

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #336 - Sides A & B

Subject: Phyllis Zreliak - With Video

Place: Harney County Library - Burns, Oregon

Date: April 29, 1993

Interviewers: Barbara Lofgren & Dorothea Purdy

Release Form: Yes

DOROTHEA PURDY: Today I'm with Barbara Lofgren and Phyllis Zreliak, and we're talking at the Harney County Library in Burns, Oregon. Today's date is April 29th, 1993. Following our interview, we will be doing a short video of Phyllis, and it will be stored in the library along with the transcript and cassette tape, the number is 336. And now Phyllis, can you pronounce your name in full?

PHYLLIS ZRELIAK: Zreliak.

DOROTHEA: And spell it.

PHYLLIS: Z R E L I A K.

DOROTHEA: When were you born?

PHYLLIS: In, December 1st, 1924.

DOROTHEA: What are your parent's names?

PHYLLIS: Oh, my father's name was Charles Powell, and my mother's name was Grace Thomson, before they were married.

DOROTHEA: And what, where were they born, and where did they come from?

PHYLLIS: Oh my father was born in Illinois, and my mother was born in Vale, Oregon.

DOROTHEA: So your mother was almost a Burnsite then, almost.

PHYLLIS: Don't ever say that to her.

DOROTHEA: Don't ever say that to her, okay.

BARBARA LOFGREN: And where did you grow up?

PHYLLIS: In Ontario, Oregon.

BARBARA: In Ontario.

DOROTHEA: Where did you go to school?

PHYLLIS: In Ontario.

DOROTHEA: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

PHYLLIS: I don't have; I have one sister living. But I had three brothers and three sisters.

DOROTHEA: And would you like to tell us their names?

PHYLLIS: Oh, my brothers was Floyd, the next one was "Pluggy", no one ever knew him by any other name, his name was really Charles, and the last one was Fred. And my sisters, my sister was Hazel, and the one that is still living is Eileen.

DOROTHEA: Okay. When did you come to Harney County, and how did you come about coming to Harney County?

PHYLLIS: Oh, my husband was transferred here by the post office.

DOROTHEA: And how did you meet your husband?

PHYLLIS: I met him the night I graduated from high school. He was from Gowan Field, he come to Ontario.

BARBARA: From where?

PHYLLIS: Gowan Field, he was stationed there.

BARBARA: Oh, oh, he was in the military?

PHYLLIS: Yeah, he was in the Air Force.

DOROTHEA: Did he come for your school dance, or ---

PHYLLIS: No, he had a three-day pass and him and some of his buddies came, they wanted to get away from the base, they came to Ontario. And I met him out at a dance.

BARBARA: I think that is the way that most, the majority of the people that we interview have met.

PHYLLIS: I shouldn't have went to that dance. (Laughter)

BARBARA: The turning point in your life. So did you start dating right away after that?

PHYLLIS: Oh well not really. I lived in Ontario and he lived in Boise. And then I went to school in Boise, and we dated until he was shipped out of there.

DOROTHEA: And then where did he go?

PHYLLIS: Well, he was discharged.

DOROTHEA: Oh. And how long did you go together, or where did ---

PHYLLIS: About three and a half years.

DOROTHEA: And decided to get married.

PHYLLIS: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Is that when he went to work for the post office, or ---

PHYLLIS: I can't remember exactly. He took the exam, oh well he come to Ontario, we were married there, and he took the exam there and they sent him here.

DOROTHEA: Okay, so he has worked in Burns or Hines?

PHYLLIS: Burns.

BARBARA: Okay, when were you married?

PHYLLIS: Don't remember exactly. '40 --- probably about '45.

BARBARA: And you mentioned that you went to school in Boise. Did you go to Boise State or junior college?

PHYLLIS: No, I just went to a ---

BARBARA: Business School?

PHYLLIS: No, I was a beauty operator.

BARBARA: Oh.

PHYLLIS: Went to school there.

BARBARA: Oh. Did you work as a beautician then?

PHYLLIS: Oh yes, yes.

BARBARA: In Boise? And when you moved to Burns, did you work in a local ---

PHYLLIS: No, I got so I was allergic to everything I worked with, all the lotions and everything.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

PHYLLIS: Yeah. I was trained for the right thing! So I had to stop.

DOROTHEA: What did you do when you first came here? Did you start a family, or---?

PHYLLIS: I had a family.

DOROTHEA: You had a family.

PHYLLIS: Had a daughter, she was just about a year old. And then, you know, mother things, housekeeping and such.

BARBARA: The traditional wife during that time.

PHYLLIS: That's right, right, right. My --- I had relatives here; I had an aunt and an uncle. And I had two uncles that were ranchers out at Harney; they had a ranch out there.

DOROTHEA: And what are their names?

PHYLLIS: Their name was Bill and Ross Thomson.

DOROTHEA: Okay, okay, I'm learning something there, I didn't realize that. Did they encourage you to stay here, or why have you stayed here all these years?

PHYLLIS: Well, this is where Steve worked, and where he retired from, and it is where all my friends are from. My son keeps trying to get me to move away, but I won't do it. Well, as long as I'm able to take care of myself.

BARBARA: You say Steve; we forgot to mention what your husband's name was.

PHYLLIS: That was his name, Steve, yeah.

BARBARA: And then you say you had a daughter when you moved here, and you have a son. Do you just have the two children?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Okay. And your daughter's name is?

PHYLLIS: Candy.

BARBARA: Candy. Candice, or was it just Candy?

PHYLLIS: It is Candice, but she has never gone by it.

BARBARA: Okay, Candy and Steve, I mean John.

PHYLLIS: John.

BARBARA: John is your son's name.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And what are their ages, and what is your daughter's married name?

PHYLLIS: She goes by Zreliak. She has been divorced many, many years.

BARBARA: I see, okay.

PHYLLIS: And ---

BARBARA: And where does she live?

PHYLLIS: She lives in Kelso, Washington. She is a court reporter.

BARBARA: Oh, that is interesting.

PHYLLIS: And she has a day care center. And she has two children, she has a son and a daughter, and she has three grandchildren.

BARBARA: Okay.

DOROTHEA: So that means you are a great-grandmother.

PHYLLIS: That's right. And John only has --- he is married to Cindy Lawrence who was from here, they went to school together. And they have one little girl, Arianna, is very beautiful. Well, all my grandchildren are beautiful.

BARBARA: Absolutely.

PHYLLIS: And Cindy has, her mother has a dance studio. Well, they have it together, John manages it. And John is a teacher, and he teaches in Cottage Grove. And he is 38, and I'm getting old. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Was he born here?

PHYLLIS: Yes.

DOROTHEA: He was born in Burns then? Who were some of the doctors that were here when you first came to Burns?

PHYLLIS: Dr. Cliff and Dr. John.

DOROTHEA: Was Dr. Smith still working at that time?

PHYLLIS: I don't believe so. I remember them talking about him. Well they were still, had offices in the old hospital. But I really think that was just the two doctors that was here. And there has been a lot of doctors come and go since then.

BARBARA: Back up just a minute. When was it that you moved to Burns, when Steve got his appointment at the post office?

PHYLLIS: I think it was in 1947.

BARBARA: '47. And he worked at the Burns Post Office all those years?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

BARBARA: In what capacity?

PHYLLIS: He was a clerk.

BARBARA: A clerk.

DOROTHEA: And you worked with the library. Can you tell us how you got started?

PHYLLIS: Well actually --- well I worked in a library when I was in high school at home. And I think I told Mary Pengelly, and she got me to volunteering down there. Actually it is her fault --- not really her fault. But she was nice enough to help me. And I used to go in and shelve, and dust shelves. If you remember the old library it was very dark in there, and all the shelves were real dark.

BARBARA: Okay, where was this first library per se that Burns had, where was it located?

PHYLLIS: Well you mean the one I worked in? Was in the old City Hall.

BARBARA: Was the old --- where Cramer has his office?

PHYLLIS: Cramer, uh huh.

BARBARA: Was there not a library in another building prior to that time?

PHYLLIS: I really don't know. You'll have to ask --- well Inez Ausmus might know.

BARBARA: I was under the impression that there was another City Hall prior to the time that they moved to that building.

PHYLLIS: Well it could have been, but I just don't know.

BARBARA: Okay. So this was during the early ---

PHYLLIS: Oh, the latter '40's and early '50's.

BARBARA: Uh huh, that you volunteered.

PHYLLIS: Well, I really didn't go to work until my son was in school.

BARBARA: But your volunteer time, how much time would you spend there? Was it like a four-hour day?

PHYLLIS: Oh probably three hours. Oh, more than that a week. And Mrs. Slater decided that we got along and she asked me to come and work for cash money. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Was Mrs. Gen Slater the librarian when you started volunteering?

PHYLLIS: Yes, uh huh.

BARBARA: Okay. Can you describe maybe what it was like there? Was it located on the first floor?

PHYLLIS: Yes, it was in the, like where you go into Cramer's to their office. And it was dark in there. All the lights was on chains, and you had to pull them as you went around. It was really dark in there now that I think about it. We still have the old desk out here that we used there.

DOROTHEA: What was your space like, was it very big?

PHYLLIS: No.

DOROTHEA: And I understand that Gen made an office out of a bathroom.

PHYLLIS: No, it was out of a cubbyhole under the stairs.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

PHYLLIS: It went up to the water office.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PHYLLIS: I can remember her, what was she standing on --- and she was papering it, and the table collapsed with her. She didn't fall but the legs bent and she was in there floundering around. No, that was just a hole-in-the-wall really.

