

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #431 Sides A/B/C

Subject: Dale & Valeria Eggleston

Place: Eggleston Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: May 6, 2002

Interviewer: Christine Stott

CHRISTINE STOTT: It's May 6th, 2002, this is Christine Stott interviewing Dale and Valeria Eggleston. ...

DALE EGGLESTON: Well Christine, we were both born in 1920, and experienced a very different childhood's. My Eggleston grandparents homesteaded in Sunset Valley around 1910. But when they found that they could not make a living there, they moved into Burns where our Grandpa Eggleston worked as an agent for the Oregon Mutual Life Insurance Company. And my Grandmother Vera May took over the insurance agency when Grandpa Eggleston died in 1918.

My maternal great-grandparents named Goodman came into Harney County in the early 1870's and settled on the property where the Hines sawmill was eventually located. Their daughter Nora, my grandmother, married Henry Richardson who owned a hotel and saloon. And he raced horses, and was one of the first county clerks of Harney County. Henry also died quite young.

And I was born in Burns February 11, 1920, to Henrietta Richardson, and Alexander Eggleston. My parents were professional musicians. They played the background music for the old silent movies. Many times, as a young boy, I fell asleep in the front row of the movies, waiting for the parents to finish their work.

VALERIA EGGLESTON: We still have some of the old scores, the music scores that they were, they mailed them to Dale's parents. And you know most of those are classical music, very difficult to play that they played in the films.

CHRISTINE: Oh that's wonderful.

DALE: It's interesting, my dad was also an agent for the same insurance company that his parents worked for. I attended schools here in Burns and graduated from high school in 1937. In 1997, we had our 60th class reunion, and most of my classmates were still available to attend.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

DALE: Valeria and I met when I was a senior in high school, and she was a junior. And of course she was the new girl on the block in Burns at that time.

VALERIA: And that was fun. I enjoyed that.

CHRISTINE: Did you?

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: My --- I don't know if you knew this, in 1936 my dad was sent out to oversee the buildings, the original stone buildings on the bird refuge. And so he came out early, and my mother and my sisters came out when school was out in Des Moines. I grew up, dare I say that, I grew up in Des Moines, Iowa.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

VALERIA: And had never been out West, and never seen the Rocky Mountains, or gone through Wyoming, the big, big country. And when my sisters and I saw Burns we thought we were at the last frontier. But we soon learned to love it.

CHRISTINE: What were your parent's names?

VALERIA: My mother was Olga, and Paul Hirschlar, H I R S C H L A R.

CHRISTINE: Okay, just like my mom's maiden name, but with an L E R on the end.

VALERIA: Oh, is that right.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, mom was a Hirschler.

DALE: Oh that's right.

VALERIA: I see.

CHRISTINE: Frank was her cousin.

DALE: Her cousin, yeah, I remember that.

VALERIA: Oh, Dad and John Scharff became fast friends. In fact they corresponded until Dad died. He was 92 when he died, so they just, they enjoyed each other, and worked together.

Dad always saw to it that we learned to know the country wherever he was constructing buildings. And so on the weekend, he lived out at the bird refuge, and on the weekends he would come. He'd just take us someplace in the county; we learned to know all the ranches, and all the mountains, the hills, the canyons. And he could imitate birdcalls, and he knew the names of all the plants. And of course we needed, we had to learn them then, and we did.

CHRISTINE: Must have taken awhile to get to know all the parts of the county as big as it is.

VALERIA: Yes, but we had this old car, it was old an old Buick. What year was it?

DALE: '28.

VALERIA: '28, yeah. And Mom would make a picnic lunch and we'd go out and spend the whole day just touring in the county.

CHRISTINE: How many were there in your family?

VALERIA: I have two sisters.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

VALERIA: So there were five of us. And nobody wanted to sit in the middle in the back seat. We always wanted ---

CHRISTINE: Oh yeah, you want a window seat.

VALERIA: Right. Well, and Dale was living right back here in this stone house back here. And the only house that Dad could find at first was the Presbyterian manse, so we rented the Presbyterian manse. And I would see Dale drive by, ride by on his bicycle. And I actually picked him out; I picked him out then. I was fifteen and a half, and I knew Dale was the one.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

VALERIA: And then, we had side by side lockers. And finally he asked me for a date. He was going with a gorgeous brunette, but finally he asked me out.

CHRISTINE: The Presbyterian manse, was that right near where the church is?

VALERIA: The manse is just where, it was located just where it is now.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

VALERIA: Yes, uh huh. It was a framed, white-framed building, two story. It didn't have the windmill anymore, but it was the old church and the old manse. And we girls used to giggle about that, living in a manse. And we would play cards and this kind of thing.

CHRISTINE: Wicked, huh?

VALERIA: Yes. In January Dad was sent to Middleberg Refuge in Florida. So actually I was only here about six months. I had the first half of my junior year here.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

VALERIA: And then to Arkansas where I graduated. He built a bird refuge there. And then he was sent to Pocatello, Idaho. And then, three years after I left Burns I got to see Dale again.

CHRISTINE: How was that?

DALE: Well I was working for Merle Bennett down at the Bennett Garage and he and I had gone to Detroit, Michigan to pick up a couple new cars. And we came through Pocatello on the way home. So I had sent Valeria a card and told her I would be there on the 20th of May, and this was 1940. And so that's where we over-nighted. I called Valeria and we made a date.

VALERIA: You sent a post card as I remember. And I was working; my Dad brought me this post card. And it was a day when I hadn't washed my hair, you know. It was --- anyway. I rushed home that night and dressed. And he came at 7:30 in his pale blue Buick convertible with red upholstery.

CHRISTINE: He had just picked up in Detroit.

DALE: It was great.

VALERIA: I was very impressed. And we just drove around. We went out to the airport two or three times, because he had learned to fly then and very much into planes.

We had a nice --- it was just an evening we had.

DALE: Yeah. Well, you know that 1940 that was the beginning of the things in Europe. And the next year, December the 11th, (7th) came along and Pearl Harbor was bombed. So the government confiscated all the new cars, and all the tires, and all the parts, so the garage just kind of shut down the end of January of 1942.

I enlisted in the United States Air Corps and went through the training at the, that the Army Air Corps was providing at that time. And Hap Arnold was the chief of staff of the Army Air Corps at that time. And he needed to have pilots to fly their airplanes. We had more airplanes than we had pilots. So he put together a new program to train pilot instructors. And he gathered these people from the Central Flight Training Command, which was headquartered in San Antonio, Texas. And he sent us all, a bunch of people through, oh strenuous tests, not only physical tests, but coordination and physical and psychological tests.

VALERIA: They tested over what, 400 or 500 maybe?

DALE: Well yeah, actually they had 10,000 on the list.

VALERIA: And then weeded them out.

CHRISTINE: To be pilot instructors.

DALE: Instructors. They had, they put together this special class to train instructors so we could get some pilots for our airplanes.

VALERIA: Men that they thought could teach, had the patience, but all you were tested for physical reflexes and ability to get along with people, and take orders, and give orders.

DALE: Yeah, orders. Well they called this special class Hap Arnold's Guinea Pigs.

CHRISTINE: Hap Arnold's Guinea Pigs.

DALE: Yeah, because it was separate from the regular training programs that they had in place. And we graduated from that class, it was called 42-X.

CHRISTINE: Now where was this place?

DALE: In San Antonio, Texas.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay.

VALERIA: Randolph Field. They would give the classes a letter, you know, the first class to graduate in a year was A, and then B, and C. But this was an experimental thing of Hap Arnold's, and they called it, they graduated in '42, and it was just 42-X, the guinea pigs.

DALE: Yeah we were guinea pigs all right. We all turned out to be Second Lieutenants and I was sent to Garden City, Kansas to open up a new air base there. And that was in January of 1943.

