

# LOIS WARREN BECKON

## Interview: Sept. 12, 1991

**Interviewer: Pat Hanson — Transcriber: Marilyn Misner**

- Pat: Good morning. This is Pat Hanson and I am here in the home of Lois Beckon, in Stevenson, Washington. Today is September 12, 1991. Lois, why don't you tell us a little bit about where you were born and when you were born?
- Lois: Well, I was born in Goldendale, Washington, out of Goldendale — it was called Cropton Prairie District. I was born on November 6, 1908.
- Pat: You said you don't remember too much about some of your grandparents, but could you tell me as much as you remember about your grandparents; where they came from and how they got to this State?
- Lois: Well, my mother's family came from Kansas. I really don't know why they moved out here. I have never heard them say, and my father's parents died before I was born.
- Pat: Oh, so you never saw them.
- Lois: I wouldn't know them at all.
- Pat: Then, your mother's parents you did know.
- Lois: Yes, uh-huh.
- Pat: Could you tell me a little bit about them?
- Lois: They lived at what they call Block House, and it's out from Goldendale, seven miles.
- Pat: Was it a community?
- Lois: It's a little . . . had the post office, and my grandfather was star-carrier on the route for the mail. He brought the mail out from Goldendale, went in to Goldendale and came out, so it was a round-trip of fourteen miles.
- Pat: How? Did he have a car, or was this pre-car?
- Lois: No, he had a buggy, and a . . . or a . . . sometimes he drove two horses . . . then other times why he would drive just one.

Pat: How about the winter time? That must have been something else.

Lois: Well, this is really something but he made his (trip) nearly every day. I don't remember him ever missing a day, but that was when I got . . . was it . . . you know, I was going to school then. We went to Block House School. Had one teacher for all eight grades.

Pat: One teacher. Let's talk about the school in a few minutes. How about your parents? If your grandparents had moved out to the State of Washington, then were your parents born in the area?

Lois: Yes

Pat: How about just telling us their names and when they were born and any interesting things about them; how they met.

Lois: Well, my mother was born before she came out here; she was born in Kansas, but my father was born in a community just out of Centerville, Washington. It's just a part of, you know, Goldendale is close. Goldendale is the County seat, and that's, you know, but he came then; moved over to you know, out of Goldendale; to Block House and Cropton Prairie.

Pat: Just for the record, could you give us his full name and when he was born?

Lois: Frederick Clarce Warren, and he was born the November 24, 1879.

Pat: And then your mother, what was her full name?

Lois: Her name was Minnie Ethel Counts. She was born in . . . I think is was some where around Topeka, Kansas. I'm not positive of that, you know. It is just like it is with, you know, in those days, they had communities out . . . lots of small communities out.

Pat: Well, did your father go to school with your mother or did they meet when they were adults?

Lois: Well, he . . . he quit school when he was in early grade school and taught himself, and he went to work and now that's . . . I don't remember just exactly where my mother went to school. See, she was older when she came out. I don't remember just how old she was when she arrived in Goldendale, or came out to Klickitat County.

Pat: Do you ever remember hearing any stories about how they met?

Lois: No, I don't. I think it was square dancing though, because they both loved to square dance.

Pat: This is something they did after they were married?

Lois: Uh-huh; Uh-huh.

Pat: When were they married and where?

Lois: They were married on May the 4th, 1904.

Pat: Could you tell me a little bit about the home were you lived when you were a youngster, and maybe about your sisters and brothers?

Lois: Well, we lived in a rented house first and that was in the Cropton Prairie district, and I can remember of us having and raising pigs and we had horses and just, you know, ordinary things that kids have in those days.

Pat: So the pigs were for food?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh.

Pat: Did that rented place include some acreage then?

Lois: Yes it did, I don't remember just how much.

Pat: But it was large enough to have animals on it?

Lois: Yes; Uh-huh, Uh-huh. Yes, we had a cow; you know for fresh milk.

Pat: How about gardens?

Lois: Oh yes, course, we always had a garden.

Pat: Why don't you tell us a little bit about your sisters and brothers; you want to give us their names?

Lois: My sister was the oldest; she was . . . and then my brother . . .

Pat: Your sister's name was?

Lois: Hazel. Do I give the full name?

Pat: Yes, why don't you go ahead and give the full name.

Lois: Hazel Burnett Warren Shippy. She was four years older than me and thought she could boss us all. And then my brother was next and he was Roy Allen Warren. He was born October the 31st; I don't know whether I told you when she was born; she was born in 1905, and he was born in 1906; October 31, 1906, and then I was next; and then my sis, then my brother, Carl, and his birthday is November the 17th. There's two years difference in all of us so from now on, we can always just make it two years.

Pat: Right, so after Carl then who did we have? Who was born after him?

Lois: Let's see. He would be in 1910. And then Aletha, was my sister Aletha Fern, and her name is Aletha Fern Warren Baldrige Ryan. She was born in 1912. And then there was, let's see, now there would be Leslie. There's got to be seven of us.

Pat: Whatever, we'll see who we are missing. Was there a Melvin in there?

Lois: Yes, he's the last one. Leslie was born in 1914. Then Melvin came along and he was born December 26, 1916.

Pat: Lois, with the number of youngsters in your family, and the fact that you had a garden, your mom must have canned quite a bit. Can you kind of describe the process and how it was?

Lois: Well, they had a . . . they canned lots of fruit, vegetables, and, of course, in those days they had to do everything on the wood stove and she would have to cook the beans for hours. You didn't do it like you do with the pressure cooker now.

Pat: So once she got them in the jars then she would cook them on top of the stove for hours in order to make sure they would be safe. About how many jars do you think she actually canned a year?

Lois: It was over a thousand.

Pat: Do you remember some of the foods that she canned?

Lois: Yes. She canned every vegetable there was that they raised. Some of them they could put away in the cellar. We had a cellar that I can remember and when my dad had it so that he could save carrots. I don't know how . . . he covered them up with dirt or something in the cellar. Cabbage we could keep over some, too, and I can remember making sauerkraut.

Pat: Oh heaven's sake; how did they go about doing that?

Lois: Well, they had a . . . I can remember of them having this big kind of a grater where they would grate the cabbage and then you would pack it down and then you would salt it and pack it some more until you had your crock; you always put everything in crocks. Then they would pack it down and weight it down with a rock, put a plate or something on it and then this rock would lay on it. I can remember that big rock. I never did care for sauerkraut. It smelled so bad when they were making it that I never liked it. In fact, I never liked cabbage. They over-cooked it, you know, and now I like it, but I never did as a kid because they cooked it until it was brown and I never liked it.

Pat: That's not very appealing is it? So back to this cellar that you talked about, where they stored the vegetables; was it actually under your house or was it outside somewhere?

Lois: Ours was outside but we had it sawdust and it was dug down so that it was kind of down in the ground some and then built up.

Pat: Did they have a cover over it?

Lois: Oh yes, it was all insulated to keep, you know, everything so they wouldn't freeze and they stored apples and fruits. That were kinds that they could keep. Yes, we always had things like that, you know.

Pat: So you were eating fresh things as well as what you had canned.

Lois: Yes, up to a certain part of the year, you know, they would only last so long and then it would be kind of fun.

Pat: Did you, as a youngster, have things like oranges and citrus fruits that were not common to this area?