DOROTHEA: Well, somebody said that she had set her typewriter on top of a board on the sink, or something.

PHYLLIS: Well there was a sink in there, which we had to have for mending books. And that's where I mended books. You could almost get in there to do it. But it was where the steps went up to the ---

DOROTHEA: Can you remember, you said something about the books, and it was first started or something, and where did they get the books?

PHYLLIS: I think they were donated.

DOROTHEA: Donated.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh. And I think they had this club, maybe it was the Mother's Club or one of those, and they started it. And like I say the books was in a baby buggy.

DOROTHEA: Well, I remember we talked to one of the ladies, and she said that this lady went down the street to the different houses and they did get their books out of a baby buggy. That's how they got them.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I think they were donated from different families.

PHYLLIS: Oh yes, they were, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: How did they collect them then, when they went down the street the next time, they picked them back up?

PHYLLIS: Well now, I suppose so. That was before my time, believe it or not!

DOROTHEA: Right.

PHYLLIS: I hear that chuckle.

DOROTHEA: You didn't hear anyone mention?

PHYLLIS: No, I can remember Mrs. Cecil talking about it, and I kind of wondered maybe she didn't deliver the books to it.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: They lived in this stone house across the street.

DOROTHEA: Cecil's did?

PHYLLIS: Yeah, when they moved in from the ranch, they bought that. And I can't remember ---

BARBARA: The one just right down at the foot of the hill?

PHYLLIS: No, no, right across the street where Cramer's live.

BARBARA: Oh, where Cramer's live. Oh, I see, Cecil.

DOROTHEA: That originally, I think, was where one of the doctors lived.

PHYLLIS: Yes, I remember him too. And he had two sisters and they were little fussy ladies that took care of him. I can't remember his name.

BARBARA: Was the library, when you first started volunteering, was it a part of the city, was it a part of the county, how was funding for salaries?

PHYLLIS: Okay, I think it was the city was the ---

BARBARA: It was a city library then.

PHYLLIS: But the county helped fund it. I think they mainly funded it.

BARBARA: I see.

PHYLLIS: But they just left it the city library until they moved here.

BARBARA: So your salary check was from the county then was it, or do you recall?

PHYLLIS: I think it came from the city. And then --- well like I say, I got twenty-four dollars a month. It was in rents and fines at that time. We rented a book for a dime a week, the new books.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you paid for the books when you rented them?

PHYLLIS: The new ones.

DOROTHEA: The news one. Oh.

PHYLLIS: We didn't have that many books, and that's one way we could get people to bring them back.

BARBARA: That's interesting.

PHYLLIS: And then when we moved up here, I don't know whether it was the law or something, but we couldn't do that anymore.

BARBARA: How many books would you estimate that they had when they first started down there at the old city hall? Would it be thousands, or just in the hundreds would you guess?

PHYLLIS: Oh, I would guess maybe five to ten thousand. They were really --- and I tell you, I

moved those books so many times just to get like six inches of space so we could put some more books on there. And we did store them in the basement where the old jail is.

DOROTHEA: Do we still have some of those books in the library?

PHYLLIS: Oh I'm sure, yes.

BARBARA: Was there a certain fund that you were allowed to buy so many books? I mean you had a budget and you were allotted so much money to buy books.

PHYLLIS: Yes, there was a budget. I don't know how much it was. But Mrs. Slater really did real well in keeping up with it. And we had, was it one lady, if she didn't like a book, she didn't think people should read it she wouldn't get it. Or if she got it she would send it back. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh no.

PHYLLIS: Yeah. Can't read that.

BARBARA: She was censoring things on her own then?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And who besides Mrs. Slater and yourself, were there other volunteers that would come and help?

PHYLLIS: No, not after --- I was the first person she had to help her, really, you know full time. And I ran the desk and put the books away. She was in her big office! She ordered the books and, you know, did the paper work. And we took turns working nights. At that time, we was open two nights a week, and I can't remember, I kind of think it was Wednesday and Saturday, I'm not sure.

BARBARA: A Saturday night?

PHYLLIS: Yes.

BARBARA: For people that would come to town maybe, ranchers and things.

PHYLLIS: I think maybe that was it, but I just really can't recall how long we did that. Because then she, you know, it was nice for her to get a Saturday night off when I went to work there.

BARBARA: And were you open all day, or just afternoons?

PHYLLIS: Just afternoons.

BARBARA: Just afternoons. Sort of like it is right now, time wise.

PHYLLIS: Oh well, there is longer hours now.

BARBARA: But I mean, it was just afternoon and evenings.

PHYLLIS: Yeah, we was open like from 2 to 5 is all, that was three hours. And then in the evening from 2 to, pardon me, from 7 to 9.

BARBARA: And you mentioned there was a library board during the early time that helped you acquire books.

PHYLLIS: Well now, I don't know.

BARBARA: Or was it just a board to oversee what was going on.

PHYLLIS: It was a board; yeah it was a board, uh huh. I've been trying to think who else was on that board. I can remember Inez because she worked so hard.

BARBARA: And was their initial purpose just to help gain more books and things, or was it to try to spearhead getting a building of their own?

PHYLLIS: Yes, yes.

BARBARA: And how did they go about trying to get a building fund started, do you know? Did they just go around to the people, or organizations, or businesses?

PHYLLIS: Well I think that Mrs. Slater wrote a grant. And they had what they called a sinking fund for the new building. And they did various things I think, like cooked food sales and stuff. They worked mighty hard.

And then of course, we were --- well I think we were wonderfully lucky, because I was there alone one day, and this guy came in and he was a chauffeur. And he said, "I brought this to you." And he handed me a check for forty thousand dollars. I said, "What's this for?" You know I really got the chills. And he said, "Well, this is for your new library, it's from Jimmy Walker." And he couldn't get around very well at that time.

BARBARA: Walker?

DOROTHEA: Walker, or Fellows?

PHYLLIS: Fellows, I'm sorry, Fellows, Fellows, Jimmy Fellows. And he gave more later on, I don't know how much. But that really excited me.

BARBARA: Was this Mr. Fellows from Burns, or from someplace else?

PHYLLIS: He had lived here; I don't know if he was from here or not. He did a lot of real estate business around here.

BARBARA: I see. So he lived here at one time?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

BARBARA: When he donated the money, was he living here at that time?

PHYLLIS: No, he was in Arizona I guess. They were just passing through.

BARBARA: Oh, passing through and decided to give some money. Well, wasn't that a wonderful surprise?

PHYLLIS: Yes. It didn't have my name on it though. (Laughter)

BARBARA: So did that donation of forty thousand dollars pretty well get things moving in motion?

PHYLLIS: Well, I really don't know how much they had. You'd have to ask Inez, because I didn't -  
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BARBARA: You weren't in on that part of it.

PHYLLIS: No, I didn't --- well I thought it wasn't any of my business. Just to run the library. Oh, another little ditty about that library too, we stored our books down in the basement and we had to go outside and way around the building and down the stairs to get, you know, the magazines you'd stored and stuff.

DOROTHEA: Because you had to go around the police station, which was next door to you at that time.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh, uh huh. And the fire trucks was next door to us then. And if the lights went out you had to walk in there in that garage among all those fire trucks and everything and try to find the switch. It was a lot of fun.

BARBARA: Oh my.

PHYLLIS: And the restroom was upstairs in the city hall.

DOROTHEA: What was upstairs, you say it was the water department?

PHYLLIS: Water office, and the --- well I think all the offices, city offices was up there.

DOROTHEA: Like the city judge?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Because I can remember going up there to the city judge and talking to her about different things. Cemetery plots, and ---

PHYLLIS: George, oh what is his name?

DOROTHEA: Hughet.

PHYLLIS: Hughet, he knew everything there was to know about this city. It's too bad it wasn't recorded.

DOROTHEA: It's --- you know we keep talking about going up and talking to him, and I'm wondering if he can remember a lot of this anymore.

PHYLLIS: I don't think he can hardly talk, I'm not sure.

DOROTHEA: Can't he? Uh huh. Well, I know he is ---

PHYLLIS: They say all he does is stay in bed now.

DOROTHEA: Oh, uh huh. It's a shame we've lost ---

PHYLLIS: Well, I might ask Dorey, I always want to call her Munson, but it is ---

BARBARA: Burden.

DOROTHEA: Burden.

PHYLLIS: Burden, yes.

DOROTHEA: You're like me, I want to call her Munson, and it isn't.

PHYLLIS: But she would probably know.

DOROTHEA: Did the building stairs; did they bother the library at all?

PHYLLIS: Well, you could hear people going up and down them, but it wasn't, no one was racing up and down them.

BARBARA: Was there a place in the library there at the old city hall, a place for you to go in and sit and read magazines or books?

PHYLLIS: Heavens no, we had a table, a big table that people could sit at.

BARBARA: So kids might go in and use reference material or something to do that?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: From what I can remember of it, it was a very narrow room. It was just a one room

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PHYLLIS: Yeah, just one big room.

DOROTHEA: Narrow room.

PHYLLIS: But we moved it this way and that way, every way we could to just get a little more space.

DOROTHEA: What was an average day like there, were you real busy, or did you do a lot of ---

PHYLLIS: At some times. Sometimes you --- it's just the same as here.

DOROTHEA: Is it? When you came to this building, did you feel like you had gone to heaven?

