

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #161

Subject: Mrs. June Dalton Foster

Place: 3121 Browns Lane - Soquel, California

Date: August 17, 1983

Interviewer: Charlene Gates (Niece)

Mrs. Foster is one of the seven children of James and Martha Dalton, who lived in Burns at the turn of the century. James Dalton was a partner in the Lunaburg and Dalton General Store. Charlene Gates is the daughter of Mrs. Foster's youngest sister, Mildred Dalton Gates.

CHARLENE GATES: ... I was wondering how Grandma and Grandpa Dalton got to Burns. They went to the Willamette Valley first?

JUNE DALTON FOSTER: My mother was born in the Willamette Valley. And my father came up from Missouri, and he went into a business there, in a little hamlet where my mother was living, and they were married in Salem, Oregon, which was not too far away. And then --- they lived there for a while --- and then my father thought it would be wise to take up a homestead out in Eastern Oregon. And as it happened, they got there in time to get some of that prime land in Harney Valley, down near the Hanley Ranch. There was plenty of water and the grass grew very high, so they took up the homestead and went into the cattle business there. And then after --- I don't know how long it was, how many years but then it takes several years to prove the property, I think --- then he decided to --- well, he had been in the mercantile business ... so he decided to go into town and go into partnership with an old German guy that had a cobbler shop. And the idea was that he would have his cobbler shop in one end of the store and repair shoes, and my dad would

sell shoes and all the other stuff, everything you could think. In fact, their motto was "Everything for Everybody," which just about was true. There was just a variety of all kinds of things. And they had so much merchandise that they didn't have room to put it on the floor, on the shelves in the display counters and everything, so they hung hooks on the ceiling and they hung a lot of their stuff on the ceiling. And as they got a call for certain items, why, they would take this big old pole and bring it down and sell it from the ceiling. And that's the truth! ... It wouldn't be cloth, or garments, or anything like that, but maybe utensils, cooking utensils and harness and all that kind of stuff. They did, they sold everything you could think of!

If you remember, back of the old store there was a cellar and some storehouses, and the icehouse, and one thing and another. And then of course the old store building was beyond that, but then I don't remember what was there, probably nothing at the time. And that was the setup for the store. But in the beginning it wasn't that stone building (referring to the building now on the site, formerly housing J. C. Penney Company, now occupied by Hirsch's Department Store), it was a little wooden building. And they sold whiskey and every darn thing you could think of! And they'd get cheese in there, great big cakes of cheese about that big around and that high (gestures), and there wasn't anything you could think of that they didn't sell, even patent medicines. And cosmetics of the day, you know, of those days. Certain salves and creams and all that kind of stuff.

Ribbon --- there was a case where they had all kinds of beautiful ribbon, wide ribbon and tiny baby ribbon. ... There must have been twenty-five different rolls of various kinds of ribbon in that case. And then back away from that dry goods area was a room where they had their music. They sold phonographs and records, not the flat kind, the Edison cylinders, the old-fashioned cylinder records. And they made some recordings of us kids singing and playing the piano and one thing and another. And other people, if

they wanted to make a recording, why, Dad would make a recording. I think Raymond Voegtly had some made. I'm not sure, but I think he did. And when we would order a new bunch of records, why, we'd estimate about what time they'd be shipped, you know, and of course it took hours to bring them in those old wagons with the four-horse team. And we'd hear the bells on the horses coming and we'd know that the freight was arriving. Oh, we'd get so excited! So the first thing we would unload --- guess --- were the records for our phonograph! And we'd invite people in the next day to listen to them, hear them. And if they wanted to buy some, there were some extra ones. Well, that's kind of different!

CHARLENE: Oh, yes.

JUNE: And on one side of the store were the things that we ate, including candy, cookies, and all kinds of canned goods. And there was a big refrigerator. But that didn't sit right there by the counter; it was in the back of the store. But we sold butter and cottage cheese and homemade things that the farm people would bring in --- and sauerkraut. And then we had a big barrel of pickles: sweet pickles, and dill pickles, sour pickles. And that was different than most places. And let me think of some of the other things. Well, we sold beer and whiskey. We did, whiskey and beer!

And let me see, what else? Well shoes, I said didn't I? And --- not much furniture. I think he would order furniture, but he didn't keep it in stock. And men's suits were the same. He would take their measurements and order them and deliver them, but he didn't keep the men's suits in stock. But shoes, all kinds of shoes for men, women, and children. And that's just about all I can think of at the moment. ... Food for horses, the different kind of feed that they needed, and I guess the cows too, for that matter --- milk cows.