Lois: I can remember my Aunt from Chicago, my father's sister, would send out a big box at Christmas time, and there was always an orange. One orange for each of us, and we'd have to watch because we wanted to save it. You know, we didn't want to eat it and, of course, it would spoil if we didn't.

Pat: It was very prized.

Lois: Oh yes, uh-huh, we didn't have them very often.

Pat: That stands to reason with transportation and things like that. What other things do you remember about your home? Could you describe it?

Lois: I can remember making the trip into Goldendale, for our weekly groceries.

Pat: What did that include; can you remember?

Lois: Well, mostly for staple things, you know, like sugar, flour and things that we didn't make; have at home; raised.

Pat: Did that mean that the whole family went?

Lois: Sometimes, Uh-huh, sometimes we went. My dad had taught us that we could look but couldn't touch, so we always put our hands behind us and walked around and that always impressed the man that owned the store and he'd always give us a treat at the end of the . . .

Pat: So that you were rewarded then.

Lois: Uh-huh, yes.

Pat: Did you go in, in the buggy or how did you get there?

Lois: Uh-huh, in a . . . well, I would suppose it would be. It wasn't just a buggy but was a little two seater and room for the groceries and all of us kids.

Pat: You worked in a grocery store later in your life. Could you just describe what they sold in this store; what types of things were there?

Lois: Well, they had things in barrels.

Pat: What would be in a barrel for example?

Lois: Well, a peanut butter barrel and ginger snaps. I can remember those because he would always give us a ginger snap and I've always loved them. And, well, everything; everything seemed to be in barrels: sugar, flour, crackers. Yes everything seemed to be in these big kind of barrels.

Pat: How about cheese?

Lois: Well, it was in a great big ring where they would just . . .

Pat: O.K., now you're showing me the size; would you say that it was about a foot across?

Lois: Oh no, larger than that.

Pat: It was round and maybe two feet?

Lois: Yeah, well . . . it's hard. I can remember we even had that though when I first started working in the store here in Stevenson.

Pat: How did they go about cutting it?

Lois: Oh, you would cut it in wedges. The people would say they'd like a . . . they'd measure it with their fingers about the size of the wedge they want.

Pat: So they would buy according to the measurement of their fingers and then it would be weighed and wrapped?

Lois: Uh-huh.

Pat: Did they sell other things at that store, there in Goldendale, besides the food stuffs?

Lois: Oh yes, it was a general store.

Pat: What other things, just for the heck of it, can you remember looking up at the walls and seeing . . .

Lois: Well, they would have wash tubs, you know, hanging on the wall, and maybe some kind of repairs for harness and things, you know. I can remember at Block House, they had a little store, and they used to have just general things; everything that you know would use. Mostly, had to go into Goldendale to get your staples and things. They did have some, but they didn't keep a supply like they did in Goldendale.

Pat: I assume they also had clothing in the store.

Lois: Well, not in that; no, they usually, in Goldendale, they had a dry goods store.

Pat: So, if you needed overalls or dresses or fabric you would go to another store?

Lois: Uh-huh.

Pat: You told me, the other day, when I was here, about going to school. Can you tell us a little bit about how you got there; what the school was like; how many teachers; how many kids; what the building looked like?

Lois: After we moved to Block House, why, we lived about two blocks, I would say maybe a little longer . . . further than that, and we would walk to school and then when it got real bad; we had lots of snow out there and when it got real bad, my dad would put us on the "Old Pete", — that was our big horse - work horse, and he would take us to school and then we would send him home.

Pat: And he would just trot on home?

Lois: And then we usually walked on home, but in the early morning when it was real cold well then we would ride the horse to school.

Pat: Was this when you first started to school, like in the first grade?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh.

Pat: Later, you told me something about riding a horse.

Lois: When I entered high school in Goldendale in 1924. I went my first year of high school and I rode the seven miles into Goldendale, and then back at night, so I had a round trip of fourteen miles. I would meet a girlfriend that was riding into Goldendale, oh, I would say about two miles from where I lived. I would give my horse the reins until I got to her house and then she had an older horse, and it was poky. I would just go around in circles until I got to Goldendale. Then that was the same way until we got back to her house in the evening, and then I would let him have the reins, and, boy, we had a nice ride all the rest the way home.

Pat: Now kind of describe the terrain that you traveled.

Lois: It's rolling hills, uh-huh, it still is; it's just rolling hills. Not too steep or anything. Of course, it was just a dirt road at that time; now it's all paved but then it's a dirt road.

Pat: When you first started school, can you remember things about the school and the teachers and what you studied.

Lois: It's just a one-room school and I can remember so well that Miss Bullick was my teacher and she lived with my grandparents, Grandma and Grandpa Counts. I got to meet her the day before I started the school so I wasn't scared of her because she was so nice. And then; there was just, well, sometimes there wasn't too many . . . there were the ones that were in school. Well you know, there would be three; Hazel, Roy and myself. But gradually, well, then the rest of them would start. Of course, see we moved down here when some of them were young and they were in grade school down here.

Pat: The school building: how about the lighting inside and the bathroom facilities?

Lois: You just had kerosene for lighting.



Pat: And the bathrooms?

Lois: Was an outdoor one.

Pat: O.K., We had the outhouse.

Lois: Uh-huh

Pat: Is there any other impressions you have about school; books or . . .

Lois: I loved it so everything that went on, even I was listening to some of the higher up's, you know, the grades higher than me. I was learning from them, too.

Pat: O.K. The teacher would get you started in your work and then she would go work with the other ones?

Lois: Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

Pat: Did some of the older ones help the younger ones?

Lois: Yeah, sometimes they did, uh-huh, she would have them help.

Pat: Did you ever get to be a helper?

Lois: Well, I did when I was in the higher grades, but I went to school . . . my dad was taking care of a mill and we had . . . and I can't remember what that district was called, but anyway that was where I spent my eighth grade. We had a teacher by the name of Mr. Keys, and he boarded in one of the houses that belonged to this mill; and he boarded with us; he ate with us. So, he would let me get home early. He loved cobblers, no matter what kind of cobbler it was, he liked cobbler. He would send me home so I could be sure and have a cobbler made for dinner.

Pat: Do you remember what kind of fruits you put in them?

Lois: Oh, there was peach and plum and prune. You know anything, berries, apple. I used to love to bake them because it was easy to do.

Pat: You mentioned that Mr. Keys boarded with your grandparents, or stayed with them.

Lois: No, he stayed with us. Yes, it was a kindergarten.

Pat: Now days teachers have their own homes; they don't do this. Can you describe how that worked?

Lois: Well they would stay just the teaching days, then they would go home, but they would stay right in the home. They had their own room; they ate with the family.

Pat: Did they stay with you, like for a full year or did they go stay with other families?

Lois: No, no. They stayed with my grandparents; the kindergarten teacher did, and he stayed about . . . will I think I went to school to him for two years; seventh and eighth grade.

Pat: Then you said he went home.

Lois: No, he didn't always go home because he had, I think, he was from Spokane or somewhere up further away, so he didn't get to go home like she did; the kindergarten teacher.

Pat: That was how they worked it back then, so they would have someone to cook for them and a place to stay in some of these areas that didn't have a lot of rentals and homes? Well, Lois, you told me that your mother's father was the mail carrier in the Goldendale area. What about your other grandfather; can you remember what types of jobs he had?

