

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #176 - Side A/B

Subject: Frank & Betty Eki - With Video

Place: Eki Home - Burns, Oregon

Date: May 16, 1986

Interviewer: Dorothea Purdy

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy and I'm visiting with Frank and Betty Eki at their home in Burns, Oregon on May 16th, 1986. This is tape two. Okay, let's go on with our --- we were talking about the train wreck up there. What were some of the --- how did you pick up the logs and things, how did they get those?

FRANK EKI: Well they had a crane, you know, and get the cars up on the track, but first we had to build a temporary track over the old track because we couldn't do any digging. The ground was froze so hard, so tight.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember what date this was?

FRANK: Well I just don't remember, but must be sometime in January or around that time, because otherwise ---

BETTY EKI: There was a lot of snow.

DOROTHEA: Cold, and snow, and 50 below. (Laughter)

BETTY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell some of the experiences that you had on the building this track? Did you have a lot of trouble, or was it really hard to get it to work good? Or --- you spent a lot of time replacing all those ties.

FRANK: Well yes, it was, biggest trouble in getting the old ties out. Because they so rotten you can't get it out in one piece. You have to get all the old wood out of there, why

that wood going to affect the tracks later. Because you would have no solid foundation. So you got to get all that rotten ties out of there before you can get the new ties in there. And these ties were so rotten, why you just have to take them out, shove them out, and that is what took so much time trying to get it out.

But then we thought, you see they had a lot of gravel in places, but you just can't get enough gravel under the ties, so along side of the ties. So track was just sinking in the dirt. So we have to get the track up, oh anywhere from 5 to 10 inches.

DOROTHEA: How did you build up the track bottom? Did you haul that in or ---

FRANK: Well, yes we, when Mr. Geer took over they started to giving us lots of cinder, hauling all cinder in by cinder cars. Then we, in the summer, oh we must have spread about anywhere from 100 to a 150 cars in one year. So wherever we need it worse, then we got to get it. Gravel cost too high. Better, gravel was better, but cinder will do the job, and so much easier to work with too for us, that is. And so we got a lot of this red cinder. Then we have to get that under the ties. But before you can do that, we have to get the new ties in there. You can't do nothing with old tie, so rotten. So biggest job was to re-tie, put a new tie in. Then so --- but we used to, I used to just raise the rails up high enough to get all the old ties out, and put the new ties in there, and then resurface track. Oh, maybe I'll raise about anywhere from 4 to 6 inches. Back up higher, and get all the gravel or cinders along the side of the track, instead of, you know, get it under the tie instead of having on the sides of the track. Because that's what --- we just got to have good drainage. If you don't have it, why every time train goes over it, you know, the tracks are wet from rain, they just pound and it just throws the mud out, and they just keep sinking in. Then they get out of the surface. Then you get too much surface in there. Too much elevation in places, and the track gets awfully rough. But as long as you've got a good track bed, you have a pretty good track. It stays down in good shape. So that was the

main job, to get that track up high enough to get enough gravel or cinder under the tie, rather than having it on sides.

DOROTHEA: So when you first came here it wasn't a very good track?

FRANK: Oh, it was terrible. Like I was telling you earlier today, they start off from Hines to go to Seneca, and come back, they must get off the track about three or four times some days. And each time they jump off of the track because the gauge was too wide. Because when you go around the curve, always trying to push the rails off, going around the curve. That's why they fall in, because ties were not good enough to hold that track in gauge, you know, it spreads out, and drops in. And so then we have to repair all that. It takes so long to get that.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell me some of the differences that you experienced between the time that you first started working there in 1943, and when you quit working there in 19--- what?

FRANK: Oh, I quit in 19--- '74; it was something like that, '74, '76? No, '76, that's right. I quit in 1976, retired. Well for one thing, the tracks got lot better, so easier to work too. First we went there, it was terrible, we don't know where to start, or where to end. Because it was just, the whole thing was bad. All the ties, wasn't a single tie that was good. They were just running on the rails, but hoping that to stay on the track, is all. In some places, just buried in the mud.

BETTY: The later men had it lots easier, you know. It was already fixed up to a point where all they had to do was just keep it from getting, running down, you know. And then on top of that they got better pay.

FRANK: Really, it's a ---

BETTY: By the time the railroad quit, I think they were getting a dollar something an hour, weren't they?

DOROTHEA: When you first started?

BETTY: No, he was getting only 80 some cents.

DOROTHEA: 86 cents, that's right, I remember that.

BETTY: Uh huh. And then they didn't have any coffee breaks. They just had to work the whole day through. But towards the end why they got coffee breaks and --- this pillar to post, you know, traveling time. So they had, the conditions were lots better too.

DOROTHEA: What was the difference in the way you worked? Thad said that when he was working up there, he did a lot by hand.

FRANK: Yeah, mostly by hand. After Mr. Geer became superintendent, he tried to get modern equipment as he possibly can. But of course it takes money, and they can only go so much, so --- But we were able to get some of the equipment that we didn't have. It was a big help too. Like a Cat, D-4 with a bucket on it. And a rail layer, and that, all that. So I built

--- We used to load the gravel, cinder by the hand on a push car. That takes too long, manpower by the shovel, so I invent a car, a big dump car. Side dump, or center dump, all hand made, but I thought I got to have something, easier to work and faster, so we don't take too much man power. And since we had a Caterpillar with a bucket on, that sure helped a lot.

We done a lot of dumping too. Lot of times we got washout, by floods, you know, then we'd use a lot of rocks to build up the shoulder, sides. And that really came, very helpful. A lot of those cuts were so narrow, so we took a Cat and widened out, and same time we got a lot of the rocks and dumped, rolled them on top of the side dump, and where it was so narrow, and made a wider track bed, and to keep it from washing away. And really done a lot of that kind of work. Not just building the track, or maintaining the track, but we have to keep up the track, the track bed. So many places it washes away,

it's so narrow. So we have to widen that shoulder in order to keep the gravel from slipping away.

DOROTHEA: That made it last longer too.

FRANK: Oh yeah, uh huh. Oh, we used to figure about anywhere from 15,000 ties a year, change that many out. With the 50-mile track we need about 2,300 to the mile. So you can almost figure, see 50 miles ... we had Hines yard, Seneca yard, and lumberyards. It took a lot of ties, to switch ties. So we have to put in quite a bit of ties in order to keep it up, you know.

DOROTHEA: Now during the winter, did you do as much replacement as you did in the summer?

