

# MABEL RUSSELL

Interviewed by Pat Hanson

Date of Tape: Jan. 22, 1992

Transcribed by Rich Curran.

Pat: Mabel, would you give us your full name, where and when you were born?

Mabel: My name is Mabel Caroline Russell. My maiden name was DuPree. My age is 87 years. I was born on April 22, 1904.

Pat: And you were born in?

Mabel: I was born in Pendleton, Oregon. My mother and dad brought me here when I was nine months old.

Pat: Oh, you've been here for many, many years.

Mabel: I really have.

Pat: You said you were nine months old when you came to Carson. Actually, you had a grandfather that came many years before. Could you tell me about him. His name?

Mabel: His name was Albert Smith Estabrook. E-s-t-a-b-r-o-o-k. I'm not sure of his birth, it was in the east someplace. My sister says it was New York. And he came out here about 1857, at the age of 19, and homesteaded most of the Carson area. I have an abstract that said he actually homesteaded 168½ acres. I don't know where he got that 8½. He must have got it from somebody. Anyway, he died at the age of 70 in 1908. His gravestone says he died in 1910, but I have an abstract that says 1908.

Pat: Where is he buried, Mabel?

Mabel: He is buried here in Carson, in the old Eyman Cemetery.

Pat: Can you tell me what kind of work he did when he was in this area? Can you remember?

Mabel: Well, I understand that he did just a little bit of everything. Farming, and, wood hauling. In those days they hauled cord wood out of here. They took the wood to the boat landing and loading it on scows, and when the wind

was just right, they would sail it to The Dalles, and dispose of it there.

Pat: Do you remember where the boat landing was located?

Mabel: The boat landing was directly below Carson here, they had a road to the boat landing.

Pat: Do you remember his home and where he was located?

Mabel: I think his home was located, practically at the Carson highway cruising toward Carson, first curve on the highway, and that stood there for many years. I don't know if it burned down or what.

Pat: Has anything been built in the place where it used to be?

Mabel: Adjoining it.

Pat: What would that be?

Mabel: That would be, ah, I would say there is a beauty parlor in that area.

Pat: Oh, OK. It's down near the taverns, American Legion, and. . .?

Mabel: (inaudible)

Pat: Your grandfather was married, of course. Do you remember his wife's name and anything about her?

Mabel: Her maiden name was Frances Scarlett(?), but I don't know anything about her relatives. And I don't know where he met her either. I imagine in this locality someplace. Originally, he and her second husband and daughter lived at Collins.

Pat: On the river.

Mabel: On the river. There was a big hotel, and people from Portland would come in by boat to, for mineral baths, and relaxation.

Pat: You said her second husband, after your grandfather passed away she . . .

Mabel: No, they got a divorce.

Pat: So they got a divorce. Are there any stories you can tell us about your grandmother?

Mabel: Not really.

Pat: Do you remember when she died?

Mabel: She died at the age of 78, I believe, and he passed away shortly after.

Pat: Oh, so you didn't really know her, then? Mabel, about how old were you when your grandmother passed away? Were you out of school?

Mabel: Yes. I can't recall.

Pat: Your grandfather and grandmother had children. Your mother, could you tell us about your mother, her name and stories about her?

Mabel: Well, her name was Ella DuPree and, ah, she had one sister, Alice, ah.

Pat: Well, we won't worry about her middle name.

Mabel: Can't remember her last name though. To begin her name was Bevan. Then she had two husbands later. Her last husband's name was Harshberger. And had a uncle Fred, and he lived here, too.

Pat: And that would have been Fred Estabrook?

Mabel: Huh, huh. But he moved to California later on in life. Never did keep up with him.

Pat: You had one aunt, Alice, and one uncle, Fred. Your father, was he born in this area, or did he come in?

Mabel: No he was born out of this area. He met my mother in Pendleton, Oregon, and they were married there and then they brought me here to Carson.

Pat: And his name was ?

Mabel: John DuPree.

Pat: John DuPree. So they came to Carson in about 1904-1905?

Mabel: Yes, I was just a baby.

Pat: Do you remember the home you lived in when you first came here?

Mabel: Yes. The original home was, there has been additions to it.

Pat: What area is it located at?

Mabel: Do you know where the tavern is, the first tavern as you come into town?

Pat: The Bungalow Tavern, yes.

Mabel: Well, it's right there, south of that. They are remodeling it right now.

Pat: Oh. So that was your original home, your first home here in Carson?

Mabel: Yes.

Pat: Could you describe what it looked like inside, the room, etc.?

Mabel: Well, to begin with, it was practically two, ah, two living rooms, kitchen and bedroom, and that was the extent of it. In the bathroom was an old tub along side an old stove (chuckle), and outside privy.

Pat: How did the kitchen look? What kind of appliances or . . . ?

Mabel: Well, a little later she had a, stake with a pump in there, they had a well, and they pumped water that way. And they had a well outside so they could get water as well. I don't think I'd want to drink it this day and age (chuckle).

Pat: So, it came, near that little creek behind (Carson Creek). How long did your folks live there?

Mabel: That was their permanent residence.

Pat: So, from the time you arrived that was your home.

Mabel: Yeah. My dad died when he was only 51 years old.

Pat: Do you remember why?

Mabel: He died of pneumonia.

Pat: And what about hospital facilities?

Mabel: Well, he was working at Wendling, Ore. (in Lane County) in the logging business.

Pat: Where is Wendling?

Mabel: In the Springfield area.

Pat: Oh, down in the valley.

Mabel: And he developed pneumonia down there, put in the hospital there, and died in Eugene, and we brought his body back to Carson for burial.

Pat: Is he also buried in the Eyman Cemetery?

Mabel: No, he is buried out here in the Carson Cemetery, the one on Metzger road.

Pat: What kind of work did your father do?

Mabel: Mostly logging.

Pat: Did he work for himself?

Mabel: He had a pair of horses that he worked with in the logging.

Pat: Do you remember the areas that he logged? Were they near here?

Mabel: Yes, they were just north of Carson here.

Pat: Out near High Bridge?

Mabel: Yeah, that would be about the area.

Pat: Was it land that he owned?

Mabel: No. He worked for someone else.

Pat: Do you remember any names of people that he might have worked for?

Mabel: Golly, I'm trying to.

Pat: Ok. You was the first child. Was there any others in the family?

Mabel: I have a sister, Alice, and a brother, Earl. Brother Earl was kicked in the head by a horse when he was 2½ years old, and he died the next day.

Pat: And your sister Alice, where does she live now?

Mabel: She lives in Vancouver.

Pat: What's her last name?

Mabel: (inaudible).

Pat: As youngsters, what kind of games did you play?

Mabel: Mostly, in the creek, or playing in the dust someplace.