PHYLLIS: Yes, and we were so busy. Because of course everyone wanted a new library card and everything. We were running our feet off night and day. At that time, we were lucky we had three people working, and we had a full time shelfer too, to keep the books in order.

DOROTHEA: Did Peggy work with you at that time, or how did she get started?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh, yes. Well, I think her mother asked her if she would rather do this or substitute teach, and she said she'd rather do this. Of course, she had college and everything, and she just took over from her mother, which I think she has done a very good job. Because being on the board she has, you know, how much money she has to buy new books with, and she keeps up with them.

BARBARA: Let's go back now and try to get to this library. From the old city hall, you got the money from Jim Fellows and ---

PHYLLIS: Well, not all of it.

BARBARA: I understand that.

PHYLLIS: Yeah.

BARBARA: But then you got fund raisers and enough money to, I think there was matching funds

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PHYLLIS: There were matching funds, yes.

BARBARA: --- from the state or whatever it is.

PHYLLIS: I can't remember exactly where they got the big part of that money. I think Mrs. Slater worked hard on a grant.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And then I think was the land not donated from Mrs. Anna Cater was it, Bill Hanley's, Mrs. Bill Hanley's sister.

PHYLLIS: Yes, yes it was, yes it was.

BARBARA: So the land was given to it, for them.

PHYLLIS: Because basically the land this library sits on is what the library has. They don't own any of this around here ---

BARBARA: Right.

PHYLLIS: --- the parking places.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And so they got the money, they got an architect, and they got started on this building. And do you recall when this library was opened?

PHYLLIS: Is it about, has it been here about twenty years?

BARBARA: I was going to say '69, but then maybe I had better look at my cheat sheet here and see.

PHYLLIS: No, maybe it is a little more than that. I always go by the ages of the kids.

DOROTHEA: I think it was in that ---

BARBARA: Okay, let's see the first spade full of earth was turned over in August of 1968.

DOROTHEA: August 20th ---

PHYLLIS: Oh, the shovel is right there.

BARBARA: They moved in, in August of '69, and the dedication was September 19th of that year. So 1969, the summer of 1969.

PHYLLIS: Oh, and it was hot girls. We didn't have an air conditioner.

BARBARA: I understand that Mr. Luce was a big contributor to that.

PHYLLIS: Oh yes, yes, we have a lot of stock he give us too.

BARBARA: I understand that he had stopped here to visit, to check on the grave, and clean up.

PHYLLIS: Well he used to, he used to come every year.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And he came in and they had had a meeting or something up here, and it was very, very warm and Mrs. Slater had said something about they were working on a fund for air conditioning. He wanted to know how much it would take, and that his mother was the one that gave \$2600 to ---

PHYLLIS: His mother paid for it.

BARBARA: It ended up costing more, but at least it put them well on the way of putting it in.

PHYLLIS: Well, it never got below ninety at the desk. I don't know how I did it, but I guess you can do it if you have to.

BARBARA: So that was, that was really great. We mentioned just a minute ago about Mr. Luce and Claire McGill Luce who gave a grant to the library to further the history of Harney County.

PHYLLIS: Yes.

BARBARA: Which is what this project is working from.

PHYLLIS: Well, I think that was one of the greatest things she did.

BARBARA: I think originally wasn't it \$30,000, \$1,000 each year, and then she died the next year. And so they ended up giving stock in Time instead of that thousand dollars each year.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh, uh huh.

BARBARA: So I understand that we work off of the interest of that principal from the stock.

PHYLLIS: I believe so.

BARBARA: That's how we work on that. So it has been wonderful for us buying the equipment that we use, and paying our minimum salary here.

PHYLLIS: Well, I wonder how many small libraries have that?

BARBARA: Probably count them on one hand, if that.

PHYLLIS: I think we are really lucky.

DOROTHEA: How did we become a county library?

PHYLLIS: I think they just turned everything over when we moved in here, to the county.

DOROTHEA: It was kind of my understanding that because there were so many people that

needed to use this, that they had to become a county rather than a city.

PHYLLIS: Well that's right, but the city library was used by everyone in the county anyway.

DOROTHEA: But I think somehow or other being a county included the other schools and things like this. They were also eligible for things out of this library.

PHYLLIS: I think we get more help from the state too, I'm not sure.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: Now the state library is having trouble.

BARBARA: I should say. It is pitiful, isn't it?

PHYLLIS: Yes.

BARBARA: Can we talk about maybe some of the other people that have worked with the library?

You say you and Gen Slater were down at the old city hall. And were there ---

PHYLLIS: Well wait a minute, Jeanne Grimes worked down there too. She is ---

BARBARA: Jean Rines?

PHYLLIS: No, Grimes.

BARBARA: Oh, Grimes.

PHYLLIS: She accessioned books for the new library, because we was getting loads of them in every day, and she worked upstairs in one of the empty rooms. And she moved up here with us, she worked here too. And ---

BARBARA: Do you know who was the librarian before Gen Slater?

PHYLLIS: Her name was Mrs. Dennison, Jennie Dennison.

BARBARA: And then, okay, were there any other paid librarians then? Did Barbara Eggleston work here, or just on a volunteer basis?

PHYLLIS: No, Barbara never worked here, everyone thought she did, because this is her home away from home.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Okay. And were there others before you, or during your time that you worked here, other than ---

PHYLLIS: No, not, well ---

BARBARA: --- maybe students that came to put books away and things like that.

PHYLLIS: Yeah. Well, Yvonne Woodell worked here quite awhile.

DOROTHEA: What did she do?

PHYLLIS: Well, she did the same as I did, and I think she did some typing too. And Pearl, of course you know her.

BARBARA: Pearl Hammon.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh. Oh, and her husband was the head of the --- oh she came when I quit. I can't remember her name.

BARBARA: I thought Pearl came after you quit.

PHYLLIS: Oh, I quit twice.

BARBARA: Okay.

PHYLLIS: Oh, what is her name? He was head of the refuge.

DOROTHEA: Scharff?

BARBARA: Mazzoni.

PHYLLIS: Yes, Mazzoni.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BARBARA: Nancy Mazzoni.

PHYLLIS: Nancy Mazzoni worked here after.

BARBARA: So you quit and then Nancy, and then you came back.

PHYLLIS: I went to work at the floral shop, because that was the year my son went to college, and my house was going to be so quiet I couldn't stand it. And it was a mistake, but five years later I came back.

BARBARA: And when did, when did, you mentioned Peggy, Peggy Slater Sitz worked for her Mom. Do you recall about when she started working here too?

PHYLLIS: Well, it must have been when we moved in.

BARBARA: About how long? When you moved up here?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh. It might have been a little later.

BARBARA: About '69. So maybe the early '70's she started working here then?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh, uh huh, I think it was.

BARBARA: So you basically had three people then, Gen, yourself, and Peggy were working. Did you take, just work different days, or did you all three work at the same time?

PHYLLIS: No, we all worked at the same time.

BARBARA: I see.

PHYLLIS: It was nice to have enough people to, because you didn't have to let things go so much.

BARBARA: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Well, when did they cut down to just the two of you?

PHYLLIS: When Mrs. Slater retired. But she would come in like one day a week on Friday; I think it was, for a while.

BARBARA: So the county was trying to cut anyway, and when she retired that she just wasn't replaced?

PHYLLIS: Well, we weren't having that much business at that time either.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

PHYLLIS: That much traffic through here too at that time.

BARBARA: Was that about during the time when the mill went down, and ---

PHYLLIS: Oh, we were busy when the mill went down.

BARBARA: Oh because people had more time to read?

PHYLLIS: Yeah, well and people didn't have the money to travel or do this, they really used the library.

BARBARA: Well that's good.

DOROTHEA: What do you think was the cause of it slowing down?

PHYLLIS: Well, some of it was the teachers; they didn't give assignments that the kids had to look things up. Because lots of nights I've had every table full and there were kids studying.

DOROTHEA: Do you think that generations have changed that also?

PHYLLIS: Oh, yes, I think they have too.

BARBARA: More TV?

PHYLLIS: Yes.

BARBARA: The videos perhaps?

PHYLLIS: I think so, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Do the school libraries handle more now than they used to?

PHYLLIS: Well, now that's another thing too. They have more for the kids, and they're right there for them. I don't know about them taking so many books out of the school libraries. The little ones do, they just love them. But I don't know about high school.

BARBARA: Okay, tell us a little bit about, you mentioned students coming to study. Of an evening you would have mostly high school students in here?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh, uh huh.

BARBARA: Just studying, or using reference material?

PHYLLIS: Yeah, using reference.

BARBARA: Uh huh. I know there was a period of time my son used to come up here nearly every night and study with his girl friend.

PHYLLIS: Well that's great.

BARBARA: And I sometimes, at the beginning, wondered whether it was just to be with the girlfriend, or whether he was actually getting work done. But his grades improved tremendously, so I couldn't complain about it.

PHYLLIS: Well, he must have been working then.

BARBARA: But did you ever have trouble with them just sitting and visiting rather than doing work, and you had to get on them?

PHYLLIS: At that time they weren't too bad.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: I can only ever remember one that I put outside the door and told him to stay out.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: Because he was disrupting the whole room, and they really wanted to study.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: But that's the only one I really ever --- and then I would say, if they got too noisy, I said, "Do you want to quiet down, do you want to leave, or do you want me to call your parents to come get you?" Because you, of course I knew them all, and they'd usually quiet down.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: I think just like a bunch of women talking don't realize how loud they are.