And, let's see, in January of '43 I contacted Valeria, she was living in Berkeley, California then, and induced her to come to Garden City, Kansas and we became engaged to be married in January of 1943.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

VALERIA: We made it official.

CHRISTINE: What were you doing in Berkeley?

VALERIA: I was working for California Container Corporation.

CHRISTINE: How did you end up there from Pocatello?

VALERIA: My father went to Ogden, Utah and helped build Hill Air Force Base there. And then he wanted to get into private work; he was tired of being moved by the government. And so my mom and dad just went down and they found Berkeley, California. And Dale, or Dad worked for the University of California for the rest of, until he retired.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay, at Berkeley.

VALERIA: At Berkeley, right. So then in April Dale, oh he would be on the phone every week. He had to get a weeks leave to come back to Berkeley so we could get married. First we had a June date, and then he said well he had his classes arranged. I don't know, were they six weeks classes?

DALE: Yes.

VALERIA: Then he said, "Well I think I can get there in May." And I really wanted to be engaged for years and years, and then get married.

CHRISTINE: Really.

VALERIA: Anyway, it turned out to be April 21st, he got it up to April 21st we were married.

CHRISTINE: So you were only engaged for about three months.

DALE: That's all.

VALERIA: Yes. I wanted to be courted, you know, for one or two or three years.

(Laughter)

CHRISTINE: And this was in 1943.

VALERIA: Yeah, April 21st, 1943.

DALE: Well, you know, you had to speed things up in those days, because the world was really rolling along fast.

CHRISTINE: Yes, and never knew what was going to happen.

DALE: No.

VALERIA: No. We were married in the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley. And so we went to Garden City, Kansas and started our married life.

CHRISTINE: What part of Kansas is that in?

DALE: Well it's on, it's on the western end of Kansas.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

DALE: Probably about sixty miles east of Pueblo, which is in Colorado, just a, Colorado. And by 1944 though, the war was winding down in Europe, and VE day came in the spring of '45 and I was sent to --- they closed a lot of these bases at that time because they didn't need, they had too many pilots anymore.

VALERIA: He had been instructing in B-213's basic trainers in Garden City. And then they closed the basic training bases, and he was sent to Eagle Pass, Texas, we lived down on the Mexican, U.S. border in Eagle Pass. And he was doing training in advanced trainers there. And then finally to, back to Randolph Field.

DALE: Yeah, when we got to Randolph why they were sending former prisoners of war from Europe who had been pilots for re-training. And I was involved in bringing these people back up to speed so they could transfer to the South Pacific and continue the war.

CHRISTINE: Oh, gee.

DALE: So, that was an interesting time. But after, you know August of '45 when they started bombing Japan, why everything slowed down really fast. And ---

VALERIA: They separated a lot of service people right away, didn't they?

DALE: Yes. And they closed a lot of bases. So I was released in August. But I signed up in the Air Force, rather Air Corps Reserve. And I was released from active duty in September of '45.

VALERIA: Well you stayed in the reserves, and eventually he retired as a Lt. Colonel in the reserves in 1980.

DALE: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

VALERIA: Oh, then, by the time we reached Burns, we come to the old red house on the block. There were two houses in Burns to rent when we wanted to come back here in '46. And so we moved into this house in April, which was our third wedding anniversary. And we had lived in nine different houses during our three years, in four different states, and we had two babies born in two different states. Paul was born in Garden City, Kansas in '44, and Gail was born in Berkeley in '45. And I was ready to stay put. I said I never want to move again. And we never have moved out of this old

house really. We were gone for quite awhile. Never rented the house, just kept it. Let's see.

CHRISTINE: Was the, Burns, where you worked for Bennett, was that the Burns Garage down here on Broadway?

DALE: Yeah. The one that is falling down now.

CHRISTINE: Is it falling down?

DALE: Well they are slowly demolishing that ---

CHRISTINE: Oh.

DALE: --- that building now.

CHRISTINE: I didn't realize that.

VALERIA: They've used parts of it.

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: Well in fact we have the, one of the garage doors on our garage.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

VALERIA: Herman Thies remodeled this house, and he used bits and pieces of other houses. And that door weighs how much, about a ton.

DALE: Well, it is very heavy.

VALERIA: Yes. We have to haul it out and pull it down. But it's one of the garage doors.

CHRISTINE: Wow. That's a piece of history.

VALERIA: And we have a bathtub out, where is our bathtub from?

DALE: Well ---

VALERIA: One of the old hotels.

DALE: No, it was in a large two-story home, private home, that was located on the property where A-Parts Store is right now.

CHRISTINE: Oh. Don't mind me, go ahead.

VALERIA: Anyway, we do have bits and pieces inside this old house, from other houses in the area.

This was a great place to raise children, in the '50's. Very stable, we had the mill payroll. And just, you know, people --- we knew everybody in the community. And the whole community helped raise our children, the churches, the schools, the business people, they knew the children. And there wasn't any crime that I know of. You know if your child got into a little trouble, like children like to shoplift or something, why the owner would let us know, or we would talk to the child about. Police were never brought into it. Even on Halloween, and we did have some, a lot of fun Halloweens with the children. You know the children weren't arrested for pranks. It was taken care of in a different way. Anyway, it was an ideal place we thought to bring up our children.

CHRISTINE: I liked growing up here.

VALERIA: And our children have, they always, they'd say they had a good childhood here, a good growing up. And the schools were good. You could tell about your work here.

DALE: Well I worked for the Harney County Abstract and Title Company which was on the corner where Garlands is located now. And it was owned by my stepfather Gus Bardwell.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

DALE: And I became manager there. And we spent twenty years here in Burns while our children were growing up. And I had a flying school going.

VALERIA: In the mornings and evenings.

DALE: Yeah. I also worked for the same insurance company that my grandparents had worked for, for awhile.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

DALE: But we decided that since the war had interrupted our schedule of higher education, that we wanted to go back to school. And so Valeria saved up a bunch of money for us, and when our children graduated from high school, Paul in '62 and Gail in '63, why they went off to college. And in '63, we did too.

CHRISTINE: Oh, I couldn't remember when it was you left.

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: I had worked for, at the grade school. Well it was nine years for Mr. Slater; I was his secretary, office girl. I did the library too. And that was a great place to work, because I had vacations that ---

(Telephone rings)

VALERIA: Well those years we, it wasn't almost twenty years we were here. We were busy, and our kids were busy in the community. Dale was worshipful master of the Masonic Lodge, and commander of the American Legion. He was a city councilman. Sometimes he and I would meet each other, you know, he would be coming in the door

and I would be going out the door. Because, as you do in a small town, you get into things like Eastern Star, and church.

DALE: You got Girl Scouts, and Den Mother.

VALERIA: Oh yeah, I was a Den Mother. I went to camp with them one year. And if you can imagine sleeping in a tent with twenty little boys, and twenty little snores. (Laughter) But it was great, those were great years.

DALE: Yeah. When we decided to go to college, why we didn't know what we would experience because, you know, we were almost what you call middle age.

VALERIA: Well, we were.

DALE: So we decided to ---

VALERIA: We were 43.

DALE: --- to start in Bend at the Central Oregon Community College, which was being held at night in the Bend High School at that time. And we enjoyed that so much, that we got our courage up to take our other work at Portland State University. And Valeria graduated with a BS Degree in 1967, and I graduated in '68.

CHRISTINE: And what were you both majoring in?

VALERIA: I was in psychology.

DALE: I was in geography.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay. Did you, when you went to Bend, did you commute every day, or did you ---

DALE: We rented a small place over there.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: But we'd come home, we never said good-bye to the old house. We'd be home on weekends. And for years the calendars in the house were 1963. And we had the show calendar up, you know, we used to get a show calendar from the Ideal Theater.

CHRISTINE: Oh yes.

VALERIA: And that was up for 1963. We didn't want to change the old house. It did get changed later on.

CHRISTINE: And then probably your kids came home from college at various times.