Pat: Did you have any organized games that you played as kids, with your neighbors?

Mabel: Can't recall any.

Pat: As a kid, just walk me through a day, like you got up in the morning, what did you do? Did you have chores? Did you have certain things you had to do?

Mabel: Not too many. My mother was the type that did practically everything herself. And I guess I inherited a lot of that.

Pat: Did you have any kind of chores, like bringing in the wood?

Mabel: No.

Pat: No animals to take off.

Mabel: I know I didn't like . . . we had a few geese and I didn't like them, because everytime we went outside it seemed like that old gander would take out after me.

Pat: What did he do? Describe what he would do to you.

Mabel: He would try and catch me and he would hit me with his big old ring. He could almost knock you down, when you were real small.

Pat: Did he ever sliver his neck along the ground?

Mabel: Oh, yes. That was the procedure.

Pat: Then did he ever try to nip you?

Mabel: Oh, yes. I got so that I would carry a stick, because I was afraid of him. And I helped my dad with the haying. He'd bring in the hay and we'd . . . it seems like it was always my job to stomp down the hay. You would put it in the high door-way and then someone had to stomp it into the barn.

Pat: Why were you stomping it?

Mabel: To, ah, put more pressure on the hay, for more space for the next load.

Pat: So, you were an important person this . . . Well, obviously, you had animals where you lived. What kind of animals did you have, besides the geese?

Mabel: We had a cow, and we had horses. I recall one time, it was a stallion . . . really we didn't need him because he was always getting out. One time he ran through a barbed wire fence and had a big gash in his shoulder, and my dad and I sewed that up. I don't know how I able to do it, but I did it (chuckle). He held the, I held, or he held the horse and we sewed that big gash up, and he got well.

Pat: So, you had a real hands-on nursing experience, didn't you?

Mabel: Yeah.

Pat: Obviously, you must have had some acreage, then, with your home?

Mabel: Well, my mother inherited considerable acreage.

Pat: Would we say like 10 acres, 20?

Mabel: I imagine more like 20. But it could have been even more than that.

Pat: Would it might have gone up into the middle of Carson, where the stop light is?

Mabel: No, it was beyond that. It's the homestead area past the bank, the First Independent Bank, and that extended over to Smith-Beckon Road and it included some of the Smith-Beckon Road south to the . . . what is it . . . the power lines, and then down over the hill to the highway again.

Pat: Well, you did have a lot of acreage there. That was the original homestead area?

Mabel: Yes. I think this, this two acres here is the last of the, it might not be, homestead area.

Pat: And right now you are at your daughter, Kermit Quoss' home. You broke your hip and are now staying with her until you are better.

Mabel: Yes.

Pat: Do you recall who your playmates were when you were growing up?

Mabel: Oh, my favorite was Margaret Monaghan.

Pat: And she married Roy Ziegler.

Mabel: And they both have passed away. Roy passed away first and then Margaret passed a year or two afterwards.

Pat: Did she live here?

Mabel: Yes. They were homesteaders, as well.

Pat: Where was their property located?

Mabel: East of here.

Pat: East of this home. Right now we are on Smith-Beckon road, Kermit's house. Did you have any friends and playmates you remember? When you were growing up, like our kids, you probably were around town and saw a lot of what was going on, could you kinda take us on a walk-through Carson as you remember as a youngster. Kinda starting from where you lived and going up to where the stop light is now. Tell me if some of the buildings have been replaced, maybe some has just changed ownership, but they used to be and what they are today so we can come and see what it looked like to live in Carson back in the early 1900s?

Mabel: Well, I know there were so many out in the logging camps. They had, what a kid would consider a large laundry where the American Legion hall is now.

Pat: A laundry where they could come in and wash their clothes.

Mabel: Well, they would wash laundry for the camps. I don't know how they dried all those things, they didn't have electric dryers then. And there was a flume right across from the laundry. I remember that.

Pat: Is that right about where the Bungalow is now?

Mabel: Yes. The saloon there.

Pat; It isn't the same building, though.

Mabel: No. But, I was going to say, next door there was a livery stable. They had horses for rent, or whatever. We had a cigar factory just a short distance



that. It would be on the south side of the creek there. I think there is a building there now.

Pat: Yes, I know there is. It is used as a dwelling now. A cigar factory? Do you remember who owned it, and how they were made?

Mabel: I think their name was Carl Henizey(sp). They had . . . I remember watching them make cigars. They would get the raw tobacco and then roll them.

Pat: They would let you kids come in an watch?

Mabel: They might not have **let** us, but you know how kids are. They had younger ones of their own.

Pat: Oh, so you were acquainted with their children?

Mabel: Yeah. Later on they moved to Portland, too.

Pat: So, this would be back in the 1910s, or teens . . . 1920s?

Mabel: No, it would be before that. In the 1915 era. And there was also a blacksmith shop.

Pat: Would that be about where saw shop is now, or the gas . . .

Mabel: No. There isn't anything there right now. It's adjacent to the Legion Hall property, on the creek there. I can remember watching that blacksmith with the hammer, and putting the tongues in, and the shoes, firing them, making them red-hot, and all that, and pound them out.

Pat: (We took a pause there.) Tell me more about the blacksmith shop, and what you remember as a kid?

Mabel: Well, I remember them shoeing horses, for one thing. Putting those old horseshoes on the horse and nailing them in, and all that. I used to figure that it would hurt the horses, but I guess it was a good thing that they had shoes instead of bare hoofs.

Pat: Did you any other kind of work with his forge?

Mabel: Not that I know of. He might have repaired a few instruments, you know, for the locals.

Pat; Farm intruments.

Mabel: Yes.

Pat: Ok. Going on up what other places were located along there?

Mabel: Well, I can remember, ah, Hubert Smith's Hardware. Used to be a two-story building with a dance hall upstairs.

Pat: (We took a break there.) We were talking about a two-story building located where Hubert Smith's building supply is. Can you tell me more about it?

Mabel: Well, it was a two-story building, and the upstairs was a dance hall. And the lower portion was used for . . . I can still remember some lady coming in here with all her milinery, trying on those hats. I bet she looked good. And, ah, they had an eating area down there, too, in the back of the area where the hats were displayed. And across from there was the old Carson store. I can still remember that they had a half-way mortuary in the back room because I still remember seeing a body that was taken out of the Wind River, and they had to process the body for burial. Some more kid adventures.

Pat: Now, the building where the body was, was the two-story building where Hubert Smith building supply is.

Mabel: No. In the grocery store. Where Price and Kendall had that store.

Pat: Oh. Now that building is a second hand store. Then they used that for a mortuary, as well as selling food.

