

1. Beaverton Oral History Project

INTERVIEW WITH: Mr & Mrs Paul Knepp - November 7, 1981
at their home, 12370 S.W. 7th St., Beaverton, Oregon

INTERVIEWER: Karen Wickre

TRANSCRIBER: Rosalie Wakefield (2-17-83)

KNEPP

LOH 87-278.2

b44-3929

TAPE 1, SIDE 1

KAREN
Wickre: I would like to know something about both of your own backgrounds; where you came from, where your families ^{came from.} had they lived here before...

Mrs. Knepp: How far back?

Wickre: Well, your grandparents. ^{your grandparents} Did they come here from somewhere else? ^{your grandparents} Where did they originate and how did they travel to settle in this area?

Mrs. KNEPP: All right, I'll talk first, because I am a naturalized American citizen. ~~and~~ My folks originated from England in the city of Leicester; that's where I was born. ~~When I married Paul~~ ^{and I} we were married in Edmonton, Alberta. We migrated to Canada and from the East Coast to the West Coast; ~~and then~~ when we had been married a little more than a year, we moved to the Beaverton area.

Wickre: Where did you meet him and how is it that you chose this area?

Mrs. KNEPP We both lived in the same area of the city of Edmonton and we both attended the same church. My father was a minister; our marriage was the first marriage that had been performed in that church in over 50 years, of a ministerial family. It was the United Church of Canada. Why did we choose this area? Because Paul's folks moved down here from Edmonton a little bit prior to when we came down.

Wickre: When was that, that they moved?

Mr. Knepp We had lived at Eugene. I went to the University of Oregon. So we knew the area. Dad always liked it up around Portland and he came here -- I don't know the exact year that he looked the area over -- but it was probably the spring of 1935.

Mrs. Yes, they moved in the fall of 1935.

Mr. And then ~~we~~ came down ~~on~~ February 29, 1936.

Wickre: You had known each other for how long before you got married?

Mrs. About a year.

Wickre: And that all took place in Edmonton, and then he moved ahead?

Mrs. Our first child was born in Edmonton.

Wickre: What kind of work were both families, either of your parents, doing in Edmonton?

Mr. ~~My~~ Dad was owner of three laundries and dry cleaning plants up there. That was his business and ~~we~~ we moved from Sedro Woolley, where I was born, to Edmonton in 1912. I went through the first ~~seven~~ six grades of grade school in Edmonton.

Mrs. My father was a minister. That's why the wedding was ~~remarkable~~ ^{noteable.}

Wickre: How did they get, your parents ^{get} from England to Edmonton?

Mr. ~~Well, they came from England to Ontario to emigrate~~ ^{My mother's parents} my mother's parents, when I was three months old. (The reason why was) because my grandfather was a

3
builder, and the financial situation in England at that period — (1910-1911) was very bad, and with the depression type thing, he lost all his money.

Wickre: I'm always curious about the reasons for picking a certain place.

Mrs. I do not know the reason they chose to go to Ontario over, say, the West Coast or something. It could possibly have been a matter of money. I do not know.

Wickre: But as far as you know, no connections, no relatives ...

Mrs. None whatever.

Mr. I was in the ~~class of~~ 1930 ~~of~~ University of Oregon ^{class,} but we went up to Edmon~~ton~~ in 1931, something like that, and then I didn't meet her till ^{the fall of} 1933, ~~fall,~~ (I majored in business, ~~and~~ mathematics, and accounting). ~~Then we met up there;~~ ^{Then we} met up there; we went to the same church. ~~I went to their church and that's where we met.~~

Mrs. Same bridge club.

Mr. Yes, same bridge club.

Wickre: So you would have been a recent college graduate. ~~And were you attending school in Edmon~~ton~~?~~

Mrs. Yes, I attended what would be called now Teachers' College, but it was called Normal School at that time.

Wickre: Were you planning to be a teacher?

Mrs. Yes, I was a teacher for a very short time. Jobs were extremely scarce at that point. And when I married, I no longer needed to look for a job so it was only a very short period of time that I was involved in teaching.

Wickre: What levels, or grades, or subjects did you teach?

Mrs. I was supposedly prepared to teach ^{eight} all ~~8~~ grades because they did not specialize as much in those days as they do now. But I much preferred primary grades; that was my interest.

Paul's parents had moved to Edmon~~ton~~ from ~~here. Not from Beaverton but from~~ the Eugene area.

Wickre: ~~Did they stay there and~~ ^{How} long after that did you come back this way?

Mr. ~~Well, we were married in 1934, and then one year later, Dad sold the business so we came down here to~~ ^{here} relocated, and Dad bought 10 acres out along Canyon Road there -- 117th Street runs right through it.

Mrs. As a matter of fact, the building that is now the Hawaiian Shop was the home on the 10 acres that Paul's father bought.

Wickre: ~~Now~~ Did they move first?

Mr. ^{Yes,} and we followed. They came down here in about October or November of that year and then we came down in February and we've been here, more or less, ever since.

Wickre: I imagine that was a difficult time to come in terms of the depression. What were things like around here?

Mr. ~~Well, they were pretty tight. We were doing some amateur farming. I got a job as soon as I could up at~~ ^{did} ~~Ray/Maling~~ ^{Ray/Maling} in Hillsboro -- in those days we were working for 45¢ an hour, which is good enough to live on.

3 Wickre: What kind of work did you do there?
Mr. Knepp: I did laboring work, I did pitching peas, there for a couple of months, but when I ~~did go~~ ^{went} to work there, I put in an application for office work at the same time. They called me in about two months later, thank goodness, and I've been in office work ever since, indoors -- which is what I've been trained for.