VALERIA: Yeah and we did, yeah.

DALE: Yes.

VALERIA: Kids would come home and call. And then Darryl, Gail's husband worked out at the mill. The three of them spent a couple of summers here that way. Gail had to cook for these two fellows. That was a hard summer. She was pregnant with her second, first or second child, her first child. And the boys were on different shifts, and we came home to see her once. She was so tired, she said, "Oh Mama, I'm cooking meals at all different times," because they were on different shifts. "I'm making different lunches." It was a strenuous summer for her.

CHRISTINE: Yeah. Had she finished her nurses training by then?

VALERIA: Not that summer, no. But she finished, she graduated in '67, as I did, and Paul did too from the U of O in architecture. And Gail was a nurse, BS in nurses training.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

DALE: I was working there part time at various places there in Portland, so it took me an extra year to get through.

VALERIA: Yes, he had to keep us in college. You know, four people in college at one time --- but we had really worked hard at saving money so that we could do this.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

VALERIA: But at times --- well the children had scholarships from time to time. And then Paul was in ROTC, and so, what was the last two years he got a stipend.

DALE: Yes.

VALERIA: Which helped, all those things helped. Yeah, we all worked.

CHRISTINE: Well you know how much everyone admired you folks for going away to college. Nobody here did that in ...

DALE: No, they didn't, did they.

VALERIA: No, no, no they didn't.

DALE: Well we were an anomaly in some of the classes, I'll tell you.

VALERIA: At COCC ---

CHRISTINE: Yeah, back then it was mostly younger people.

VALERIA: At COCC in Bend, especially we were just kind of like celebrities. There weren't any old folks, anybody over twenty there, I don't think.

DALE: No.

VALERIA: And yes, we got a lot of recognition there. After we went to Portland, it was different, because in a larger city like that they had a lot of people that were trying to get,

older people trying to upgrade or get their degrees. So it was different. But as you say, not too many people were doing it then.

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: It was fun, you know. We'd get together with the kids and, you know they could say, well you know they got a certain grade on a test. Well I didn't think the professor would ask that. And we could relate to that, couldn't we?

DALE: Oh, definitely. Yeah. Well Valeria got her Ph.D. in psychology at the U of O.

CHRISTINEN: Oh.

DALE: And I took a Masters in geography there. When, after Valeria got tired of teaching, you know, she had been teaching in the school for two or three years, because she was a student assistant in psychology.

CHRISTINE: Teaching at U of O?

DALE: In psychology, uh huh.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay. University of Oregon.

DALE: Uh huh.

VALERIA: Yes.

DALE: And she decided that she didn't want to do that anymore. I was working downtown in a title company.

CHRISTINE: In Eugene?

DALE: In Eugene.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

DALE: And we decided we needed to do some traveling. We had always thought it would be very interesting to see Europe. And of course Valeria's ancestors all came from Southwestern Germany. And so we stored our stuff and put a pack on our backs and ended up in Frankfurt, Germany with a hotel reservation. And from there we branched out and had a rail, unrail pass. And we traveled all over Europe, we went to Vienna, clear up into Norway, and just had a glorious time for forty-five days.

CHRISTINE: Wow, and when was this?

DALE: In 1973.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

DALE: Of course it was a long time after World War II, so things had been greatly repaired. But a lot of the ancient parts of Europe were still in existence then. We really enjoyed those tremendous cathedrals all over Europe.

VALERIA: Some of those towns like Cologne was rebuilt, wasn't it? They were, well by the allied bombers; they were just destroyed, just leveled. But stone by stone they put some of those old towns back together again. I think it was in Cologne they showed what it looked like when it was just rubble. And then of course we saw it when it was restored.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

VALERIA: We enjoyed that. If the sun was shining somewhere, why we would stay there, and it rained in Vienna, so we got back on the train and went somewhere else. That was great. Yeah, that's our favorite trip.

DALE: When we got back from that trip, why I headed off for a job in Rapid City, South Dakota. And I flew out there and looked it over, and we decided that we would ---

VALERIA: Try it.

DALE: We would move to Rapid City. And I was working for a, two different title companies. I was bringing them up-to-date, and then bringing them into the general flow of, instead of just straight abstracting the records, rather than, we had title insurances that they didn't have. And I was bringing them all up, into date on that sort of thing throughout the State of South Dakota. And Valeria ---

VALERIA: I worked for the State Department of Human Resources in training foster care parents, and license foster parent homes. And I had the whole, a whole county. Or my area was from the Nebraska border to the North Dakota border in the Black Hills. Have you traveled in that part ---

CHRISTINE: No, I haven't.

VALERIA: Oh, just beautiful. And I have never really enjoyed driving myself; I just never cared about driving. But I'd leave the office, and I would go and loved that drive, loved getting out of the office and doing the driving myself. Yeah.

It was --- And we did a lot of hiking there. We became acquainted with another couple, and we hiked the Black Hills, the mountains, and we did backpacking into Montana. And later on we got together and hiked in the wilderness areas in Wyoming.

CHRISTINE: This was starting in '73 or '74?

VALERIA: '74.

DALE: It was the mid '70's.

VALERIA: Yeah, '74 I think it was, yeah.

CHRISTINE: How long were you in South Dakota?

VALERIA: About a year.

DALE: Yeah, about a year.

VALERIA: These were consulting jobs. And the next adventure was in Wyoming.

DALE: We lived a year in ---

VALERIA: I worked for the State Department of Human Resources then too. That was in '77 I think. And there I was part of the child protection team. And we, I chose that, there were several jobs open and I could do what I wanted. And I wanted to know what was occurring in that area. I went out on child abuse complaints, and had to work up the cases, work, council with the parents and the children. And some cases I had to prepare to go to court and testify either for the parent or the child, or whoever was involved. Very stressful work, incredible. It was certainly an eye opener for me to see what could happen, what people could do to their children. And you had the ... job.

DALE: Well I was working for a national title insurance company, and we had ten agents throughout the State of Wyoming, and an airplane. So I got to visit all of these various agencies, and I ended up being the chairman of the board of these corporations, ten of them. And it was a time when, you know, Wyoming has lots of high activities, and then it has low activities, because it is based on mining, and oil production. And we were there when things were strong, the economy was good. So it was fun to get around in all of the various major cities in Wyoming.

But of course Wyoming is a beautiful state. If people don't know Wyoming, they're like Tom McCall says, "Come and visit, but don't stay." Because they like it just

the way it is. When we were there, there was less than 500 people in the whole state, 500.

CHRISTINE: Oh my goodness.

VALERIA: Oh no, there was more than 500.

DALE: Oh, did I say that wrong?

VALERIA: There were more than 500.

DALE: Yeah, I'm sorry, it was ---

VALERIA: Was it 500,000.

DALE: It wasn't that big. I think it was around 450,000, I'm sorry.

VALERIA: People, yes, people knew the whole political structure of, or you soon got to know it of the State of Wyoming. But it wasn't large.

DALE: No. And wherever you'd go, you'd run into people who knew other people all over the state. It was just that kind of a thing. It was kind of like a tremendous family. And it wasn't like California for instance, nobody knows anybody else in California because it is too large, too many people. But it was a marvelous time to be there, and we really enjoyed it. And so at that time why actually, we actually retired.

VALERIA: Semi, semi-retired.

DALE: From those jobs. Yeah, semi retired, yeah.

VALERIA: Because we tried other things.

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: But we decided to do our traveling in the '80's we were 60 then. And we thought we would have more energy to travel. And we did, we went around the world,

on a world seminar tour, if you want to talk about that.

DALE: Well it was a tour that was generated by a company in Missouri. And it was a seminar trip that was designed to get us in contact with important people in various countries throughout the world. And we started in Japan, and then we went to Taiwan.

VALERIA: It was in Taiwan where we had tea, a formal tea with Vice-president Lee, and he finally became president of Taiwan. I don't think he is anymore.