Lois: Well, he must have just worked in the mills and had a farm, because I don't know of anything else. It was a farming district.

Pat: You did mention earlier that your dad worked in a mill or was involved in a mill. Do you remember much about it?

Lois: Yeah, he was a . . . he hauled . . . he was a logger, and in the winter time when everybody was shut down, he would watch after this mill; look after the . . . we lived there the years that I went through seventh and eighth grades.

Pat: By watching you mean just to make sure that no one harmed anything since it was not running at that time?

Lois: Uh-huh

Pat: You said you started high school in Goldendale, then when did you move to Stevenson?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh. In 1925, the Fall of 1925.

Pat: Then you were enrolled in the high school in Stevenson? What grade were you

in then?

Lois: I was a sophomore; just starting my sophomore year.

Pat: Do remember why your family moved here?

Lois: Well, my sister had moved down here; she had married.

Pat: This is your sister Hazel.

Lois: Hazel and Floyd Shippy. So my dad looked for work down here. He came down to find and he worked in the mill; so he worked in the Ryan/Allen Mill.

Pat: Ryan/Allen; that's one I've heard mentioned quite often, and do you remember where that was located.

Lois: It was the northwest of Stevenson.

Pat: Near Rock Creek area?

Lois: Well, Rock Creek comes down, you know, it would be out further; I don't know; about three miles out of Stevenson.

Pat: One thing that you told me the other day; that your mother passed away at a fairly young age. Would you like to tell us about that so we can have that.

Lois: My brother was just not quite a year old. She passed away on December the 7th of 1917, and he would have been a year old on the 26th of December.

Pat: Why did this happen; why did she pass away?

Lois: We were living at Topish (Toppenish?) at the time and my dad was working in a fruit orchard and he was farming, and she had gall bladder trouble. This doctor operated on her and she died from a hemorrhage.

Pat: And that was soon after the operation?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh.

Pat: So, that meant that there were seven youngsters; how/what happened then?

Lois: Well, my dad did some moving around, you know. He was unsettled and we moved back to Goldendale, and then we moved to Lewisville, Battle Ground. You know Lewisville is just out of Battle Ground, you know where Vancouver; Clark County. I think we stayed down there about two years but we were all

unhappy. We wanted to get back home; what we called home.

Pat: Lois, you said you were down in the Battle Ground area and you were all enthused about moving back; where did you move back to?

Lois: Goldendale

Pat: And that's when you were still in grammar school?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh.

Pat: Did your father have anyone to help him with all you children?

Lois: No, we just sort of all of us had chores to do. We never had any help.

Pat: Do you remember who sort of took over as mama?

Lois: My older sister did. Hazel did. She was thirteen when mother died, and I was nine.

Pat: Do you remember what chores you had to do?

Lois: Oh! Washing and cooking and cleaning and doing every; canning. We canned fruit, too.

Pat: So, even though your mother wasn't there, you all were trained enough so you knew how to do these things. Washing; you did the family washing?

Lois: On a washboard; carried water in to heat.

Pat: Oh, and you were just a little thing too. Did anybody help you with that chore?

Lois: No, just my sister and I, usually.

Pat: You were nine and she was thirteen. What kind of soap did you use?

Lois: Home-made soap mostly. My aunt used to make it and we mostly used bar soap. I can remember Fels-Naphtha.

Pat: O.K., that you bought at the store?

Lois: Uh-huh; Uh-huh.

Pat: After you got them all washed, then what did you do with the darn things?

Lois: Well we would fill the lines up and then if you didn't have room, well, then we'd hang them across the barbed wire fence.

Pat: Then who had the honor of ironing all of this?

Lois: Well, I think a lot of times; like overalls and jeans, we just straightened them out and they wore them. But, we would have to iron; we had to heat the irons up on the wood stove. So it was quite a chore to take and iron.

Pat: Could you describe what the irons looked like and felt like?

Lois: Well, they were flat, and they had handles that would fasten into them. You had to take that off.

Lois: Was the iron shaped about like what we have today with the pointed end?

Lois: Yes, uh-huh.

Pat: How heavy were those?

Lois: Well, they were heavy!

Pat: We're talking pounds, aren't we? And for somebody your size that must have been quite a project getting them back and forth. Who did the cooking?

Lois: My sister and I. My dad helped. He always helped us, you know. He was never very far away from watching over us.

Pat: But you didn't have someone else come in and do a lot of these things for you; like another relative.

Lois: No. When my mother first died, we come back to Goldendale. My aunt took the baby for awhile and Leslie was young so they sort of stayed around with relatives for a little while, but my dad didn't like that. He liked his family home. We were back home all together. It was hard.

Pat: Oh, I imagine it would be. It's such a responsibility for young children too. How about the bathing situation, like bathrooms. You said that you had outhouses at school. Was this true at home?

Lois: Good ole washtub.

Pat: O.K., now describe a bath night at your house.

Lois: You'd have to heat the water and then we girls would take and bathe together.

Then the boys would get their turn. We were always clean. We were always scrubbed down. We all saw to that.

Pat: Can you describe what you had for breakfast in the morning?

Lois: Good ole oatmeal! And I still love it! Oh, sometimes we had raisins to put in it and I still like raisins in my oatmeal once in awhile. But it was mainly just . . . we had cream . . . we always had cream, you see. We didn't have just skim milk like I use now days.

Pat: Cream from the cow; the real stuff. Did you and your sisters bake bread?

Lois: Yes!! I learned to bake bread real young. We had a German lady that lived next door to us and she would come help me and I can remember that she said, "Kneading was the main word in baking bread". And, oh, how my arms would ache! I would knead and knead, but I made good bread.

Pat: But you really had to work at it, too. How many loaves would you make at a time?

Lois: Yes. Well I can't remember for sure but I baked bread twice a week, to keep us going.

Pat: To keep a family of eight. You and your sisters and brothers were very busy with the household chores and all your responsibilities, but, as a youngster, what kind of games did you play and could you describe them?

Lois: At school, at Block House, we had volleyball and everybody played and we just had lots of fun with that.

Pat: Was this just a regular volleyball net and the same type of game that we play today?

Lois: Uh-huh. And then there was always baseball for the boys. I don't remember of ever playing baseball, but I've watched, because I never liked baseball. I don't even like to watch it now.

Pat: Besides organized games, were there games you played with cards or . . .

Lois: We did at home. At school, we had spelling bees and things like that more than the . . . I loved those and geography bees. I can remember . . . oh, I loved that, to learn where other places were. I liked that very much.

Pat: Did you play jump rope?

Lois: Yes, you know we had jump rope and everything we would do at school we'd follow-up mostly at home. But, when we got home from school there was always chores to be done. The boys out with chores in the barn and us girls getting dinner on the table.

Pat: Did you have other things to pass your time once your chores were done; like reading?

Lois: Oh yes, and studying.

Pat: Do you remember any of the books that you read as a youngster that you remember today; story books?

Lois: I always thought that those little "Jane" books. I always despised those because they didn't tell enough. Because I always liked to read and I didn't like those type of books.

Pat: Did you ever have a favorite book that you can recall off hand?

Lois: No, because I liked them all. I really did and I still like to read.

Pat: Where did you get your books?

Lois: Well, from school mainly, because there was no library. I had access to the library after I started high school and was old, but until then . . .

Pat: Did people in neighboring homes share books with one another? Did you take magazines or papers?