Wickre: Now, where did you first move when you came? Did you live with your folks, ~~or~~?
Mr. No, we had 7 acres right beside them.

Mrs. ~~Which~~ ^{It} was originally the ~~land~~ ^{Creek} property. Do you know Dick ~~Cook~~ ^{Kokitch}?
Dick teaches the Korean in Beaverton ~~and~~ ^{and} that family, owned ten acres from Canyon Road back to Center Street, right ~~where~~ where the freeway is now. ~~And we~~ bought the house and 7 acres; ~~there was a creek ran back there~~
Beaver Creek runs back there, ~~and~~ ^{and} they kept the back three ^{acres} on Center Street and built a ~~house~~ home.

Wickre: That's a fair little piece of land. Did you ~~set out to~~ put in a big garden?
~~or were you planning to do some..~~

Mrs. Oh, yes, we had a garden. We had chickens. And we had rabbits.

Mr. ~~We had~~ ^{After} a few years there, ~~and then~~ I got a job in Salem, so we sold and moved there, to Salem. ~~- With the Unemployment Compensation Commission~~ It was their first set-up in 1936, ~~or~~ 1938. When the war started, ~~why~~ I was too old to get in. I volunteered but I was too old, so I decided I'd go into the shipyards -- thought that'd be patriotic, so I did it.

Wickre: Where did you work in the shipyards?

Mr. Swan Island. I worked there through the war.

Wickre: What did you do?

Mr. I was a ship fitter and went up to foreman.

Wickre: Did you take training for that?

Mr. Yes, I took training first, ~~went~~ to school.

Wickre: I've been interviewing women who worked in the shipyards on another project, I'm working on.

Mr. Well, I was in ~~the first~~ ~~it was right~~ at the very beginning ~~so we were in it~~ ~~at the beginning of it~~, and the opportunities for advancement were good because they needed the trained men; I went from there to leader to foreman and assistant superintendent. ~~I was there for the war and then we came~~ ~~we~~ lived in Portland at that time on Alberta Street. We liked Beaverton and ~~we~~ wanted to come back so we moved back out here on 8th street ~~and~~ right near ^{by} and we've been here ever since.

Mrs. On 8th, between Watson and Main ...

Mr. That was in 1944.

Wickre: You were at the shipyards from ~~1942 till~~ ...

Mr. Started in 1941, right at the very beginning.

Wickre: Now were you at homes, Mrs. Knepp, with the children?

Mrs. Yes. In 1943 we had our second child, ~~my~~ ~~we~~ have 2 boys. The first child was born the day before Christmas in 1934. ~~Spread rather far apart.~~

Mr. Knepp: Don is a teacher in Pendleton now and Byron is a teacher here at McKinley Grade School.

Wickre: Looks like they got that interest in teaching maybe from you.

Mrs. Who knows?

Mr. We didn't expect it.

Wickre: We've moved very quickly through all these years to Beaverton but I would like to know a little bit more about each of your families in terms of how you pass time together, what your family relationships were. ~~Did you each have brothers and sisters? How did you spend holidays? that kind of information.~~ Did either of your mothers work outside the home?

Mr. No.

Wickre: How many siblings did you have?

Mrs. I have 2 sisters of which I am the eldest.

Mr. I had -- two boys died in infancy that I know nothing about. But I had one brother and one, two, three sisters -- a twin sister. Pauline is my twin sister And we're the only ones left in the family here; she lives in Beaverton, also.

Wickre: I wonder if I have her name on my list.

Mr. No, she hasn't been here that much.

Wickre: ~~What might you have expected when you were growing up, in terms of where you thought you'd live and what kind of life you thought you'd have? Did you think about particular jobs or schooling or marriage -- early, when you were very young? What expectations did you have and what did your parents want for you?~~ ^{did think} ~~you thought~~ ^{did think} ~~you thought~~ Did you think about particular jobs or schooling or marriage -- early, when you were very young? What expectations did you have and what did your parents want for you?

Mrs. ~~I guess, when I was old enough to start thinking about what I might like to do, I thought I would like to be a nurse, but my folks felt that I was not a strong enough individual to do this heavy work, and so they kind of talked me out of it. It wasn't that strong a conviction so I was talked out of it. The next thing I thought about doing was, of course, being a teacher. I went briefly to night school to take some bookkeeping and it just absolutely went in one ear and out the other one. It didn't mean a thing to me. So I decided that was out. And I had taken some typing, but as for making a career of it, I never thought I would, and that actually is the career I followed.~~ ^{When I was old enough to start thinking about what I might like to do, I thought I would like to be a nurse, but my folks felt that I was not a strong enough individual to do this heavy work, and so they kind of talked me out of it. It wasn't that strong a conviction so I was talked out of it. The next thing I thought about doing was, of course, being a teacher. I went briefly to night school to take some bookkeeping and it just absolutely went in one ear and out the other one. It didn't mean a thing to me. So I decided that was out. And I had taken some typing, but as for making a career of it, I never thought I would, and that actually is the career I followed.}

Wickre: Now when did you go to work?

Mrs. I went to work for the Beaverton School District in Beaverton High School on October 31, 1955. These peculiar dates seem to be my thing. Febr. 29 and Oct 31. Yes, I went to work there in the library in 1955 and was there for about a year, ~~and~~ Then I got moved downstairs to the office and was scared absolutely purple. ~~and~~ My boss told me, "Just stop it; you don't have to be afraid of anything. You're smart enough, you can learn it. It's very simple." ~~and~~ he explained it. And I found out I could without much problem at all.

Wickre: Was it a range of office work?