DALE: He is probably retired by now. Had a marvelous time in Hong Kong and Thailand.

VALERIA: In India we had a private audience with Rajeev Ghandi who was leading the country at that time. But this was put together by a doctor David Bryant and he had taken many tours, repeated this world seminar tour many times. So he knew these people. In India at a dinner one evening a mid-wife came to talk to us, to tell us some of the problems. You know India has a lot of problems with over population. However, these babies are being born on dirt floors out in just little hovels. And women have babies in, they don't remember, or they don't keep track of how many children they've had, or where they were born. And so to try and teach them anything about birth control pills or Planned Parenthood, it's just an impossible task in many areas. Not only in India, but other places. And in Taiwan we were taken to this, it was a little farm wasn't it?

DALE: Uh huh.

VALERIA: And we were shown how these people did the farming. And we went into one of those tiny little homes. And I remember a picture on the wall, was it torn, sheet on a calendar. That was their picture that they had, that was it. And they were so proud of

that picture. And the one bent pot they had to cook with. It was certainly a trip that opened our eyes to different cultures, different ways of living. Not the materialistic world that we know here. Oh, --- go ahead.

DALE: Well we went to Nepal from Thailand.

VALERIA: Oh yeah.

DALE: We had another nice interview with a high official in Nepal.

VALERIA: Katmandu.

DALE: That was in Katmandu, yeah. Very interesting to get a feeling for the political situation and how those people lived, and their religion. Incredible temples that they have built in Thailand and in Nepal, and actually in India also, incredible buildings. From Nepal or Katmandu we went to Agra and had a good visit with the Taj Mahal and got to see the tremendous artwork that was put into that structure by hand. Just workers working with hand tools, it's just incredible the artwork they put into that.

VALERIA: Yeah, there is no one doing work like that. And you just wonder about the breed of man that did do those things. You've seen the intricate artwork of the mid-east, well in other areas too. But no one is doing that kind of thing.

CHRISTINE: They are not anymore.

DALE: No, everything is done with machines anymore, you know.

VALERIA: Not to that degree. But they are doing the weaving of rugs in different areas. But not the temples, the temples are not being built anymore. The ones in Katmandu were deteriorated. They were mostly of wood, weren't they?

DALE: A lot of them were, yes.

VALERIA: Yeah, they showed a lot of wear, and were not being kept up.

SIDE B

DALE: Well in India a lot of the temples and buildings were built by the Mongols who had invaded India way back in the 1500's. And those people were artists, and some of their work is still in existence. But the Hindus or the Indians were not maintaining those buildings.

CHRISTINE: The Mongols.

DALE: The Mongols.

CHRISTINE: The Mongol ...

DALE: Uh huh. Anyway, we enjoyed India; we stayed in New Deli. What did you say about that Claridge Hotel, it was the worst hotel we had wasn't it in the whole trip?
(Laughter)

VALERIA: We were in some very nice hotels.

DALE: Yeah, we were.

VALERIA: The Claridge wasn't the best in New Deli. We went into Russia, Leningrad, and came down through Czechoslovakia, didn't we?

DALE: Uh huh.

VALERIA: And that was when the Iron Curtain was still up. A very gray, very --- I don't know, we felt the grayness, and maybe the uneasiness of people. There was no litter; there was no crime under that regime. You just, wasn't that. But it seemed like people were afraid of each other.

DALE: Yes.

VALERIA: Or afraid of the government.

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: And we did feel that. But it kind of lightened up as we came south in Russia, and into Czechoslovakia. We felt that, there was more color and the people were happier. So ---

DALE: It was interesting to see those ancient cities.

VALERIA: Oh, oh yeah.

DALE: Because it makes you realize how young our society is here where we live.

VALERIA: Yeah.

DALE: And they don't knock buildings down, they repair them. Whereas in this country if we think a building has lost its use we destroy it and put up another one. And it's an entirely different idea, entirely different point of view and mindset in some of those ancient countries.

VALERIA: Yes, and I guess we came back here and wished that they hadn't remodeled the National, the U.S. National Bank because that was stone hewn by local stone masons. And the Catholic Church, the old Catholic Church was stone. But they could have kept those. And if we at the Presbyterian Church had kept the little old white church and moved it back on the property if they had wanted to, but ---

DALE: Tear them down.

CHRISTINE: Someone asked me the other day where the stone comes from for these buildings around here, and I said I didn't know. Maybe you folks know that.

DALE: They were local quarries. Well for instance our Presbyterian Church over here, the stone that built that church came out of the basement. Because on the hill here it's solid rock. And there is a basement over there that was huge enough that all of the stone they carried out of the basement was formed and built the church.

CHRISTINE: Oh my gosh.

DALE: But some of the older buildings where the stone work is of a lighter color, was taken from quarries out west of town here. Because there is a stone that is of a much lighter color than what you see on the Presbyterian Church. They have, that stone was fairly dark in color. You remember the old Arrowhead Hotel?

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

DALE: You know very light colored stone. Well that was all quarried just in quarries just west of town.

CHRISTINE: How far out are these quarries?

DALE: Well, I don't know as you could ever discover them anymore. They weren't very far out, just on the edge of town actually.

CHRISTINE: Huh.

DALE: Those stones were just very near the surface. They didn't have to excavate deep quarries. They were just taken off of the surface. And it's all; you don't see where those stones came from now because it is all over grown.

VALERIA: They just put a new water line down the alley here. The old one was what, put in, in the '20's.

DALE: '20's, yeah.

VALERIA: They had to go through solid rock, and if you look over the property just south of us here, they wanted a couple of big rock, they are this big, and they put them up in his yard over here. It's just solid rock, just --- you could take enough rock out of here to build a house.

DALE: Oh yeah, yeah.

CHRISTINE: Out of your own property?

DALE: Oh yeah.

VALERIA: Yeah, we're on solid rock here.

DALE: It was so, rock was so available that all the old buildings were made of stone.

VALERIA: Didn't have to go far.

DALE: You know the old Brown building, for instance, it's very light stone in color. It was all quarried out of local stuff.

CHRISTINE: That's the one like where the Broadway Deli is now?

DALE: Yes, yes.

CHRISTINE: Didn't there used to be a movie theater up there? Did you know if there was a movie theater ...

DALE: Yeah, it was next to the Brown Building. It was a brick building. It was called the Liberty Theater.

CHRISTINE: The reason I mention that is because that's where my parents met.

VALERIA: Oh, really.

CHRISTINE: Frank Hirsch was managing it, and Dad was the projectionist.

DALE: Oh, yeah.

CHRISTINE: Mom came out from Kansas to visit. And Frank said, “Oh, I think you should meet my cousin, and he brought her up. So they met up in the Liberty Theater.

VALERIA: Oh, that’s interesting.

DALE: Oh, that’s great. That’s the theater my folks used to play in for the silent movies.

CHRISTINE: Oh that’s the one, okay.

DALE: Yes, yes.

CHRISTINE: All right.

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: And there was a boardwalk here first in front wasn’t there.

DALE: Yes. Have you ever heard about the boardwalks in this town?

VALERIA: You probably have.

CHRISTINE: I’m not sure. Refresh me.

DALE: Well before --- we were so isolated out in this country, we were way behind all the rest of the development in the state, you know. And the streets for instance, Broadway was just a dirt street. And they had for the crosswalks they had planks across the streets so people could walk across there without getting all muddy and dirty in the inclement weather. But on the side of the street where the stores were, they had boardwalks which were, had wood rails under them with pieces across. And I don’t know, I couldn’t tell you when those were put in, but it was probably in the very late 1800’s, probably in the ‘90’s. But in the ‘20’s, late ‘20’s they decided to pave the streets, Broadway, and they put in concrete walks all over the town. Matter of fact, some of those 1920’s walks and concrete are still in existence.