FRANK: Well in the winter season, we usually done a lot of the gauging track, to see that the rail gauge is right. It's not too wide, or too narrow, that the train won't jump off or doesn't fall in. It's a, quite a job trying to --- especially some of these sharp curves. The gauge gets so wide, in a short time; it would just push the rails out. So we got to keep that in line. Then a lot of time, we'd have a broken rail, broken joint. So then --- most of the time we spent, oh quite a bit of time on fence repairing in the winter season. We can't afford to spend too much time on the fence in the summertime. 'Course it's a slow job. Ground about, froze about 8 to 10 inches frozen so, you know, awful hard digging, but its got to be done. So even to fix --- or to dig a hole, we have to do it. So that's why we done a lot of that fence repairing. And of course later on in the year they come up with the steel post, that was a big help. All you do is drive it in, a lot quicker. But for a long time we had to put in a regular tamarack posts. That you got to dig a hole, well, you know. You should know! (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

FRANK: But it's a lot of work. Then the fence wasn't that good. Anywhere you go the

fence was down, and they got the cattle everywhere. And we can't afford to run cattle, run over cattle, you know. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Did you have much deer or elk damage to your fence every winter? Or did they ---

FRANK: Oh, I don't know. No, I don't think so. But hunter did a lot of cutting the wires and going through the fence. Not the deer themselves, but more likely the hunter is the one.

DOROTHEA: Because I know up where we run our cattle in the forest, in the wintertime, we have a lot of snow and deer and elk damage where they'll, the elk just run right through your fence. The deer, you know, jumps it.

FRANK: Oh. Well, I don't think we had hardly any elk between Hines and Seneca really, I don't think.

DOROTHEA: You know there is getting to be a lot up there now.

FRANK: Now, maybe so. Yeah, but olden day, you know ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

FRANK: We seen lot of deer. But I don't think we seen that many elk. Only time or two, so --- I know one time there was a deer cutting across by Scheckel's field, but I don't think that happened very often.

BETTY: We even saw a bear once.

DOROTHEA: You did?

BETTY: By Crow Flats.

DOROTHEA: Huh.

BETTY: I said that's a horse, no that's a dog. It's a bear!

DOROTHEA: That's a Superman! (Laughter)

FRANK: But ---

DOROTHEA: Tell me more about the speeders. How --- what did you use those for?

FRANK: Speeders to ride, well we ride on to go wherever you got to work, you go get on the speeder, and also you pull the push car, load of ties or cinder or whatever, rails or whatever. You got to have something for transportation purpose.

DOROTHEA: Now did they have those when you first went to work there, or did you ---

FRANK: Yes, we had a speeder, but it's all-open, nothing on it. Oh, it was so cold in the winter. Nothing to protect from cold winds, facing cold winds. So, and time went on we built a cab over, and then that sure helped a lot. And ---

DOROTHEA: Did they have a little heater in them?

FRANK: No, no heater.

DOROTHEA: No heater.

FRANK: No heater, no. (Laughter) No, you can't have a heater.

DOROTHEA: I thought maybe you might have one of those little gas heaters, or something, hand warmers.

BETTY: Warmers.

FRANK: You talk about speeder. Well Mr. Brookhart, when Mr. Geer took over the superintendent's job, well he hired this Mr. Brookhart as a foreman. Well he came, then a short time later he demand for the new speeder, he wants a new speeder. And he said, "Unless you get me a new speeder, I'm going to quit." And Mr. Geer didn't do anything; he just let him quit. Want to get rid of him, you know. (Laughter) But then of course later on we got one or two new speeder. Things ---

DOROTHEA: Now you said that Henry Geer did a lot of walking. He walked from Seneca ---

FRANK: Yeah, he walked from Seneca to Hines.

DOROTHEA: Every day?

FRANK: With a Mr. Coy, to see what has got to be done. How many ties we need, how many --- what kind --- how the rail condition is, and all this and that. Every day for, oh, the longest time. They can only walk so far, you know, each day. And I remember they, then they used to stop in at Trout Creek and she was cooking then. And stop in for lunch, or so on. Or have her make a lunch to take along with them. But they walk all the way from Seneca to Hines.

DOROTHEA: Huh.

BETTY: No, Mr. Coy, when I --- I wasn't cooking when Mr. Coy was

FRANK: Who was cooking, Mrs. Kuroda?

BETTY: No.

FRANK: Who was it?

BETTY: Some old man.

DOROTHEA: (Laughter)

FRANK: Oh, okay.

BETTY: Because I was still living in that little shack. I remember Mr. Coy though, I did get him lunch, and he gave me a dollar. (Laughter)

FRANK: Anyway, then Mr. Hines came a few times to go over the road, and stop in the camp, and we had quite a chat with him. He was a real nice man, and especially her, Mrs. Hines.

DOROTHEA: Was that Edward?

BETTY: Charlie.

FRANK: No.

BETTY: Charles.

DOROTHEA: Charles Hines.

FRANK: Older ---

BETTY: See the father was Edward Hines, and then it was Charles Hines that we knew.

DOROTHEA: Oh, uh huh.

BETTY: And then now it's his son that has the ---

DOROTHEA: That, that doesn't have it anymore.

BETTY: Yeah. He's the one that has it, that doesn't have it.

FRANK: And ---

BETTY: And then his nephew.

FRANK: And like Howell Howard, he's the ---

BETTY: Howell Howard is Mr. Hines' sister's son.

FRANK: We don't know him that well, but ---

BETTY: He used to come to camp with Scott Maitland, and they were kids.

DOROTHEA: Did Scott work up there?

BETTY: No. Mr. Maitland was the personnel manager at that time.

FRANK: Yeah, then he became assistant manager at the mill. And that is the point where we got to know him real well, because he wanted some job down in Seneca for the track and this and that.

DOROTHEA: That's Pat Maitland?

FRANK: Yeah, Pat Maitland. And when we --- they promote Ron Barrett to head --- You see I had five managers, I worked under five different managers. Also five different superintendents. Mill manager was Wahlenburg, first I came. Then right after him, Mr. Dewey took over. And when Mr. Dewey quit, then here's Mr. Jackson became manager. After Jackson, this ---

BETTY: Mr. Gearhart.

FRANK: Mr. Gearhart. Then after Mr. Gearhart, Mr. ---

BETTY: Blagen.

FRANK: Blagen. So five different management. The same way the railroad superintendent. Mr. Bert Kromer, and Mr. Geer, and Dan Crump became a superintendent, and then after him, Ron Barrett. And he died, and then here comes Mr. Richard Roy. That's when I quit, retired. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: That's when it was time to quit, huh?

FRANK: Yeah, I got along real well, until I didn't get along to well with Mr. Roy. Because we don't agree on a lot of the work, the way to do the work. And his idea and my ideas, you know, there is a little conflict there, but still he is the boss, so I have to do it the way he wants, he thinks. But I just didn't agree, and I lost interest doing the job. But of course it's about time anyway. I had work long enough.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, you had worked a long time. After you quit, was all the maintenance done on the tracks from Hines, or who did the work after you retired?

FRANK: Yes, well no, even when I was working, Mr. --- and when Mr. Roy, Richard Roy came, he changed the, he closed the camp, the Trout Creek Camp. And we all started working from Hines. On the high rail, they bought a high rail; the truck goes over the rail. Then from starting point was Hines, and it goes clear into Seneca. So naturally all they doing is riding around mostly. 'Course which is okay, because I had re-tied the whole thing. It was pretty well taken care of. Pretty well, you know, so it didn't need the major maintenance, just to do the minor problems. But even then, it's trying to do it, if a person want to do it, but---

DOROTHEA: And with the new managers come less Japanese workers, and more white workers.