Mrs. Originally, yes it was; having to do with keeping payroll records and purchase orders. At that point, it was just the Beaverton High School district. It was all separate at that point. Then in 1960 when consolidation became effective,

I was put in charge of payroll ^{for the entire district} and I stayed there until I retired. ~~for the total district.~~

Wickre: Consolidation meant a larger district?

Mrs. It meant all of the surrounding, ~~what is now the~~ current school district. At that point, ^{however} ~~of course~~, it ^{was} only one high school and several grade schools. We have expanded greatly -- the Barnes district and the McKay district and the McKinley District and the Cooper Mountain district and District 48; ~~and they~~ all became District 48 ~~that was in 1960 when that occurred.~~ I retired in September, 1973.

Wickre: What about your work history? We left you back at the shipyards.

Mr. Well, ^{in July, 1944,} Just before the armistice was signed, ~~we moved out here,~~ ~~we moved out here in July of 1944, back here,~~ and I went to work for Ernie Masters in his accounting office. ~~Ernie Masters, he isn't living now.~~

Mrs. The firm was Masters & Bergren -- an accounting firm.

Mr. I worked for them for about a year and then ~~Lyle~~ ^{Lyle} ~~wanted me to work for him so we talked it over and I changed and did that.~~ ^{wanted me to work} I started ^{with Lyle} ~~with Lyle~~ ^{Cobb} in September, ^{of} 1945 ^{as} office manager, ~~and all of that, doing all the books and~~ I stayed with him pertnear twenty years. In 1962 I changed -- just got restless, I guess -- who knows -- took smaller jobs and took it easy, eased off until 1971 when I retired in accounting work. I freelanced. Most of it was for Wright Concrete. Then I was ~~with the city, as~~ Finance Director for the City of Beaverton for a couple, three years -- I'm not exactly sure of the dates; '65, '67, right in there.

Mrs. I think there's one thing that should go down on this tape and that is the fact that you were the Mayor of Beaverton at one time.

Mr. Oh, well, that was a long, long time ago, ~~That was~~ in '48 or '49. The city was very small then.

Wickre: Letsee, it was incorporated in ...

Mr. Well, ^{Beaverton} ~~it~~ was incorporated in 1883, way back.

Wickre: So how did you get to be mayor?

Mr. Knepp: ~~Well, at the time,~~ I was on the Council, ^{at the time as chairman.} ~~and I was president of the council,~~ ~~chairman is what it amounts to.~~ Chandler was the Mayor and then he moved to Tigard. ~~And~~ ^{That} automatically put me in for mayor, so I was mayor for a year and a half, something of that type.

Wickre: He moved during his term?

Mr. Yes, he had only been there six months and he moved, so that automatically put me in as mayor.

Wickre: What did your duties consist of then?

Mr. Oh, then was ^{Very} little; ~~we~~ only met once a month. ~~I can't remember, probably~~ ~~too many of the names~~ ~~Clayton~~ ~~of~~ the Council. ^{It was very nice, but} ~~It~~ was hard times in the city then. That was in the time when the city was burdened with a lot of unpaid taxes, tax lots, ^{the lots} ~~and they were short of money~~ ~~and that was~~ the beginning of

quite a bit of ^{many} people getting a good deal on city lots. There wasn't much of a city here then.

Wickre: What was it like ~~generally~~ when you first moved here?

Mr. The population was less than 2500 when I first came. ~~in because~~ While I was mayor the state allowed a five-year estimated population growth according to ~~I believe it was~~ a combination of water customers and electric light customers and they make a pretty good close estimate and we went over 2500 population. That would be 1948 -- probably was ... might have been 1949 by then. ~~and That~~ gave us more money from the gasoline taxes, etc., that we received according to population and that's about all that pulled us through. ~~that we would get that extra.~~ But we were starting to grow then. ~~and One thing that we did that I feel good about was the fact that while I was mayor we did put through the sewer bit and we got sewers put in.~~ ^{about was that, as mayor,} The city had never had them before that, and that was 1949. We started really putting in the sewer system at that time.

Wickre: Now before that no sewers, ^{but rather} septic tanks? _m

Mr. Septic tanks, yes. Even this house originally had a septic tank. It was built ~~in 1946~~ 1947. So that was quite an improvement. ~~there. One thing I remember, I went round and round trying to find this out -- what I couldn't find when we first moved back here in 1944, when I was mayor, we had one complete block that had a sidewalk around all four sides of it even downtown, there was no block that~~ ~~was~~ completed with a sidewalk around all four sides of it. So it was a small place, very pleasant, and everybody knew everybody. It was nice then.

Wickre: That's what everyone tells me. Why would people have come here rather than Portland? ~~Why would they move here, at that time?~~

Mrs. For the same reason that they still do. They do not like to live in the city. And it was easy to buy an acre or two of ground around this area. ~~And also,~~ ^{also} The town itself was ^{also} very friendly, very quiet, and even at that time, it had easy access to Portland, through the original Canyon Road. ~~— a —~~

Mr. ~~is~~ a two-lane highway. You couldn't even start to get out of Portland if you had that old two-lane highway winding up the canyon now.

Wickre: ~~Now~~ The old Canyon Road was in a different place, wasn't it?

Mr. It's buried under the new one. They filled that in.

Mrs. There is a road called Old Canyon Road, isn't there? -- up the hill further.

Mr. Oh yes, it's up West Slope. I think that was the original one.

Mrs. It paralleled the road. It was not TV Highway ~~at~~ that time.