And let me see, what else was interesting and different? Well, Christmas

decorations, and --- bananas! That was quite a deal. You got the bananas on the great big --- you know how they come, on a --- in a cluster. Great big clusters at a time. And they had to be shipped kind of green because they could spoil quickly or get bruised or something. They came in a round case with slats down the sides so that they didn't get damaged too much, but then there was air circulating. And he hung them up in some way, and when people would want so many --- he sold them by the pound I think. And you got so you almost knew how many bananas in a pound. And you know to this day I, a lot of those things I can estimate the weight on them ... before I ever go to the counter. And let me see, what else was so different?

Well, things like syrup came in a barrel. Didn't come in bottles. Came in a nice little barrel, and you dipped them out with a dipper, and filled the bottle, or whatever they brought --- they usually brought their own containers. And so many dippers would cost so much, and you'd estimate that way.

And all kinds of underwear --- "longies", particularly. And long black stockings for children in all sizes --- women too, for that matter. And not very many ready-made garments, except for overalls and shirts and that nature. Women bought yardage and had their dresses made or made them themselves.

Then as far as the house was concerned, I've forgotten how many rooms there were in that big old house. But we had one, two, three, four, five rooms that we could rent out upstairs. (Refers to the J. M. Dalton house located at 77 W. Adams in Burns. Site now occupied by Pioneer Federal Savings building.) But we didn't rent all of them because we girls had to have one room, so there would be four rooms for rent. And Helene and Mildred and I occupied one big bedroom. When the boys (June's brothers, Henry and Chester) were there, they occupied that room, and then we had to have another one, so that made only three rooms to rent. But as the family got married and left

home, then we had more rooms to rent. And I don't know how much they got, not very much. But it was something. In each room was a washstand --- on, it'd be about the size of that radio over there. And a great big porcelain basin, with a big old white pitcher on top. And then there was a slop pail at the end of the case where they threw their water. And there was no toilet, of course, in the house so we had "thunder-jugs" we furnished, and they were always under the bed where they could be reached fast. (Laughter) And that was my job when I was a kid, to empty those darn pots and carry down slop from the washbasin and all that stuff, and to see that there were clean towels, and clean sheets, and the room was well-swept and clean linen once a week. Just once a week.

And let me think of what else. Then of course at first we had coal oil lamps for a long time when I was a child. I remember the coal oil lamps. And then they finally got electricity in there, so we had every room wired for electric lights from the ceiling. We didn't have any plug ins from the side on the walls, or anything like that, but just from the ceiling. And let me think what was kind of unique.

CHARLENE: Oh, you have the icehouse.

JUNE: Yes, we had the icehouse that was just across the street. And he hired people to cut the ice from the river in the wintertime.

CHARLENE: From the Silvies River?

JUNE: From the Silvies River, and usually it was up around the flourmill. You know where that was?

CHARLENE: No. Where was that? Do you know?

JUNE: Well, you know as you went out the lane toward Harney? Well, it was to the left. You went kind of over and not on the mountain, but on the higher level, there was an area there where they had a place ... They had the big icehouse there, I guess, and then they would bring it to the small icehouse in town ... for storage ...

CHARLENE: Did they sell ice?

JUNE: Yes. Yes, they sold it.

CHARLENE: Oh, I see. How long did that keep?

JUNE: Oh, it kept --- well, if it wasn't exposed to the sun or, you know, the air.

CHARLENE: So you could keep it all summer, too?

JUNE: Oh, yes, it was in the sawdust.

CHARLENE: Oh, I see.

JUNE: Layers of sawdust. And they'd dig it out from the top and cut it --- it had to be cut in two --- they sawed it in some way, with some kind of a saw to fit the refrigerators. People would come there to buy it we didn't deliver it. There was somebody else that delivered ice, had an icehouse also. But that was for our own use, and anybody who wanted ice just for their own use, just for the moment, just for the day or whatever the occasion was for.

And in that cellar --- it wasn't a cellar, it was a blockhouse I guess, made of stone and insulated in some way --- hanging from the ceiling would be hams and slabs of bacon and all kinds of dried meats and bologna and all that stuff. Kept it in there. He didn't sell fresh meat. The butcher shops sold fresh meat. They had all that smoked stuff, bacon and ham and all that stuff. And a big barrel of pickles: sweet pickles on one, and dill pickles in the other, and sour pickles in another.