FRANK: Oh yes, Japanese, we didn't have any more Japanese then. See we had to hire a bunch of these Basque people.

BETTY: And then they lived in town. They didn't want to live out in the country, you know.

FRANK: Yeah, and they, so that was the last few years of, you know ---

BETTY: Towards the end there was not very many people for me to cook even, so, to cook for.

DOROTHEA: Talking about your cooking Betty, can you remember any-thing that, any disasters that you had?

BETTY: Every day!

DOROTHEA: Oh? Besides every day, I mean.

BETTY: Oh, no. No. Well see at first it was by wood. We had to cook by wood, and we had those great big stoves, and they were good cookers, you know. And then Mr. Dewey remodeled the Guest House, or something, and they wanted to get rid of the old gas stove they had. So he said, "Well, why don't you take it down to Betty," you know. So I said, "Okay, I'll take it," you know. And it was the liquid propane gas. And so we got that, and at the same time he connected hot water, that made hot water. The gas made the hot water. So it made it real nice.

FRANK: Yeah, then of course when the power line went through, well Mr. Geer recommend to get us ---

BETTY: Electricity.

FRANK: --- electricity there. So we had it pretty good. And that was about, oh about 20 years ago, 25 years ago they put the power line in.

DOROTHEA: Oh, when you started you had bedbugs. Did you ever get rid of all those?

FRANK: Yeah, we finally ---

DOROTHEA: How did you do that?

FRANK: Yeah, we finally got rid of them. So people came later and they didn't know it.

But oh, we really worked hard on that. You know we had to get out and work, and put in a lot of overtime because of train wreck, and come home tired. And lot of times we don't get to eat lunch because no way of getting it. And then nighttime, weekend, in little spare time we have to fight with the bedbugs. Finally, we --- Oh, I don't know, we painted and we sprayed, and fumigated and keep it mopped up clean, and scrubbed. And oh, we done everything we can think of. But, and after we got the place nice and clean, we gradually got rid of them. But for a while, oh it was terrible! A lot of the mattresses we have to take it out and burn them up. It's only about two inches thick.

DOROTHEA: I think that was probably two inches thick of bedbugs.

BETTY: Yeah. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: That's probably the only way you can get rid of bedbugs.

FRANK: Oh, the bedbugs, you can't see a lot of the eggs laying against the wall, you know. Oh, it was terrible. I will never forget that. Oh, me.

BETTY: And you know Dorothy, when we first went, we didn't have any refrigeration. So what they did was put their meat in a kind of a cooler in that water tank, and meat got pretty old by --- They only ordered twice a week, you know. And then we used to get our groceries --- the train --- We used to buy it from Mrs. Schroeder; she had that, where the Pine Room is now. There used to be a little grocery there. And we ordered twice a week, and she would take the groceries up to the caboose. And the train would unload it for us. And then I'd call in through the phone, you know. And then as it got so we could drive, why then we started to go get our own groceries. So it wasn't too bad, really. You know, like I was telling you, when you look back you think, well it wasn't so bad.

DOROTHEA: I think most of my --- I grew up with a wood stove too, until we got, we didn't get electricity where I lived until about '51. But we had a light plant ---

BETTY: Oh.

DOROTHEA: --- you know. And so we kind of had electricity. But my mom had a gas refrigerator and ---

BETTY: Oh, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: --- and a wood stove. And I'd forgotten until I started cooking for the haying crew and the riding crew, how it was to cook on a wood stove. And if it wasn't so much trouble, and I wasn't so lazy, oh, the food is so good.

BETTY: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: You can't have coffee; it just doesn't taste the same off of an electric range. I don't care how you cook it, or how it perks or anything; it just doesn't taste the same.

BETTY: We used to make the coffee in the big --- you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BETTY: And like I say, I didn't know how to cook, period! But I thought, well if it's just going to be for a month, I'll struggle. But like you say, the food does taste --- and then we used to make our pancakes on the griddle. And it comes out so much different than on the frying pan, or ---

DOROTHEA: It does, it does. Oh, they're good, nothing I like better than --- I gripe and complain every year about going up and cooking for the riding camp. It dropped from --- when we first started cooking up there, it took us almost 21 days. And then it dropped to about 14, and then it dropped to about 10. The last three years we was up there, it only took us 4 days to ride.

BETTY: Oh.

DOROTHEA: It took me four days to move my cooking gear up there, you know, and the supplies and things. Then boy, when we moved out, one day! Man I'll tell you, just "zoop" and we were moved out. But oh, the food was so good. It was just ---

BETTY: And I think being out in the open too, you know, I wasn't that good of a cook.

But so many kids that come to work there in the summer would go home and tell their mothers what a good cook I am. So I would say, "I wasn't a good cook, the kids worked hard all day, and the food really tasted good when they come home, and clean up and eat," you know. I says ---

DOROTHEA: Thad was talking about, there was only one thing that he didn't like, and that was Japanese radishes.

BETTY: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: He didn't like that odor.

BETTY: Yeah, it has that kind of offensive smell, you know. But that's ---

DOROTHEA: He said, "I just about have to get up from the table and leave."

BETTY: Yeah. (Laughter)

FRANK: Maybe I'd better give you a smell. I've got some now.

DOROTHEA: Oh, do you? (Laughter)

BETTY: The radish does have that kind of a putrid smell, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

FRANK: But, you know, really we did have a good time. And we enjoyed working for this outfit, Hines. Because, well we had a good boss. Mr. Geer was so understanding. So was Mr. Dewey, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey. One time after we got the man bus, because we had to travel so far, come into Hines doing the job. So they furnish us a man bus. Be so much quicker than our, leave all the railroad equipment at Poison Creek. Then we're going to follow there with the bus, then start from there with the speeder, or whatever. Well, some summer weekend, we want to take the men out and go picnic. And we didn't have a, you know, bus or car that --- so we ask Mrs. Dewey to see if they will let us use the man bus to take the men out for a picnic. ... Ordinarily we can't do that on Company buses, you know. But, so we thought it was real nice of them, you know. Just any time

she said, you just go ahead. Whenever you feel like you got to take the men out or do, why we'll be glad to let you have it.

BETTY: In those days, Dorothy, I worked for \$90 a month. And it was every day, not one day off.

DOROTHEA: Seven days a week.

BETTY: Seven days a week, and if I wanted to come in for shopping, he would take a man off the tracks, and he would cook that day. But it was a long time. And then if the men put in overtime, I still had to stay in the kitchen and be ready for them to eat. And then if they had to get up early and go, I had --- But I didn't get extra pay, or anything.

DOROTHEA: Did you cook three meals a day, or did you send lunches with them?

BETTY: No, we sent lunches. We cooked enough at suppertime so there would be leftovers, or I made something extra.

FRANK: Three-meal day with the weekends. Yeah.

BETTY: Yeah. And then I had to cook ---

FRANK: Really she should have been off on the weekend. She should have had a day off. But never had, because we never had that kind of understanding with them, you know. Never --- well I don't think, I don't know what they done before, before we came. But she just had to cook all the way through.