Lois: Well, some. My grandfather had magazines. We didn't have too much time except I'd sneak off to read because I loved it.

Pat: But it was something you'd have to do after all your chores so it was a treat for you. Well, Lois, you started high school in Goldendale and then, when your family moved down here to Stevenson, you said you were a Sophomore when you started here. Why don't you tell us about some of your activities in high school in this area.

Lois: Oh, of coarse, there was football and I played basketball, which I liked very much. I think mostly the things the kids do now days, you know, at school. They have more than we had then but . . .

Pat: Do you remember what types of courses you took?

Lois: Well, I remember I took algebra and geometry and English, So, you know, it was

just general. I didn't get to go on to college because I graduated during the Depression and there just wasn't no money and there weren't any jobs. My senior year in high school was the last of my formal education.

Pat: Could you tell us where the high school was located?

Lois: Uh-huh; it was located here right on Vancouver Avenue; the same street that I'm living on now. They had a gym and then the grade school was right beside of the gym. I have some planters made from the brick that I took off of the old high school.

Pat: Oh, you have flower planters.

Lois: Uh-huh, I forget . . . we paid two cents per brick, or something. Anyway, I went and got some in my car.

Pat: Was the location where the grade school is right now?

Lois: Yes, it is, but they bought more land. It's practically the same.

Pat: So if anybody wanted to know, it is on the approximate the same location of the present Stevenson grade school. Could you describe the building; it was brick?

Lois: Uh-huh; the high school was brick; the grade school wasn't; it was a wooden building. They have pictures of it at the museum.

Pat: Did you belong to any clubs or groups at high school?

Lois: Oh yes, I belonged to . . . I forget the names of them though now. You know they had . . . I belonged to the choir, too; I could sing then but I can't now. But they had little clubs and things that we could belong to. We were always busy; it was always busy in school.

Pat: Did you work outside in the community any way or were you a student and then went home and helped?

Lois: Oh, yes. No . . . not until after I graduated.

Pat: You mentioned that you were unable to go on to college because the Depression had started. Were there scholarships available to some students?

Lois: There were some, but then most of them were still in school and they were used up. It was hard. In the year 1928 and '29, that's when the Depression hit.



Pat: Yes, so you just happened to be in the group that there was no money to help in any way? If you had of had the opportunity to go on to college, what do you think you would have pursued?

Lois: I would have liked to have been a kindergarten teacher.

Pat: Well, since this wasn't available to you and wasn't an option, what did you do when you graduated?

Lois: I got a job at Mrs. Parmer's dry-good store. I worked there until I married in 1931.

Pat: So, what were your duties at the dry-good store?

Lois: Waiting on people. She liked to fix hats, so I would work with her, decorating hats.

Pat: Did she sell yardage as well as hats?

Lois: Yes, shoes . . . a regular dry-good store . . . in those days . . . shoes and she didn't have. Yes, she had dresses, too, she had some dresses.

Pat: The term dry-good isn't used as much today, so incase somebody wants to know; so she sold hats and yardage and shoes? Where there other things she sold, that you helped to sell?

Lois: Yes, well she had dresses; some dresses. I don't know. Seems like that just about covers everything; lace and thread and needles and all of that, you know.

Pat: Where was this building located?

Lois: Where Vee Keller has her a . . . it was right next to the tavern . . . a, you know, it was Vee Keller has her thing.

Pat: Pottery shop there?

Lois: Uh-huh.

Pat: So, it was right on the main street?

Lois: Uh-huh, yeah, right on the main street.

Pat: Do you remember anything about Mrs. Parmer?

Lois: Oh, she was a lovely person, and her husband, and we really. And they moved

away from here right after I married and went to Oceanside. He died and she went to Oceanside, California. I kept . . . we corresponded, but you know it's a long way so I never got to see her any more.

Pat: Do you remember your hours and what you were paid?

Lois: It wasn't very much. I don't think I made more than thirty dollars a month.

Pat: Did you work six days a week, or five?

Lois: Six.

Pat: Do you remember your hours, approximately?

Lois: Oh, I think she opened, probably, about eight-thirty and quit about five.

Pat: Well, that was a long day, plus a long week. What kind of fashions did people wear back at that time; what was the look?

Lois: Well, I can remember that Mr. . . . I entered the Fourth of July . . . they had a big celebration the Fourth of July and they had a queen. So I entered that. I lost to my sister-in-law Arlene, in Carson, by one vote.

Pat: Arlene Reid

Lois: She won, so I was her . . . I and Gladys Cook were princesses.

Pat: What did you have to do to become eligible to be in this?

Lois: Well, we had to get votes from the merchants, you know, get votes from anyone we could and so that's how we . . . but she was working for Mr. Meniece, and in Carson Post Office and the Confectionery there, so he just bought . . . or I mean he just gave her more votes and it happened to be one more than Mr. Parmer and them did for me.

Pat: So, eventually, she became your sister-in-law. I'm curious about this Fourth of July; we don't seem to have anything happening in Stevenson, any more on the Fourth of July.

Lois: No, that used to be a big day.

Pat: So they had a parade? Who was involved in the parade?

Lois: Uh-huh . . . mostly kids, I can remember children decorate their bicycles and a you know, things like that.

Pat: Did they have the usual horses?

Lois: I don't remember too much of that. I really don't remember of horses being in it, like they are now.

Pat: What did you ride on in the parade; those of you in the court; the princesses?

Pat: Well, they had cars. Let's see . . . at that time. I don't remember, though, just how it was. I must have rode in a car; I know we did, but a . . .

Pat: How about bands?

Lois: Oh yeah, they always had a band. Uh-huh, Stevenson used to have a real good band.

Pat: Stevenson actually had their own; was it the High School band or was it a community?

Lois: No, No. It was a community band. Of course, some of the youngsters from the High School played.

Pat: This community band; they would also play at other occasions, I assume.

Lois: Oh, yes. Saturday nights they used to have . . . what do they call those little buildings that . . . yes, bandstand or . . . they would play in that down on the Courthouse.

Pat: Oh, on the Courthouse lawn they had a place for them to play?

Lois: Uh-huh. Right down close to the street.

Pat: And this was on Saturday night?

Lois: Oh yes. They'd play any occasion that they had.

Pat: What kind of music did they play? Was it more marching music or did they play?

Lois: I think they varied it, you-know. Always sounded good to me.

Pat: So during the nice weather they would have their band concerts? What other things did they do at this Fourth of July celebration, and this was back what

1930?

Lois: Uh-huh. Yes it would be, you know, '29 or along in there. They used to have a greased pole, you know, for the kids to climb and, you know, races . . . foot races. And I remember they all looked forward to earning some money, you know, prizes. They'd give money prizes. Kids would look forward to that.

Pat: Did they have a picnic area?

Lois: Yes, people would picnic. It was down where the Grange Hall and . . . is now. They had . . . that was mainly . . . they had a big hall there. Well, it was the same building, I think, and they danced in that.

Pat: The same place as the Stevenson Grange which is right there by Rock Creek?

Lois: Uh-huh

Pat: And was it all grassed?

Lois: No, it was mainly just gravel and dirt like it is now.

Pat: But families would get together and picnic in the area.

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh.

Pat: Yes, I am just sort of curious about your Fourth of July celebration and all that. You said that in 1931 you married. Your husband's name was?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh. Harold. Frank Harold Beckon.