CHARLENE: Now, when they were first in that wooden building, wasn't it --- that was the first General Store.

JUNE: That was the first General Store, and Fred Lunaburg occupied part of that too.

CHARLENE: Uh huh, and he was the cobbler, the shoemaker. And then they moved and built that ---

JUNE: When they built the stone building, why then they just moved that building back,

facing the other road (W. Adams). Facing the

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CHARLENE: Faced Adams. So actually it was first on Main Street.

JUNE: Oh, yes, it was right on Main Street.

CHARLENE: Then they built the building that J. C. Penney had for a while. Wasn't that it?

JUNE: That was the stone one.

CHARLENE: Hirsch has it now.

(Discussion of family photographs.)

CHARLENE: Now did Jim Fellows live in the upstairs?

JUNE: Yes, he had the front bedroom in the upstairs.

CHARLENE: How did he come to live with the family?

JUNE: We always rented out rooms there. ... Ruby's (June's sister) husband (Ludwig M. Johnson) had a room there for a long time before they were married, for one. And then as the family married and went to their own homes, why then it wasn't necessary to have all these vacant rooms up there; I've forgotten how many there were ... Five bedrooms upstairs.

(Discussion of family photographs.)

CHARLENE: Now do you remember when it was that the family moved to California?

JUNE: 1925.

CHARLENE: 1925, yeah, that was because Grandma had high blood pressure ... and they wanted to move down there. So they moved to Hollywood, was that it?

JUNE: Because Henry was there.

CHARLENE: Henry was already there.

JUNE: I went to school one more year in Eugene (University of Oregon), and then I went

the following year --- I moved to Hollywood, and got a job in a beauty shop. I went to Beauty College for a few months, not long.

CHARLENE: Now I guess my Mom (Mildred) was still in high school at that time, because she said she went to Hollywood High School.

JUNE: Yes, she went to Hollywood High School for at least a year after I got down there from Burns. See I stayed with Dad that winter, the first year.

CHARLENE: Yeah, that's when you had the kindergarten, wasn't it?

JUNE: ... on the screened porch. Then the next winter --- then I stayed there that winter and all summer, and that next fall, and then in the middle of the winter I --- Jim Fellows, he was talking to Dad and he said, "I'm going down to California, and I'm going to go on down and see your folks." And I didn't hear the conversation, but they began to talk about me then. So they decided that it would be nice if I could go too. Dad said he thought it was time for me, that he realized it was hard on me there ... and to have the rest of the folks all down there with new experiences and everything, living in California. So he said, "I don't imagine it'll be very long before I can come, so ---"

CHARLENE: Now, did they sell the house to Ches, or give it to Ches, immediately then?

JUNE: I don't know what the situation was there. I don't think they sold it. ...

CHARLENE: Oh, Ches just moved in?

JUNE: I think it was kind of a family deal of some sort. ...

CHARLENE: It wasn't out of the family for years and years; after they did, then Ches had it, then my Mom and Dad bought it from Uncle Ches, and had it for many years.

...

JUNE: You remember ever hearing about Mrs. Dodge?

CHARLENE: Oh, I think so. She started the Sagebrush Orchestra?

JUNE: I think that she had a concert. But I see an awful lot of people here (in



photograph). This must have been taken after the concert was over, because here's Gwendolyn (Lampshire Hayden) and other people that were in the orchestra.

CHARLENE: And they toured Portland, didn't they? ... And I think the Portland Junior Symphony started, as --- with this as kind of a nucleus, I believe. Burns Sagebrush Orchestra.

...

CHARLENE: I wish you could tell me a little bit about the stories about the Indians in Burns, and the people who worked for you, for the family. That was kind of interesting. It was a chief, wasn't it? Jimmie Louie was his name?

JUNE: ... Old Louie, they called him, was the chief. And Jimmie Louie, I guess, was the son. I think I'm right about that. ... And Jennie did our laundry. She came very Monday, just regular as clockwork, and did the laundry for us. And Mom always had a big pan of biscuits on the back of the stove. And whatever other food that was available, you know, was there on the stove, hot. And in the wintertime, it was oh, it was just so cold, ... and they would come to the kitchen. And they had a certain cupboard that they kept their dishes, and they could help themselves to the biscuits and whatever else we had laid out for them.