Mr. No, this town changed. In fact, Hall Street stopped right there at 7th. That was the end of the street, and Hall Street didn't cross the railroad track either. The only ~~crossings~~ ~~the railroad track~~ in town ^{were} ~~at~~ ~~don't know about Cedar Hill,~~ Lombard and Watson, ^(I don't know about Cedar Hill) and The Thrifty Store was ~~there~~ where Hall is now, and ^{they} ~~they would~~ donated the street in order to ~~put~~ get the crossing. ~~It~~ took about two or three years to fight the state ~~L.H.C.~~ ^{L.H.C.} to allow us to go across that railroad. They were dead against it. ^{Guy Carr}

was the one in charge of that; he was the one that sparked getting that crossing. They didn't want a crossing there.

Wickre: ~~Any reason~~ Did they give a reason?

Mr. Well, they never liked to have any more crossings on the railroad than possible. ~~and there was no street from Broadway on. — was it completed from Broadway — must have been completed.~~

Mrs. Yes, Broadway went right on out to Canyon Road.

~~Mr. But I mean from Broadway to Canyon Road.~~

~~Mrs. Not Betts, the one across from Holland's — what is the name of that little short street? It was completed.~~

Mr. East Street, ^{the street across from Holland's, also} it cut through.

~~Mrs. And we used to call it the "Y" where Broadway came into the Canyon Road.~~

~~and there used to be a little streetcar diner. Right at the joining was a little streetcar restaurant little diner.~~

Wickre: ~~I know there were a few businesses like ^{that} ~~Yagor~~ and some of the others in the main old part of downtown. — Is that where you would generally go and shop and do your business? in the main old part of downtown Beaverton?~~

Mr/Mrs Oh, yes. Definitely.

Wickre: How much ^{did you} connection ~~do you~~ feel ~~did you have to~~ with Portland? How often ^{did} would you go there?

Mrs. Oh, I used to go ~~maybe~~ perhaps once a week, ~~because~~ ^{Anything that} you needed other than groceries, meats and small household supplies of that kind, ^{were bought} ~~you went~~ ⁱⁿ to Portland. ~~to buy, and you'd take the bus downtown or — drive in; — either way you could take the Greyhound right downtown by Meier & Frank, and get off, walk to the bus depot and get back on again. It was real easy.~~

Mr. Yes, there was no big department store out here.

Mrs. No, no shopping centers. Who was here at the time? There was, oh, golly, Holland's ~~is~~ still here. Holland's was here ^{then;} at that point and they were primarily a feed store. I don't recall if they had any particular interest in garden plants and things like they do now. They may have, but I can't remember for sure. And Beaverton Drug Store was here but it was in a different location,

~~Mr. Across the street.~~

Mrs. ^{Italian} Across the street. The ^{was} restaurant on the east side of Hall, ~~south corner~~ there, Broadway — the Italian restaurant. (continue)

INTERVIEW WITH: Mr & Mrs Paul Knepp -- November 7, 1981

INTERVIEWER: K. Wickre

TRANSCRIBER: Rosalie Wakefield (2-17-83)

TAPE 1, SIDE 2

~~Mrs. Knepp:~~ It had been a restaurant for years. ~~It was a restaurant at that time~~ **A** and I think Safeway was located in the building where Beaverton Drug Store is now.

Mr. Knepp: That's right, and Columbia Market was ~~down there where...~~

~~Mrs.:~~ Yes, Columbia Market was ...

~~Mr.:~~ That was on Watson, wasn't it?

Mrs. ~~He, it was~~ down by the "Y", ~~How where in the world was ...~~

~~Mr.:~~ Yes, Columbia Market where the ...

~~Wickre:~~ Oh, the "Y" in the road.

~~Mrs.:~~ Yes, it was approximately where Safeway is located now. ~~I think but~~ I'm not positive. I went down there so seldom. And ~~then~~ I think Smith's Jewelry was here. **Oh,** There was a jewelry store.

~~Mr.:~~ Yes. Oh, yes, Smith's was here.

Wickre: How about the bakery?

Mrs. Yes, the bakery was here, **at the foot of Watson Street.**

Mr. Same place.)

~~Mrs.:~~ ~~At the foot of Watson Street,~~ **Richey**

~~Mr.:~~ Carr's Garage was here; ~~Richey's~~ Hardware was there.

Mrs. The tavern ~~that is~~ east of that building (it's the Library Tavern now) ~~it~~ was called Thyngs. ~~and~~ They were an old, old family around here.

Mr. Knepp: He was an ex-Mayor, too, wasn't he?

Mrs. Whiskey Thyng? I think he was.

Wickre: It sounds Scandanavian.

Mr. Yes, they've been here for years and years and years.

Mrs. I think they were native to the area; they may not have been but very close to it

Mr. ~~At~~ Richey's Hardware was here then.

~~Wickre:~~ ~~You can get a sense of the downtown, if you look at it in a certain way you get a sense of the ...~~

Mrs. ~~The apartments,~~ The building where the apartments are across the street from Beaverton Drug -- that building was there.

Mr. Oh, yes, those buildings haven't changed.

Mrs. ~~Those have all been there had have been apartments.~~ On the corner of Watson and Farmington, where that I think it's sort of a gift shop now.

Mr. Oh, that's the Cady Building.

Mrs. But the store on the corner where they had --do they still have Abbott and Costello out by the front door?

Mr. Yes.

Mrs. That one, ~~at that point,~~ was a dry goods store, when we first came here. Then it became a grocery store.

Wickre: It certainly sounds like not only was it a small town but you knew all your

Mrs. Knepp: Oh, yes. Definitely. ~~oh, yes. During the war~~ ^(W) we shopped most of the time at Thrifty, ~~which was the store on the corner of Hall & Broadway. They~~
 During the war ~~when~~ things were rationed, ~~for their regular customers~~, if they had any sugar left over, you could get it; ~~and~~ little things like that. Regular customers were treated special. We had it kind of nice. Good old rationing!

Wickre: That reminded me of gas, ~~and~~ I know that was one of the things that was rationed. How much did you drive in this area in the first place?