BARBARA: Pretty soon it gets higher and higher and higher level.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh. And I didn't mind, I didn't care if they were visiting. But when they started running from table to table, and doing this and that well it was distracting other kids.

BARBARA: Right, for those that really had to get something done.

PHYLLIS: Yeah.

BARBARA: Yes. So you do --- the library is really used a lot by the students doing their schoolwork?

PHYLLIS: I think so, I think so. And I noticed this last spring; I worked a few days, why they were using it more.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Tell us something about these rooms. Originally what was, do you know what this room was built for?

PHYLLIS: Yes, it was the staff room.

DOROTHEA: The staff room.

PHYLLIS: This is where we could come and have our coffee, or you know, our break. And then when there was just so many of us, you couldn't leave the desk. And we'd stand out there and drink coffee or something.

DOROTHEA: How about the reading room? Now how was that ---

PHYLLIS: Well that's what it was, a reading room.

DOROTHEA: The reading room.

BARBARA: The Jim Fellows Adult Reading Room, is that what it is referred to?

PHYLLIS: Yeah. And I used to let kids go in there if they were studying in a group, you know. As long as they kept the noise down, because that is all open up above, whether they know it or not. And I didn't mind, as long as no one else wanted to use it.

BARBARA: And there is a bunch of reference books in there too, so ---

PHYLLIS: Yes. Well real old, old books. I'm sure some of them was in the old, the original bunch.

BARBARA: Do some of the older people come in and just sit down and relax in there to read?

PHYLLIS: Yes, once in awhile, uh huh. I'll tell you something I did one time. There was a kid in there --- well he wasn't a kid, he was a young man in there. And he used to go in there quite often, and it was closing time, so I just closed up and locked him in. (Laughter) He said, "Why did you lock me in?" I said, "Oh my gosh." He said, "Well, I found out I could get out the back door, finally." I sure felt stupid. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh, my goodness.

DOROTHEA: It was so quiet you didn't realize that anybody was here.

PHYLLIS: Well, he went to sleep.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

PHYLLIS: And from then on boy I check every room, you want to check the rest rooms.

BARBARA: And what --- we're sitting here in the back, old staff room, overlooking a little courtyard, was this intended to be used in the summertime for reading, or what?

PHYLLIS: Yes, and they would put lawn chairs ---

BARBARA: Benches?

PHYLLIS: --- out there and everything. But it really never was used. We could have used that for something else I think. But the idea was there, it was ---

DOROTHEA: Do you think that it will be closed up one day and put into some other kind of use?

PHYLLIS: It might be closed up to put more shelves in or something too.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, or storage.

PHYLLIS: We have a nice storage room back here, but I think it is probably getting pretty full.

BARBARA: I know our files are kind of consuming ---

PHYLLIS: Are they back there too?

BARBARA: --- a lot back here. Yes, we have our files here.

PHYLLIS: Oh. Well didn't you get new ones?

BARBARA: Yes, we did.

PHYLLIS: Isn't that nice.

BARBARA: We got new file cases because we overflowed. Tell us about some of the strangest requests you've had for information, or books, or what from some of the people.

PHYLLIS: Oh, I just can't think.

BARBARA: What kind of crazy things have ---

PHYLLIS: One thing I remember that I'll never forget. There was an old gentleman, and he really liked Mrs. Slater, he was always bringing her this or that. And one day he brought her in a rattle off a snake. And I can remember her putting that in the drawer, and she said, "Doesn't he know I like chocolates?" (Laughter) Oh, and he requested her, one day he said he wanted a book, he wanted a pretty sexy book. And I think he was up in his eighties somewhere, and he always had to talk to her. She said, "Well, alright." She went and got him a book; I don't know what it was. And then his wife would come to get him. He didn't drive, and she'd open the door and just beller, well Pa, are you ready? (Laughter)

But she, when she was working alone in the old library, then they still had the prisoners downstairs. Well every time you walk across that floor, she'd say they'd walk with her, you know, stomp down there. And she said they were cooking all the time, she said they were always cooking beans, and it smelled so terrible. (Laughter)

BARBARA: You mean the prisoners had to cook for themselves?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh, I think so.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right? Huh. Wonder they didn't have a big fire or something in there.

PHYLLIS: I don't know, but that was like a dungeon down there.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: What is, was the most common thing requested when you come in, people come up and ask for help, or information? What is over and over and over again, did people ask for? Anything particular?

PHYLLIS: Well a lot of it is history of Harney County. They like to read about that. And a lot of them want the best sellers always, they want to be first. But that's about all I can remember is mostly they want history, or they want, you know, they think one of their relatives would be listed in the book or something.

DOROTHEA: Is there any special book that we have here that you especially think is important to the organization type library stuff?

PHYLLIS: I don't understand.

DOROTHEA: A book that maybe no other library has.

PHYLLIS: Oh, well Harney County and Its Rangeland has been really popular, and then they reprinted it, and we sold a lot of them. And they are always picking on some, oh a fur trader or something they want. And then we have, oh I can't think of the name of them, in fact I give them -- they're about that thick, and they list people that lived here in Harney County, and they want to look in that book.

BARBARA: Oh that big old brown book with the gold writing?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

BARBARA: I can't think of the name of it either. A very delicate book right now.

PHYLLIS: Well it was found in an attic of a house down here. And that woman that found it give it to me, so of course I brought it right to the library where everyone could use it. Oh, I can't remember the name of it. It's hard remembering my own name. (Laughter)

But I think the people in this community should give Gen Slater a lot more credit about us having this library, and Inez Ausmus. That's when I was working, and they were working continually on it, both of them. And she'd go home at night and work on it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think being a teacher she was very concerned about our people and their knowledge.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Tell us some of the fun things that happened to you while you were a librarian.

PHYLLIS: About the funniest thing that ever happened to me, I was here alone at night, and all the tables was full, all the students, and this drunk man came in. And of course, he wasn't talking low, but he was so funny, and I couldn't quit laughing, and I was so embarrassed because I was supposed to set a good example. And we had bookmarks there, and he kept putting them --- said I've got to take this as a souvenir. I thought oh, am I going to have to walk out with him and put him outside? But he was good-natured, but it was so funny. Oh, I don't know, I can't think.

BARBARA: Did you ever have anyone that you had to physically take out of the library?

PHYLLIS: No. Well just the one boy one time, I took him by the ear and led him outside.

BARBARA: Or did you ever have to call the police or anything to have someone ---

PHYLLIS: No. But they told me to if --- and we have quite a few drunks that would come in and sleep it off.

DOROTHEA: Did they ever have a break-in in this library?

PHYLLIS: I think, I wasn't working, but they had this back door broke in. And I think they just came in and snooped around, because there is no money here, none they could get to. We had someone try to pry open the cash drawer. But no, you know, two cents a book a fine a day, you don't collect too much money.

DOROTHEA: Is that still what it is today?

PHYLLIS: Yes, it is.

DOROTHEA: Two cents a day.

PHYLLIS: And you'd be surprised the people that ignore it.

DOROTHEA: How many books are actually never returned?

PHYLLIS: Oh, I couldn't tell you. They pick on certain authors, like Louis L'Amour, they really like his books. And that's why a lot of the books are behind the desk on Oregon and Harney County. They can't let them go out because they like them, they keep them. And I don't know how many of the Brimlow, Harney County and Its Rangelands, was taken. But no, I can't tell you.

Because in the spring you have to get those, your over dues out and call those people, because a lot of people move, you know, when school is out.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: And we've found out it is that way in every library. And we used to get books back here. I remember one time we got a big stack back here that belonged to Ontario, and I was going down and I just took them back. I think there was about six or seven. And I've mailed some back too that we've gotten. I don't know, people think they're mine I guess.

BARBARA: Are there some people that are consistently late in returning their books?

PHYLLIS: Oh, of course. I ain't going to name names?

BARBARA: Oh, I wouldn't ask you to.

DOROTHEA: Do you think that they really forget, or do you think that they, because most people go home and they read this book if they check out a certain book, they read it. Do you think that they lay it down and forget to bring it back?

PHYLLIS: I think some people do. That's why we have always had a free time they can bring them back, you know, and not be charged. And then the most we ever charge is a dollar a book if the book has been out five years. But once in awhile we'll get one back.

DOROTHEA: Do you get any donations, like say somebody brings a book back, and says well I've had it for a year, I'll just give you five dollars? Or do they just pay their dollar and say that's it?

PHYLLIS: Once in awhile. Because they'll be embarrassed, oh I'll give you more than that. And then a lot of people donate books in memory of, you know. A lot of children's books have been given, adult books too.

BARBARA: I was wondering if you do receive, in memorial, instead of giving to Kidney Association or whatever, that they will donate to the library in memory of someone.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh. Well ---

BARBARA: I know Blair, when she passed away; they were able to buy a set of encyclopedias I understand with the donations.

PHYLLIS: It was wonderful, that we needed very bad.

BARBARA: Uh huh. So it is nice to remember that the library is also a good place to send donations in memory of someone rather than some of the other organization, even though they are good ones too.

PHYLLIS: Yes, we have quite a bit of that. And we have people that will just give books. And a lot of them are these large expensive books too.

BARBARA: Coffee table books?

PHYLLIS: Yes, that is right.

BARBARA: Sometimes people belong to book clubs; they will donate perhaps their books when they are through with them.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh. Oh we get lots of Reader's Digest, the books too, in the big print which is real popular.