DOROTHEA: You worked seven days a week, huh?

FRANK: Yeah, right.

BETTY: Well they had a day off, but the cook didn't.

FRANK: Yeah.

BETTY: And then it was the cook's job to take the mail out, you know, to the highway, and go get it. And then it was the cook's job to have the bath water going, so that there would be hot water. Then it was the cook's job to keep the toilets clean, you know, the

outdoor toilet.

DOROTHEA: So you were the maintenance crew, really.

BETTY: But I didn't do the toilets, because one man said he would do the toilets. So I said, "Okay!" So he was good enough to clean them. But then the bath --- there was a lady there, and they never washed, I mean when they washed, they just made enough hot water for themselves. They never kept the fire going. I asked one lady, I said, "Well, when you wash," I said, "will you take care of the bath?" She says, "No," she says, "that's not my job." And she wouldn't even keep the fire going, you know. And yet they were the first ones to jump in the bath, to take the shower when the water was ready. And so by the time the men came home, I had to start the fire up again. And that's ---

DOROTHEA: How did you heat that? Was that wood stove too?

BETTY: Well they had that big oil drum made into a stove. And we had those; the Company furnished us with wood, get that.

DOROTHEA: And this was all summer too?

BETTY: Yeah, all year around, uh huh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: So it was nice and hot in the summertime?

BETTY: Yeah. But I didn't mind it so much. The cooking, the kitchen was quite airy, you know. So I would put the stuff on the stove, and then I would go outside and sit for a while, and then come in and stir up and go out again.

DOROTHEA: Now was the cook shed, or the cook, whatever you call it, was it a different house than your own?

BETTY: Yeah, uh huh. So I had to get up early in the morning and go start up the fire. And then later on there was one man who always got up early. He had the fire going for me, so by the time I got there, why, there was hot water for the coffee, and every-thing, you know. But he left. But then by that time we had electricity, so it was a little easier.

DOROTHEA: So then did you get an electric hot water heater then when you got ---

BETTY: Well, we had this gas ---

DOROTHEA: Oh.

BETTY: Uh huh, so it wasn't --- When I think of it now --- Only thing was that I had to get up early and --- And then when the men got a raise, I never got a raise, you know. So ---

FRANK: So sometimes we took it up with the Company, you know, and sometimes they give her the raise. Sometimes they won't, you know. All depend on their mood, you know. But I guess they treated okay, you know. So really we shouldn't have anything to complain. When people start complaining there is no end to it, you know.

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah.

BETTY: When we were in ---

DOROTHEA: And that's what they do all the time anymore, you know, our ---

BETTY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Our younger generation doesn't know anything but the best.

FRANK: Yeah.

BETTY: When I was in camp, why I was doing the washing for the personnel. And I was getting \$16 a month, and he was working here, and his first check was about \$72 for two weeks. I thought, oh my goodness, that is a lot of money. I have to work a whole year to get that. But of course as we get a little bit more, a little bit more, we wish we had a little bit more still.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

FRANK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I talk about when Clinton and I was first married, we made \$75 a month, and \$60 of it went on a pickup payment. That was our car payment.

BETTY: Oh. That was quite a bit for those years.

DOROTHEA: But Mom and Dad (Purdy) furnished our groceries, so we got along pretty good. But then when we had kids, that wasn't enough, you know. But we got married in '56, by then, you know, we got --- it was --- You know, you were making a little bit more than ---

BETTY: Well when we first got married, he was getting only \$70 a month. And so they said, "Well, you go home and eat your meals, and I'll give you a \$100," you know. So we lived near the place where he was working, so he used to come home for his meals, and so we got a \$100 a month. And we had a cute little house for \$15 a month. And that's where we were when we had to evacuate, when the war started. And at that time, why they were saying that the Niseis, like us, the citizens wouldn't have to move. So we thought, well gee that's all right, you know, so ---

FRANK: Well that's the only reason I bought the store, took over the store. But that didn't last us too long.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BETTY: But then my mother died just before the war started. She died in November, and I was so glad because I thought, oh gee, she'd be put in some kind of a camp, because she was an alien. And she had lost her leg, she had surgery, and I thought gee, I'll never see my mother again. But she died, and we were able to give her a decent burial, you know. Because after that we couldn't do anything as a group.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BETTY: And then --- Then when we went to the grocery store, then we had to move. Then Doug was only 2 when we went, he was 4, you know, so --- by the time we came here.

DOROTHEA: Well now do you still like Burns? I mean ---

BETTY: Oh, yes.

DOROTHEA: --- do you ever think about moving?

BETTY: No, the only thing I would, reason why I would move is because I'd have to be near the kids, you know. Getting so old that we can't get around, or depending on somebody. But other than that, as long as we're moving on our own power, we want to stay here.

FRANK: Yeah, well every time we go to Portland, the kids are saying, "Why don't you guys sell off and move to Portland?"

BETTY: They say you spend enough for gas to buy a house, but ---

FRANK: Well we will one of these days but, you know, I just hate to think about moving.

BETTY: You know, just because you are in Portland doesn't mean you're going to be happier or better off. In fact, you have to go farther for things there. Here we could walk to our grocery stores, over there you have to start up your car to go buy ---

DOROTHEA: Well, you wouldn't dare walk; somebody would knock you on the head.

BETTY: Yeah, uh huh, yeah. And --- I don't know. We go to Portland and stay with Doug and Norman, but it just doesn't seem

--- It's good to come home.

FRANK: But the nice thing about that is ---

DOROTHEA: Is Elliott married?

BETTY: No.

DOROTHEA: He's not.

BETTY: He's going to take care of us. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Is Norman married?

BETTY: Yeah, he's got two.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he does?

BETTY: Uh huh. Yeah, he got married; let's see, four years. See that's his wife over

there. And that's the, the little baby is his youngest baby.

DOROTHEA: These two? (Looking at pictures in the background.)

BETTY: Yeah, uh huh, and then there's the older one is up there by the clock, with Norman. I don't know if you remember Norman or not.

FRANK: That's Donna Mae's girls. She's got three girls.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she does?

FRANK: Uh huh. And of course Norman have --- his oldest ---

BETTY: That's the baby.

FRANK: Then ---

BETTY: Those are Doug's kids right there.

FRANK: Doug and Gloria, she's got four.

BETTY: Four.

DOROTHEA: They have all boys?

BETTY: No.

FRANK: Of course the oldest one is adopted.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

FRANK: He's part, part Filipino. And ---

BETTY: Now, that's a girl. The second one is a girl.

FRANK: Yeah. Now she's a, picture is terrible looking.

BETTY: Everybody thinks she is a boy, because of her hair.

DOROTHEA: Oh, they've got two, two girls then?

FRANK: Yeah.

BETTY: Yeah, two girls and two boys. Uh huh.

FRANK: Yeah, and ---

BETTY: Yeah, that's the latest picture, I think. Yeah.