CHARLENE: Oh, that's nice.

JUNE: ... And we always had the boiler of water already hot for her, great big water boiler ... on the end of the wood stove. And that was one of my jobs, to pump water to fill. We put the boiler on the stove, then take and fill it bucket by bucket, you see.

CHARLENE: Oh, goodness, what a job! ... And you were telling me you had to keep a tank ---

JUNE: One of the bedrooms ... upstairs bedroom.

CHARLENE: Yeah, so that the bath would have enough hot water all the time?

JUNE: Yeah. Well, we had one in the kitchen, but we had another tank upstairs, kind of an auxiliary tank. And the water --- now this is the way it worked. The water from the tank house --- you know, there was a big tank on top of the tank house. When the wind blew, the water would pump up into that tank, and then we had another connection from that tank to the auxiliary tank in the --- one of the back bedrooms that we didn't use for a bedroom; it was just kind of a storeroom. And that then, in turn, supplied water for the tank in the kitchen that kept hot. I don't know how they did it, but --- it was kind of a roundabout deal, but the wind did it first, and if the wind didn't blow, why, we kids had to pump.

CHARLENE: Oh, goodness sakes! That must have been a job. And you kids had to keep the tanks filled?

JUNE: We had to make sure that the tanks were filled.

CHARLENE: And all the wood was in?

JUNE: And all the wood was in behind the kitchen stove, and the wood box in the living room. We had a wood box in the living room, too. ... And I think there were stoves in the upstairs bedrooms. But it was up to the guys that rented those rooms to get the wood from the woodpile. Dad wouldn't let us take that wood up the stairs. ... So Jim (Fellows) and Lud (Johnson) and all the rest of the boys that lived there would pack their wood for their particular stove upstairs themselves. ...

CHARLENE: And you said one of the Indians cut it for you? The wood for you, and stacked it, and then you kids would bring it in?

JUNE: I don't think it was Old Louis himself; it might have been his son. No, various Indians, I don't really think that Old Louie ... Jennie did the laundry, but I don't think either Louie or his son did anything for us. But there were other Indians that did, saw wood and chop wood and stack it for us on the outside of the yard, on that west side between the

yard and the road. Nobody ever stole that wood.

CHARLENE: Well, they still don't, I guess.

JUNE: No, they don't! You'd think they would, but they didn't.

CHARLENE: Yeah. We stack our wood outside and nobody seems to have touched it.

JUNE: No, they didn't bother it. It was amazing, you know. Well, everybody was friends. They depended upon each other in case of emergencies. People did depend on each other; they had to help each other; there was no other way to get help except neighbors and friends.

CHARLENE: Well, how big was Burns back then, when you were ---

JUNE: Well, as far as when I can remember, it was almost about the same size it is now, I think.

CHARLENE: Oh, about 3,000 people?

JUNE: Oh, no, no, but I mean the way it was spread out.

CHARLENE: Oh, yeah. The layout of the town. ... And how many people, do you think?

JUNE: Gosh, I don't know. I'm afraid to even guess. Not very many, really.

CHARLENE: You remember how many --- with the high school and the grade school?

JUNE: Yes, both the high school and the grade school. The high school was opposite that big old grade school that they had for a while. Do you remember that? I suppose it was torn down. It was very close to the courthouse. It was just beyond the courthouse and in back of it, sort of.

CHARLENE: Yeah, that's still standing.

JUNE: Is it?

CHARLENE: Yeah, it's a junior high school now.

JUNE: I'll be darned.

CHARLENE: And it may be, been rebuilt, but I know the one you mean. It's right next to

the courthouse, about a block up.

JUNE: Now that was the high school when I went to high school. ... And the grade school was a brick building, I believe, way back up on top of the hill, kind of overlooking the valley up there.

CHARLENE: It still is there. It's bigger now, but still they use it as a grade school.

JUNE: I started out in the old building, in the old school building ... And then they built the other school, then from the second grade through the eighth I went to the new school. And that was a long trek for the kids to go in the wintertime.

...

JUNE: Yes, there were two saloons, at least two, maybe more. ... And the undertakers were just up the street from us, and when any-body died, why townspeople would help ... and the school kids would sing at the funerals. Now when my mother died I prepared her for burial. I dressed her and everything.

CHARLENE: Did she die in Burns?

JUNE: Yes. Everybody pitched in and helped each other. They had to do it, because there just wasn't that kind of help available otherwise.