DOROTHEA: Let's pause for a moment and turn our tape over. And we'll give ourselves time ---

## SIDE B

DOROTHEA: ... you have done. You said you quit for a while to work at the florists. How did you happen to go to work for the florist?

PHYLLIS: Well, I was always doing crafts and everything, and Rosie had crafts, just to begin with, and then she was going to go to flowers. And she said she wanted to hire me.

BARBARA: And this is Rosie Kimble?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh, uh huh.

BARBARA: Okay.

PHYLLIS: So, finally when, like I say when my son went to college it was so lonely at home that I went down there and worked. But I really couldn't hack it because I had high blood pressure and a bunch of trouble. The doctor said you better quit that, because you're always under pressure there. You have to work under a deadline.

DOROTHEA: Did you have to learn how to arrange flowers?

PHYLLIS: Yes ma'am.

DOROTHEA: How did you go about that, did you go to school for it, or did Rosie show you?

PHYLLIS: No. No, Rosie and I worked together.

DOROTHEA: Is it very hard?

PHYLLIS: Well some things are, yes. You have to place them just so, or it looks terrible.

DOROTHEA: When somebody orders, say a bouquet from Telefax ---

PHYLLIS: How about Teleflora?

DOROTHEA: Okay, Teleflora. Do they have instructions on how to arrange this?

PHYLLIS: We have books; we have books with the pictures in them, and how to arrange them.

DOROTHEA: Okay, I always wondered ---

PHYLLIS: They order such and such a number.

DOROTHEA: I always wondered how they got this same looking arrangement, if you just look at the picture.

PHYLLIS: Yeah, well they have books for you to look through it.

BARBARA: Of course, if you say you want a twenty-dollar spring bouquet, how do you determine how many flowers to put in for twenty dollars?

PHYLLIS: Well I don't know now, because flowers are a lot higher, but at that time it would have made a beautiful one. And then there is those that want something for three dollars, which might give them a leaf.

DOROTHEA: How about funeral wreaths, and bouquets, and arrangements, were you real busy at that time? Did you have to work nights to get this all ready?

PHYLLIS: Oh yes. We had three funerals one time before Christmas, the day before Christmas, and then we had the --- was it the junior-senior prom right after it. We worked all night until about three-thirty, and we went home and slept two hours and came back. Holidays aren't fun for a florist. And they want it delivered right now, at a certain time, and you just can't always do that.

BARBARA: And Mother's Day probably, and Valentine's Day.

PHYLLIS: Oh Mother's Day and Valentine's Day are the ---

BARBARA: Big ones, huh?

PHYLLIS: Yeah. Christmas. Because a lot of people don't know, they want to give the family a present or something, so they decide on flowers.

DOROTHEA: Did you keep many things so that walk-ins were available?

PHYLLIS: Oh yes, enough for --- well we sold lots of bud vases for people to take to the hospital too. It might be someone's birthday, why they'd have a lot of flowers sent to them.

BARBARA: Did it really hurt the business when Safeway put in their floral department, and cut the prices some, as compared to the florist?

PHYLLIS: I don't think so. People want to go to a real florist. But they do nice work at Safeway I think now.

DOROTHEA: Well, I think at that time when Safeway first went in, they didn't do the arrangements and things like that where they do now.

PHYLLIS: No, they had lots of plants.

DOROTHEA: So ---

BARBARA: And what are some of the other things that you are involved with in the community? I know you are active in your church.

PHYLLIS: I'm on the church council, I'm on the board at the Senior Centers, I'm chairperson of the board here at the library. And I give up, I was on the city council budget committee, but after four years I thought I had done my duty.

BARBARA: Right, let someone else have a turn.

PHYLLIS: Yes, I want them to have fun too. That's about all.

BARBARA: And on the budget committee, what are some of the things that you worked on during that time? What were you budgeting for at---

PHYLLIS: Everything. What each department can have. And they'd give you an argument about which is the best, which needs the most. And everything needs it, really.

BARBARA: Everything needs money, but nobody wants to pay for it.

PHYLLIS: Yes.

BARBARA: Everybody wants results but they don't want to put into the pot.

PHYLLIS: Yeah, we just don't --- and they're yelling now about the streets, I know that. And they're trying to do their best with what they have.

BARBARA: And you say you worked; you are on the board on the Senior Center?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

BARBARA: What is involved in working with the Senior Center?

PHYLLIS: Oh, they have a tremendous outgo of services that they take care of, that people don't even realize. And they take care of Alzheimer's people, and they take care of shut-ins, and they see that they get food. And they send out people to clean houses for people. Oh, I can't think of anything, and right now our budget was cut pretty badly by ---

BARBARA: And where do you get some of your money from for the Senior Center?

PHYLLIS: The state.

BARBARA: The state. Do they pay the salary for people that go out and clean these people's homes? Or do the person that uses ---

PHYLLIS: I think it is just in the budget of the --- it's just put in ---

BARBARA: So much is put into each division?

PHYLLIS: --- yeah, yes.

BARBARA: I see.

DOROTHEA: Well, I know they have cut that down too now to where instead of having four or five girls ---

PHYLLIS: Quite a bit.

DOROTHEA: --- they only have one or two. Is this right?

PHYLLIS: Well no, what they've done is put some people on part time so she wouldn't have to let the others go. That's kind of working out. Teri is not sleeping nights, she is not anything, she is working so hard at this.

DOROTHEA: Well, I know that Phyllis (Lissman) had to get grants, several grants.

PHYLLIS: Well that's what they work on all the time.

DOROTHEA: And they're not allowing some of these.

PHYLLIS: No, they don't have them anymore.

DOROTHEA: To go through anymore. And of course like we say, we can't blame Measure 5 on everything, but Measure 5 has really hurt the senior people in a lot of ways, and Senior Centers.

PHYLLIS: Oh yes. And well, what is wonderful, is they take them shopping, they have those vans. And they'll pick them up and take them to doctors. And I believe they check on some of them that are, you know, really frail.

DOROTHEA: Well, I know my father was one of these. And I think they are very --- I hate to see this program dropped because ---

PHYLLIS: Well, we're working hard to keep it.

DOROTHEA: Because I think this is very important. Because it saves families from worry. It saves families from having to --- like for instance me, I was having to go in and cook for Daddy twice a day, and put him in bed. And sometimes there is people that can come in and they help provide with these people. So ---

PHYLLIS: And now we have two Ombudsmen, is that what they're called, and they check on all these people all of the time. And they check the nursing home and all these ---

BARBARA: Is Marge McRae, I think she is in charge of that.

PHYLLIS: Yes, and she is good at that.

DOROTHEA: And Wes Welcome.

PHYLLIS: Yeah, Weslie Welcome. But I don't think Weslie drives, does she?

DOROTHEA: I don't know. I've never seen her drive, so I don't know. I know she gets people to drive for her. But she does a lot of walking.

PHYLLIS: And then there is so much set aside to train them, to send them wherever they have to go to have it done.

DOROTHEA: Now they work with the Senior Center on this?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh, uh huh. And then I wish people would tell if they had, if they know somebody that needs help, or you know, just checked on.

BARBARA: So how many people do you have working down at the Senior Center? And

volunteers, what kind of numbers are we talking about?

PHYLLIS: Well see, different church serves everyday they have food.

BARBARA: Do they provide lunches everyday of the week, or just so many?

PHYLLIS: No, just Wednesdays and Fridays I think.

BARBARA: I see.

PHYLLIS: And if, like they're taking them out, maybe they would take them to her father on the weekend, they would take him several, so it would do him over the weekend.

DOROTHEA: What they do is, these are called Meals on Wheels, and they deliver one on Wednesday, sometimes two, because it depends on the condition of the person that they are delivering them to. Like say if he isn't able to cook for himself, and somebody isn't doing this, they might bring in three meals on Wednesday so that he has a meal on Thursday, and on Tuesday. And then on Friday when they would bring a hot meal, they would also bring frozen meals so that it would get him through Saturday, Sunday and Monday. At least one meal per day.

PHYLLIS: Well, I think some of those people that's the only meals they are eating, because they are unable to fix it.

DOROTHEA: I'm sure.

PHYLLIS: But this helps them stay in their own homes.

DOROTHEA: And I'm sure this is true, and they figure if they can get one meal a day, they can survive.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: But --- and I'm sure this is true. But like you said, they also take them grocery shopping, they clean their houses, which I --- they do all on a --- well it's called a free service through the Center.

PHYLLIS: Well, it's according to what their income is.

DOROTHEA: Yes. Uh huh. I know they can only; they only have to pay for these frozen meals and hot meals, what they can afford.

PHYLLIS: If they are able to, if they're not able to, they pay nothing.

DOROTHEA: They pay nothing, right.

PHYLLIS: And there is a lot of those that go out.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: I mean a lot of meals. I'm not ---

BARBARA: Who do you have for cooking down at the Center?

PHYLLIS: Louise Bamberry is the head cook. And I forget how many people are in the kitchen.

There is one, two, probably about five, and they do the cleaning. After the meals they sweep, and sometimes they scrub.

BARBARA: So how many meals would they put out in a daytime on an average would you guess?

For the serving down there, plus all the frozen dinners.

PHYLLIS: I do not know. I ---

BARBARA: Several hundred would you guess?

PHYLLIS: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. I volunteer down there with the Rebekahs.

PHYLLIS: That's --- I have seen you there.