FRANK: So, but I don't know maybe someday we may have to move to Portland, but as much as I hate to think about it, well ---

BETTY: The only time I wish I lived someplace where things would grow, you know ---

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BETTY: --- is when it is growing season, like flowers and stuff.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, where ---

FRANK: But we're ---

BETTY: We set things out and it freezes overnight, and we got ---

FRANK: We're comfortable here, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

FRANK: And everybody is, you know, friendly. We've no regrets.

BETTY: That's what I say, I'm so glad in a way that we did come here because we've made so many friends that I wouldn't have made otherwise, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Well I, I don't know. I'm so partial to Burns that I hate to have people say, "Oh, why don't you move away from that place," you know. My sister is one of them, and she'd never move back to Burns.

BETTY: Oh, Helen?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BETTY: Oh.

DOROTHEA: And I'd never move away from it.

BETTY: I think if they moved away while they were young, you know, like Doug, you know. They were here for a while, and they moved away, and now they don't think they'll ever come back.

DOROTHEA: Well, you know, the bad part of it is, is we have no interests for them. And, you know, the economy like it is, it's not a good place to live.

BETTY: Yeah.

FRANK: Yeah, that's the only thing, right.

DOROTHEA: And they don't have any way to make a living.

BETTY: And you have to go so far to get anywhere.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BETTY: Yeah. I always say if I have friends, I take them up to the high school, and the cemetery, and the museum, and that's all.

DOROTHEA: (Laughter) Yeah.

BETTY: You know. There's no shopping mall or anything where ---

FRANK: And another thing I think, even if you have a good education, if you want to get up to some higher position, this isn't the place to stay.

DOROTHEA: No, no.

FRANK: There is no chance here. But if you go to bigger town, you got a lot more opportunity.

BETTY: I think it's cheaper to live here in a way, because there's no place to spend your money, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

FRANK: So --- Oh --- But, it's good, you know.

BETTY: Our friends ask, "How can you live where there are no Japanese?" And I said, "Very well!"

DOROTHEA: Now that was a question I wanted to know. Do you miss, or do you --- how do I want to say it? Do you realize that you are Japanese among us people, or do you feel like you are just like us?

BETTY: Well, I feel like I'm one of you, you know. Because I don't associate with any Japanese. We never did associate much with the Japanese when we were kids even.

Not because we thought we were better, but we just didn't live where there were. And that's why my kids all married Caucasians because they feel out of place with anybody else.

DOROTHEA: They're all married to white?

BETTY: Yeah, uh huh. They all feel like they're one of the Caucasian group, you know. They don't feel a bit Oriental. And they can't speak it to begin with.

DOROTHEA: Well I personally don't feel like you are an Oriental, because I have grown up with you. See, so you know, you are just like people to me.

BETTY: And you have seen us ever since you were young too, you know, so ---

DOROTHEA: So, you know, I don't --- Now it's a little different, I ---

BETTY: Doug said I never like to date a Japanese girl, because I feel like I'm talking out my own sister.

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah. (Laughter)

BETTY: You know.

DOROTHEA: Back to the cooking. What was some of your main dishes? Did you do a lot of Oriental cooking? Or did you cook mostly ---

BETTY: Well it was a mixture. They had to have their rice. So no matter what, we had our rice. And even with steaks, you know, we had rice. And it was more like, I don't know if you know the sukiyaki dish or not, it's a meat cooked with vegetables. And when you are cooking for a crew like that it doesn't have to be fancy, just so there is a lot of it. And then we used to have fried eggs in the morning, you know. I don't know how they survived because, you know, they say you shouldn't eat more than two eggs a week. We used to have two eggs every morning, for seven days. And sometimes I'd think, oh, they must be getting tired of fried eggs, I'll boil it. And you know they won't eat it, they wouldn't eat it. It had to be fried eggs. And some of them wanted sunny side, some of them

wanted turned over. Some of them wanted it --- So I used to have a list there, how many sunny sides, and this and that, you know. But it was ---

DOROTHEA: That's something I've never been able to cook, and that's a decent egg.

BETTY: I know. That's what I say, after 40 years of frying eggs, you'd think I could put out a perfect egg, but I still can't.

DOROTHEA: That's one thing I did not do at riding camp, and that was cook breakfast.

BETTY: Oh.

DOROTHEA: I told Clinton --- he used to complain about how I cooked my eggs. Well, they were always broken, you know. He says, I said if you don't like them, cook them yourself. So he did.

BETTY: Oh, uh huh. And we used to have hardy breakfasts; you know, like fried rice, fried potatoes. It's all against the health books now. If you ate that you weren't gong to live ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, I know. I don't know how we ever made it to our age.

BETTY: I know it, I know it.

DOROTHEA: I got a letter from my aunt this morning, and she said that her mother-in-law just celebrated in March her 101, her hundred and first birthday.

BETTY: Oh, my goodness.

DOROTHEA: And she fell the night or so before and --- she'd gotten up to take a pill, or get a glass of water or something, and she had broken some part of her ---

BETTY: Oh.

DOROTHEA: --- face when she fell, and she was getting stitches in that. But 101 years old, and I know that she ate eggs and ---

BETTY: Bacon and ---

DOROTHEA: Bacon and potatoes and gravy.

BETTY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: You know all the things that we shouldn't eat today.

BETTY: I know it. And they just used to smear the biscuits in the bacon grease.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BETTY: My mother used to do that too, yeah.

FRANK: Well, you know, I think Harney County was really good for me, as far as I was concerned, you know. I raised my four kids, and give them a good education. Because if it wasn't for here, I may not able to give them a good education, and all, you know. And all the things we have. We had a pretty good retirement pension. And so I don't really have nothing to regret.

BETTY: But I'll tell you. When they told us we have to leave Trout Creek, you know, they gave us the word that we --- The mountains never looked prettier, you know. Before we just took it for granted. And then all of a sudden I thought, gee, the snow looks pretty up there. And I thought, gee, I'll never see this anymore. And it's kind of sad when the time comes. I used to think, gee, I wish they'd tell us we have to move into town, so I could move into town. But when the time came, I hated to.

DOROTHEA: I hated to move to Silvie's Valley. Clinton always called it "God's country." And I thought, I don't know where he gets that! It was not God's country to me. It's not hardly civilization. We couldn't run the radio, because you couldn't get good reception, you couldn't get TV, you couldn't get a telephone. You know, you had to drive to get anywhere, and ---

BETTY: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And ---

BETTY: And our telephone wasn't always working, you know.

DOROTHEA: Well when we moved up there they didn't even have it, you know. So ---

BETTY: Oh.

FRANK: Oh, you weren't connected to the railroad phone, huh?

DOROTHEA: Huh uh.

FRANK: Oh, I see. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: No, we never had a telephone up there at all. Silvie's Valley was remote as far as I was concerned.

FRANK: Oh, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: But then when we, when Clinton bought this place down here and he said, "We're moving," I didn't want to leave my home. I didn't want to leave from up there.

BETTY: Yeah, that was pretty, wasn't it?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BETTY: You know when I first went to Trout Creek I thought, how am I going to get used to this train coming right through our house.