Mr. ~~At that time?~~ Well, of course, we had coupons. You just had so much gas. Let's see, ~~we were out here after the coupons were gone.~~ We were at Portland at the shipyards ^{then,} so we pooled cars. I rode with four other fellows in a car. But we had very little gas then. We didn't take any trips.

Mrs. ~~And in downtown Portland, I used buses all the time.~~ ~~when we lived in town.~~
 Wickre: When you lived ~~out~~ here -- peoples' habits change all the time, but ^{did you} take Sunday drives out the other way, toward the West, or in the hills? ~~or something like that.~~ Was ~~that~~ a ~~fairly~~ common thing to do in the late 40's and early 50's?

Mr. Oh, yes -- we went all the byways and backroads of Beaverton.

Mrs. We used to love to go to Tigard because what is now Hall Boulevard at that time was very nice rural road. It was the same road as it is now but it ~~was~~ called Highway 217 ^{then;} ~~at that point.~~ Now it's called Hall Boulevard.

Wickre ~~And maybe it has a number, too.~~

Mr. ~~No. It has no number. It's just Hall Boulevard.~~

Wickre: When ~~do you~~ ^{did} ~~first~~ things start ~~at~~ changing; ~~in terms of~~ more people coming, ~~in or~~ not knowing your neighbors so well, or different kinds of neighbors? What were your neighbors like, and where did they come from generally?

Mr. Well, we moved in this house in '57. ~~and~~ ^{was} Practically every house on this street ~~used to be~~ lived in by ~~owners~~. It has gradually changed so that it's about 50-50 ~~now~~. But I think the big change came about in 1965.

Mrs. I would say in the '60's. It begins to make an impression on you, that the place was changing. For instance, we would go out Canyon Road to, well you know the ^{BENZ} ~~the~~ Park area? There used to be one house out there; ~~and~~ it had a blue roof, ~~and~~ that was a landmark for us. ~~and~~ then pretty soon more houses began to come and then they built the ~~BENZ~~ Park district. ~~And~~ You just saw these gradual ^{changes.} ~~things coming and~~ ~~it~~ didn't make ~~all~~ that difference in the beginning, ~~to you~~, but ~~then~~ all of a sudden they started improving roads, ~~and~~ ~~then~~ ~~in~~ ~~when~~ it hits you.

Mr. Then they started putting signal lights in.

Mrs. I remember when they were going to do Canyon Road. They were going to fill it all in. ~~The~~ ~~People~~ ~~that~~ were familiar with it, including us, were very upset that such a beautiful scenic drive out of the city ^{would change.} ~~and~~ we were so certain ~~that~~ they were going to ruin ^{it} ~~that~~, absolutely positive that they were going to ruin it. ~~and~~ ~~we'd~~ go into town and see ~~this.~~ ~~you~~ know, look down below,

where they filled it in -- all the earth and the trees gone down below and it was quite traumatic for ~~us~~ us. Of course, we were proved wrong ~~because~~ because it's still beautiful.

Wickre: But you're right. An old road versus one that's widened and has businesses along it and is noisier ...

Mrs. Oh, yes. But I was thinking of the end of Canyon itself, ~~down from below~~ east of Sylvan, ~~that~~ that is the particular spot, below OMSI, in through that area in there where it's still so lovely and non-commercial -- it won't ever be commercial, I don't think. I hope.

Wickre: What about businesses changing things? I've heard, of course, Tektronix coming made a difference.

Mrs. Tremendous difference.

Wickre: And shopping centers, also. Did they make a mark on you, I guess, when they came

Mr. Oh, yes. Where the Beaverton Mall is, of course, is where the ^{Bernard} airport used to be. ~~And that was Bernard's airport. It was there for a long time.~~

~~Wickre: Kind of a municipal airport?~~

~~Mr. Yes. Yes, that meant a change. ~~where~~ You didn't need to go into Portland at all when the bigger department stores came out here. ~~It made a big change.~~~~
--Big city stuff, now.

Wickre: Generally, the story when that happens is that people quit identifying with the nearest big city. ~~Did you find that to be true?~~

Mrs. Oh, definitely. We don't go in very often any more. Just on special occasions. I don't think I've actually shopped in the city of Portland for over a year. I go to Washington Square, or anywhere else, but mostly we have substituted Washington Square. ~~Because~~ Meier & Frank has always been the department store that we've favored and it's there.

Wickre: ~~That brings to mind not only when what had been a suburban area grows in this way, you not only stop identifying with the biggest ^{nearby} city that's nearby but you and start really conceiving of where you live as a distinctive area, which the residents of Portland would be less likely to do about Beaverton.~~

Mr. Yes. ~~They would, that's right.~~ Now this is a center point around here, in this valley. And it's getting big.

Wickre: What are the city limits?

Mr. Frankly, I don't know. When we came here, ~~it was Allen Avenue. That was~~ Allen ^{Avenue} was the south boundary, ~~and~~ the creek was the north boundary. You can't hardly find the creek now, but that was it. ~~and 145th~~ I don't think it even went to 145th.

Wickre: St. Mary's would have been way ~~out~~ out.

Mr. Yes. Well, it's on the corner of 145th. Murray Road is 145th. ~~Oh, gosh, it wasn't ever here very far -- just about on the other side of Lombard, I think about 100 ft. on the other side of Lombard was the other city limit at the time. It was very, very small.~~

4
Wickre:

~~Well, I imagine when the city was incorporated, then maybe you know this, the limits have to legally change for incorporation purposes. I mean, you can't have this little part incorporated, and then all this out here. They would have had to enlarge the city limits, I would imagine.~~

~~Mr. I don't know.~~

Mrs. Isn't it a matter of annexation ~~==~~ taxes?