CHARLENE: Were there quite a few churches in town at that time?

JUNE: Yes, there was the Catholic Church and the Presbyterian Church and the Baptist Church and the Nazarene. I think that was it.

CHARLENE: Was the Presbyterian that little white church?

JUNE: Uh huh. Sat back kind of towards the back of town, up on the hill.

CHARLENE: I remember going to that in Sunday school for a little while. ...

JUNE: And the Catholic Church was over kind of towards the new school building, the grammar school building.

CHARLENE: It still is around there.

JUNE: And the Nazarene Church was on Main Street, just over the fence from our big old house.

CHARLENE: Well, they must have moved it a little bit.

JUNE: Yeah. They probably moved out and somebody else occupied it, probably after that. And the Baptist Church was sort of on the hill in the area of the courthouse, and down the hill a little bit. What was the name of that street where we kids used to coast on? Cecil's Hill is what we called it, but I guess it didn't have a name then.

CHARLENE: I remember that name, Cecil's Hill.

JUNE: Well, that's where we coasted. (Refers to hill down Washington Street where it intersects Alvord.) And the Baptist Church was above that, on level ground, kind of in the area of the courthouse. And the Presbyterian Church was out towards the Indian camp, not the one that goes to Bend, but in town. There were two ways to get to the Indian camp.

CHARLENE: Oh, yeah, I remember that, I think. And you taught kindergarten at home. Now who did you say came to that? There are some people that are still there in Burns that you taught. Jessie Williams?

JUNE: Jessie was one. Eleanor ... Eggleston. I just can't remember ...

CHARLENE: But there was a kindergarten there. ... You had the first bathtub in Burns?

JUNE: Oh, one of the first. We didn't have hot and cold water at first. ... (About the kindergarten.) The old lady, the squaw lady, you know that did our laundry; she wanted me to take her little granddaughter. And I was afraid to because they did have diseases -- - contagious, there was no question about it. But I told her that I knew that she didn't have it, but I knew that the other parents would be concerned if I had the mixed races in there. So I said, "Well Jenny, I can't let her come to the kindergarten class, but if you want to bring her in the afternoon after the school is over, why she can have the same

privileges." Well, I didn't use those words, but I'll do the same for her as I do for the other children. I'll teach her the same things. Now I can't remember that child's name to save my life. But she was the little granddaughter of Jenny and old Captain Louie. And she was smart, and she learned, and oh, she loved the phonograph. Of course the music was foreign to her. ...

CHARLENE: Oh, I wanted to get back to that first bathtub because that was kind of a humorous story.

JUNE: Oh, there were other bathtubs in various homes, but ours was one of the first with piped-in water. We had one of the first ... storage tank, I guess you call it, in the kitchen. It was hooked up to the kitchen stove for heat, and so we had hot and cold water. And that was a far cry from taking baths in the round tub in front of the oven door. So anyway, I bragged about it. I didn't know that I was bragging, but I said, "What do you know, we have a real bathtub with hot and cold water. All you have to do is turn it on and off." And of course the kids went home and told their folks about that, you know, and somebody came in the store to buy some-thing and when they asked the price of it they said, "Well, no wonder you've got a bathtub and hot and cold water in your house, charging prices like that!" to my dad. So he was mad at me, and he came home and said, "You've got me in trouble. Now I just want to give you a lesson, and I want you to learn this and never forget it, because what you have you share with other people. And when anybody wants a bath, and they come here to the house and ask if they can have a bath, I want you to see that that tank is hot. And that the wood box is full of wood to keep it hot. And let them take a bath. Anyone that comes." Well, don't you ever think that they didn't come! There was somebody there pretty near every day or every night to take a bath. But that's all right. That was in the deal, so ... All they had to do was bring their own towel and clean the tub afterwards. That was the only specification. And if the wind didn't blow, we didn't have

water. Dad wouldn't let me pump water for that. It was all right for our own drinking and our own use, but he did draw the line for that. I'd be pumping water, you know, day after day. So that was the deal. And that went on for a long, long time. I mean there were certain people that got in the habit of coming. They didn't pay us or anything; we didn't want pay. We just didn't want to be put out too much for our trouble. So that was the requirement, bring your own towel and soap and washcloth, and take a bath. Clean up afterwards.