Pat: When did you meet him?

Lois: In school. He graduated a year before me.

Pat: Did you date him?

Lois: Oh yes, practically all my school days.

Pat: I see, so you were sweethearts from the Sophomore year on? Can you tell us a little bit about when and where he was born. Tell me about courtship in general.

Lois: Loved to dance. We wouldn't have missed a Saturday night dance for anything, and he worked for the Forest Service, at the Nursery. He started in out there when he was thirteen years old, and worked part-time, and he finished his last

year in three months. He went to school his senior year, because he was working more full time out there, so he just took off in the winter months, but he studied and passed his exams. Probably went to school about three months out of the year.

Pat: Now, he didn't live here in Stevenson?

Lois: He lived in Carson.

Pat: And, could you describe the area that he lived in?

Lois: On the Smith-Beckon road in Carson. They had a little farm there. A little ranch, small, fruit trees and . . . He was just a country boy like all the rest of us.

Pat: So, when he worked at the Nursery, he worked at the Wind River Nursery in the Hemlock area, which was about eight miles north of Carson?

Lois: Yes, uh-huh.

Pat: Did you ever go across the swinging bridge, over the Wind River?

Lois: Oh yes. We had to travel; even that was after . . . let's see . . . I was married and he'd come home. They built a new bridge after my husband died and I came back here.

Pat: Now back to the courtship; you two enjoyed dancing. When did you decide this would be ending in marriage?

Lois: Yes, uh-huh. Both of us loved to dance. Oh, I don't know, we just, you-know it's just like everybody else. We kind of, you-know. He . . . I guess we just decided that was the best thing to do.

Pat: Did he formally propose to you?

Lois: I don't remember anything formal about it. We just sort of kind a come to the conclusion that this was going to happen.

Pat: So you graduated from high school and went to work and when did you and your husband get married?

Lois: On July the 3rd, 1931.

Pat: Where did you get married?

Lois: At Vancouver. My brother and my sister, younger sister, both had got married at this chapel of the Presbyterian church, a little chapel. We had the same minister and got married there.

Pat: Who went with you? Did you have a large wedding?

Lois: Uh-huh. No, my father and a my in-laws, and that was all. We didn't have a big wedding.

Pat: And this was early in the Depression; did you have a honeymoon trip?

Lois: No, we just stayed overnight in Portland and came home.

Pat: Where was home, Lois?

Lois: Well, I lived here in Stevenson and he lived in Carson, and we moved out to Hemlock.

Pat: When did you move into your first home, then?

Lois: You mean in Hemlock, for the government? I think we probably moved about the fifth of July. You see, we just stayed overnight and . . . the fourth and fifth.

Pat: So then you had a home all ready for you?

Lois: Yes, uh-huh. We fixed it up. We had it all settled and fixed before we got married. I'd go out and put curtains up and . . .

Pat: Where was this home located?

Lois: Well, it was right down on the grounds of the Nursery and it was just a little small place. We had a larger room and a little tiny bedroom off from that and they had . . . there was no bathroom in it. There was . . . they had built this wash room and a they had toilets. So, it was just close enough that it wasn't too far; it wasn't like an outhouse. It was really a form of one but not like a two holer.

Pat: And this home was owned by the government so you rented it while your husband worked.

Lois: Yes, uh-huh.

Pat: Lois, last time we visited, we had got you married and you were living out in Hemlock, where your husband was employed. Could you tell us about your home, where it was located; what it looked like and what your husband did out

there?

Lois: Well, he was . . . first he just worked for the Nursery but he was then made Assistant Nurseryman, but we had moved into this little cabin. It was really a cabin, and we just lived in the living room and it had . . . it was a kitchen and just everything together and a little tiny bedroom off from it. But later on, just before my son was born in 1936, they built on a 14 x 16 bedroom, so what was the original bedroom we made into a kitchen, and it was the handiest little kitchen I ever had. It was a “U” shape and it was just simply, it was small, but it was just wonderful. I cooked on the wood range. We did have, finally, we’d get DC current we had, so we had to get a refrigerator with DC current, but that was wonderful having that. First we didn’t have refrigeration.

Pat: How did you keep things cool?

Lois: Well, we just . . . my husband dug a great big hole in the ground and then we lined it and fixed it so that water would drip around it, you know, so that kept things pretty cool.

Pat: You had water piped to the area?

Lois: Oh, we had running water in the house even, but this was outside. It was kind of fixed like you would say an underground cellar, I guess.

Pat: What did you line it with; do you remember?

Lois: Oh, we used burlap sacks because they would hold the moisture and it didn’t seem to rot away or anything. Well, of course, we . . . it wasn’t too long. I think it was a year or so we had that before we got the refrigerator.

Pat: What things did you put in your little outdoor refrigerator?

Lois: Milk and butter and things like that. You know, anything that would spoil. I had to learn to bake and not buy, because until you had the refrigerator you just couldn’t. But we had a cook house that was right across from our place and the CCC’s were in at that time, but this was for the employees of the Nursery and things, and the fellow that cooked. He was a butcher also, and he would get cuts of meat, so we could get fresh meat nearly every day. He had . . . they had a meat refrigerator or something like that, and he could keep his meat. That was nice. I can remember he was very fond of veal, and I was, too, so I could get lots of veal.

Pat: You said CCC’s. That was the Civilian Conservation Corps?

Lois: Yes, uh-huh, uh-huh.

Pat: And when you were talking about your first refrigerator; DC, that was direct current?

Lois: Yes, uh-huh, uh-huh.

Pat: As far as getting your groceries, did you have access to milk . . . a cow in the area, or did you have to go to Carson.

Lois: No, we had to come to Carson and sometimes they delivered out to the Ranger Station, in good weather, you know, so sometimes we would have milk delivered. I mean, maybe twice a week or a something like that, you know, we'd have it delivered so we wouldn't have to use, you know, keep it too long.

Pat: When they'd deliver, did you call in and order?

Lois: Yes, uh-huh, at the Carson Mercantile, in Carson. Chauncy Price and Paul Schlindler, I think it was. Well, it was his store (Chauncy Price) and the other fellow just worked there.

Pat: O.K., so he actually delivered, and that would have been about ten miles distance? Were there any other things about your house?

Lois: Of course, having that big room built on and having a kitchen and back porch built on, too, and having all those things was wonderful after living in cramped quarters. But we were happy, but it was nice having that when my son was born because, you know, we had one . . . it was so big that I could screen off one corner of it for his room.

Pat: What did you folks do for entertainment out there in the Hemlock area?

Lois: Well, we came in to . . . my husband belonged to the Eastern Star, too, and the Masonic Lodge, so we used to come in for all the entertainments. We belonged to a dance club.

Pat: Did they meet out there?

Lois: No, here in Stevenson, and . . . it was really fun. We loved to dance. Both of us did, and so we enjoyed that. We nearly always went to a dance on Saturday night, but then we'd have these club would have a dance so that was always a little more special.

Pat: What did you do with your son when you went to the dance?

Lois: Oh, my sister lived here in Stevenson, and we'd come bring him in and drop



him off and then she would baby sit him while I was at the dance. Or grandma, in Carson. Grandma, but not very often. She'd like to go the dances with us, so we used to take her. She loved to go.

Pat: How many people actually lived out there in the Hemlock area, the Ranger Station area.