VALERIA: Have you seen them when you're walking, they have the dates.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: And some of that concrete must have been excellent. Better than the concrete they were putting in now. Because some of that has lasted.

DALE: Yeah, lasted. But they tore up the boardwalks when I was a kid. And we discovered that between the cracks of the boards there was a lot of money. (Laughter) Under those walks.

VALERIA: All the little boys would have at it.

DALE: Yes. We just had a ball going up and down the street finding this money as they tore up the walks. Of course the bigger kids got most of it, but it was a lot of fun. And it is surprising how much coinage there was under those walks. (Laughter)

CHRISTINE: That's great.

DALE: Well let's see, where in the heck are we here? Tell Christine about our trip to Egypt.

VALERIA: We did spend, we spent two weeks in Egypt. That was the second place I wanted to go. I had read travel books when I was in grade school, and just wanted to see everything. And Egypt was next on my list.

CHRISTINE: When did you go there?

VALERIA: '83 I think. We got to go into the large pyramid in Giza, and we rode a camel. And then we took the Nile, a cruise down the Nile in a small boat. And we stopped at all the different temple sites, but lived on the boat. We went to the, as far as

the Azwan Dam, and then they flew us back from there. And they had moved that great big set of statues that were going to be inundated by the water in back of the Azwan Dam. They had moved all that, made an artificial mountain, didn't they, to stick these ---

DALE: Yes they did.

VALERIA: And they have a name, I can't remember the name. And we got to see those. It was a tremendous trip. That was another place where, just so impressed with the art of long ago, centuries ago.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

DALE: Egypt has a terrifically long history. Of course the Egyptian culture was taken over by the Greeks and the Italians and the Christians. You can see the evidence of the this throughout the ancient art where the Greeks had come in and they would do away with some of the picture art that's on the walls, and they put up their own. And the Christians did the same thing.

VALERIA: They thought they were pagans, and they weren't worshipping one God, and so they erased a lot of things, they destroyed them.

DALE: Because Egypt culture ---

VALERIA: And I think it was the Turks that used the sphinx as targets, for the shooting.

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: The difference, you know, it is so old that different, different --- well all of the marble was taken off of the pyramids to build the Mosque, the big Mosque there in Cairo.

DALE: Those pyramids were covered with marble.

VALERIA: You see a lot of history.

DALE: Yes. At the very top on one of them you could still see some of that marble that wasn't taken off. Yeah.

CHRISTINE: So then the Muslims came in, or were they ...

DALE: They eventually came in and they sort of ---

VALERIA: Quite a few, yeah.

DALE: --- they felt it was a Muslim country now.

VALERIA: That's right.

DALE: Yeah. But they were so ancient; they were way back in, oh three or four thousand AD. I mean BC, excuse me. It's just an incredible place to see all the artwork.

VALERIA: And the history.

DALE: Buildings, and whatnot.

VALERIA: And you float down the Nile, and you see these people farming on the side of the Nile, pretty much like they used to, except then, get near the delta that has all changed because they have dammed the water. That has changed the farming. But farming without tools, or machines, or --- And we got up to the dam, no, we had to go through locks didn't we in one place?

DALE: Yes, several places.

VALERIA: And I looked up there, it was at night, and I looked up there and the fellows were doing whatever they have to do, you know. Some of them were running across at Aria, and they had these flowing white robes. Centuries ago, the same kind of clothing and then you'd see somebody in western garb up there too. And it was this strange

mixture of ancient times and modern times. And you saw that in Cairo, they would, oh we've got some pictures that show these old ways of traveling with carts and with donkeys and burros, whatever, and then modern cars and buses. And they were all mixed in together, and you just moved slowly in the direction that you wanted to go in. But that strange mixture of ancient times and modern times was interesting. And then we had to come home and restore this old house so we could move back.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh. What all did you do to the house?

VALERIA: We bought this little place in Beaverton, because we knew that we would have to fix this up. So we'd come over in the summertime. We had, first of all we had to lift up the bathroom in the back bedroom and have, get the foundation fixed.

DALE: New roof.

VALERIA: New roof.

DALE: All the walls were sheet rocked.

VALERIA: Well the bedrooms had no, we had new sheet rock we put in down there, and out in the kitchen above it, the paneling.

DALE: Yeah, upstairs.

VALERIA: Painted everything white, or tan, and put a tan rug in.

CHRISTINE: The cedar plate out there says what, 1896?

DALE: Yes.

VALERIA: Yes.

DALE: In 1996 we had a party here, 100th anniversary for the house.

VALERIA: We had a birthday party for the house. And we had a hundred people come, and all of our kids and grandkids came. Had open house, we took them on a tour of the house. We had all the old things that we have, the history marked on the old chair, or the old table, or the old clock, whatever. Took people through the house and then out back. And then we fed them.

CHRISTINE: How nice.

VALERIA: And it was fun. And a lot of people, well we all liked it. We had never been to a birthday party for a house before, and neither had they.

CHRISTINE: That sort of echoes your respect for those who, as you say in Europe and other places, who restore the buildings rather than tear them down.

DALE: Yeah, than tear them down.

CHRISTINE: Got to honor a place that has stood for all these years.

VALERIA: Yes.

CHRISTINE: It's great.

VALERIA: This house has been good to us. And the children love it, and the grandchildren do. When we came, when we talked about coming back here, some of the children were over here; our little granddaughter was talking to us about it. And somebody said are you going to re-do the outside. And Lisa said, "Oh, don't change the color, don't do anything to it, really. But at least don't change the color."

CHRISTINE: Funny how grandchildren like to have it the way they remember.

DALE: Yes, yeah.

CHRISTINE: My daughter used to spend summers here with my folks in the house that, 218 North Elm, and she still, you know every time we drive by there she will see somebody else's car. You don't live there; my grandma lives there!

DALE: Yes.

CHRISTINE: And that house really has no history for me, because I was almost grown up when we moved there.

DALE: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: It's where you spend your little years I guess.

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: Yeah, this has all the little marks, scratches that the children left in it.

CHRISTINE: Tell me about the Halloween party.

VALERIA: Oh, well that started, it started when the children were in seventh and eighth grade. Paul was going to have a party that year. The children didn't have parties all the time, but he decided he would like a Halloween party. So, I think he was eighth grade, or seventh grade, and so we had a party. So from then on every Halloween I would have a lot of hot dogs boiling out on the stove. I would have baked beans, potato chips, and you know, donuts stuff that kids like at that age. And it was open house, anybody that wanted to come in. So when they were tired of trick or treating or doing things, they would come here. Into their high school years and they would roll up the rug and dance here. Yeah, it was a fun time for us. We went down to, once we left them alone, they were high school students, we went down, we were watching people bowl in the bowling alley. And I think it was, wasn't it Nickie Baldwin's folks, I think it was. They saw us, and oh, well

we thought you were having a party at your house. And I'm sure that Nickie was up here.

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: Anyway.

CHRISTINE: They were unchaperoned?

DALE: Yes.

VALERIA: Yeah. But we trusted all those kids. We didn't leave them alone too long.

DALE: We were lucky, you know there wasn't any drunks in this country in those days.

VALERIA: Right, right.

CHRISTINE: I tell that to the kids when I sub now, and they don't believe it. They think I must have been a party animal because I was in the mid-sixties, I must have been a hippie and all that sort of thing.

DALE: Oh sure, yeah.

CHRISTINE: They can't imagine, and that's really sad, that they can't imagine there were no drugs on every corner.

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: And I hear it said every once in awhile on TV, well Leave it to Beaver, and Father Knows Best, and those sit-coms that were very moral, teaching good morals and good conduct, they say well that was never real. But it seems to me that was ... for the children here in those days.

CHRISTINE: Right. Certainly there were children who had childhood's far different from that. But there were homes like that; society was more that way.

DALE: Yeah, yeah.

VALERIA: Certainly here in Burns there was that stability, I feel. Well, so it took us nine years of summers to get everything done that we wanted to get done.