CHARLENE: Oh, that's kind of cute. Well, let's see. You know that little house that used to be in back of the big house. Was that a barn? Or did you have a little stable or barn in back of the big house?

JUNE: There was a big old barn there and a corral, when I lived there.

CHARLENE: Oh, so that's where you kept the cow.

JUNE: And there was a way to put hay in that loft, you know, from the street. I mean from the side of the --- west side of the street. And we had water piped to that from the main tank on the house, to water the cows and whatever animals were there at the time. But we still had that old outhouse! We didn't have an in-door toilet for a long time. So we had to go through the chicken house out to the outhouse, winter and summer.

CHARLENE: Oh my gosh, that must have been just awful cold in the winter.

JUNE: Well, it was cold, but we got tough.

CHARLENE: Gee, that must have been something. Did you take a light with you in the night, or ...

JUNE: No. We knew the way. We had to open the gate to get through there though, because of the chicken yard. Open the gate, and then we went a few more steps into the outhouse.

CHARLENE: Well, that's something. Well, let's see. You remember that picture of the

rabbit drive I showed you?

JUNE: Yes.

CHARLENE: Now I can't remember when that was, about 1913, or something like that. 1910, or --- early years, anyway.

JUNE: Probably around 1915, or something like that.

CHARLENE: I was just wondering why they had all their pictures taken. It was a real dramatic photograph. ... That was the one where they showed all the people with their sticks. ... Yes, all the townspeople, and they had all these dead rabbits lying in front of them.

JUNE: Well, they were a menace. ...

CHARLENE: Did you have several rabbit drives like that?

JUNE: Oh, well, every year. It was sort of in the winter. It seems like we were tramping around in the snow.

CHARLENE: Yeah, everybody had coats on and things in the picture.

JUNE: It was in the late fall, at least. And they'd form a line, a big line, and they'd go in the inside of these big fields, of course. Form a line clear across, kept pushing forward and pushing forward, and finally they'd get the rabbits into an area that was confined. They couldn't get out, see. It was brutal. They'd beat them to death.

CHARLENE: Still, they would eat the crops, wouldn't they?

JUNE: Oh, yes, they were very harmful. They would just ruin a crop of alfalfa or anything like that in no time. They certainly were heavy eaters.

CHARLENE: I don't think they're that bad now.

JUNE: No, I think --- well, they've probably been killed out --- driven out into open areas.

CHARLENE: Yeah, there are still a lot of jackrabbits there, but I

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JUNE: But not right around the valley.

CHARLENE: No, not too many. I see them occasionally, but I don't think they're the problem that they used to be.

JUNE: Oh no, they really were a big problem. And as I say, they would eat the crops, and any garden stuff or anything that people had. Couldn't blame them for killing them, but it was kind of wicked, the way they did it. But that was about the only way they could. They couldn't just shoot them one by one out in the open, because there never would be any end to it. But you gather them all up together in a pack.

CHARLENE: Well, that was something. So you graduated from high school though in Burns?

JUNE: Yes, I did.

CHARLENE: What class was that? What year was that? That must have been about 1920, or something like that. Between '20 and '25.

JUNE: Let's see. It was probably about 1923, because I went to the University in 1924.

CHARLENE: Oh, yeah, that would have been. And then they moved to California in 1925.

JUNE: In the middle of the winter I went down there, I think. It seems like I went two years to the University, but I can't remember just how that worked out. But I didn't get to go back because it was hard for them to finance the new home that we were buying down there and everything, and send me to school too, so ...

CHARLENE: Well, what did Grandpa Dalton do in California?

JUNE: He didn't have any occupation. We had a great big back yard and he did gardening in the back yard and everything. But he was awfully unhappy down there. He was out of his element, you know, and he really wasn't happy, but he made the best of it.

CHARLENE: Did Grandma get better? (From the high blood pressure condition that

necessitated moving to a lower altitude.)

JUNE: She did for a while, but she finally wanted to go back to Oregon, and she did go back to Oregon after I was married. Dad came down to see her. He couldn't get the business, you know, all tied up completely. It took a long time to do that. So she went back with him. ... And he still had to stay for a while before he could move down there.

...

CHARLENE: Well, what happened to Fred Lunaburg? How long did he stay on there?

JUNE: Until they sold out. And then I think he stayed on. I don't know. You see I wasn't there. I wasn't living there then. I don't remember. Seems to me that he stayed on living there till he died.

CHARLENE: He didn't marry or anything?