Lois: Well, see there was . . . in the summer time it was quite busy because the . . . there was the Ranger Station and the . . . they had the Arboretum and they used to take charge of that, you know, . . . I can't think of the name of it, the department, but there was a lot of people, you know, and then they had, you know, the Ranger Station had lots of people working out on trails and roads, but then the Nursery had . . .but most of them lived around where they'd come to work each day, but there was some hired that; like they had this cook house for them.

Pat: They don't have that type of facility anymore.

Lois: No, no they don't, but they did have a cook house over at the Ranger Station, not too long ago. It hasn't been many years ago. Of course, I wasn't living there so I didn't keep up with that.

Pat: Did you ever see any of the log drives they had down the Trout Creek, or was that before you moved there; where they put the logs in and float them down.

Lois: No, that was . . . you're thinking of . . . that was up at Underwood and Willard.

Pat: At one time they used to do this on the Wind River, but it probably was way before you moved out there.

Lois: Well, Wind River, but . . . on the Wind River did they?

Pat: Pheobe Yeo was telling me about her father had been involved in this type of activity, but it was when she was a youngster so it had been quite a few years before you moved out there. Could you describe the road you traveled to get from Carson to . . .

Lois: Oh, it was crooked, very crooked. It had a horseshoe bend that was terrible. I used to be scared to death to go around it, you know.

Pat: Did they have the swinging bridge across at that time?

Lois: Oh yes, they had the High Bridge, That was the old one and it was narrow and would swing when you would go across.

Pat: Did more than one vehicle go across at a time?

Lois: No, it was . . . you had to stop.

Pat: That's quite a high, as you say, it was called high bridge. Was the road graveled or . . .

Lois: Yes, uh-huh.

Pat: Do remember how long it would take you to get from Carson out there? Was it quite a journey?

Lois: Oh no, it didn't seem like it was far. I don't remember. I think we traveled right along. We had a car . . . everybody had a car.

Pat: By the '30's people were using automobiles. Do you remember anything about the car?

Lois: Oh, we had a Dodge, uh-huh, a couple Dodges. And I still had the last one when we lived here.

Pat: You were married several years before your son was born and we talked about this the other day; about where he was born. Why don't we just go through that again and you can tell us where he was born and his name and any other information.

Lois: Frank Harold: we never called him junior. We just called him Frank Harold Beckon, but he was named after his dad. But we . . . he was born in Camas, Washington, in a maternity home owned by Mrs. Belts, and she was a wonderful person. And during my pregnancy, about the time that he was to be born, why it seemed like he went over. The doctor told me it was to be a certain date but he went over, and my husband was sent to Olympia to start a tree plantation up there . . . so he was . . . so he came home every weekend and we'd go home and then I'd go back and stay in, For three weeks I had to do that before he . . .

Pat: You actually stayed at the home in Camas while your husband was gone, so that in case anything happened, you'd be there?

Lois: Uh-huh.

Pat: Now, when it came to the actual delivery, you did have a physician?

Lois: Oh yes, Dr. Urey in Camas.

Pat: How long did you stay in the home after Frank was born?

Lois: I stayed . . . they used to keep you longer than they do now. I think it was probably about two weeks . . . about fourteen days.

Pat: Did they have you up and about?

Lois: Oh yes, not at first. They used to make you stay in bed. You didn't want to but you had to. But, I got up and around and went to the bathroom and . . .

Pat: But pretty much, you had to stay there for about two weeks. Then when you brought your beautiful new son home, what was the schedule on that?

Lois: Uh-huh. Well, I had a lady who was going to come over and . . . they were what we called the squatters. They were from Oklahoma.

Pat: And these were people that lived by you out in Hemlock?

Lois: Yes, in the woods; pole houses and a built out of poles.

Pat: They had built this themselves?

Lois: Uh-huh. And they worked. Some of them worked in the Nursery and they worked for the Forest Service. But anyway she came over. I had hired a girl, one of the Blaisdell girls and she was coming but she got a better job or a longer time job over in Hood River. She went over there, so I had to just take what I could get, and so one of these ladies, I can't remember her name. But, I didn't think she was clean enough to take care of my baby. Although, I was really doing everything so finally I just tried it, I didn't need her so . . .

Pat: Was she hired to help with the baby or with the housework?

Lois: Both

Pat: So you would have a little time to rest? Were you still living there when Frank started school?

Lois: Yes, he had started in Carson and then it was in October when we left; the first of October, and so he had gone about three months, and then we went to . . .

Pat: Went to California.

Lois: And so it was so different for him because here he was in one class, and down there they had different classes for different things . . . reading, writing. So he had different teachers for these things, so he had several teachers, and at first he didn't quite; you know, it was kind of a change for him. But he rather liked

it after while because, you know, it wasn't boring for him because he had different teachers and it was all different and he really was always good in school.

Pat: Now we're talking about the early 1940's. So there were no schools left in the Hemlock area?

Lois: No, they had to come to Carson. That's why he didn't go to kindergarten or anything because those were not too popular then. There might have been some in the cities but they weren't out there.

Pat: Lois, you were married in the depression; you had a child during the depression of the 1930's. As a homemaker, mother and wife, how did the depression effect you and your family?

Lois: Well, it really, cuz I'd always raised on a farm and all . . . it never bothered me, you know, like it did some people, because we knew how to save. We knew how to scrimp and make everything count. So, and I sewed. I made all of my son's clothes.

Pat: Did you have a treadle machine?

Lois: Uh-huh.

Pat: Tell me the story about when the bank closed here in Stevenson.

Lois: Well, we just had put our check in, you know, and here it closed. So, of course, we had to make provision for that, but I had a dime bag that I had been saving dimes and every time we'd have a dime we'd drop it into it, and so we lived on our dimes.

Pat: We're talking about you had been saving for several years, I take it.

Lois: Well, I don't know how many years but then I had a jar of them, and so . . .

Pat: So that helped pay for the food and any other expenses you had. You mentioned that you managed your money and you knew how to. Did you do any canning?

Lois: Oh, yes. I canned peaches and pears and some vegetables. Down here, the family would have over-supply of vegetables in their garden, because out there we couldn't raise things like we wanted.

Pat: Because it was higher elevation and cooler?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

Pat: And things don't ripen so fast. So your family then shared with you, their extra?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh. So I canned lots of food. Everything — seemed like I was canning all the time.

Pat: Did you find that people helped each other during this time?

Lois: Yes, I think they did, Uh-huh.

Pat: Do you remember any occasions when you might have helped, or somebody helped you?

Lois: Oh, I don't know. I had a neighbor that had young children and I was always . . . until I had my son . . . her youngsters were my youngsters. We lived close and, well, I become attached to them and was always doing something for them.

Pat: Lois, you said that you and your husband moved to Selenis, California. Could you tell us when and why?

Lois: It was in October, 1942, and he went down there to work on the Wyule plantation. It was, you-know, synthetic rubber, and it really worked out quite nicely, but, of course, the war ended and so it just kind of folded.

Pat: Was this the name of a plant or a tree?

Lois: Yes, it was called a Wyule plant.

Pat: Do you remember what it looked like?

Lois: Well, like sage; something like sage.

Pat: And they used part of this plant?

Lois: They used the whole plant. Of course they would cut it down, you know, but, and it would, like sage, if you have ever noticed you can use your sage, and cut it off and it will come back up. Well, that was the way the Wyule plant did.