Mabel: And directly up the hill (west) Rudolph Glur had the water system to Carson, until later when they converted it to the Carson Water System, which is in operation now.

Pat: Oh, the current one. Ok, now where are we going to go? On up the highway there?

Mabel: Well, next to the grocery store, there was an old building that was used for a cafe and where people lived upstairs. And then next door was the Andrew Zurcher residence. They had rooms upstairs for rent, I think they had six or eight rooms, I'm not sure. I know it would be six. They were rentals, and then the family lived downstairs.

Pat: Now this is where Anna Zurcher lived.

Mabel: That's where Anna Zurcher lived.

Pat: And she is the daughter of Andrew Zurcher.

Mabel: Andrew.

Pat: What is that little building next to it? Like a little house?

Mabel: That is where the cafe was. They lived upstairs, or back. I can't recall their names, and I knew them real well, but . . .

Pat: Oh, well, maybe when I come back the next time it will pop into your mind and we can plug that one in.

Mabel: In the main part of town, there was a post office. That was in the '20s, if I'm not mistaken. And directly from that was a confectionary, with an ice cream parlor. At that time Bill Meneice was the postmaster, and he died of a heart attack there in the post office. In the bar part of Elsie's (Hamblen) Cafe there, was the original bar that was in there when the Meneices owned it.

Pat: And this is now what we call the Carson Confectionery owned by Elsie Hamblen.

Mabel: Yeah, Elsie Hamblen. She's been offered quite a bit for that bar, but she won't part with it. My daughter calls it "Elsie's Bar and Grill."

Pat: Was there a movie theater in town?

Mabel: Yes. I don't know who owns the property right now, but it used to be directly on the north of the main part of town, on the right hand side of the road, it was roadway, there wasn't any streets; directly above the Goyce's(sp) residence. It was right on the crest of the hill, I don't know who lives there now. It's next door to Arlene Reid's residence.

Pat: Oh, she lives on Fourth Street.

Mabel: In those days there wasn't any of those residences. You see, that one building was (inaudible) house. Then later there was one over here where they, I think it is Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Hall. There was a movie theatre there, and that was right across from the grade school.

Pat: How about, where was the school located, the grade school, in Carson?

Mabel: Right across from the IGA Grocery store.

Pat: And, is part of it still there?

Mabel: Yes it is.

Pat: Could you tell us which parts?

Mabel: Well, later on they, build another building for play, or gymnasium, or whatever you want to call it. Next to that was the Methodist Church, south of it.

Pat: Is there a church in there now?

Mabel: I notice there is a Bible school there, but I don't know if there is a church or not.

### **END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE**

### **START OF TAPE ONE SIDE TWO**

Pat: We were talking about the school gymnasium across from the IGA Store. What is it used for now?

Mabel: I think there is some type of . . .

Pat: Saw shop now?

Mabel: No. I really don't know.

Pat: But it is still in use. The Grange is up in that area, too.

Mabel: When they have a reunion of the Carson school they usually have it in that building.

Pat: How often do they have the reunion?

Mabel: They try to have one every year.

Pat: And that's for all of you who went to Carson.

Mabel: That's when we find out how many are missing, which have been the last year. Like Bill Larsen, Pat Brockman, Pat McCloud(sp), and a number of them. Olivia St. Martin, Helen Beckon, or Helen Warren.

Pat: The grade school building was next to the gymnasium, it's no longer there is it?

Mabel: Well, a part of it is. I don't know what they use it for.

Pat: Could you describe, what you remember what the school looked like, what the rooms looked like, what was in the rooms?

Mabel: I think that there were four rooms for school. First room to the left was for elementary, or younger classes, I think through the third grade, maybe. And then the next one on the same floor was four to sixth, and then upstairs was seven and eight, and the next room was nine through twelve, in my day, but I don't know really. Some say it was just to the tenth grade but I think it was more than that.

Pat: When you started to school it was 1910, because you were six years old, and so that was what it was like back then. So actually it was all twelve grades in one building.

Mabel: And we had four teachers. I can remember two of them. The Principal's name was Smith, and his daughter, Miss Smith, she taught one of the grades, or maybe two grades, they usually taught two grades.

Pat: What did the room look like. Can you describe what was on the walls, and what . . .?

Mabel: I can always remember the big old clocks that they had . . . tick tock.

Pat: Can you describe what it looked like?

Mabel: It was just a plain, old varnished clock, but it was quite large. Sure we watched the time, you know, for recess, or getting out. And the basement had the wash room and toilets and what have you. We brought out own lunches to school. I had one friend, Margaret Ziegler or Margaret Monaghan, would say, "I sure envy you and your lunches." And I said, "Why?" She said, "You always come to. . ." We always brought our lunches in a five-pound pail. They wouldn't even know what a five-pound pail is this day and age, I don't think, with the lid on, and two of us ate out of it. She said, "You had the best looking sandwiches." And I said, "What were they?" "Well," she said, "maybe apple butter, and you always had a great big piece of fried venison, and that's what I envied!"

Pat: The five-pound bucket: what was in the bucket before?

Mabel: A lard bucket. I had a few sticking around at my place.

Pat: At your home?

Mabel: Yeah. I'd like to get rid of some of that junk but somebody will say, "No, that belongs to me. I had a beautiful set of elk horns, five points on each side. It

was 53 inches from the, of course, I couldn't center it.

Pat: Yeh. I was thinking that you are 4' . . .

Mabel: I was 5'4", but I think I am down to 5'

Pat: Ok, so you are a short little person.

Mabel: Yeah, yeah.

Pat: In your school room, did you have maps, and blackboards?

Mabel: Oh, yes. Nothing but blackboards. We did most of our work on the blackboard. Oh, well, we did have, ah, to begin with, it was slate, if I'm not mistaking.

Pat: Could you describe what a slate is?

Mabel: A slate is piece of slate material, and then you would have a little piece of . . . a board was around the slate, and then we had some type of, I imagine it was a slate-pencil to write on there and the letters came out white on the, slate-on-slate with white figures.

Pat: So you could have that right on your lap, to work on your problems?

Mabel: Usually, a dog followed me to school. I don't know how that teacher would . . . she'd let the dog come in and the dog would lay under my desk. I can remember her name. Her name was Paige, Miss Paige(sp). She was my ideal of a person, she was so kind. And I remember having pneumonia when I was seven, and she came to visit me. That was a heyday of my youth. I remember that my mother always wanted a piano, so at last she managed to get a piano, and a girl from Stevenson rode by horseback to Carson to give lessons. I took lessons, yes, but, ah, mine was mostly by ear.

Pat: Did your sister also take lessons?

Mabel: She, she couldn't be bothered. She's like my daughter. She said, "Why didn't you make me?" I said, "How was I going to, sit on you?" All she could think about was "I want to go out and play."