JUNE: No, he never married. ... Wonderful old gentleman. He was always so fair about everything, and so patient with us kids when we must have driven him crazy running in and out of that store, eating candy out of the candy counter and anything else that was around that we could eat. Pickles out of the pickle barrel ... cheese in a great big round --- hunk of cheese. Had kind of a big funny kind of knife that came down.

CHARLENE: Oh, a curved knife. Yeah, I've seen those --- cheese knives. Well, that's interesting. Now where did Grandma's relatives come from? She was already in Oregon.

JUNE: Yes, they were from the Willamette Valley near a town, like I've said, near Independence and Monmouth, and that area. They had a big farm they called it, of course, there, and an orchard--- a fruit orchard. And that's where she was born and raised. And when my father came out, he was just a young man from Missouri. He went into business there for a short time, a little store of some kind, general merchandise. And then that was about the time when this Homestead Act went into effect, and people were taking up homesteads all over the country.

CHARLENE: Did they come to Burns in a covered wagon?

JUNE: Yes. ... Well, I think they only had two horses, but the wagon was covered. It was just a regular wagon with a big frame over the top and a tarpaulin over it, but that was really a covered wagon. And they slept in it, but they did their cooking on a campfire wherever they stopped. They had to stop, of course, wherever there was water, and if they had to go very far between places where they could get water, they had to carry it in jugs.

CHARLENE: Now was Merle (oldest child of James and Martha Dalton) already born then? Do you know?

JUNE: Let me see. Yes, I think she was. I think she was the only one that was not born in Harney County. I'm not terribly sure about that, Charlene, but I think she was still a baby when they came out.

CHARLENE: Well then her parents though they came back from back east, didn't they, Grandma's parents, the Flickinger people.

JUNE: My mother's people came out from the East, and my grand-father came from Philadelphia, but he came down clear around the Horn of South America and up the coast to San Francisco, I think. Or it might have been Portland. I rather think it was San Francisco. And then he came up to Oregon. And they didn't exactly homestead that part of Oregon, but it was government land to begin with, of course. I don't know how they became owners of that property. But out in Eastern Oregon they took up homesteads, you know. They had to live on it and make so many improvements and everything.

CHARLENE: Now that was when they lived out in Harney ... I mean near Fort Harney, was it?

JUNE: No, it was further south. It was out near Wright's Point, if you know where that is.

CHARLENE: Oh, I see.

JUNE: Near the Hanley Ranch. Very close to the Hanley Ranch, on the west side of the Hanley Ranch.

CHARLENE: Yes, I think we've driven past there.

JUNE: And they cleared that and got the ownership of it. Had it for a long time till after we went to California. And I've for-gotten who bought it, but they owned it for many years. They never did plant it or cultivate it or anything, it was just wild hay. And they would cut it in the fall, or towards fall, stack it. Then what they needed there they used, and the rest of it they brought to town and we had a barn right in back of our yard, and what we called a corral and a chicken house, too.

CHARLENE: Did you sell the eggs?

JUNE: No, we didn't sell eggs. We used all the eggs. ... We used chickens for meat, as well as for the eggs. And then of course, there was always venison to be had at certain times of the year, when they were allowed to kill deer.

CHARLENE: Did Grandpa hunt?

JUNE: Oh, yes, he and the boys both hunted. People used that for their provisions, you know. They didn't do it just for sport. But we had wild geese and wild ducks and sage chicken. That was a help. We wouldn't eat the rabbits though, they were diseased. They had worms. ... And mutton, of course, and beef and pork.

CHARLENE: They still are.

JUNE: But everything grew well during the growing season.

CHARLENE: Did you have a pantry or cellar in that old house?

JUNE: We had a pantry, but we used the cellar from the store for certain things like hams, bacon, and all that sort of thing, and pickles and stuff. We used a stone cellar for the store. But it was just across the street. We had ice from our own icehouse. He'd hire people to cut the ice, and they usually cut that from the pond up at the mill, flourmill. It

was good clean ice, a certain depth. If they cut ice from the river it was always different sizes, and shapes, and depths. But from the pond above, they got a uniform block of ice.

And of course we didn't have electricity for a long time; we had to use coal oil lamps. And finally they put in electric lights in town and got their power from the mill where the water ran over the millpond down into the river.

CHARLENE: Now I was wondering if you'd ever met any of the relatives back from Missouri, if Granddad ever kept contact with them?