Pat: And they had a large plantation of this?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh. And he was a foreman for Mexicans, and was going to school and taking Spanish so he really had just sort of able to understand them and

learned some Spanish through the men he was working with but he wanted to learn, and he was in school when he was drowned in the ocean.

Pat: Could you tell us about what happened to him?

Lois: He'd gone fishing, or abalone hunting with his friend. Jim was another man on the Wyule plantation, and they had gone down to Granite Creek, that is south of Carmel, and not too far, you-know. It's down toward the big surf, and they got down to the rocks and were down on the rocks, prying the abalone off, and he was going down a little further and he called to his friend and, well, Jim was going to go on up above. So Jim did, and apparently, he lost his footing or something. We just don't know, we never did know, but when Jim came back, because he didn't come, why up where he was. Well, he came back and he saw him out in the ocean, and his hat was off floating beside him. He had on a raincoat — it was called a tin coat then, you know, and they were heavy, and it was holding him up. He never responded to Jim at all, so Jim ran to the highway and he got a patrolman and they searched for him but his body was never found.

Pat: So, he saw him but by the time he got back he had gone down, and was never found?

Lois: Well, I came back to Carson. I got a job right away with the . . . at the drug store, where a girl was quitting. Her husband had been in the service and was out, and so they were going somewhere else to live and so I got her job and I worked for the drug store for two years.

Pat: Excuse me, Lois, one thing we didn't mention, when did your husband pass away; when did he drown?

Lois: March 28, 1943.

Pat: So you were lucky enough to get a job when you came back so you could support yourself and your son?

Lois: Yes, uh-huh. So we lived in a little apartment, down here. We lived up . . . stayed with my husband's mother. But she had a small house and I wanted Frank to go to school in Stevenson, because this is where I planned to come down to live, so we got an apartment. So that summer, this lady that I bought the house from, she played cat and mouse with me. She was the sweetest little old lady but she just didn't know what she really wanted to do. One day she'd come in and sell the house to me and the next day she'd come in and say it was off. So along when school had started, or I was driving . . . or Frank was coming down with me in the mornings when I came to work, he would come, because I wanted him to start school down here. But, anyway, she passed away one

evening, so the family asked me if I still wanted the house, so I bought the house.

Pat: Now, the house, is that the one you are in right now? The one here on Vancouver Avenue, that you've lived in since 1944.

Lois: Yes, uh-huh, uh-huh. May of 1944, the first of May in 1944. But anyway, we got it in the Fall, but she had passed away here, so we talked it over and we decided that we would do some things by painting and things. The bathroom was a royal blue, and my son hated it and so did I, so we painted it white and had to give it a lot of coats of paint Then finally I, you know, we had it like we liked it, but then, oh-my . . .and papered it, but I used a different paper. I didn't . . . she had . . . oh, kind of a patriotic paper on there for a bathroom, so it's been papered many, many times. I have a different paper on it now than I had then, but it really looked nice, so we got that fixed and I had a man come in and paper the living room, because she had a wood stove and she would leave it smokey. Oh, it was just so smokey, so he came in and papered, and papered the living room so it was livable then in the Spring when we moved in.

Pat: Do you remember the woman's name that you purchased . . .

Lois: Yes, Mrs. Davidson. The Davidson's were quite well known around Stevenson. My sister-in-law was her grandmother; was her mother's mother, Charlotte Warren. But, I've done a lot to it because it had a front porch. First it had this back porch and I needed a little room for my son, so I had a man come and I told him what I wanted and he done it just like I wanted. So I fixed this little room . . . we still call it Frank's room. I took and put the sheetrock on myself and the tile on the ceiling, and then I decided, well, I didn't need that front porch . . . nobody sit on our front porch, so right after the 1950 snow storm, I had it closed in and made into a little entrance, and then I have a walk-in closet. So, it really improved the house and made it look so different. And then, I also changed the . . . they had in the bedroom, there was three doors in one corner. One that went in the bathroom, one in to a little closet and the other one that came into the bedroom. It just was a waste of space, so I kept thinking about fixing that and moving the closet back . . . the doors on the back of the closet because it was a long-narrow closet, and you just couldn't do anything with it because it was so narrow. So I asked my nephew if I could tear the wall out, or not tear it out but cut a door to the bathroom and then make an entry, leave an open entry to that door, and then have the closet in the back and so I had to have my bed up against the wall what was an outside wall, and I have had an acute attack of sinus. The doctor claimed it was because I was sleeping by a window. So, anyway, I have my bed, now, so I don't have to have it against a window. But, anyway, I did a lot of the finishing of that. I love to do those things, and so I tore it all out and sealed up the door that went into the bedroom, and put paper on it Then I had paneling put on that wall, so it

covered up where the old door was.

Pat: Did your son help you with any of these projects?

Lois: No, he was away, you know, in school.

Pat: Oh, this was later.

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh, Uh-huh. Later, a little later.

Pat: Where did you learn all these things?

Lois: Just from having to do it for all my life. I still like to do things like that. I really do.

Pat: Well, you have a lovely home; it's just very nice and cozy and comfortable.

Lois: Sometimes it's dark on our dark days, but I like the paneling, but it does darken the house.

Pat: We just learn to live with that in the Gorge. You mentioned that most everyone was affected by World War II, in some way or another, and since you moved back to this area before the war was over, do you remember any things about that period in your life, how the war effected you?

Lois: I can remember the class of 19--. I think it was 1943 or 44. It was right along in there. I remember that they left for to join the army or different parts of the service, you know, before they graduated. I don't know how many, but I remember that was quite an event because we all thought it was very patriotic and they had a real, you know, going away party. I think, or know, they left so hurriedly that we really didn't have a chance to have it, but everybody was real thrilled about it, to think that they would do that.

Pat: We hear the stories about rationing. Do you have any stories about that?

Lois: Oh, yes!!! We even had that before we moved into California. You know, we had sugar. We had stamps that we'd . . . I have all these vegetables you see, so I wouldn't have to use my vegetable stamps, so I'd trade them for meat and sugar.

Pat: Lois, at the end of the other side of this tape, you were telling us about rationing. Could you tell us how people got scarce items?

Lois: Well, mine was sugar, because I liked to can, and so vegetables, I always had plenty of those because I canned them, so I would trade with people.



Everybody was trading, even we had our gas rationed so we'd, you know, people would try to help out once in awhile if they needed something, you know, we'd give them some. We'd stay home so that they had enough to go to the doctor, or . . .

Pat: In other words, you had a barter system going.

Lois: Uh-huh. We just, really, would help each other. It was great. It was really nice, and people would do that.

Pat: Besides sugar and gas, can you remember other things that were rationed and in short supply?

Lois: Well, butter!!!! We had to go to OLEO!! And you had that old stuff that you had to color.

Pat: I remember that as a youngster. Could you describe what it looked like and how it was packaged.

Lois: Well, it was white. Then, they had this little package of coloring that you would — some people wouldn't — use that; they'd just use it. Oh, it just looked like lard to me. So I would have to . . . oh, it was a job to mix it up, you know, get it all to look like butter. But when I was in Selenis, I went to the Pet Milk. They had a demonstration of how to make it easier. You used Pet Milk in the mixture with your oleo and the coloring, and it really did . . . it was a soft spread.