DOROTHEA: And probably, I would say probably close to fifty meals on wheels twice a week, plus the frozen dinners. And how they get the frozen dinners are, the food that is left over from the meals.

PHYLLIS: Well they are right, making those meals when they are bringing it off of the tables.

DOROTHEA: And actually they only cook two meals a week down there, and that is on Wednesday and Friday. But there is a lot of people that go down for those meals.

PHYLLIS: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: Wednesdays are your big days, birthday days.

PHYLLIS: Yeah birthday meals are big too.

DOROTHEA: Meals are big.

PHYLLIS: Or they have a Thanksgiving dinner, they have an Easter dinner, they have Christmas dinner.

DOROTHEA: And tell us some of the other things that maybe you budget for. Are you on the budget board also, or just the board of directors?

PHYLLIS: Down there? No, we just approve of what they do. And they do a darn good job.

DOROTHEA: Like, do they have places where you can go and play cards and things like this?

PHYLLIS: Oh yes, they have a card room.

DOROTHEA: How do you get the rooms to do --- I mean how do you get in there in other words?

Do they have special days that you play cards?

PHYLLIS: Well, they play on Wednesdays and Fridays, and I think Thursday is card day too. And then they have Bingo every Wednesday for those that want to stay.

BARBARA: So the Center is not open every day then?

PHYLLIS: Yes it is.

BARBARA: It is?

PHYLLIS: It is not open on Saturday and Sunday.

BARBARA: But it's open on the other days.

PHYLLIS: And then they usually give a key to someone for Sunday if they want to come in and play cards or whatever.

DOROTHEA: There is no board person, or senior working person there on Sunday?

PHYLLIS: There ---

DOROTHEA: So in other words, when you take the key, it's your responsibility.

PHYLLIS: You're responsible for it. Well Esther Dammen takes it a lot, and she is really good. And I think the same group play there every Sunday.

BARBARA: Who is eligible to go down and take advantage of the services down there? Do you have to be a certain age to go down there?

PHYLLIS: Yes, or disabled. I believe it is sixty or over.

DOROTHEA: You can go down as a guest, right?

PHYLLIS: Well yes, they have to pay extra for you. See they only charge like a \$1.75 a meal.

And then you hear people hollering about what they were served. Well, they can't please everyone.

And I think they do a very good job.

DOROTHEA: I do too. In fact, I've eaten some real good meals down there.

PHYLLIS: Well you couldn't get a hamburger for \$1.75 I don't think.

DOROTHEA: What do you think is the most favorite meal that is served down there?

PHYLLIS: Probably their birthday dinner, which is always fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, a vegetable, a salad, and usually ice cream and cake.

DOROTHEA: For a \$1.75.

PHYLLIS: Yeah. And then they have what they call the birthday table where, you know, the birthday people for that month sit. And they give away a lot of prizes, but they're from different restaurants, they give away meals. Donna Pereira always gives a five-dollar bill, no I think it is a ten-dollar bill to one, they draw names. I think the, is it the --- oh down there where the power company was, the Powerhouse, they give a meal.

DOROTHEA: Powerhouse.

PHYLLIS: They give a meal. And Silver Sage, and the Castle, and then some of the Drive-Inns. Just about every restaurant, which is nice. Because a lot of those people don't have money to go out and eat.

DOROTHEA: What are some of the other things that you do? Do you play cards?

PHYLLIS: I crochet a lot. Yes, I play cards, I play at them, I'm not very good.

BARBARA: Yes, she is doing just fine.

PHYLLIS: I belong to a ---

BARBARA: I can attest to that, because she plays in one of the bridge groups that I belong to.

PHYLLIS: Oh yes, bridge group.

BARBARA: We have a good time.

PHYLLIS: Well I --- yes, it is fun. I didn't learn to play bridge until I retired. So they have advantage over me, they've probably played it all their life, and played it in college, didn't you?

BARBARA: I learned when I was in college, yes.

PHYLLIS: Oh, yeah.

BARBARA: Well, let's say I started playing; I don't know that I have ever really learned.

PHYLLIS: Oh, you're very good. I keep trying.

DOROTHEA: That's something I do not know how to do, and intend to learn one of these days.

PHYLLIS: Well, I've always been curious about it, and by golly they offered lessons down there, and I said I'm going to take them.

DOROTHEA: Who offered lessons?

BARBARA: And every hand is different isn't it?

PHYLLIS: His name is Norm Trada. And I believe Norm is 87 years old this year.

DOROTHEA: And where is this, at the Center?

PHYLLIS: At the Center.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

PHYLLIS: And he is sharp as he can be. Only the girls tell me he hasn't taught me some things right, according to them.

BARBARA: Well, I think each group kind of picks up their own little signals and things, yeah.

PHYLLIS: Oh, I think so too.

BARBARA: And what other activities are you involved with? Or that pretty much takes care of all your time?

PHYLLIS: Well for the Elks I crochet mufflers, and hats, and slippers, and things like that for the veterans ---

BARBARA: Oh, for Christmas? Oh, for the veterans.

PHYLLIS: --- home in Boise. And for the Children's Hospital I make baby things.

BARBARA: That's really nice. You knit at all, or just all crocheting?

PHYLLIS: I wished I could, I'm not smart enough to knit.

DOROTHEA: If you can crochet you're smart enough to knit.

PHYLLIS: Well knitting, I can knit, but it just goes so slow for me, I might get one thing made a year.

DOROTHEA: That's how I feel, so I'm going to learn to crochet.

PHYLLIS: It goes fast.

DOROTHEA: I don't crochet. I have a girlfriend making me an afghan, I gave her the, I think fourteen skeins of yarn, and in a month and a half she has it done already. She knits; I couldn't knit an afghan in years.

PHYLLIS: Well, when I was in California at my sister's, she was working on this, she said, "I'm never going to finish this," and she threw it down. I said, "Well give it here, I'll take it home." But I said, "It is not going to be knit." So I've about got it done, she'll be surprised. And I go every year to my son's; I house sit and animal sit for them while they go to Disneyland every year. She takes her dancers; they dance down there. And this year they are going to Disney World, so I'll have to go over there twice.

DOROTHEA: You say Cindy has a dancing school?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: How many students does she have?

PHYLLIS: About two hundred and twenty.

DOROTHEA: This must be an every day occurrence.

PHYLLIS: Oh yes, uh huh. She goes to work about, sometimes as early as six o'clock in the morning so she can get some kids --- well she has help now. She can get some kids before school.

DOROTHEA: Does she get any of them as Oregon contestants down there? Does she teach any of those?

PHYLLIS: She's --- no, well she did have one little girl, but they go to Seaside every year for competition. But she was going lots of places. But now, it's too hard, she has too many students, so they'll just go the two places this year.

DOROTHEA: What ones does she take down there with her?

PHYLLIS: Well, she has this group that is called the Emotion Group. They're really good, and that's the ones that get to go, because they are advanced. And her daughter is the smallest one in it, and boy, she is good. I don't care if she is my granddaughter, but she has danced before she could stand. She'd sit there, and stand there and ---

DOROTHEA: Well, I know her sister Sally did a lot of dancing also, and ---

PHYLLIS: So called.

DOROTHEA: But I understand that Cindy was just as good, or better.

PHYLLIS: Well I think she is better, because Cindy has a degree in it.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

PHYLLIS: From the University of Oregon.

BARBARA: Well, we'll have to forgive her. (Laughter) We'll have to make a note that I'm an Oregon Stater, and your son is a Duck. (Laughter)

PHYLLIS: Well see, I look good in green, and you look good in orange.

BARBARA: You mentioned that you are on the library board now. Can you tell us how you become a library board member?

PHYLLIS: You're appointed.

BARBARA: By --- who decides, I mean do you put your name in to be considered ---

PHYLLIS: Peggy.

BARBARA: --- for it, or ---

PHYLLIS: No, she just asked me if I would.

BARBARA: Okay. Because I was wondering if ---

PHYLLIS: You can --- I forget how long a term, is it three years?

BARBARA: I think it is four years.

PHYLLIS: Oh, maybe it is four. And you can serve, is it two consecutive ones, and that's all.

BARBARA: Two consecutive. Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: Poor Barbara, was on there forever.

BARBARA: Then you have to be off, and then you can come back on again.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Uh huh, for a term.

DOROTHEA: Who are some of the members on the board now?

PHYLLIS: Let's see, Doug Jenkins, Earl Tiller, Willie Shoemaker, is it Shoemaker, is that her last

name?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: Sandy Micheli, myself, I think maybe that is all.

BARBARA: Is Bev still on?

PHYLLIS: Oh pardon me, Beverly Raleigh too.

DOROTHEA: How often do you meet?

PHYLLIS: About once a month.

DOROTHEA: Once a month.

PHYLLIS: We have to approve of the bills, so she can take them over and have them paid. All this stuff, and then we have to decide if you kids need some new things for your ---

BARBARA: You approved that we got some new file cabinets, and some new file drawers.

PHYLLIS: That's right, I hope you noticed that.

BARBARA: Yes, we sure did. I got them all re-done, and it is wonderful. You don't have to cram the stuff in there like crazy.

PHYLLIS: Well, I noticed that it was really getting crammed in there.

BARBARA: I know, it's really wonderful, the new ones. We can't thank you enough.

DOROTHEA: Well see, this all happened while I was gone, and I didn't see all this.

PHYLLIS: Where did you get to go?

DOROTHEA: Well, my daughter had surgery and I took off some time.

PHYLLIS: Oh.