Pat: This piano, can you describe it?

Mabel: It was an upright. It's still in the family, kinda sideways. I gave it to my, ah, nephew and his wife played a little bit, but later on they got a divorce, so

she still has the piano.

Outside of that, on the main drag there was a hotel across from Caroline Foley, and she lives on Hot Springs Road. It was practically directly from Elsie's Cafe (Carson Confectionery).

Pat: Ok, where the flower shop is now.

Mabel: Well, no, it would be on the opposite side, well, no, it would be on that side. You see, my grandfather had a store there, too, early on. I don't remember when but my aunt had a restaurant there.

Pat: Maybe, I misunderstood. Could you tell me just about where the store was.

Mabel: Kelly and Meier (???) where, I think there is a barber shop right there now.

Pat: Oh, on the corner of that intersection where the light, the blinking light is.

Mabel: Yeah. And next door my grandfather had a small store. One time, I can still remember, somebody in there that didn't . . . well, they had an ice cream parlor, and kinda of a restaurant. I can still remember that ice cream, strawberry, especially.

Pat: They grew strawberries in this area, didn't they?

Mabel: Yeah. And they picked them and shipped them out of here. And later on, **Mr. Kreitney(sp)** down here over the hill, he lived, ah, on what they call Knob Hill here . . .

Pat: Oh, on Fourth or Fifth Street?

Mabel: Yeah, over the hill. That property on the hill was **Mr. Kreitney(sp)** and he raised asparagus. I know I picked, ah, cut asparagus a long time for him. I got 65¢ for 20 pounds (chuckle).

Pat: We were talking about picking asparagus and making 65¢. Can you tell me mor about this?

Mabel: Ha, **Mr. Kreitney(sp)** was either French or was born in Switzerland, I'm sure which, but anyway, he went back to France to get his wife and she came over. It didn't take her long to learn the English language. And later on, they didn't think they were ever going to have a baby, but they had one boy. It was named Jack and he grew up . . . I don't know how old he was when he left this part of the country. And then, directly, well it would be, on the curve, the first curve coming towards Carson from the main highway, on

top of the hill was a hotel, Olmstead's hotel. That was in the early 1900s, I don't know exactly, well, maybe 1915 or 1916, or something like that. I think that they had eight rooms upstairs for rent, and downstairs, that was their bathing facility. They had an old king tub, it would look antiquated this day and age, but it served the purpose. And she served meals, she had a dining room, and I think she could serve about eight in the dining room, with a long table. And everything was served family style. She was a good cook. And grandma Olmstead died at the age of 90. Her husband died quite a few years before of cancer. Of course, in those days we didn't know what cancer was, it was terminal.

Pat: You said family style serving, describe that, could you?

Mabel: Everything was put on an individual dish, and you would serve yourself. And she made her own bread, and she churned her own butter. But she did have a few patrons from Shipherd's Hotel that they would stay with her, every year, over night, or something. And she had to cater to them because they didn't believe in any animal fat of any kind, so it had to be butter or oil of some kind, instead of lard. I learned quite a few things from people, you know, how a kid is.

Pat: What other things did you learn?

Mabel: Well, right now there is, ah, one old apple tree, and a pear tree and a plum tree that are still standing. So you know how old they are. They are directly below the old hotel, it burned down. That would be south of the Legion Hall, there used to be a roadway from the Legion up over that crest of that hill.

Pat: And that's where the hotel was located.

Mabel: And that's where the hotel was.

(break)

Mabel: We liked the Carson Creek area, we would take a hike up, ah, . . . they had a flume that they flumed lumber down from the upper part of Carson Creek. They had a small mill up there, and instead of hauling them down they would flume it down. And we kids would walk that flume, there was a walkway and we would go up and visit our friends. They name was Hollenbeck(sp). All of them are gone now. Genevieve might still be alive, but like me she'd be in her late 80s. And they rest of them are gone, like, Phil and Frank and their mother and dad. And there was another, Truman, I think, I'm not sure of that.



Pat: Tell me about where that flume was located, because I'm not that familiar with the area.

Mabel: Well, it would be on the left side of the creek going up. It (creek) starts miles up the hill, you wouldn't know it. But, ah originally Anna Zurcher obtained her water from the creek until last year. And there was another little store, the next house which belonged to Emil Zurcher, they had their water there. But they all had to resort to the Carson water. I never would drink out of a creek. I tried it once or twice and came home with dysentery.

Pat: Where did the flume end in town?

Mabel: It came down to practically the main highway.

Pat: And was the mill located there?

Mabel: That I can't tell you. I can't recall.

Pat: That was a little bit before my time.

Mabel: OH, OK. But I understand from my grandfather that they had the mill down there. That I don't know. I think you would have to contact the records in the courthouse. Oh, and later on where the laundry was, they moved it to, ah, across from Bev's Beauty Parlor there. I can still remember the mangle groaning, and everything like that. They had electricity then. I don't know how they did the other washing. I hope it wasn't by hand (chuckle). I did some of that myself.



**Mangle used to squeeze water from sheets.**

Pat: You said mangles. Could you describe them?

Mabel: A mangle was a long pattered object that would run the sheets through and guide them out, of course, and iron them at the same time.

Pat: So, you weren't standing with a little tiny iron, you had one large one.

Mabel: One large one. I can remember this little fad iron too.

Pat: OK. Tell us about the fad iron.

Mabel: Fad iron was made out of this metal, of course, and some of them had a handle of metal, but most of them had a wooden metal that you could take off and fold. I can remember running those up and down the pieces that I didn't like (chuckle).

Pat: When you did the family ironing, how many irons did you actually have?

Mabel: Oh, maybe three. You would have to change them when they got cold.

Pat: You had to be very careful that you didn't scorch.

Mabel: Oh, yes. I remember one time I forgot and left one. Somebody had to (chuckle) off. I don't know what on.

Pat: So you would leave them on your stove to get hot, and then you would grab one and you would use it until it got cool. How much did those things weigh?

Mabel: Oh, I imagine a couple of pounds. They were really solid, you see.

Mabel: Across from Caroline Foley's there was a hotel, and a billiards bar. And I think they served liquor there too, if I'm not mistaking. And then traveling north from the old Methodist Church (Wind River Highway), my aunt lived in a old log house for a number of years. I don't know why they didn't keep it. It was a historical site, but they didn't. They tore it down, everything had to go, you know.

I can remember the old high bridge out there, too, that was on cables. Years ago we would go down the left side of the high bridge and went down over the hill and across to Acker's property and up the hill again. (This is known as the Blue Hole now). We hauled all the logs that way, on trucks, you know.

Pat: When you are standing on High Bridge you mean the road that went down to the bottom?