CHRISTINE: And you lived in Beaverton in the meantime?

VALERIA: Yes.

DALE: Yeah, yeah.

CHRISTINE: What did you do there? You were retired by then.

DALE: (Laughter) Yeah, we were both retired.

VALERIA: Well when we first went up there we had been down in Berkeley for a year taking care of my folks. We knew that they were dying, and my sisters needed help, and we were between jobs. So we got an apartment there and my sisters and I established 24 hour shifts so we could take care of them in their home. And Mom died about two months after we went back; well we went there to help. And Dad lived a year and a day. But that's what we did for a year, then came up here. And, to Beaverton, and got a little place. And in the wintertime when we couldn't come over and work on the house here, we took classes, weekend classes at Portland State. And we saw an ad in the paper that Tektronix wanted college workers, or college students, to work weekend shifts. We had never done anything like that. Well why don't we, we're college students. You know we were taking, each taking a class or two just for the fun of it. We were taking Norwegian, and German history. You were taking, I can't remember, geometry then.

DALE: Oh, minerals, mineralogy.

VALERIA: And so we applied, and they hired us. And you know most of the kids, they were kids, they were college students. And we worked fifteen hours on a weekend, and we had the three, three to eleven shift is what we had. ...

CHRISTINE: And what were you doing?

VALERIA: Well ---

DALE: You won't believe it.

VALERIA: Dale had this plush job, he was "the" shipping.

DALE: Shipping manager, yeah.

VALERIA: Well he was "the" shipping department, he was the only one in it. He had this little office, and it was a neat office. He had this little pushcart, and he would come down to get the cathode ray tubes that were finished, and take them up to his department. And what did you do, just stored them?

DALE: Well I tested them, and then we put them in boxes and shipped them down to Wilsonville. (Laughter)

VALERIA: Well when I would see him, he would just be pushing this little neat pushcart. They put me in activating and aging the cathode ray tubes.

DALE: They were these big tubes like you have in the television.

CHRISTINE: I see.

DALE: That's what she was working on.

VALERIA: But I wouldn't, you know at home, I wouldn't touch anything electrical if something went wrong with it. I'd call Dale, and he would have to fix it. I had to stick these machines into the activating, the aging, no the activating was this big thing, it had

all these red signs, danger, you know don't do this, do that. And I don't remember how many connections for that tube, there must have been at least ten, I had to connect this tube in there. And then when it was done I took it out, and we put, we put them in little cubicles to age them. And we had to keep track of them. But we had to connect them into these little cubicles and turn them on and go around with our little cubicle. We each had about twenty that we had to keep track of. And then when they were done, and you could over-do them, or you could do things wrong. (Laughter) Then when they were done, I guess we put them on a cart and took them up to the testing.

DALE: Up to me.

VALERIA: Up to the testing, and you got them after the testing.

DALE: Oh, the testing, then I got them, yeah.

VALERIA: Anyway, it was an experience. And Tektronix then, we got good pay, we got stock, we had dental insurance, we had health insurance, for just working sixteen hours a week. It was a neat job. We kept it for that, a couple of terms, I guess.

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: Yeah.

DALE: But we did a lot of traveling when we were in the Beaverton.

VALERIA: Yeah that was when we were doing ...

DALE: And like Valeria said, taking classes at Portland State, or Rock Creek Community College, or one of them. And ---

VALERIA: Visiting kids and grandkids. Well that's about it Christine.

DALE: Tell her about Paul and his work, and Gail and her work.

VALERIA: Oh.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, we want to talk about your kids and grandkids.

VALERIA: Oh. Gail is, she went back to school like we did. She had come out with an RN, and she was a nurse for several years. She became a Nurse Practitioner, but she still wanted that MD. So when her children were in college, she was 42 or 43 like we were, and she was accepted in medical school, the University of Colorado, and completed it. And she has been in private practice with three other doctors for several years now.

And Paul is director of facilities for the Bend-LaPine School District. He never apprenticed as an architect because he had been in ROTC and so he had to put in time. And he went into pilot training so he had to promise five years, and one year had to be in Vietnam. We thought all along he wouldn't be caught in that, but he was. So he never apprenticed as an architect. But this job, he uses his architectural expertise. And he is over twenty some schools in Bend and LaPine.

CHRISTINE: ...

VALERIA: Yeah. I don't know if you have seen the new high school over there, it's new age high school. And they have to build more. They fill up as soon as the school is built it's filled. Well we've got six grandchildren. We've got, I don't know, Olympic skier, we have a Washington state patrolman. We have a new fire fighter now in Las Vegas. They have all; they're all in there working at it. And we have three little great-granddaughters.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

VALERIA: And another one that is going to be born this May, so I'll have four granddaughters.

CHRISTINE: Oh ...

DALE: Yeah I don't know what's the matter, we can't get any grandsons or great-grandsons, they are all granddaughters.

CHRISTINE: Is Paul, does he have a family?

VALERIA: Yes, he raised four boys. When he was growing up, I said he deserved to have six. (Laughter) And he has two stepsons, and then two of his own.

CHRISTINE: Are they all grown now?

VALERIA: Yes. And Gail had two children. And they are both living in Durango, Colorado.

CHRISTINE: Where did Darryl and Gail live?

VALERIA: They live in Denver.

CHRISTINE: In Denver.

VALERIA: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: And they have lived there ever since they moved away from here, haven't they?

VALERIA: Yes, yes. They love it. I can see Paul coming back to Harney County to live, because well he hasn't moved very far from it. But Gail and Darryl are really urbanites, aren't they?

DALE: Oh yeah.

VALERIA: They love it there. And they are just two Harney County kids, but they love it.

CHRISTINE: What does Darryl do?

VALERIA: He is still in orthotics, and that's what he finally went into there. So he has worked with a lot of the doctors, the same people that Gail has worked with.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

VALERIA: Because he had to be present when they were, well he was selling implants wasn't he, and he had to be there when the surgeons did the implanting of his devices.

CHRISTINE: Does he design them?

DALE: He did.

VALERIA: Yes, uh huh.

DALE: He designed some of those for professional football players.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

DALE: And so he knows all those people.

VALERIA: And he has been sent over the nation to consult with, and to train.

DALE: Yeah, he has been, become an expert in prosthetics industry. And he has taught people all over the United States in his career.

CHRISTINE: ... He grew up in my church of course.

VALERIA: Oh yes.

DALE: Yeah, he did.

VALERIA: Oh yes, yes.

DALE: That's right.

CHRISTINE: I've ... all my life.

DALE: Well his parents, you know, live over in Eugene now.

CHRISTINE: Right, how are they doing now?

DALE: Well the last we heard that they were doing quite well actually.

VALERIA: Pretty good.

CHRISTINE: One of them went through a rough patch for awhile.

DALE: Yes.

VALERIA: They've had some rough patches since they moved over there, both of them.

DALE: Both of them. Yeah, John had some tumors in his lungs but they got those cleared up.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

DALE: And Dorothy fell down and broke her hip and arm, you know.

VALERIA: And shoulder.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

VALERIA: But she's back to walking around.

DALE: They're both up on their feet and going.

CHRISTINE: Well good, I'm glad to hear that. Glad I got an update.

DALE: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: ... and correspond.

DALE: Oh yeah.

VALERIA: I have people asking me too about them. They may get over here this summer. Gail and Darryl want to bring them over when they come for Darryl and Paul's; it is Darryl and Paul's reunion, class reunion this summer.

CHRISTINE: Right it is, yeah ...

DALE: Yeah, isn't it something. You got so much to look back on, you know. And then you begin to wonder where did all that time go.

CHRISTINE: Oh, I know. My daughter is 29 now, and where did the time go.

DALE: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: She just graduated from high school.

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: And don't you, inside your mind, still consider her little. I do with my children. When they come home I want to tell them what to eat and that.