DOROTHEA: (Laughter)

FRANK: You sleep ---

BETTY: And you know the second night I didn't even notice. You got used ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, the railroad runs right through the middle of the house!

BETTY: Yeah, uh huh. Oh, that was a good time. They used to have a couple shifts on the train, and people coming and going. And Beulah Rhoades, you know, she used to bring the crew up and this and that. It was a good time.

DOROTHEA: How did your kids, what did they think of it? Did they just accept it, or ---

BETTY: Yeah, they accept it, because they didn't know anything else, you know. And the only thing was, I felt so sorry for Doug. Of course at that time I didn't. But now, when I think back, because we didn't have electricity. I always say, I didn't know whose kid I had until the end of the week. Because he'd go to school when it was dark in the winter, and

come home when it was dark. And when it was school, I said, "Hurry up and go to school, get ready and go to school." Then when he comes home, it's hurry up and get to bed. And, you know --- and it was at the end of the week to see if it was my kid or not.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

FRANK: Well, you see, he have to walk out to the highway. Well, lot of time he have to go clear out to the Old Trout Creek. And then get off there and walk in from there. And that's quite a walk, you know.

BETTY: But, you know, Lamberts did the bus driving then. And the timing was done according to his work. And he had to be at --- I don't know what he was doing, but he had to ---

FRANK: No, he didn't --- she ---

BETTY: But anyway they --- so they had to --- Doug had to leave home around 6:30. And then they had to wait until they got through with work and it was around 7 o'clock then. And someone told me; they said that's not right. And we had to pay extra.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you had to pay?

BETTY: Uh huh, we had to pay. The school board decided to have a school bus because they closed the school there, and so Mr. Lambert said he would drive. But he said, "I'm not going to drive unless it's from my house." And you know where they lived. And he said, "If they want me to go pick them up, they have to pay extra," so we had to pay extra. And I was saying that, and somebody said, "That's not right, if the school bus is running, you shouldn't have to pay." So ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, you know, for a long time they ran that great big bus clear up to where Shetkeys used to live, for one kid.

BETTY: Oh, oh.

DOROTHEA: Because when our kids quit riding up there, well there was --- they were

riding in cars then. But about the time that we quit riding, well Byassee's didn't drive the bus any longer, so they drove this great big school bus up there.

BETTY: Oh yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: They drove it up there all that way for one kid.

BETTY: Uh huh. But what they should have done was hire someone like --- And then when Byassee's had it, my goodness, when the Sheckleys all went to school, there must have been bout 20 kids in that little car.

DOROTHEA: That was once --- yeah.

BETTY: Yeah. Of course luckily the Sheckleys didn't always go to school, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, very seldom.

BETTY: If they didn't go they had a little more room. And then, let's see, Mr. Westfall drove a big rig for a while.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's who it was. I remember.

BETTY: Yeah. He drove a big rig, because he was an electrician, and he said he could use the car for that. And then Bob Gilliland drove, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's what Clint said too.

BETTY: Uh huh.

SIDE B

BETTY: Mr. Pierce was real nice.

DOROTHEA: I'd forgotten about Carl Westfall. I remembered the rest of them, but I'd forgotten about Carl Westfall.

BETTY: You know Donna Mae was so short legged, and so little, and we had --- they had to cross that field to get out to the highway, so Mr. Pierce would come for her, and bring her in at night on his shoulders, you know. Because the snow would be so high up across

her crotch, and in those days kids couldn't wear pants to school.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BETTY: I don't know if you remember.

DOROTHEA: Oh yes, I remember.

BETTY: Oh, and I used ---

DOROTHEA: I remember those ugly socks that I had to wear because they were so cold too.

BETTY: And I used to ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, yuk!

BETTY: --- wish that they would let us at least wear pants, you know, our kids. But ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BETTY: Oh yeah, and Byassees. Yeah, I don't know how they started to send the big bus. Maybe Byassees quit, and so they just included in their budget or something.

DOROTHEA: I think it was when Byassees quit, because it was after we moved down to Burns.

BETTY: Oh.

DOROTHEA: So it was after Byassees quit sometime in there. And they started sending the big bus out.

BETTY: Because at our place there was quite a big family then, you know. Okitas had four, and I had four, and the Furukawas had two, so --- and then the Soujis had two, so there was quite a few kids there for a while. One time a car came in and asked us where the grocery store was, they thought it was a town.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

BETTY: They asked us if we sell beer.

DOROTHEA: No, just down the road a ways.

BETTY: Yeah.

FRANK: But I think one of the reasons was because economy got better too, as time went on, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

FRANK: So maybe they could get a bigger school budget. And some --- Oh gee, for a while, gee business was really booming.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

FRANK: Lumber sawmills, gee they were running six days a week, overtime. And gee whiz, railroad hauling lot of wood and lumbers from Seneca. And they, you know, so really --- made, the railroad made a lot of money some of those years.

DOROTHEA: Now were you still working on the railroad track when Seneca went out of business, or closed the mill up there?

FRANK: Uh huh.

BETTY: That was just recently though, isn't it?

DOROTHEA: Was that --- No, I can't remember. It seems like before we moved to Burns. And we moved to Burns in ---

FRANK: Well Seneca shop was closed when, you know, when I was still working on the railroad. And now they got completely tore down.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

FRANK: But ---

BETTY: See we've been here already 15 years.

DOROTHEA: You must have moved down here just before we did.

BETTY: Oh.

DOROTHEA: When did you move down? We moved down in '73.

BETTY: Oh. Well we moved around '70, because Norman graduated, and then when he

came home for the summer we were, we had just moved. So it would be, yeah, maybe '71, or something like that. Because he graduated in '70, and then he went to school one, U. of O. one year, yeah. So times goes by, years go by so fast I can't believe, you know, that ---

DOROTHEA: I can't either.

BETTY: I can't believe that I was young once, that's for sure.

DOROTHEA: I can't, I can't believe that I'm old. Let's put it that way.

BETTY: When I see these kids that are 20 years, I think gee, was I that young once? It must have happened while I was taking my nap. (Laughter) But I have some pictures that, when we first came here these bushes were just, look like they had just been planted, and look at how big they are.

DOROTHEA: Now you bought --- this wasn't ---

BETTY: This was Doug's house.

DOROTHEA: Oh, it was?

BETTY: Uh huh. See when he and Gloria got married, they didn't want to live out there. She was working for the Forest Service anyway, so we got them this house, and then he decided to move to Coos Bay, because that's where her folks were. And so they leased this house for a year, but in the meantime why there was talk of the camp closing. And then the people had signed a lease for a year, but that wasn't until after we were told to get out of there. So we tried to rent a house, but we couldn't find one that we liked, and we couldn't ask these people to move, so we asked the Company if we could just stay in Trout Creek until the lease was up for these people. So they let us. And in the meantime I was working as the janitor for the Company.

DOROTHEA: So you were going back and forth.

BETTY: So we were going back --- And I used to pass this house, and I'd say, "Just think

if I lived there, I'd be opening the door now, and sitting down and saying, gee that was a hard day, you know." And we never got through until about midnight every day. Because --- we came, after he quit work. And so that would be about 5 o'clock.