Mabel: No. It was a side road there. It followed the contour of the mountain there, and then down to the level of the bridge. I would doubt there is still a bridge down there, if I'm not mistaken.

Pat: How about the hot springs in this area?

Mabel: Oh, you mean, which one do you mean? St. Martin's?

Pat: Just tell me about any or all of them.

Mabel: Well, I can recall going to St. Martin's when you had to drive through the barn. They always went to the boat landing to pick up their customers, and they had a surry with a fringe on top and they would drive through that old

barn (chuckle) and we would get to the hotel. Well, the hotel is still there today, it's an historical site. Mr. Hegewald owns that now. His golf course is nothing but blackberry vines and timber, of course.

Pat: That's what it used to be.

Mabel: That's what it used to be. Although we did have a swimming pool up there. They'd pump water up, I guess, from the Shipherd Springs Hotel.

Pat: Could you tell us where Shipherd's Springs was located, since it is no longer here?

Mabel: Well, how can I explain that? There was a roadway from, ah, through the golf course, that's where it would be. You would have to go through the upper part of the golf course. The old one would take you through inches of dirt, of course, to get over the edge of the canyon, and down below is a number of houses. Some was where families lived in, that owned them, and others, there was a big hotel . . . what we considered a big hotel. And they had a beautiful dining room. They had billiards, and they had a dance hall there and a bowling alley.

Pat: Collins had all this?

Mabel: No. This is at Shipherd's.

Pat: Shipherd's. Pardon me.

Mabel: And down from Shipherd's was a trail way down to the river. I can remember we would travel that trail way maybe two or three times a week. It would cross an old foot-swinging bridge, to take a bath in the hot holes. I think Kerma was about four or five, five maybe, and and when we came back up the hill she'd say, "Carry me momma." My nephew used to say that her toes hit the deck (laughter).

Pat: And that was back in about 1942 then. So the hot holes was there then.

Mabel: Yes. They are still there I know, because I've heard other people say that they go up on the on the east side of the river. Not too long ago I guess there was quite an accident over there and they had to go in with an helicopter and get the lady out of some kind of a fall. They say the Indians used all those places, you know, years ago. I can remember going to St. Martin's because we used to go . . . they had wooden tubs down there near the river. We'd go down there and take a bath. We'd sit there, but played mostly.

Pat: They would pipe the hot water into the wooden tubs?

Mabel: Yes. And all the water, as hot as it was in those days, it was 126°. And they are still giving baths, and massages as well. And they have so many customers that they can hardly take care of them. I know Kerma was over there the other day and she had to wait 45 minutes to get a bath. And I can drink that water by the gallon, if I can get it. I've always claimed that it did more for you than all these other \$10.00 pills.

Pat: What does it taste like, this water?

Mabel: Oh, there's, ah . . . it smells like, I'd say, rotten eggs (chuckle). But, I don't mind the taste of it. So many say, "Oh, I can't drink that." I'd said, "If I charged you \$10.00 a gallon you would drink it and it was fine." And the water is free. If you wanted to go over there and take 10 gallons, you can.

Pat: Would you use plastic container.

Mabel: You would stay so many minutes in the tub, and then you were taken out of the tub and put on a cot to sweat . . . now the limit, I think, is 30 minutes. They wrap you and take good care of you.

Pat: They wrap you up like a mummy, don't they?

Mabel: Yes, they do.

Pat: Besides Shipherd's and St. Martin's, what about others?

Mabel: Well, Collins, of course, had a bath house and mineral water. But the mineral springs, what did they call it?

Pat: Government Camp?

Mabel: Yeah, Government Camp. It was quite a large hotel, and they had a nice dining area, too. And all the food was brought in by (horse) teams, it wasn't cars in those days.

Pat: We are talking out the Wind River Valley, maybe 15 miles from here in Carson.

Mabel: And somewhere at the Soda Springs pump they had a little plaque that said it burned down in 1934, and I said they had better make that 1924. Because we were married in 1933 and I asked my husband, "Did you ever see anything?" He said, "No. It was gone before we were married." I know it must have been in the twenties. It's a wonder it didn't set all the timber afire.

Pat: Oh, yeah. Ah, Collins, you mentioned that earlier. Who came to Collins and what did it look like?

Mabel: Oh, guests usually came on a steamboat, the Bailey Gatzert or some of the other bigger steamboats, and stop there, then they would go on. Although there are some steamboats still running out there. Excursion boat from Cascade Locks, it doesn't even hit Wind Mt. For \$11.00 to come up and turn around, I couldn't see that.

Pat: Did you ever ride on the steam, the paddle wheelers?

Mabel: Oh, yes. We went to the opening of the Celilo Falls. We went up on the, ah, on the boat and came back on the train. See, they had a ferry there at The Dalles, and we came across to Grand Dalles (Dallesport). You'd have a way to walk, of course.

Pat: Could you describe what one of those boats looked like?

Mabel: Well, they had a dining area, too, and they had rooms for rent, you know, like if you were going from Portland to The Dalles. And they had recreation often times on board.

Pat: Did they have dancing and singing?

Mabel: Well, I can't recall any. You know how kids are, they are out running around. Parents hoping that they would jump overboard, I guess.

Pat: So, it was a means of entertainment as well as transportation.

Mabel: Oh, yes. They carried different commodities, I imagine. I know that my mother would send, what she called a bill of goods in the fall, which would consist of sugar and flour and beans and rice and coffee, and everything that they couldn't buy, well she would buy in larger quantities and took home. And those were sent in by boat, when they used the boat for transportation to Carson.

**END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO**

**START OF TAPE TWO, SIDE ONE**

Pat: When I was here last time you were talking about the town and where certain buildings were located and businesses. You did mention that there was a house of ill repute was in town. Could you tell me where it was located and a little bit about it?

Mabel: Well, it was south of the present, ah, what was called the Gardens . . .

Pat: Oh, the Carson Gardens beer tavern?

Mabel: And, ah, it was directly opposite, south of our home. It was an old house that my grandfather owned years ago. And you know how kids are, we saw different married men going in there and, sure, we had to say something to my mother, and she told us that we weren't to repeat anything, or SEE anything. So that was the last of that.

Pat: So, you did observe a customer?

Mabel: Oh, yes. And some of the local men that were married going in there, too.

Pat: Along with loggers and people . . .

Mabel: Oh, yes. No doubt there were others in town but I didn't know anything about those. We were real small.

Pat: One of the things I have been asking other people: how you and your family celebrated certain holidays during the year. For instance, Christmas. Were there special things that you did?