DOROTHEA: And then I got into the ranching business, which was taking all of my time.

PHYLLIS: We --- having a few little calves and ---

DOROTHEA: Feeding, and this winter was not a good winter.

PHYLLIS: No.

DOROTHEA: And I had problems, so I just --- we just got back to work. Barbara ---

PHYLLIS: I hate to tell you; I keep seeing snow flying by here.

DOROTHEA: Yes. I just came through the awfulest hailstorm when I come to town a while ago.

And it is the last of April, the first part of May, and the snow is taking place of grass. Grass is not growing yet.

PHYLLIS: I can remember having snow every day in April, but not in May. Well, I can remember it snowing in June, but just, you know, a little bit. Enough to make you mad.

BARBARA: So, I was still interested on the library board there, about just being appointed, I was just wondering if people can say I would really like to serve on the board. Is there a list or something that Peggy might have?

PHYLLIS: You might, you might --- yeah.

BARBARA: Might ask Peggy about it.

PHYLLIS: Well yes, I have a list that I know of two people at least that ---

BARBARA: That would like to serve?

PHYLLIS: Yeah, I have asked them. And I still say that it should be someone that uses the library and knows about it, to be on the board.

BARBARA: Right. To know what really needs to take place.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh. And Peggy is real good about outlining what she needs.

BARBARA: Uh huh. I know she takes minutes, but she is not a member of the board.

PHYLLIS: That's right, she doesn't vote.

BARBARA: Because she is employed by the library. Because we have had to go and make presentations about what we were doing and stuff to the board, so I know that.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh. But she has it down really well, where we just approve of about everything. She never wants anything outrageous, or anything, she is really good.

BARBARA: She knows what the budget is; she knows priorities of what needs to be done here.

PHYLLIS: Yes.

BARBARA: So pretty much figures out when you can do it and when you can't. So it works out really well.

DOROTHEA: Are there anything that you would like to see yourself, the library get, or happen to the library itself?

BARBARA: Things that maybe the board are considering on a long-range goal.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh. Well it's just about the same. You always have to figure every so many years you need new encyclopedias, and you need to update these things. Some of the books need to be pulled off the shelves that are no longer --- I think that they give them five years. If they're not taken out, they're pulled, so you have more room. Which I hate to see a book pulled.

BARBARA: But if it is taking up space and not being used ---

PHYLLIS: Well that's right, yes.

BARBARA: --- whether they are just not aware of it, or whether it's just not of interest to people here. When you pull a book, where does it go?

PHYLLIS: Well ---

BARBARA: To another library?

PHYLLIS: If it is in bad shape it is thrown.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: We have to take all, pull all the cards, and you have to take it out of a session and dump it. And that is, usually, mainly the little kid's books, because they are just worn out with love I think.

BARBARA: Right, right, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Do you ever get some of them replaced? I mean like the little kids?

PHYLLIS: Oh yes, yes we replace --- or I should say Peggy replaces. Yes, some of them ---

DOROTHEA: Well, I mean donated?

PHYLLIS: Sometimes, yes. Once in awhile a teenager will decide to clean out their bookcase and they'll bring us in a whole bunch, well you know, little stories that they had when they were little kids. And that is a really good thing. Joe, oh his mother works down at the creamery, can't think of her name. He brought us big stacks of ---

BARBARA: Baker?

PHYLLIS: Yes, Joe Baker. And they were all in perfect condition, you know Joe. So they were really nice to have.

BARBARA: That must be a real chore then for the librarian to go through your list to find out what books are not being used then. If you say you do this once a year?

PHYLLIS: Well you just have to take inventory every so often, and read the cards in the back when they were taken out last. Yes, that is another little chore that Peggy does.

BARBARA: Well, you just go down the bookshelf and do that?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh, uh huh.

BARBARA: I see. Yes, that would be very time consuming.

PHYLLIS: And not too much fun. Well really, I would like to see another full time person in here to help. But it's just too much money; they don't have it in the budget.

BARBARA: Well, Peggy mentioned that everything next year is just going to be the same. We can't complain because there is no ups and ---

PHYLLIS: Oh yes.

BARBARA: --- there is no downs. But you just run it through the same, because there just is no more money, and you are going to have to make do with what you have now. So ---

PHYLLIS: Hopefully, we can make do.

BARBARA: That's right, if there is no major ---

PHYLLIS: But those, the children's books, what I'm talking about is easy readers. Their prices have gone up so high, that it is just ---

BARBARA: That was one thing I was going to ask you, what did a book cost like when you first started in 1975 perhaps?

PHYLLIS: Oh, a best seller or ---

BARBARA: A book would be --- uh huh, or children, you know, comparatively.

PHYLLIS: I would say under ten dollars, and the children's I would say under five.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And now they are thirty dollars or more.

PHYLLIS: Oh yes. Cheapest are about twenty something.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And children's books are probably twenty, too?

PHYLLIS: Oh yes, they are, and they are made so poorly. You can open a book and it will come

apart.

BARBARA: It will crack in the back.

PHYLLIS: Yeah.

BARBARA: So the budget for buying books really limits the number that you may choose, and it becomes more and more difficult to select which books you are going to buy then. Is that right?

PHYLLIS: Well, you just have to select the ones that you know we need badly.

BARBARA: Uh huh. But I mean you are talking about the best sellers coming in.

PHYLLIS: Well, she keeps up with those real well, because that is what people want, you know.

BARBARA: Right.

PHYLLIS: But she doesn't neglect the other part either. If there is one books that isn't too sharp, why she will pass it by. And a lot of times it will be given to the library. People give the books; they belong to these clubs and such.

BARBARA: And we have the ability to get books from the state library, is that true? You can request a book ---

PHYLLIS: Well it's non-fiction.

BARBARA: Right, uh huh.

PHYLLIS: Yes.

BARBARA: So if a student needs certain reference material or something that is not carried here, or a book about whatever, you can write to the state library and get it?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh. Well, we have ---

BARBARA: Is there a charge for that?

PHYLLIS: I don't know; I think they charge the postage.

BARBARA: The postage.

PHYLLIS: We have the books in print, not books, well we have books in print, and then we have the catalog on the microfiche. So you can go by subject, title, or author if you want to.

BARBARA: What is available at the state library?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And you mentioned the microfiche, what are some of the services that the library provides, besides just checking out a book? What are some of the other things that you can get?

PHYLLIS: Oh we have records, we have cassettes, we have ---

BARBARA: The reading book, I mean you can listen to a book now.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Okay.

PHYLLIS: And like we have all this history that you girls have gathered, which is really wonderful for a lot of people. And then there is a lot of people that write in that we look things up for in the old papers. And that's another good thing we have, all the old papers.

BARBARA: Those are used every day probably, they really are.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: How often are those, you mentioned cassettes, how often are they checked out? Are they used a lot?

PHYLLIS: Oh, well when I worked here they have been checked out every day.

DOROTHEA: What kind of cassettes do you have?

PHYLLIS: Well, usually the best sellers, we have those. And mystery, Agatha Christie mysteries. I really don't know; they are all out there on that carrousel. But I think from looking at them, they are mostly --- and like Michener's, all Michener's books. Imagine listening to one of his books, you'd have to go across the states.

BARBARA: I know I have checked some out going back and forth to Idaho, listening to the books. And I understand they are, you have difficulty with the cassettes not coming back with the packages. I understand sometimes they don't make it back.

PHYLLIS: Well I --- probably not. You know, like I say I'm not at the desk anymore, or you'd hear me raving about it.

BARBARA: You say records.

PHYLLIS: Phonograph records.

BARBARA: Phonograph records.

PHYLLIS: But they're getting pretty elderly, but people still check them out.

BARBARA: Right. Uh huh. We don't have the cassettes or CD's or anything like that here.

PHYLLIS: I don't think we should have, but that's just my opinion.

BARBARA: Right.

PHYLLIS: Because they're used so badly, yes.

BARBARA: They're readily available elsewhere. The money needs to go to print rather than ---

PHYLLIS: And all those records out there were given to us I think over the years. People that brought them ---

BARBARA: Ilda May Hayes perhaps, was it some of her collection?

PHYLLIS: I don't remember. But she give, oh she must have give us a hundred or more cookbooks.

BARBARA: Oh.

PHYLLIS: She collected them.

DOROTHEA: Do people check out these, or can they buy these from you?

PHYLLIS: No, you check them out.

DOROTHEA: You can't purchase them?

PHYLLIS: Huh uh.

DOROTHEA: Because I was going to say, I'm a cookbook collector. I don't know what is going to happen to all my cookbooks, I must have sixty or eighty.

PHYLLIS: Oh, you're one of those.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. My kids give me lots of flack about it.

PHYLLIS: I like to look at them, I don't want to cook.

DOROTHEA: But I am, I'm a cookbook collector.

PHYLLIS: My daughter is too; she likes these that, like you put out here for the library.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: And church people put them out, and she says usually that's their best recipes.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: I notice in some other libraries they have paintings that you can check out. Does --- do we have some?

PHYLLIS: Oh, we have paintings; you can check those out on the walls in there.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Why do they want to check the paintings out?

PHYLLIS: Just to change a ---

BARBARA: Picture in your own home.

PHYLLIS: In their own home.

BARBARA: I notice some of the big, big libraries have really nice prints that you can check out to decorate your home with. You can check them for so many months, and then you take them back. Then you change your scene in your home.

DOROTHEA: Oh, now see I'm learning something.