Wickre: I'm sure that's part of it, yes. I don't know the details but I'm ~~just~~ guessing that a larger part of the area is now considered ~~#~~ part of the City of Beaverton.

Mrs. It goes for miles now.

Mr. Now, it goes down to Scholls Ferry Road, and goes up to Walker Road there and goes over to ~~how far is it over there -- on the other side of the highway?~~

~~Mrs. East or west, I don't know.~~

~~Mr. On the other side of 145th, ^{and} on the other side of 217. Yes, It's a big area now. Big city. It isn't as nice a place as it used to be.~~

Wickre: ~~Well, I was going to ask how you felt about the changes. Other than growth, do you feel like new kinds of people came in, ^{who} that ^{perhaps} you didn't have so much in ~~common with?~~ ^{or, what} makes a difference besides sheer numbers?~~

Mr. Oh, it's not the numbers so much, because of course we've been in the area -- we've gone to the Congregational Church all the time, ~~and so~~ therefore, our friends have been at that gathering point.

Wickre: Have your friends stayed in the area?

Mrs. Most of them.

Wickre: Are they still neighbors, or have they moved?

Mr. Oh, they've moved some; like we've moved a couple of times. Well, we haven't in the last 20 years ...

Wickre: You lived on 8th from 1944 to 1957 ...

Mrs. Knepp From 1944. ^A About 1949, we moved to a house in Aloha, on 185th & Blanton, ~~and~~ ^{we} were there until 1953, ~~and~~ ^{Then} we moved back to a piece of property across the street from Grandma's Table, ~~and then we were there until we~~ ^{and} moving back ~~to~~ to this house in 1957. But we have been within the area since ~~1936,~~ ^{1936,} excepting for those two brief absences of being in Eugene and Salem. ~~But~~ ^{As} far as ~~the~~ changes in people has been concerned, I think what affects me most is in our church. With the growth of the population, of course, the church has grown.

Wickre: Where was the church, by the way?

Mrs. 107th & Walker. The congregation has grown, ~~and the congregation has~~ changed. Many of the people we knew when we were younger and more active in the church are now dead. Not so many of them have moved, as died. ~~Because~~ ^{They} were older than ~~we~~ ^{we} 20 or so years more. And you don't know as many people as you used to. I think this area is most fortunate in the type of people who have moved out here speaking in a general sense, because for the most part, they ~~are~~

pretty well educated people and that makes a considerable difference to your area.

~~Wickre: When you say they moved out here, do you mean from Portland or wherever..~~

~~Mrs. From wherever they moved. Goodness, They have come in from all over the place to take white collar jobs in the area. The type of industry that has come out here calls for that sort of individual, I think we're very fortunate in having the progressive. and this is a progressive city, next to others you can think~~

Wickre: In terms of what it does for its citizens?

Mrs. And what the citizens are willing to do for the city too, in terms of passing bonds or taxes and that sort of thing. You have your people who are dissatisfied with everything that's happening, naturally, within the city, but this is to be expected.

Wickre: ~~But~~ Generally, you've been pleased, despite the growth, with the quality of people that are here?

Mrs. Yes, I have. I don't know about Paul, or if he's even thought about it. ~~I think~~

Mr. Knepp: I think the quality is all right. I don't like Beaverton nearly as much as I used to because it's grown so much that traffic is terrific now.

Mrs. That's nostalgia.

Wickre: Especially right now, because so much is torn out and they're working on it.

Mr. Yes, that doesn't bother me a bit, because progress is always going to be that way, but I didn't like to see it grow big. I like a little town and I still like to be in a little town. ~~I still would like to go back to 3, 4, or 5,000.~~

Wickre: Well, you know, some people ~~make that their pattern.~~ They'll just keep moving constantly away and out, but you get to the point where that's hard to do.

Mrs. Well, it very definitely is hard to do, and the older ~~that~~ I get, the more it means ~~to me~~ to remain in a ^{familiar} place, with which I'm very familiar, amongst old friends and all the things, ~~that are in this area,~~ close by, for us to do. ~~And~~ This means a great deal.

Wickre: And in the same church. That is something that changes for some people if they don't care for the congregation they're in.

Mrs. This is very true. You have to like your minister and you have to like the people ~~that are~~ involved in the church. ^Even if you may not know them very well any more, you still have to like them.

Mr. Between the church and the ~~Senior~~ ^{Senior} Stuhr ^{have} Center, we ~~got~~ enough to keep us busy ~~... the Senior Center.~~

Wickre: How ~~do~~ what do you do there?

Mrs. Whatever there is to be done; participating.

Wickre: Whose center is it? --The city?

Mrs. It belongs to the Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation ^District. It is owned and operated by them. We are also involved in the Loaves & Fishes Program ~~that is~~ operative ~~over~~ there, and I'm involved with the Senior Adult Advisory Committee, which is the total center including ~~it is~~ a committee that tries to coordinate what people want and what the director ~~wants~~ wants, etc.--Not programs

and activities, ^{but} policies, ~~more~~. Of course, Bethel Church also has a group that volunteers to serve Loaves & Fishes one day a month, which we help do. ~~And then we participate in classes and activities and things like that. We have two areas of responsibility.~~

Wickre: Are there people there ~~that~~ you have known a long time, or other long-time residents?

Mr. Oh, yes, same people ~~are~~ there, too.

Mrs. It's a very easy place to get acquainted.

Wickre: ~~Some other areas of questions I might ask are:~~ What are your political interests and activities -- local, regional, or community?

Mr. I've worked with Jack Nelson on city politics. That's about as far as politics is concerned.