FRANK: Yeah, see I used to go and help her do the job too.

DOROTHEA: You janitored at the guesthouse?

BETTY: No, at the office.

FRANK: At the main office.

DOROTHEA: At the office, oh.

BETTY: See, I would have lost my job. And if I had gone to work as a salary --- wage earner, I may have been able to get in the mill. But I would have lost my Company pension, you know. And so I told them that since I'm not quitting, I said you have to find me a job someplace. And so in the meantime why they were saying, well, they are thinking about getting someone to clean the office. Because they weren't entirely satisfied with the janitorial service that they had there, so that's what I did up till just a few years ago.

DOROTHEA: So you've got time in with the Company too.

BETTY: Yeah, yeah. See I was working under the railroad, but that was with the Hines Company, so that included into the Company pension. And so I didn't work until I was 65, I retired at 63. Because by that time we had Norman out of school, you know, and I thought, oh heck, we've worked enough, you know, so ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BETTY: David Van Hise came to take my place. At first I wasn't going to quit. I said, "Will you take over while I'm gone for a month or so?" So he said, "Okay." Then when I came home I said, "David," I said, "how would you like to send your kid to medical school?" I said, "I'm quitting!" So he's still doing it. I don't know if he'll --- I don't know if

he'll go to medical school or not, but I gave him the job, and so ---

DOROTHEA: Well that means that, what you work there about 23 years too then?

BETTY: Yeah, all together. Uh huh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: You had some good time in.

BETTY: Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I mean you worked a long time. It's time you are retiring.

BETTY: Yeah. I ---

DOROTHEA: Well I've really enjoyed this. I ---

BETTY: Oh, I did too.

DOROTHEA: I like to live in the past, I should say. But I've enjoyed visiting with you. I didn't mean to take up the whole evening, and ---

BETTY: Oh, no. We like to have somebody ---

FRANK: We don't have anything, nothing else to do, you know, so it's good to think back. Because a lot of things forgotten.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

FRANK: Because it's been almost, well 40, over 40 years around. And ---

BETTY: We've had so many people come and go, that we have forgotten the names of a lot of people.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, uh huh.

BETTY: But do you know these kids that came to work for us during the summer, they all became --- well they are not somebody, but they've come into good jobs. And quite a few of them have said that they owe it to us, not to me but to him, for giving them the job during the summer because that gave them money to be able to continue their education. And so they feel, we feel, that way.

FRANK: Quite a few, and they are all doing well. Some have become professor.

DOROTHEA: Well, that makes you feel like you have accomplished something, you know.

BETTY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: At least you've ---

BETTY: The sad part is they became smarter than my kids.

DOROTHEA: Oh! Well --- (Laughter) But that makes you feel like at least you, you were put here for a purpose.

BETTY: Yeah, at least, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Even if it was a Ouija board or something that --- (Laughter)

BETTY: I'm sure that ---

DOROTHEA: --- said come to Eastern Oregon.

BETTY: Yeah, I'm sure those kids never worked that hard in their life, because working on the railroad is hard. That heat, that the rails, you know, draw the heat.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, yeah.

BETTY: And that's hot, just to be --- And they worked during the summer so it was real hot, so --- But all my kids worked on the railroad as soon as they were --- except Donna Mae, you know.

DOROTHEA: All of them did?

BETTY: Uh huh. Doug and --- as soon as they became of age, they worked on the railroad. And Donna Mae didn't work on the railroad itself, but she helped me cook, you know, so ---

DOROTHEA: Did the Okitas work on the railroad too?

FRANK: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: The kids, I mean.

FRANK: Yeah.

BETTY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So they were, got some of their schooling through that too.

BETTY: Yeah.

FRANK: I don't know if any of their kids went to college. Which one of them?

BETTY: Oh yeah, I think, I think Gil went to Multnomah College, and I'm sure Carl did too.

FRANK: Oh, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: I don't know. I haven't kept up with the kids.

BETTY: I don't think about ---

FRANK: But like I say, Doug is the, in our family Doug is the only one that didn't care too much about getting an education, but all the other three, why ---

BETTY: I used to say, "Doug," I said, "why don't you bring your books home?" So one day here he comes with every book in his desk, and he plops it down, and he said, "There's my books!" (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: What did you want to do with them, huh?

BETTY: Yeah. I want him to study, but --- I said, "Why don't you bring your books home." So he said, "Well there they are!"

DOROTHEA: Yeah. (Laughter)

BETTY: That's how much he liked it. And I used to tell him, "Doug," I said, "education is for you, not for me." You know --- (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: That's what I always said. "I already learned, now it's your turn."

BETTY: Yeah, it's like trying to --- Now I think he begins to realize that, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Does he have a hard time with his own kids? Are they interested?

BETTY: No, Gloria more or less controls them. He --- he's a wage earner. And ---

DOROTHEA: What was Gloria's last name, I can't ---

BETTY: Schute.

DOROTHEA: That's right.

BETTY: Uh huh. Her father was a Lutheran minister here.

DOROTHEA: That's right. I was trying to think of that the other day, and I couldn't think of it.

BETTY: You might know --- Oh, maybe --- Maybe one of you --- now you have a brother, John?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BETTY: Now he went with Donna Mae, didn't he, went to school?

DOROTHEA: He went to school with her.

BETTY: Yeah. Now Dennis Schute went to school here one year. Now do you have anybody else younger than Johnny?

DOROTHEA: Huh uh. John's the youngest.

BETTY: Oh.

DOROTHEA: Helen and John are the youngest two kids.

BETTY: Yeah, remember those PTA's? Your mother and father were so active, you know, those PTA's. Your dad still looks good.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he's starting to fade a little bit now, you know. His --- can't ---

BETTY: Forget.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. And he doesn't get around real good.

BETTY: Well how old is he, about 80?

DOROTHEA: 84. He's --- the last 3 or 4 years, well he's really faded, it's showing real lot. He doesn't --- the Senior Center brings up his meals, and ---

BETTY: Huh.

DOROTHEA: He's just so afraid to get out. So many people --- he lives up in the Maryhurst, and so many people have broken their legs up there, and he is just scared to death of it. So ---

BETTY: Yeah, they get so brittle. Sometimes I think the bone breaks, and then they fall.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah. I think so. But --- Is there anything else that you wanted to add maybe, something about, something comical or something that's happened that you still remember?

BETTY: Hmm, no. But there was a big wreck one time. What was that? The speeder ran away and all those guys got hurt, and we were in Portland. We got into Portland; we were going for a visit. We no sooner got there than my sister said, "You have a big wreck, you got to go home." So we turned right around and came home.

FRANK: Oh, yes.

BETTY: The speeder ---

FRANK: Yeah, we were gone. Then we had a big, well I don't know if you understood, understand me or not if I say rail layer. Well we used one of those crane-like, you know.

BETTY: Rig.