BARBARA: Some of the libraries do it.

DOROTHEA: I should listen more.

PHYLLIS: Well, certainly.

DOROTHEA: Well maybe I'll want to take that picture that is always crooked on the wall home with me.

PHYLLIS: And straighten it up.

BARBARA: And what does it cost to have a library card in Burns, Oregon?

PHYLLIS: That's free, the first one is. And if you lose it, why then it is fifty cents if you have to have another one.

BARBARA: And is there any restriction in becoming a card bearer?

PHYLLIS: Well, you have to live in the county, and you have to be six years old.

BARBARA: Six years old, okay.

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

BARBARA: So there is no other restrictions, you just fill out a card and have several references.

PHYLLIS: Well, I have had people come in to get a card, that has had a card before, and they still have books that they have had for several years, and I won't issue them another card. I said, "You see the librarian because I won't issue you another card, you took books and didn't bring them back."

DOROTHEA: How often do you have to get a card? Do you have to renew every year?

PHYLLIS: You renew them every three years.

DOROTHEA: Oh, every three years. Because I had one card, I'm a terrible library person, I had one card and I never have ever renewed.

PHYLLIS: Well, what can I say?

BARBARA: Have to start all over.

DOROTHEA: Well, I got my card for my kids to use, and we lived out in the country, it was inconvenient for them. So, I don't check out books.

PHYLLIS: Well, we'll let you.

DOROTHEA: Well, I just don't do it.

PHYLLIS: Well, another thing I would like to see is the children's books brought up to snuff on the --- oh, non-fiction. They're always looking like for an animal or something. And we just don't have enough to go around when the whole class has ---

BARBARA: Has a project to do?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh.

BARBARA: I know our sorority (Epsilon Sigma Alpha) just made a donation to the library to buy children's books.

PHYLLIS: Well, how nice.

BARBARA: So, we are excited about doing that.

PHYLLIS: Yes. There was a man came in one time, and I forget how much he give, it was for little, you know, tot's books. Peggy let me pick them out, and I just, oh, that was such a decision to make. But it was fun to do. I forget how many hundred dollars, but it bought quite a few books.

Well that is great.

BARBARA: It's exciting. Did you ever meet Jim Fellows?

PHYLLIS: Yes, yeah.

BARBARA: You mentioned that, we're kind of going back and forth here, but that is all right, but you said a chauffeur brought it in ---

PHYLLIS: He was back and forth several times. And then he brought books that had, oh like Ernest Hemingway's autograph in them. That's one that I can remember. He brought a box of, they were all autographed.

BARBARA: You said that he was in real estate, so he lived here for a short period of time, or just worked out of here?

PHYLLIS: No, I think he lived here quite awhile. And then he ---

BARBARA: I see, and then he moved to Arizona.

PHYLLIS: Arizona. And he was very badly crippled.

BARBARA: Was he a single man, or married man?

PHYLLIS: He never married, no. And it seems, I'm, don't quote me, but I think he played piano, maybe symphonic. But I thought, well what a nice thing to do with your money if you don't have -- - and I guess he had no relatives at all left.

BARBARA: Well, I understand that part of his estate after his death was to come to the library, is that true, do you know?

PHYLLIS: I really don't know. Now he had a lady that did for him, you know housekeeper and everything, kept up his houses. And I think he left her the houses. Yes.

BARBARA: But that was really a generous thing for a person to do, to leave that much money for something like that.

PHYLLIS: Well, sure. Oh, I think the Time-Life people were really generous to us too.

BARBARA: Oh I should say, I should say.

PHYLLIS: And oh the one, one of her sons became an actor.

BARBARA: Actor.

PHYLLIS: I can't think of his name.

BARBARA: William Hearst? (Corrected to Hurt)

PHYLLIS: Yes, yes, that was --- And they were all here too.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: Well, they had a memorial for her here. They brought in his jet.

BARBARA: So I understand.

PHYLLIS: Yes.

BARBARA: What kind of a man was he? You say you did meet him once.

PHYLLIS: Oh yeah, well several times. He used to come every year, and he'd stop in the library.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: Very nice looking man. He was tall and dark, and he'd usually bring one of his sons with him.

BARBARA: Was he a real friendly person ---

PHYLLIS: Oh yeah.

BARBARA: --- or kind of aloof?

PHYLLIS: No, he would always come and visit.

BARBARA: Or seem like a big city man?

PHYLLIS: I was just a little peon there, and he'd always come and visit with me.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: We have quite a few authors, used to have, that would stop in. Like Morey, do you know Walt Morey? He writes adventure books for like teenagers, and he has been here. And what is her name, M. K. Wren, she writes mysteries, she has been here. Senator Hatfield stopped in to see me one day.

BARBARA: Oh.

PHYLLIS: Oh, and the man who wrote one of the books from around here, Rankin Crow.

DOROTHEA: Crow.

BARBARA: Crow.

PHYLLIS: Yeah. He was just as common as an old cowboy you'd know.

DOROTHEA: How about Jackson, did they --- I can't think of his first name.

PHYLLIS: Oh yes, he's been in here. And then there was another man, he was a professor at the University of Oregon, he used to come every summer. And he was writing, I don't know if he ever got it written or not. His name was Peter something, and I believe he passed away. But he was really nice to talk to too.

BARBARA: You have writers coming in here looking for research on the area.

PHYLLIS: I think that --- yes.

BARBARA: To work on their books.

PHYLLIS: Yes, well Peggy is always looking up something for someone.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: And there is a lot of people come here that we never see, that goes out to the refuge.

BARBARA: It's too bad we can't capture them so that ---

PHYLLIS: Can't corral them.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: So, do we have local authors that are on the shelf here too? Cactus Smyth?

PHYLLIS: Yes, we have Cactus. And this lady over here, her sister, they were Lampshires; she wrote a whole series of books.

BARBARA: Oh, that's interesting.

DOROTHEA: Was that the name she used?

PHYLLIS: Well, she used it in here name, but I can't think of what her last name was. Oh, what is that woman's name over there? Anyway, she has passed on, but we have all those books. And Whiting, wasn't there a Whiting that wrote? No, someone wrote about a Whiting. They wrote, whoever this person was wrote Calico City. It was about when they were mining over towards John Day, and they had all the tents up that had calico dresses and everything in them. That might have been Lampshire, I can't remember.

BARBARA: We were talking to somebody about that now, but I can't get a name either.

PHYLLIS: Oh I imagine, we have quite a few through here, but you know, they don't make

themselves known.

BARBARA: So, it was an interesting what, we figure how many years?

PHYLLIS: Oh, it was close to twenty.

BARBARA: You retired in what year, your second time?

PHYLLIS: Why do you ask me these trick questions? (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh, sorry about that. (Laughter)

PHYLLIS: Must have been six years ago.

BARBARA: I was going to say five or so, yeah.

DOROTHEA: And after you, that was when Pearl Hammon came in?

PHYLLIS: Uh huh, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And then after her we had ---

BARBARA: Blair Armstrong.

DOROTHEA: --- Blair Armstrong. And now we have Esther Morrison. So we've gone through several with retirement and death.

PHYLLIS: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And ---

BARBARA: Do you feel it is necessary now for a person working in the library to go to college to get the training?

PHYLLIS: Well in certain areas, yes.

BARBARA: But you never felt it being a handicap for you working here?

PHYLLIS: Well no, not what I did.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

PHYLLIS: Mrs. Slater never went.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And Peggy was not trained in it.

PHYLLIS: No, but you know ---

BARBARA: She was a teacher.

PHYLLIS: --- you can train yourself more or less, or follow the leader.

BARBARA: Uh huh. I know that Blair took this over in Treasure Valley College.

PHYLLIS: And took it, and took it, and took it.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And I understand that Esther Morrison was a trained librarian too.

PHYLLIS: I think she was too. But every library is different, because she is always asking me something that --- because you don't know where it is, or what it is. She is very good.

BARBARA: But I mean just procedures, and how to index, and that sort of thing.

PHYLLIS: Well, I believe now in a city you would have to be a librarian to --- unless you was a box boy or something.

BARBARA: In telephone calls and things, you get people calling up asking questions ---

PHYLLIS: Well, I'd take their phone number and call them back. Because you take time to look it up, whatever they are.

BARBARA: Right.

PHYLLIS: They might just want to know how to spell a word or something. I'd look up a phone -- - that's another thing we have, our phone books.

BARBARA: Oh, the telephone directories.

PHYLLIS: People can come in and look up a number which --- and we had to, Peggy had to fight to get those. I believe Gene Timms ---

BARBARA: But they're really used a lot.

PHYLLIS: --- oh yeah, I believe that Gene Timms finally got them for us.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Well, we are about to the end of our tape. Is there any special thing that you would like to add, or would you like to go on and visit for a while longer, because we do have more tapes?

PHYLLIS: No, but I'd just like people to know, to support their library. That it isn't just books, it's everything, all kinds of information.

BARBARA: A world of information, if people would just ---

PHYLLIS: And have patience, because there is only one person at the desk, and sometimes they will have three or four requests at one time.

BARBARA: Right.

DOROTHEA: Well that is interesting to know, and I think you have filled our tape full of very interesting items, and information. And unless Barbara has something to say, I would like to thank you for the time we've spent with you this afternoon, and we've enjoyed this interview very much, and learned a lot.

PHYLLIS: Well, aren't you sweet.

BARBARA: Thank you Phyllis.

(END OF TAPE)

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