Mrs. We're not politically-minded people. We vote, we don't forget that privilege. We vote on everything, but as far as being involved in political committee and things like that, no.

~~wickre: What are the city politics kinds of things ... various issues that come up, or?~~

Mr. ~~No.~~ We haven't done too much on the issues, actually, as far as participation is concerned. I've been on the ^{Campaign} Committee to Re-Elect Jack Nelson, that's all. ~~Campaign Committee.~~

~~Wickre: Well, I don't run across too many people who really get involved. I mean they may get involved with a local campaign or referendum issue that comes along, but I was curious. ^{but} your work with the Senior Center is what made me think of it.~~

Mr. ~~Well,~~ ^{we} try to keep the politics out of the Senior Center, and we've succeeded. It's non-political. It has to be.

Wickre: I was thinking if there are state bills that come up regarding funding for senior centers or something like that ...

Mrs. Anyone ~~who was~~ interested in that would then be working through the area agency on aging, or the county. We've both been members of the Area Agency on Aging, ~~we've been members of that committee, both of us,~~ but our terms are up so we're not participating actively in it as much anymore.

Wickre: ~~Well,~~ there's a section called philosophy, and the first question I think you've already answered, but I'll run it by you in case you have anything else to say about it. How strongly do you identify with Beaverton?

Mr. Well, as far as now is concerned, I'd say everything is Beaverton.

Mrs. We don't plan to move away.

Wickre: I had that feeling. It clearly is your city and your area.

Mrs. Absolutely.

Mr. Yes, there's no doubt of that, I'm afraid.

Wickre: I'm always interested in old areas that have become suburban; Now they retain their identity from each other, ~~you know Cedar Mill, next to ... and just driving down major streets you hardly know you're in one or another,~~ And yet the residents do.

Mrs Knepp: Definitely, ~~they do~~. I think that can be defined a great deal by school attendance area. ~~I think that has a great deal to do with it,~~ ^The school in ~~that~~ ^a particular attendance area ~~which~~ generally conforms to the original area of Cedar Mill, for instance, generally speaking. ~~Of course, it's enlarged but I think that has a lot to do with it.~~

Wickre: I think you're right. That's generally how people ~~will~~ connect. I haven't even asked you about the schools here. ~~How did you feel about them, your children going there.~~ How did the schools seem to change over time?

Mrs. Improved.

Mr. We never had any dissatisfaction with the system at all.

Mrs. I think Beaverton has an excellent school system. It was good when we were there; the man who was principal when we first moved here was called Mike Metzler, and his philosophy was to run an academic school, or if you want to put it another way -- a cheap school, because academically this is the cheapest type of system to run, because you have no shops and no extra, expensive equipment.

Wickre: ^{By} Does academic ^{you} mean ~~---~~

Mrs. College entrance, ~~this is correct.~~ ^Then the area enlarged and it became understood that a broader program was needed because more students were there who were not college-minded students; ~~and~~ this is one of the reasons for vocational study.

Mr. Well, there was only one high school, and less than 500 students ...

Mrs. ^{Mike Metzler} was an excellent principal; ^{he started in the 20's.} ~~he died recently.~~

~~Wickre: Was he principal for a long time?~~

~~Mr. Well, he started in the 20's. And I guess he retired in about the 60's. No, it was before consolidation.~~

~~Mrs. Yes, before consolidation because Mr. Herbert Armstrong was superintendent of Beaverton High School when I went to work in 55, so I think Mike retired in 1953. Because we had a ~~Mr. Saule~~ ^{Mr. Kauter} Karl Kahle for a year and then Mr. Armstrong was there for approximately a year when I went to work. I think it was about 1953 when Mr. Metzler retired.~~

Mr. He lived over here on Lombard. He ~~just~~ kept busy with his real estate deals and investments and ~~his~~ his interest in the Lodge. He was in the Masonic Lodge, and had his old cronies there, and they had a grand old time.

Wickre: Have there been a number of these kinds of fraternal organizations ~~that have~~ ^{with} had a Beaverton chapter? ~~for a while?~~

Mrs. Oh, yes, quite a number. The Elks, the Eagles.

Mr. The Elks formed in about 1950-something. The Oddfellows have been there at the grade school for a long time.

Mrs. I don't know WHEN the Beaverton chapter of the Oddfellows was formed. The Masonic Temple has been there for many, many years. I don't remember any other time when the Masonic Temple wasn't where it is now.

Wickre: ~~Well, I think you've answered this, too but I'll ask it anyway.~~ What do you think of ^{think are} your major contributions to the community?

Mr. Just being here, I guess.

Mrs. I really couldn't give an answer to that.

Wickre: What do you think you have offered?

Mr. We haven't done ~~a~~ a great deal. If you talk about volunteering services or anything like that, we haven't done anything much in that way. I think our biggest contribution might be that we've been staunch ~~backers~~ backers of Beaverton. We haven't created any waste but we haven't done any great, big thing.