CHRISTINE: Put on a jacket ... it's cold.

DALE: Right.

CHRISTINE: I know the feeling too, because I felt it with my own mom, you know. They'll ask you to be careful for this or that. And it's like, gee how do you; you must worry constantly when I'm away from you and have to manage my own life.

DALE: Right. (Laughter)

CHRISTINE: Which is valid of course. ...

VALERIA: No, no, but you'd go back to that.

CHRISTINE: Then I'd dream of her being little and a baby a lot.

VALERIA: Oh, oh that's interesting.

DALE: Those are really nice times when they were little.

CHRISTINE: Oh, I think so too, yeah.

VALERIA: I wanted those years to last twice as long as they did.

CHRISTINE: I did too.

VALERIA: Well, we've talked long enough, right?

CHRISTINE: Yeah, the only thing I really want is, I need to get all these, you know, place of birth, date of birth, all that, something about your family.

VALERIA: Oh, uh huh.

CHRISTINE: So, let's see. February 11, 1920 is Dale. And Valeria is ---

VALERIA: November 3rd, 1920.

CHRISTINE: You were born exactly one month before my mom.

DALE: Is that right.

CHRISTINE: March 11th.

DALE: March 11th, is that right.

CHRISTINE: And Dale, you were born in town?

DALE: In Burns, yes.

CHRISTINE: Okay. Whereabouts?

DALE: Well it was in a little house that was on the northeast corner of Alder and let's see, first it's Washington, Adams.

CHRISTINE: Huh.

DALE: It doesn't exist anymore.

VALERIA: It was sort of a lie in place, wasn't it sort of.

CHRISTINE: Oh yeah, they had those then. Yeah, I think ---

DALE: Yeah, that's what it was.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, I think Dot Denstedt used to do that, a mid-wife.

DALE: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: And you were born in Des Moines, is that right?

VALERIA: No, I was born in Kilgore, K I L G O R E, Nebraska.

DALE: Oh, show her the picture in the house honey.

VALERIA: But we moved to Des Moines when I was almost three, I guess it was. And stayed there until I was 15. So my memories are Des Moines.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

DALE: But see this picture here, that's Kilgore, Nebraska in 1920.

CHRISTINE: Oh, I see.

VALERIA: We found that in Dad's shop. We almost threw it away with cardboard, it was all ---

DALE: This little house here is where Valeria was born.

CHRISTINE: Oh my goodness.

VALERIA: It was my dad, my dad built the house.

DALE: Her dad had built the ---

CHRISTINE: They are referring to a very long picture that hangs above their couch. It's probably about two, two and a half feet long, and the house right in the center is the one Valeria was born in. And when did you come to Oregon, in 19 ---

VALERIA: 1936, in June, and stayed till January of '37.

CHRISTINE: And this was, Burns was the first place you lived in Oregon?

VALERIA: Yes, uh huh. You mean when my dad was sent here, is that what you're talking about?

CHRISTINE: Right, when you first came to Oregon, Burns was your first home. And schooling? Graduated from high school, both of you. You graduated from Burns Union High School?

DALE: Yeah, in '37.

CHRISTINE: You got out a year early. Did you skip a grade?

DALE: Yes I did.

CHRISTINE: You did.

DALE: In grade school.

CHRISTINE: Uh huh.

DALE: I got by the seventh grade. Didn't have to do it.

CHRISTINE: Wow, oh how lucky.

DALE: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: Wow, that's an unusual one to skip.

DALE: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: And what did you finally graduate from?

VALERIA: Stuttgart. S T --

CHRISTINE: In Germany?

VALERIA: S T U --- No, Arkansas.

CHRISTINE: Two T's?

VALERIA: I ...

CHRISTINE: S T U T T G A R T ?

VALERIA: Yes.

CHRISTINE: My daughter was born in Stuttgart, but the one in Germany.

VALERIA: Oh, uh huh. Very good pronunciation. In Arkansas they don't say Stuttgart.

CHRISTINE: Oh, yeah, probably not. I always mispronounce things.

VALERIA: No, you pronounced that correctly.

CHRISTINE: Well, but I mean --- Yeah, I say it the way I think it should be in whatever language, anglicized it and it's not that --- So military service.

VALERIA: Well I graduated in '38, I don't know whether I told you that or not.

CHRISTINE: The Army Air Corps, is that right?

DALE: Army Air Corps. And then it became the U. S. Air Force after the war.

CHRISTINE: And your dates of service?

DALE: Well I enlisted on the 13th of January 1942. And I retired on the 13th of December twenty-eight years later. When the dickens was that?

VALERIA: What, your talking about your retirement from ---

DALE: Well total service.

VALERIA: From reserve?

DALE: Yeah, the whole thing.

VALERIA: You were separated from the military in September of '45.

DALE: Well, from active duty.

VALERIA: And on the reserves on the 11th ---

CHRISTINE: Separated from active duty when, Val?

VALERIA: September of ---

DALE: '45.

VALERIA: '45. And then his reserve time was, he was retired the 11th day of February 1980.

DALE: 1980.

VALERIA: Uh huh, 1980.

CHRISTINE: Okay. And you were a Lt. Colonel when ---

DALE: Yes, when I retired.

VALERIA: And our son is too, he is retired, he stayed in the reserves.

CHRISTINE: Oh, uh huh.

VALERIA: As a Lt. Colonel.

CHRISTINE: I have to get your other schooling on here too. Portland State, both of you?

VALERIA: Yes, '64 to '68.

DALE: You graduated in '67.

VALERIA: Well I took a couple classes.

DALE: Well I know.

VALERIA: And worked to keep you in school.

DALE: I know you did.

CHRISTINE: Dale, 1968 ... and MS in Geography at U of O.

DALE: Yes.

CHRISTINE: ...

VALERIA: Oh that was in '72 ...

CHRISTINE: Well I know you like to travel. What other interests and activities do you have, that you like to do?

VALERIA: I ran for, our children were runners. I ran for almost ten years, from the time I was 65 until I was 75. And we were in Beaverton those years, and I could enter a run almost every week, and loved it.

CHRISTINE: Wow.

VALERIA: I did that for about ten years. And since I've come back, well I quilted before I came back, but now I quilt with two other women here. We do the raffle quilt for the Presbyterian Church.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

VALERIA: Dale --- We both read, we read all the time.

DALE: We read, and hiking, and biking and I play the fiddle.

CHRISTINE: Do you?

DALE: Yeah.

VALERIA: And he took that up too, after we retired.

DALE: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: Do you play with the old time fiddlers?

DALE: Well, no I don't. I'm not good enough to play with those guys. (Laughter)

CHRISTINE: That's how you get good, you ---

DALE: I know that's the way you do it, but ---

VALERIA: And he should, yeah.

CHRISTINE: And your lodges, what lodges do you belong to?

DALE: Oh yeah, I belong to Burns, the Masonic Lodge. I've put a lot of time in there.

VALERIA: He was treasurer in that one.

DALE: Yeah. Actually I joined the lodge when I was 21, so it's been a long time.

CHRISTINE: Do you belong to Eastern Star?

VALERIA: I do, but I don't. I didn't take that up when I came back. I'm, I sort of made the decision when I came back I wouldn't try and repeat my old life, I would do something different. I was doing the running, and I got really into quilting. I volunteer at the library. And I go down and help serve when our church stars at the senior citizens center. I try to do different things.

CHRISTINE: Spouse, first and second. Each other --- always. And Paul was born when?

VALERIA: July 3rd, 1944.

CHRISTINE: In Garden City, Kansas?

VALERIA: Right.

CHRISTINE: G A I L.

VALERIA: Yes. And she was, well do you need her --- well you know her married name, or whatever. She was born November 29th, 1945.

CHRISTINE: In Berkeley?

VALERIA: Yes.

CHRISTINE: Okay. And your parent's names? Dale, your father's name?

DALE: Alexander Albert.