Pat: You made your own soft margarine then?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh. Soft margarine. That worked out so much better after we finally learned how to do that. Everybody hated it. We was glad when we got butter back, and now we use oleo again.

Pat: What other things were rationed?

Lois: Nearly everything; sugar, coffee. I don't remember anything that wasn't.

Pat: So it was a matter of getting the stamps. Do you remember how you went about getting the stamps?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh. We had to go and sign up for them and then they would give us, according to the family, you-know. But I think that everybody could get them, because there was no other way.

Pat: Was it at the Courthouse, that you could get them?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh.

Pat: And then when you went to buy your coffee or your other things, you paid your money and then gave them stamps?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh. You gave them the stamps, whatever the amount of the allowed, or what they took.

Pat: You said you had one brother who served in the armed forces during World War II.

Lois: Well, he was in Iran, and he was there, I think, he was there a couple of years.

Pat: He was with the United States Army?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh. And he has tales that he could really tell you a lot, you know, because the . . . I do remember how he met the Shah (of Iran and his wife, and she was a beautiful lady, he said. At the time . . . the one that he had then, I guess. But he met them and he was just real thrilled over that because, he said, they were so wonderful. At the time, they were. We used to talk about that, afterwards, when the Shaw came over here. See he was over here then.

Pat: You showed me the spoon that your brother brought for you. Could you describe it a little bit?

Lois: It was supposed to have been the teaspoon size. I wanted him to bring one back. It's more silver than most of them. It has other things in with it. He watched them make it and it's between a soup spoon and a teaspoon, and it's engraved on the handle of it — a beautiful spoon. And on the back it has: Iran, 1945.

Pat: And you display it in your spoon collection on the wall, here in your dining area.

Lois: Yes, One of my prize ones.

Pat: Were there any other memories about the World War II that you can think of at the moment.

Lois: Well, I can remember my younger brother. He had an injury on his leg, when he was just a boy . . . broke his ankle . . . heel it was . . . chipped it off, and it went for so long that they put it in a cast 'till he got gangorine set in, and so it affected the bone. He had quite a leg on him for years that he had to take treatment. So I can remember, so well, he was riding the bus from here, down to Vancouver, to the ship yards, and he used to get razed because he was a

young man and he wasn't in the service. So one day, he was at work. They were sitting down eating lunch. He used to wear . . . the best thing to bandage it with was a Kotex; would lay in the wound part, and then he would bandage it up. So this man kept razzing him. This one particular one, so he just pulled up his pants leg, pulled that bandage off, and said this is why I'm not in the service. He said, everybody just died. Boy, there was never a word out of that man after that.

Pat: Because of this injury . . .

Lois: Yeah, he didn't get to go . . .he didn't go.

Pat: This was your brother, Leslie?

Lois: Melvin; my youngest brother. Yeah, Leslie was the one in Iran. The two boys — younger ones — were in the service. The rest of them didn't go. I had a nephew that was in the service but the rest of them were too old to be drafted.

Pat: Did they have any organizations, here in the area, that sent things or did things for the war effort, that you remember. Like making things for soldiers; knitting?

Lois: I don't remember, really, any. Well, I think there was some, but I never was really involved in that at all.

Pat: You have lived here now for a number of years. Can you tell us what the main street, in Stevenson, looked like thirty or fourth years ago, compared to what it looks like today?

Lois: Not much difference. They've got the new buildings like Ann's groceries and the Main Street, but really and truly, the old buildings were there. Of course, the store where I worked burned down so they replaced it with a new building. The old Avery building is still there. Used to be the Pharmacy was in that, and the Mr. Cooper built the store where the drugstore is now. He built that.

Pat: Mr. Cooper. Was he the Pharmacist?

Lois: Yes, he was the Pharmacist, and I worked for him for two years. But, there isn't too many; there's been the buildings, you-know, that the cafe over there was built. The Silver Grill.

Pat: The Silver Grill. That used to be a hardware store?

Lois: Yes. Well, it burned down. Well, they tore it down, and then they built this in that building.

Pat: Then across the street, the other restaurant.

Lois: That was a tavern. And the old store where I first worked before I was married, in Parmer's store, it was connected, too, and Bea Keller is in the part that was the store. The tavern was on the other side, and they made a restaurant out of it.

Pat: And Bea Keller has her ceramic shop in this one side.

Lois: And I can remember that we had the shoes over on the wall where the tavern was, and the smoke and smell would come through over there, you know, you'd go over there and it would just be horrible. I hated to go and sell a pair of shoes because of it, You could just smell it through the wall. But I think that they have probably improved that, you know. They would just have to because the cigars and all that smoke.

Pat: Where Wayne Mann's Barber Shop is, was that always a barber shop?

Lois: Uh-huh, Uh-huh, that I remember, it was a barber shop.

Pat: Then when you went to work in the grocery store, that was on the corner of Russell and Highway 14.

Lois: Uh-huh. All the front was glass and they folded the doors out in the summertime, you know, and then there would be gaps, and oh!, it was cold. We used to freeze to death.

Pat: We now have a wind surfing and sporting goods in that building.

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

Pat: Going toward the post office, from where the grocery store used to be, there was a tavern.

Lois: When I first moved here, it was a confectionery.

Pat: Where the liquor store is now used to be a confectionery?

Lois: Yes, Uh-huh, Uh-huh. And then it became the tavern, and now it's become a liquor store.

Pat: Some of the buildings along there are quite old. Do you remember any of the history?

Lois: Well, there used to be, years ago, there was a bakery. See the one building

burned down. They have that one down there that some of the hippies built, you know, that's kind of across from the post office, now. Well, that's not very old (the kind of octagon shaped one) never was used for anything. But the other building was a big building with an upstairs to it, and they had a bakery in there at one time. But a lot of the older ones, down toward the railroad tract. There's some of the houses and things that are still there; but they were torn down. Really, it hasn't changed too much. That what I say when the Gorge Commission is trying to change this. Nobody changes this but the government. The government was the dams. That what changes the Gorge . . . not the people here, that own property.

Pat: You were here when the old courthouse was still standing; correct?

Lois: Yes.

Pat: Do you remember much about it?

Lois: Well, it was just a real old type of building, that was built with kind of a rounded top; no, not rounded, not low built like the buildings are now, you know. It stood out. It was on the same spot that the new one is built, but they had business then like they have now.

Pat: Did you ever work in the courthouse?

Lois: No, I never did. I had friends that did but I never did.

Pat: One thing you mentioned to me awhile back was that your family had reunions. Do you want to tell us a little bit about your reunions; what you did and when?

Lois: Well, there were seven of us. I had four brothers and we had three girls, and whenever we had birthdays; we had Spring birthday in Spring months and then we had them in the Fall. Of course, there was more in the Fall than there was in the Spring. We always had a reunion. We'd always get together and have a potluck. Sometimes it would be at my sisters house here in Stevenson, and . . .

Pat: This is your sister, Hazel?

Lois: Yes, Hazel Shippy, and other times in later years, we'd go to a restaurant. We'd meet in Vancouver. But that wasn't as much fun because we'd like to talk and visit, and, you know, you just won't be able to do that in a restaurant. We like to have them in a home. But we've got away from it now because, I have two brothers that are gone and just don't do it quite as often, but we do get together whenever we can, we have a potluck and get together. I think we'll always do

that. We're too close not to.