the Japanese right after the war, people thought he didn't do the right thing. Anyway, the Agasaki's (*spelling?*) were fine people, very fine people. Well, anyway, they planted ten acres of strawberries and then they were planting them for plants and then they couldn't get them certified because there were some potatoes planted near the field so they said they would take the first crop and then we could have them after that, so they took the first crop off and then we had ten acres of strawberries. That was right after the war, about '47. Before that, we didn't have a tractor, we farmed with horses. We made enough money on those strawberries to buy a tractor.

Jean: We would get up very early in the morning to pick strawberries and unintelligible and Dad would take them into the early market in Portland and sell them there. He didn't sell them to the big canneries, as some of the other farmers did, he sold them on the early market and we did quite well. I never liked those strawberries too well because I had to come home from, between years in college, I

guess, to pick those strawberries, missed out on a few trips or Betty had to take over my job in the college town so I could come home to pick those strawberries.

Betty: Getting back to Prohibition, I don't believe they had anything stashed away in the woods, but Dad did make home brew, made his beer with malt and that sort of thing. There was usually a batch of home brew growing somewhere but I don't think there was any hard liquor made.

Bob: Well, Dad used to come into the house sometimes in the mornings and he'd say "Somebody's running off a batch." You could tell by the smell, he'd say, you know, smell's like real strong coffee. He'd say, Sierra's full of it, so someone was doing it.

Tell us about your other siblings. Tell us who they are.

Betty: We had an older sister, Helen, who was probably the tallest of us and dark and kind of creative. She was an excellent writer, she worked for the Hillsboro Argus for a time, she just had a real knack for that, kind of a dreamer in a way. She died in her mid-thirties, and was married to a Donald Laddington and they had no children. The second daughter was Lou, Lucille, and I think second children are, well I probably shouldn't say this, she'll probably be listening, have a tendency to be a little bossy but she was a very ambitious person. She and John Merchert were always the best berry pickers, they were always a little bit ahead of everybody else. She was the first one in the family who went to college, she worked a year after she got out of high school, and worked her way through the University of Oregon and did very well. She's very, very bright, she sort of paved the way for Jean and I, who were the next children, but we chose Oregon State. Middle children, they say, have the easiest way, they're not the oldest, they're not the youngest, you're kind of in-between so I probably had about as carefree a life as any of them did. I was the youngest of the big kids and Jean was the oldest of the little kids so Jean was five years younger than I was and then finally, Bob Yungen! Bob was born and then unintelligible he was wrestling another son who weighed 12 pounds? 11 pounds, 11 ounces so it was a real close family, enjoyed each other, had a lot of good times together.

Characterize for us what it is like to be a male child.

Bob: Well, I was told I didn't touch the ground until I went to school because the girls were always carrying me around. I don't remember that

Did they dress you up?

Bob: Yeah, the doctors told us all that I was so rotten, so squirrely, but anyway I was probably, being the first boy after four girls, I was probably pretty well taken care of.

Jean: Bob and I were only 2 1/2 years apart so we were probably pretty close except when we got in a fight. But we used to have some clothes and even dressed alike when we went away to some of the church youth group things to let people think we were twins. You probably don't remember that, Bob.

Characterize what it was like to be a female child.

Betty: Well, you know, a lot of girls milked cows and all but we never did. We helped in the garden, we were working in the garden with Mom a lot, we were all in 4-H, did cooking and sewing and that sort of thing but we didn't have very many outdoor chores, it was...

Jean: I always used to help Mom in the garden

Betty: Yes, I remember gardening a lot. Well, we did help with hay, that was fun, that was a lot of fun because there was a fork that they put down on a loose load of hay and you'd drive the horse and that was always out job to drive the horse and they'd say, "Whoa" and you would have to be sure to stop and they would release the whatever it was that dropped the hay down and so you'd turn the horse around. That was about as much farm work that we did.

Jean: Of course, there was always quite a bit of housework to do and to help with the cooking and all when there was as large a family as it was.

Glen Grossen: And when you got to college, you majored in what?

Lots of laughter.

Jean: Unintelligible through high school and college.

What did you like best about your childhood and what did you like least?

Bob: Well, I was kind of fortunate to get into the old thrashing crew. I was, well probably in grade school yet and they were thrashing here and Allen Guerber had his own thrashing machine and he was an officer, I guess he was president of a fire insurance company but it was kind of a coop and all the members own the company. Anyway, Elmer, he was the president of it, the appraiser, and they were thrashing here and whenever there was a fire he had to take off and go appraise the fire. Anyway, we were thrashing and Elmer got a call, he said, he asked me, "Do you want to do the bagging? Don can do the thrasher." So, from that day on I had the job of bagger and that was a great job, you know, you got to go on the thrashing machine. All the women would cook the best meals you ever had and there were a lot of stories told, and a lot of jokes, and a lot of tricks. It was just a real fun time to follow that thrashing machine and I followed it for two years, bagged on it. Then

they ceased thrashing by a thrashing machine so I worked for Guerbers for several years, summers, so anyway I feel kind of fortunate to get in on that, you know.

Betty: One of the things I liked best about my childhood was, our folks were very open to other kids and made their home open to other kids, our friends and so forth, and living near the center of the community, near the church and near the school, there were lots of kids around, they even let us play ping-pong on the dining room table. We always had a Sunday afternoon baseball game down at the Helvetia School. The unintelligible would build some equipment down there and we would all congregate down there on Sunday afternoons and so on. Living on top of the hill with hill on both sides, they'd come around with cars that wouldn't start, they could always get a start on the hill here, because it was downhill either way so I think most of us really carried that out in our lives by making our homes open to our kids. I think that was a very happy part of our childhood. The least thing was probably all the oatmeal.

Jean: I still eat oatmeal every morning, but I think Christmas was always the nicest time. We'd go out in the woods and pick out our own tree and bring it in and put it on a sled or put it on the tractor, later and lighting those candles on it. We would make special things at Christmas time. We would make a saar cookie, like the German lebkuchen only we called it baserlechle (*spelling?*), kind of a fruit bar, and then we make these kukles (*spelling?*), kind of like a noodle dough, you'd roll it our round big as a plate and then you would drop it in a deep skillet of hot fat and you would twist it in the middle and it would get all kind of krinkly and you would sprinkle it with sugar. And then we always had the old brachle (*spelling?*) iron, its for a pressed cookie, nowadays they have an electrical machine. We used to do it on the wood burner.

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2 (60 minutes)

*****PART ONE TRANSCRIPT ENDS HERE*****

START OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1 (30 minutes)

Jean: On Christmas Eve, there was always a program on at church, and we always got this bag that had mixed nuts and old-fashioned chocolate drops and a little bag of mixed hard candy and a big orange in it and that's what the gift was under the tree and the ladies at the church would put together for everyone. And then we used to get half a box of oranges because oranges were not that easy to come by when you didn't have all this shipping so oranges were always a real great treat at Christmas time too. And then we used to open the gifts sometime, we'd open them on Christmas Eve, before the church party because there were clothes under there for you and then you could wear your new dress or your new blouse to the church