CHRISTINE: Eggleston.

DALE: Eggleston.

CHRISTINE: Wanted to make sure that wasn't his last name.

DALE: No.

CHRISTINE: And your dad's name?

VALERIA: Paul.

TAPE 2 – SIDE C

CHRISTINE: Valeria's dad, Paul Gerhardt, G E R H A R D T.

VALERIA: D T. Hirschlar, H I R S C H L A R.

CHRISTINE: And, do you know their dates of birth?

DALE: Well my dad was born on the 29th of September in 1896.

VALERIA: February 11th, yes February 11th, same as Dale. 18---

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay.

VALERIA: 18---

DALE: '88.

CHRISTINE: Wow, I tell you, most people just, these are just blanks on here because it's hard for them to remember. Do you know where they were born?

VALERIA: Well my dad was born in Mound Ridge, Kansas.

DALE: And my dad was born in Golden, Colorado.

CHRISTINE: And when did your father die, Dale?

DALE: The 11th of August, 1938.

CHRISTINE: Oh, ...

DALE: Yeah, 41 years old.

VALERIA: March of 1980. Do you need the day; I could look that up?

CHRISTINE: Oh no, that's fine. Place of death?

VALERIA: Berkeley, California for my father.

DALE: Our dad died in Burns.

VALERIA: Actually it was Richmond, wasn't it?

DALE: Well his mailing address was Richmond, but he died in the hospital. Maybe it was in Richmond. It wasn't the Berkeley hospital.

VALERIA: But they would use the place where he lived, wouldn't they?

DALE: Yeah. Probably Richmond would be ---

VALERIA: Those towns run together anyway.

DALE: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: ... oh for your dad, did you mean?

VALERIA: Uh huh.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay. Oh, Berkeley is fine. And ancestor's homeland, do you know?

VALERIA: Mine, Germany, on both sides.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

VALERIA: Well it was my great-grandparents that came over from Germany.

CHRISTINE: Okay. Do you know what your ---

DALE: Well my ancestors all lived in the Golden area, Golden, Colorado. And I don't know where the Egglestons came from.

CHRISTINE: Yeah.

DALE: First thing we know of an Eggleston in this country, he came on a ship from England.

CHRISTINE: Oh, okay.

VALERIA: That's what you wanted, the European background?

CHRISTINE: Or, wherever he comes from.

DALE: So ---

VALERIA: My parents grew up in a little farming community in Iowa, Southeastern Iowa. And most of the people in that little community, about fifty families came from the same area in Germany in the 1850's.

CHRISTINE: Oh.

VALERIA: So it was a very homogenist group of people.

CHRISTINE: And Dale's dad's occupation.

DALE: Oh, he was a musician principally. And then he was an insurance salesman, like your dad.

CHRISTINE: Right. He didn't do that very long; he wasn't very good at that. Then he was county clerk, and you said one of your ancestors was too ---

DALE: Right, right. That was my mother's dad.

CHRISTINE: Oh. And your dad was?

VALERIA: He was an architectural engineer for ...

(Telephone rings)

DALE: That's a dandy, I'm too busy to talk to you right now, give me your number.

CHRISTINE: Architectural engineer for a biological survey.

VALERIA: Well it was the department of interior, biological survey. That's how he was, he worked on these bird refuges.

CHRISTINE: Okay. Now we're down to mother's maiden name, Dale.

DALE: Well my mother's maiden name was Richardson. And her name was Henrietta.

CHRISTINE: I remember that name. And Val ---

VALERIA: Krebill, K R E B I L L.

CHRISTINE: And the first name?

VALERIA: Olga, O L G A. ...

CHRISTINE: Yes. Now their dates of birth?

VALERIA: Oh, Mom was February the 12th, 1894. Did I get that right? Yeah.

DALE: Yeah. My mom was born on May the 29th.

CHRISTINE: You have a lot of 29th in your family.

DALE: Yes, 1899.

CHRISTINE: And where were they born?

DALE: My mom was born in Burns.

VALERIA: My mother was born in Donnellson, D O N N E L L S O N, Iowa.

CHRISTINE: And the date of death, and place of death for both of them.

DALE: Well let's see. My mother died on Easter in '78, what was that, was it the 26th of March?

VALERIA: It was March. Our last three parents died in March. But I don't remember those dates, I just --- I don't remember death dates, I remember birthdays. I like to do that. So you got his?

CHRISTINE: Yes.

VALERIA: Mom died in March of '79. He lost his mother, March of '78. We lost my mom March of '79, and my dad in March of '80. I do remember that.

DALE: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: And that was in Berkeley.

VALERIA: Uh huh.

CHRISTINE: ... And Dale's, your mother died here?

DALE: Died in Burns, uh huh.

CHRISTINE: And do you know when and where your parents were married?

VALERIA: My parents were married in Donnellson, Iowa, April 14th, 1914.

DALE: Mine were born in Burns, or married in Burns. And it was April the 16th, 1916.

CHRISTINE: It's amazing how you remember these dates. Did your mothers work outside the home?

VALERIA: My mother was a teacher for a short period of time.

DALE: My mother didn't work outside the home until after my father died. And then she, oh she worked in a restaurant until she remarried. Then she didn't work anymore.

VALERIA: She worked at the abstract office.

DALE: Well that's right, she did some bookkeeping at the title company.

VALERIA: She did secretarial work then.

CHRISTINE: Oh that's right. So your mother remarried in what year?

DALE: I was afraid you'd ask that.

CHRISTINE: Oh, that's okay. Let's see your dad had died in?

DALE: '38. I think she was married in what, was it '42 was it? Do you remember?

VALERIA: Yes, we were talking --- I said I have the records, I could look that up, but I didn't go to look it up. So I think it must have been in '42.

DALE: In '42.

CHRISTINE: To Gus Bardwell?

DALE: Yes.

VALERIA: Yes, they were married when we were married.

DALE: Yes. Then his name was Agustus Alonzo if you want that.

CHRISTINE: Sure. Okay, siblings.

DALE: I had a brother, his name was Daryl, D A R Y L. And his middle name was Potter, P O T T E R. And let's see he was born May the 3rd, 1917.

CHRISTINE: Here in Burns?

DALE: Yes. And he died March the 28th; he died on Steve's birthday.

VALERIA: In '91.

DALE: '91.

CHRISTINE: Okay.

DALE: That's the only sibling I had.

CHRISTINE: Okay. Valeria, two sisters.

VALERIA: My older sister, Veneta, V E N E T A, June, well she was born June 24th, 1918 in Crookston, C R O O K S T O N, Nebraska.

CHRISTINE: And what was her married name, did she have a married name?

VALERIA: Booth.

CHRISTINE: B O O T H?

VALERIA: Right. And then Barbara Joan.

CHRISTINE: Joan?

VALERIA: J O A N, yes. And she didn't marry, her name was Hirschlar. She was born in Des Moines, Iowa, October 29th, 1925.

CHRISTINE: So you're the middle child.

VALERIA: Right.

CHRISTINE: Okay.

VALERIA: With all the bad symptoms of the middle child.

CHRISTINE: I don't think so.

VALERIA: Well just ask my sisters. (Laughter) My sister, my sister died, my older sister. Did you need that?

CHRISTINE: Oh sure, uh huh.

VALERIA: And she died in '91, also in May.

CHRISTINE: Okay. That's all I have to ask.

DALE: That's all you had to do?

CHRISTINE: Do you feel like you've said everything you wanted to say?

VALERIA: Oh yes, yes for today. (Laughter)

CHRISTINE: I won't send the tape off right away, so if you think of something else then let me know and I'll bring it back.

VALERIA: Oh no, that's ---

CHRISTINE: It wasn't too painful, was it?

DALE: Well no, not too painful.

VALERIA: I would have to hear it to see if I really wanted to ...

CHRISTINE: Okay.

(END OF TAPE)

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