Mabel: Usually, we had a Christmas tree in Carson dance hall. That's where it really was. They put up a large tree and decorated it and perhaps you'd dance afterwards. But they had an old-time party. You could bring your food and you'd have a potluck downstairs. And they had facilities of stoves and everything like that. But what I remember the most was going to Stevenson for the Fourth of July. And, it practically took us all day with the horses and team. Then the same thing coming back. We would go down there and take our lunch with us and sit out in a grassy spot and eat our lunch, and then come back. Well, they always had a parade and everything like that. And they had different games, too.

Pat: Could you tell me about any of the game they had?

Mabel: Well, I can't recall any specifically.

Pat: Did they have races?

Mabel: Yeah, they had different kinds of races, like gunny sack races, and two-legged, and all that that they usually have on Fourth of July. And I think they had different contests, too. They sold tickets for different things, they raffled the tickets. I don't recall what it was for now. That's what you get for

being nigh on to 88.

Pat: Did they have baseball teams in town?

Mabel: Oh, yes. Those days, I can barely recall them. My husband was one of the most, well, he was a pitcher for the Carson baseball team and we traveled all over the county.

Pat: Are we talking about Underwood?

Mabel: Yeah, and Bingen and around through there. Klickitat. We went as far as that. There was quite a competition going between the towns then.

Pat: Another holiday that was celebrated in this area was May Day. What did you do on May Day?

Mabel: All I can remember is the May Pole, with different ones taking part in that. My, getting old and senile.

Pat: Heaven's sake. You remember things I hope I can remember when I'm your age. Were there any other holidays that you can remember being as special when you were a youngster?

Mabel: No, I don't believe so. Christmas and the Fourth of July.

Pat: Were the big ones. Mabel, you went to school here in Carson. How many years were you in school, and what did you do after you finished?

Mabel: Well, it was twelve, but it wasn't considered high school, you know. In those days it was grades, and I didn't finish high school.

Pat: How far did you go?

Mabel: I guess it was tenth grade, and then I went on to nursing training after that.

Pat: And where did you do that, and what did that involve?

Mabel: Well, I trained at The Dalles, Oregon, hospital, my three years.

Pat: So, you had a three year course?

Mabel: Well, we had to pass a state examination for your Registered Nursing. I even know my number: 1811. And registered in the state of Oregon. That was kinda early with that kind of a number.

Pat: Yes, you were an early bird. What made you decide to go into nursing?

Mabel: Oh, I always like to take care of anything and everything: birds, (chuckle) dogs, and cats and people, I guess.

Pat: You told me about the horse that you helped your dad.

Mabel: Oh, yes. My dad had an old stallion, and he was in the habit of getting loose every once in a while. He through a wire fence, and he tore a big gash in his shoulder. Dad knew that he had to sew it up, so I helped him sew it up. We washed it real well, and sewed it up, and the horse was OK.

Pat: So, you had some early hands-on training then. When you got your nursing certificate and you were officially a registered nurse, tell me about the type of work, the people you worked with, where you worked. Just kinda give us an idea what your job was like.

Mabel: Well, mine could have been most anything. When somebody wanted anything done, well, I was it. There wasn't any doctor in the area then.

Pat: Then you came back here to Carson?

Mabel: Yeah, I came back.

Pat: And, who paid you?

Mabel: Oh, usually, those who were calling me. Do you want to know who I . . .

Pat: Sure!

Mabel: Well, I attended Truman Price's birth; I didn't actual, but I took care of Mrs. Price and Truman while they were confined in bed. In those days we sat them in bed about a week. This day you get up the next day. I recall one of the incidents. Truman, when he a little bit older, had been stung on the foot by a scorpion, and his mother, Peggy Price, said, "Well, there is no doctor so we will call Mabel." Well, Truman got alright, with an application of Epsom salt. No problem at all. That was my best remedy anyway. That and mustard plaster.

Pat: Oh, that was terrible (laughter). Describe mustard plaster to those who have never had the thrill of one.

Mabel: It as made up of about three part dye mustard, and about, maybe, twice that much of dye flour, and you mixed it up with cold water into a paste. Then you apply that to a cloth, and perhaps a cheese cloth over that, if you had



it. Otherwise you just slap it on the chest just as it was. And it really got their blood to the surface. I guess that was the reason for using it.

Pat: If you left it on too long, what would happen?

Mabel: It would burn.

Pat: It would get very warm.

Mabel: It would get very warm, it didn't actually burn, but it was plenty hot.

Pat: But it was effective.

Mabel: Yes, it was. They even used those in the hospital. And somebody said, "They couldn't have." And I said, "Oh, yes, they did."

Pat: Tell me about some of your other patients.

Mabel: Well, I might as well go right down the line. I took care of Vera Jones. She lived down there at the old depot. She had varicose veins, and, the doctor wanted to have her foot elevated, and colds packs, then hot packs. That was later, of course. But then I found her outside. She had a stroke, which was as painful for me as it was her, because we'd been such good friends. She had worked over at St. Martin's Springs for years, and so had I. We became very close friends. Then, **Mr. Kreitney**(sp) on top of the hill had, ah, asparagus patch. He cut asparagus for Shippys, because it was one of the best in the northwest. He sent all his asparagus east because he got a big price for it. A little later on I, I was with Mrs. **Kreitney**(sp) when her son was born, Jack **Kreitney**(sp). And then on up the hill, I had Vic and Donna Olmstead's babies. Who else? Of course, Truman Price. And, Wayne Dillingham. I assisted in his birth, too. I got there in time to tie the cord off.

Pat: Are we talking back in the 1920s?

Mabel: Huh, huh. *(Actually, Wayne and Bob was born late 1930s and early 1940s).* And the, ah, Bob Foley. I was with him when he was born, too. Oh, there's others but I can't really recall. Oh, I took care of a number of people, like Susan Means(sp). Now she was over at the Springs when I worked there and she was a typical care of arthritis, and everything. She decided she didn't want to stay there anymore, so I and another lady in town there. I took care of her in the daytime and Donna took care of her during the night. She really had to have help all the time, she was bedfast. Then a few weeks later my husband and I took her to Portland to catch a plane for back east. She had relatives back there, and I guess that's where she died. And, oh, there was a number that I took care of, maybe just once, here and there and

everyplace. Like Paul Schindler, he was in Las Angeles, or that area down there, and, ah, and he called up home, not my home but his partner Chauncey Price, wondering if you could contact me and see if I'd come down and get him. That was in the 1940s, it was black around here, it was during the war. I managed to get a flight down there . . . or on a train, because there wasn't any airplanes available in those days for we people. My husband's relatives lived down there, so they met me at the train. They knew Paul, too, because Paul had been out visited them before he got real sick. I brought him home on the train. We had to have a compartment because he, he was almost befast then. He died shortly after we got home, though. We got to Portland and they sent him by ambulance to the hospital.

Pat: Did he ever get back to Carson?