FRANK: It puts rails and all that. Well Jimmy Okita, he was driving that, and on the way back from summit and there is a speeder ahead of him with a bunch of men. A speeder is a, you know, that they use that as transportation, carry men around. Well that chain got off the sprocket, so they stopped, and Jimmy is coming down with that crane, and he couldn't stop, so he just smacked right into the speeder. That's when some people jumped out, and crew. And some didn't have a chance to jump out, and someone that got hurt pretty badly, you know. And that's when one of that Korean men we had, he got hurt pretty bad. And he was in hospital for quite some time. But he was a professor, and he used to teach in college in Texas. And summer vacation he come to work here. He

wanted a job, so we give him a job. But, I don't know just what happened with him. But he was in hospital for quite some time.

BETTY: And that's the only big accident we had for all the ---

FRANK: But we were in Portland. So, just as we got into Portland we heard about it, so we have to turn right around and come back.

DOROTHEA: Huh.

FRANK: Yeah, and that was ---

BETTY: But they were all ---

FRANK: But there was many minor accidents, you know, off and on. But oh, sometimes I, now if I think about it, gee, you know, we were pretty fortunate. No one got hurt badly enough to, you know.

BETTY: Then all the years that we've been going back and forth to town, we didn't have much of --- Well one time I was going home from work, bought some groceries and going home, I fell asleep and just about ---

FRANK: Yeah, yeah.

BETTY: --- went right through your field there.

FRANK: Yeah, by Wayne Purdy's place. Wayne?

BETTY: Yeah. Yeah, it was right after, you know, that water hole?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BETTY: Now if I had, if it had happened there, I would have hit that big bank. But it came down the hill, and instead of making that curve I just zoomed right through. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: But you didn't get hurt?

BETTY: No.

FRANK: But she missed all the big rocks.

BETTY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Oh, there's a lot right there too. There's a big pile.

BETTY: A Forest Service man went by, and he said, "I didn't know there was a road in here."

BETTY: And I said, "Well there is now." (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: That's Betty's hill, huh?

BETTY: But like I say, I was sure surprised that I didn't hit anything. And a little farther, I would have hit all those bushes that's a little bit past your place, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

FRANK: She didn't damage the car any either.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she didn't?

FRANK: No.

BETTY: I just couldn't get out, because --- so this Forest Service pulled me out and took me home, you know. (Laughter)

FRANK: That a ---

BETTY: And that was a long trip, and those --- And, but then after a while we got used to, didn't think anything of going back and forth.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I know. When the kids got into school, I used to make four trips a day sometimes, to get in and be there when they were in this thing, and ---

BETTY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: --- come in and pick them up at night, or bring them back to town at night after I'd had them in, or been in to pick them up, or ---

BETTY: Did your, were your children able to take any activities?

DOROTHEA: Uh, quite a bit, yeah.

BETTY: They had families that they could, your mother or some ---

DOROTHEA: No, I ---

BETTY: Oh, you just ---

DOROTHEA: No, I transported.

BETTY: Oh, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I spent a lot of time sitting in the car, I'll tell you.

BETTY: Yeah, Donna Mae used to belong to the Girl Scouts or something, and then Mrs. Geer would say, "Let them stay over night." And I know she and Elliott used to stay over. And she'd say, "You know why I like to stay at Geers?" And I'd say, "Why?" "They eat American food."

DOROTHEA: Oh. How does she cook for her own family? Does she cook American food?

BETTY: Yeah. Norman used to say that too after he grew older and he stayed with Van Hises. And he'd say, "I like to stay at Van Hises." And I said, "Why?" "They eat American food." So I guess they noticed that there was a difference. They didn't care too much for the Japanese food.

DOROTHEA: You must have cooked Japanese up there then.

BETTY: Yeah, mostly because, you know ---

DOROTHEA: Now I like a lot of rice, I love rice. A lot of my dishes that I like the best have got rice in them. So ---

BETTY: Oh.

DOROTHEA: And I like a, the noodles and the rice, and ---

FRANK: Oh.

DOROTHEA: What I call the Chinese stuff, you know.

BETTY: The chow mein and all that?

DOROTHEA: Yeah. I like that kind of food, and ---

BETTY: I'll tell you one time we had the most fun is when Mr. Geer retired, you know. He

had a party here, anyway with the Company gave him. But we said, "Well, let's give him a party at our place," you know. So the Poison Creek crew and we got together and we had a party there. And he said he really enjoyed that party more than the one over here, because they drank, and they, you know, just had a real good time. Then when Mr. Geer said he was going to retire everybody clapped, you know. And so Danny said, Danny Crump was going to take over, and he said, "Well, I can see how they feel about Henry," you know. So he realized he was going to have a hard time.

DOROTHEA: In filling his shoes.

BETTY: But we had a lot of fun that time.

DOROTHEA: I remember one experience that Thad had. He decided he was going to, I don't know what you call them, but he was going to put the nails that hold the rails, you know?

FRANK: Oh ---

BETTY: Spikes?

DOROTHEA: He said after he broke two handles out of the mauls, he said he'd better quit. He said from then on he said he helped with the ties, and he said he didn't do any of that. But he said one thing that you guys did was ---

FRANK: Yeah, it's pretty hard until you get used to, you know. And then if you don't hit it just right, why you got spike through, you know, and hit it on somebody's face or eye, or whatever, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

FRANK: Its pretty dangerous.

DOROTHEA: And he said not only that, but he said if you don't hit it just ---

FRANK: You got broken handles.

DOROTHEA: You bust the handles out of the mauls, and he said he was always hitting

that rail. And he said, "I just couldn't get that thing to hit that spike." And he said, "But they just went like this and every time they'd hit, you know, and ---"

BETTY: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: "And me, I broken it, and they don't like that." He said, "After all, they've whittled that handle to fit them just right."

FRANK: Yeah, and that takes experience, and it's experience that counts, you know. And after you do that for a while, why it just comes natural to you, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

FRANK: Every time you swing, you hit it right on it, you know. But until then, why you miss just about every other time.

BETTY: But we had a lot of fun there. Before we had electricity, why Mr. Geer would ask us, "What do you want?" And I would say, "Ice cream." And so they would always bring us a big bucket of ice cream, you know. And it was a treat for us. But thing is, we had to eat it right now, because ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, because it didn't last long. Yeah.

BETTY: But gee, Mrs. Dewey used to come out there, and the Hines, they would come out, and they were just like one of us, you know. They never looked down on us, or anything.

DOROTHEA: No discrimination at all.

BETTY: Yeah. I think of all the manager's wives, why Mrs. Dewey was the most friendly. I never did get to know Mrs. Gearhart that well, or Mrs. Jackson, or Mrs. Blagen. Although she was friendly, Mrs. Blagen was friendly, but I didn't get to know her.

DOROTHEA: I remember the Lambert's name, it's Pat.

BETTY: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Pat Lambert.

BETTY: Yeah. And her name was Eunice, wasn't it?

DOROTHEA: Well, I thank you, and like I said, I didn't mean to take away your supper time. And I'd better get home and cook some supper of my own, or Clinton is going to wonder where I am.

-dlp -

bl