JUNE: I didn't personally meet any of them that continued to live back there, but the Gibbs (?) family moved West, and I knew them. And one of the daughters married a man that lived near Harney, and that was the Irving family. I knew all those people well, but they were the only ones from that branch of the family that I got to know very well, although a brother moved to a place near Corvallis, Dallas, I believe ...

CHARLENE: I remember that name.

JUNE: I think Dallas was near Corvallis, in that area ... And one of his brothers settled there and raised a family, so we knew that uncle real well. Because we'd go to the Willamette Valley every year to have my eyes taken care of. And we'd take a little trip down the Willamette River to Dallas to be with their other relatives. Mother had relatives in Monmouth, and Dad had relatives in Dallas. ... And we'd usually go down to Newport, to the ocean, as kind of a side trip because that was a change for us. Picked up agates. And we had them polished, had some jewelry made out of them.

CHARLENE: I think I must still have some of those agates at home.

JUNE: Probably.

CHARLENE: And then you went to all those trips in the summer, didn't you, to California?

JUNE: We made most of our trips to California later on, after we got the car. That was 1915. We bought the car especially to go to the San Francisco Fair, but we didn't quite

make it. But we drove that car to California every year until it just practically fell apart. I don't know how many years we had that car.

CHARLENE: Was that an old Model T?

JUNE: No, it was a Reo. It was only four cylinders, I think. I'm sure it was only four cylinders. Sure was a sturdy old car. And when we camped, you know, we took a tent and our tent poles and everything and fastened them on the side of the car, tin pans and everything that we needed. Fastened on the side of the car that we didn't use the doors. Went all over the country. Sometimes we'd go through Nevada, and sometimes across Klamath Falls, Southern Oregon and down that way. Different ways.

CHARLENE: Gee, that's a long trip, though.

JUNE: Yeah, it was, but it was always fun. We camped at night wherever there was space. Sometimes we'd stay at private homes. They'd let us sleep in the back yard or the fields or whatever space they had. What we needed mostly was fresh water, of course, when we'd stay overnight at a place. Usually there was stuff to burn to make campfires, and there was always plenty of brush and stuff like that. Water was a necessity, of course. And we had a tent, and we put the tent up and slept on the ground inside.

CHARLENE: Now how many of you would go on those trips?

JUNE: That would be Mother and Father, and Helene and Mildred and myself.

CHARLENE: So everybody else had already left home and were married?

JUNE: Yes, they were married.

CHARLENE: Now Merle must have been married when the younger kids were --- when you were awfully young.

JUNE: Yes, we were quite young when she got married. ... Henry and Byrd were married, and Ches and Florence, Ruby and Lud.

CHARLENE: They were quite a bit older, I remember.

JUNE: Oh yes, older than I. There was a seven-year gap between Helene and me, in other words. And Ruby and Helene were about two years apart. ... Anyway, I think it was wonderful that they gave all of us a good education. Mildred didn't get to go to college, but she did study bookkeeping and shorthand through Ches (Chester Dalton taught business education at the high school for many years), and got personal tutorage, you know, so she was very good in typing and shorthand and all that. Probably better than if she'd gone to school! ... So she had a regular private business course through Ches. And Ruby didn't get to go to college. She married quite young.

CHARLENE: Did they live in Burns?

JUNE: Yes, they lived for a while; then they went up to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He had a position in the bank up there, and lived there for several years. Then let me see. They went to California, didn't they?

CHARLENE: Ruby was in Richmond (California). Ruby and Lud were both in Richmond.

JUNE: That's right, they went to Richmond. But how did they happen to go to Richmond? There was somebody else there it seems like. I guess they were the first to go. He got a position in the bank there, that was it.

CHARLENE: Oh, so Lud was in banking, too. I didn't know that.

JUNE: He was a teller, you know, regular --- whatever they do in banks. A bookkeeper and all that sort of thing. And Henry was the same. They worked in the bank in Burns together. And Henry went to Hollywood because an old time school friend lived down there and encouraged him to come. And the first bank he worked in, I've for-gotten the name of it, but then it eventually became a branch of the Bank of America. He stayed on with that. And we moved down because Mother needed to get to a lower climate. I stayed at the University for a couple years, and when they moved down there, I couldn't

go to school any more in Eugene. So, I went down and that's when I took the beauty course, which was probably more lucrative for me than teaching. I made a very good living at it.

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(End of Tape)

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