Mabel: No, he didn't. One time the doctors called me and wanted to know if I would verify a death. They couldn't get out of Stevenson, as it was wintertime. So I had to . . . it was John Myers(sp).

Pat: And he was . . .

Mabel: Yeah, he was dead. He passed away. I took care of both Mr. and Mrs. (Henry and Maria) Metzger. Mr. Metzger died when he was 97, but I used to out and put him in an old tin bathtub . . . it wasn't tin, but it was some type of metal. He was lucky to have that type of a bathtub in the house. Ordinarily, it was an old tub of some kind. And I took care of his wife, and I called his daughter (Louise) and told her she should go in the hospital, I thought. And she died of cancer not very long after she was in the hospital. And I took care of Henry Metzger, and then I took care of his son, Ernie, or Ernest. Ernest left a nice pile of money to the rheumatoid, rheumatic arthritis people. He left them \$50,000 cash. What did he leave us who took care of him?

Pat: How about, zero? Was that it?

Mabel: That was it.

Pat: You mentioned doctors when you were first in Carson as a young nurse, there weren't any . . .

Mabel: No, but the Stevenson one used be in.

Pat: Do you remember any of their names, or any stories about them?

Mabel: Oh, yes. Dr. Zeveryly, and Dr. Stenberg, and the other one I can't recall.

Pat: Avary, Dr. Avary?

Mabel: Oh, that was way before.

Pat: What did the women do when it came time to have their babies? Did they stay home, or . . .

Mabel: Usually they would stay at home. More or not there was a mid-wife of some type around. I took care of a number of people in Stevenson, too, but I can't recall their names, except Elva Lundy

Pat: Tonnie Lundy's mother?

Mabel: No, Tonnie Lundy's sister. And she was unconscious for a week, she'd been in a car accident. I fed her through a tube, and that was unusual to feed a person, you know, without them from choking, unless you knew what you were doing.

Pat: What type of food did you get down that tube?

Mabel: Well, it was liquid, you can bet on that. And the, of course, I had to move her quite a bit, and massage her so she wouldn't acquire pneumonia, or some other disease. And one morning I was there and she would roll her eyes, and she even knew me, so everything was OK. I don't know . . . I don't know if Elva is still alive or not. There's others down there but I can't recall their names.

Pat: When you were quite active in your nursing, did you have a doctor who told you everything to do, or were you on your own?

Mabel: So often I was on my own. I had to use my head a little bit.

Pat: Did you work in any other area besides this area of Carson?

Mabel: Oh, I worked over in Cascades Locks during a flu epidemic. I went over there to take care of three in one family and ended up taking care of two or three others while I was there.

Pat: Tell me about some of the places you worked while you were still in The Dalles when you were working in the hospital.

Mabel: Well, usually you were on call. If you were on a special job at the hospital, you were on call. Usually I was the one that had to go miles away.

Pat: Why?

Mabel: One time I was sent to Arlington, Oregon. Of course, I knew the patient because she had been in the hospital, and her dad was in charge of the Arlington Hotel. His name was Charles Darneal. The Darneal family was well known in The Dalles and way points. And I stayed there, I become a real good friend of everyone in the family, of course. They had a restaurant and the hotel with a number of rooms upstairs for rent. Then I was sent out to Arlington, Oregon, I thought, but I had to go across to Roosevelt, Washington. Out of Roosevelt on a ranch there, I took care of a little girl with pneumonia. I stayed there ten days, too. I got too much of a homebody there (chuckle). I even went out with a boy horseback riding for a short time. Well, that little girl later on in life become a registered nurse. And then another time I was sent to Condon, Oregon, out on a ranch again. Five people were ill and the hired man. I had all those patients to take of, and I didn't know too much about cooking either. I can tell you that. But it didn't take me too long to learn how to make soup, at least. I was there for a week, but I had all the patients up before I left.

Oh, and later on my girlfriend and I traveled to Mt. Vernon, Oregon (*Grant County, eastern Oregon*). Her dad was a doctor and therefore they had to . . . well, they had a mineral springs there, we two decided to up on a vacation. It was a vacation, alright. We only hit the front door and somebody said, "We've got a patient upstairs." Somebody was going have to take care of. When we couldn't find anyplace else, he'd drag him there in his own home, really or back upstairs. This sheep herder had been bitten by a Rocky Mt. tick, and it was almost fatal in those days. But we managed to pull him through with good nursing care and, aspirin, I guess it was. That was about the only thing they gave you in those days. There wasn't any antibiotics or anything else to give. And, they had a nice, big swimming pool, and we would go out . . . it was mineral water as well. I haven't been up there for . . . well, I'll take it back. It was a couple of years ago we drove through there, but it was evening and I didn't ask any questions to see if any of the family were alive. And, oh, I'm trying to think of someone else. Oh, I was sent down to Medford one time. Can't recall where I took care of the mother, but anyway, she said, when she got ready to leave, she was going to take me with her, so I ended up at Talent, Oregon. Her husband was a lawyer and they had a beautiful home, and I took care of the baby and momma until she could get up and take care of herself.

Pat: Mabel, when you went to these places, what transportation did you use?

Mabel: Mostly, by train. And we are talking about the 1920s, in that time. So the train service was pretty good, which no longer has that type of service anymore. The Amtrak is on the Oregon side. It comes through here, doesn't it?

Pat: Oh, maybe it does.

Mabel: Yes, it does. Now those were the good old steam engines.

Pat: You did mention earlier that you also worked at St. Martin's Hot Springs. Now, was this before you became a nurse, or . . .?

Mabel: It was afterwards, it was after, golly, it was after marriage.

Pat: And you were married in 1933.

Mabel: 1933.

Pat: Why don't we talk about how you met your husband, and tell me the story, how long you courted?

Mabel: Well, My husband's name was Kermit. K-e-r-m-i-t. Kermit R. Russell.

Pat: And what did the "R." stand for?

Mabel: Roosevelt. His brother's name was Delmer Rasetford(sp). Rasetford(sp) was a family name. I met him taking care of a patient of mine, Mrs. Edward Souffert(sp). I became a permanent fixture there, also. I took care of everyone in the family. But I met him . . . you see, he'd met her down at the beach when he was in the National Guard. He stopped there to see them, and that was the wrong place to stop.

Pat: And what happened from there?

Mabel: Well, he went back down to the beach and I was in Arlington taking care of Mr. Van Neal. But, we corresponded and when he came he came to see me, and I guess that was it. We lived 57½ years in this area.

Pat: 57½ years in Carson. Your married life?

Mabel: Yeah. On Boyd street, the end of Boyd street, really. You want me to tell you that it is up for sale now?