Mrs. I think we've quietly, perhaps would be the ~~best~~ word, supported most of the things that the city of Beaverton has done; ~~most~~ ^{most} projects that they have proposed, ~~most of them.~~

~~Wickre: In terms of the city's growth and that sort of thing?~~

INTERVIEWER: Karen Wickre

TRANSCRIBER: Rosalie Wakefield (2-17-83)

TAPE 2, SIDE 1

- Wickre: Can you point to people in the community that ~~you think~~ have performed heroically for the city; have really gone that extra mile?
- Mrs. Well, yes, ~~I can think~~ but he's dead now. I ^{am} ~~was~~ thinking of Earl Fisher. What about Guy Carr?
- Mrs. Guy Carr, ~~of course~~; a businessman and a leader is really the tops. I really think so.
- Mrs. He has been here for so many years and had done a great deal for the city.
- Mrs. I think Fran has done quite a bit, too.
- Mrs. ~~Frank~~ Fran ~~Holboke~~ Holboke, yes he's done a lot.
- Mr. Well he's the one that made it possible for us to make the crossing on Hall Street. ~~He donated the...~~
- Mrs. That was a combination of Fran and the father of the man who owns Keil's, Otto Keil. He and Fran Holboke were partners in the Thrifty Grocery ~~Store~~ Store. ~~at that time and Otto, when the store was sold, the partnership split up, and Otto went (I think) to Hood River for Cascade Locks. up the gorge) And his son I think had the first -- the first time we heard about it he had a couple of grocery stores in Vancouver, Washington; and now he's moved over here, back in the area.~~
- Mr. But Fran -- he's got the Thrifty Wash on Cedar Hills Blvd. He owns it. Thrifty Wash. He's been a big man in town. So has Frank Holland's Feed. ~~The Holland family; they've~~ ^{have} been big people in town and very beneficial.
- Wickre: I don't know a lot of names of the real old timers but I do know there was ~~a group, which~~ an earlier kind of immigrant and rural farm group and then there was this later business development group -- the movers and shakers of the community. ~~So~~ Both are still here, clearly.
- Mrs. Yes, the Fanno ~~family~~ family, the Denney family, the Biggis -- our horseradish ~~people~~ people -- they were rural. Yes they were the agriculturists in the community.
- Wickre: I know you were in Portland during the war, but since I've had this other research going on about the war, I always think about this. Was that also a period of growth in some ways or a change in the kind of people that were in this area? In Portland, I know that was true, but I'm curious about whether you sensed it after the war: many more people stayed in Portland from all over.
- Mrs. Oh, yes, they did ~~not~~ here, too. This is inevitable, because those ^P people who, like Paul, were too old or whatever, or female, to get in the armed forces, their patriotic duty was the shipyards, and they came from all over.

3

You don't see it any more. It's gone.

Mrs. They never had a postoffice that we knew of, but they did at one time. I'm sure of it. ~~And then there was Reedville~~ ^{which is also} ~~Reedville's~~ getting all swallowed up.

Wickre: I've seen some old maps that had intersections with names on them. I asked the man who showed them to me, "Where are these?" And he said, "They're still there to some extent, but not with those names".

Mr. ~~Reedville~~ Reedville is still there, definitely, but it's disappearing. It's identity ~~is~~ gone.

Wickre: Do you feel that danger in Beaverton or do you feel that's happened?

Mrs. Oh I think that's ~~already~~ happened?

Mr. Beaverton ~~is~~ ^{has} swallowed up ~~practically~~ all the good land around here.

Wickre: How would you characterize Beaverton ~~now~~? ~~It's identity.~~ ^{identity}

Mrs. ~~Characterize the identity?~~ Beaverton is a city now rather than a small town. It is now a growing city. It doesn't have the characteristics ^{or the feeling} of a small town. ~~it doesn't have the feeling of a small town.~~ It has now become a city, an impersonal entity

Mr. Absolutely.

Wickre: ~~And you~~ Do you perceive that continuing?

Mr. Yes. The shopping center up here did a lot, and now ~~that's~~ Fred Meyer's shopping center is going over here, and there's a new one going up on 145th & Allen; so we're pulling away from the center ^{and} spreading out around the edges, getting ~~farther~~ ^{farther} away all the time.

Mrs. ~~This area through here~~ Central Beaverton, will, ~~eventually~~ ^{eventually} I am sure, eventually become multiple dwelling.

Wickre: Maybe also office space to some extent.

Mrs. Probably. It's right on a bus line.

~~Mr. You see those new offices over here and you see the ones the city's going to build and the one beyond that ...~~

~~Mrs. I was thinking from Boardway clear to Allen, this whole center along the highways will be multiple in the next 25 years. Maybe less, who knows.~~

Wickre: Wickre: Has the tax base generally kept up with the growth here, do you think?

Mr. Yes. Our taxes have gone up about five times. The tax base goes up about 6% each year.

Wickre: But the services are generally good?

Mr. Oh, yes, I really think city services are good. Fire, ~~and~~ police, water and electricity and taking care of the roads and taking care of progress of streets and traffic. Yes. They put in all these lights, ^{and everything} That's progress. Slows you down, ~~but~~ ^{but} it's progress. It keeps traffic under control.

Mrs. I don't want to make it sound as though this area is the greatest thing on earth. It isn't. It has its drawbacks. But compare it to many other places

that we've heard about and seen; I think it's pretty darn good.

Wickre: Do you feel drawbacks are related to growth now?

Mrs. Largely. And all its attendant problems. Because ^{you} have an increased crime rate ^{and} ~~You have all of these~~ ^{the} things that happen when an area gets large. ~~All~~ ~~the~~ good things are ~~going to be~~ increased, but all of the bad things are ~~going to be~~ increased in proportion.

Wickre: You have more of everything. I agree you don't know what's going to happen in the future, but your sense of the place and your description ^{doubt} leave me feeling like you were talking on a down note.

Mrs. Oh, we're not. I wouldn't want to ~~give~~ that impression because that is not the way we feel. ^{But} I don't want to sound like we're Pollyanna-ing the whole thing. We're just trying to be realistic about what's happened and accept it. ~~Accept~~ the necessary changes that have occurred.

~~Wickre: Do you have any concluding thoughts? Anything I forgot to ask that you would like to add.~~

~~Mr. We've covered a lot more than I've thought about for a long time.~~

Wickre: *Do you have any concluding thoughts?*

Mr. Knepp: *We've covered more than I've thought about for a long time.*