Pat: Well, probably not. (chuckle). It might be too late. It might be sold before anybody hears this tape. Back to your courtship. What type of things did young couples do?

Mabel: Oh, we took in all the dances, and a couple of beer joints, maybe. And baseball games, picnics and everything, really.

Pat: You said your husband liked to play baseball. Tell me something about his baseball career.

Mabel: Well, he could have been a professional. He belonged to the Salem Senators and that was a pro baseball team, and they wanted him to go to southern California to the big time. He thought it over and said he couldn't be bothered. That was a long time before we were married, though. I don't how he ever (inaudible) this country up here, except Mrs. Souffert(sp).

Pat: Otherwise, if it wasn't for her you would never had set eyes on him.

Mabel: Of course, the Soufferts were well known in the gorge. They owned the big fish cannery there at practically Celilo Falls in that area.

Pat: Tell me about the cannery, as you remember it.

Mabel: Well, I can remember going in there and seeing the China men with their big long (inaudible) and big sharp knives and beheading and gutting those salmon in a flash. It didn't take them long to fill a can with that salmon. And I think it was one of the best tasting salmon that I have ever tasted, because they got it out the river and into the can in such a short time. And the China men, they stayed right there on the premises. They had their own cooks and accommodations. Oh, I was in Goldendale with patients, but I can't remember their names.

Pat: Back to your married life. We've met your husband, we had our dancing and out picnicking, when did you and Kermit get married and where?

Mabel: Well, we got married on Nov. 25, 1933 by Joe Guzuri(sp) and his wife was the witness. No, she wasn't there. It was Cole and George Ainsworth witness for us. Then we went to a big dance that night. Do you know what I did with the marriage certificate? I put it in an old Sears catalogue and never could find it after that. So we had to have a duplicate made.

Pat: You were married in Carson?

Mabel: Yes.

Pat: OK. Was it at Mr. Gregorius' home?

Mabel: Yes it was.

Pat: And the couple that stood up with you, were they friends?

Mabel: Yes, real great friends. They lived right next door to us for years until they both passed away.

Pat: And then, where was your first home?

Mabel: It is located right where we are right not.

Pat: The same home.

Mabel: The same home.

Pat: It had already been built then?

Mabel: Yeah, it was about a 3-room shack, and he improved, remodeled and enlarged. To begin with it was just a hole for a basement, and he dug that all out by hand. He ran into a lot of big rock there, too. He knew how to blast, even under a house that way. Of course, that was a lot of work on the highway.

Pat: Mabel, I kinda cut myself off there in mid-sentence. You and your husband lived in your present home right after you were married, and you lived there for 58-plus years. What type of work did you husband do during your marriage here.

Mabel: Well, he started out with the county road, because his friend, George Ainsworth was in charge of the county road, well, he was kind of a supervisor. And he got a job with the road crew and in time he got a job with the state highway, and he retired from the state highway after 30 years. He was 62, I think, when he retired, and we thought from then on I could sit and do what I wanted to do. I found out that I couldn't. We started going places. This year we managed to collect my sister and brother-in-law, and took off for Alaska. We had our boat on top of the trailer, and a boat with it. I don't know . . . then we found that we sure didn't need that boat. We got up there in those marshes and you couldn't get near a lake, they were so deep. But we really enjoyed it. We went up to Anchorage and saw where that big earthquake had been. It looked like somebody had went through with a big plow. The objects, or houses, were practically buried up there. It was interesting, but I was more interested in the all wildlife that we saw. I think that's what we went for.

Pat: Tell me about that.

Mabel: Well, going up we went through Banff and all those bigger places. Well, we didn't have the means to stop there (chuckle). Only the rich ones go there. And the different lakes along there were beautiful, and the mountains are

beautiful, too. But, ah, while we were in Anchorage we were going to come home one day early, but, ah, but we stayed over to get some king crab, but all we got was some little ones, they had all been sold before they got to the store. Oh, we saw different animals, like moose, elk and mountain sheep along the way. Even a bear or two. You know, people are foolish to try and feed those things. Signs said, "Don't get out," but some of them would be foolish enough to get out and take pictures of the animals. He said, one flick and you would be over the hill. I guess people have to learn from their own mistakes.

Pat: You did enjoy outdoor recreation. Tell me about some of the things that you did in this county.

Mabel: Of course, we went fishing and hunting. We hunted over in Eastern Oregon every year. We would go out of Prineville. We usually came back with a deer.

Pat How about berry picking?

Mabel: Oh, that was a real pasttime. I don't what for. One year we picked 80 gallons of berries, and they said, "What did you do with all them?" I can remember putting them out on a canvas in the basement. We would give five gallons here, and five gallons there, it doesn't take too long to rid of them all.

Pat: Are we talking about huckleberries?

Mabel: Yes. Blackberries, that was too much work.

Pat: Where was your huckleberry picking area?

Mabel: Any place we could find them reall, but usually we would scout around and find a patch from other people. Of course, we didn't want to pick for tail picking. Even last year I only picked 3½ gallons, but, at 87 that's doing pretty good.

Pat: You have me beat by about two gallons. What did you do with your berries? How did you keep them?

Mabel: Well, years ago we would make jam, but now we put in the freezer. I know I got \$15.00 a gallon for those a few years ago. But, I guess if you want to buy a pie, you have to pay plenty for one pie. In restaurants you pay \$2.50 for one piece of huckleberry pie.

Pat: Did you go camping when you picked berries?



Mabel: Oh, no. We'd drive back and forth. Oh, sometime we camped out, but there we didn't have any place to keep the berries. And, we always went to Goose Lake to fish, every year, until they got more customers out there and than we could find a place to camp.

Pat: What kind of fish did you get at Goose Lake?

Mabel: One year we went up there and there were beaver swimming around, and they made a dam, and we didn't know if we were going to have too much water. It would flood, usually, in the spring time and it would overflow. So often, we did find our way around the area. And we got to putting out salt blocks for the deer there. We had to give that up because those deer would come right into camp. One lady said, "I think we have raccoons around here." And I said, "Why?" And she said, "All my bread is gone." I said, if you leave it out there, we've got a four-hoofed animal that comes up. I even have a picture where that old doe was stricking out at my friend because she wasn't feeding her salted crackers enough. So we had to give that up, and hasn't been too many years ago though. Oh, they got to be regular pests. They'd come in when there wasn't anybody around and help themselves. Don't blame them, really.

Pat: Tell me about where you would go, if you wanted to go swimming, where would you go in this area?

Mabel: Oh, there was a swimming pool, that was located in what is Hegewald's golf course right now, up there on the flat. It was about eight feet deep on one end and maybe two feet on the other. But we kids, or young kids, were always there on every Sunday to swim, and have a good time.

Pat: Do you remember who owned this, or who ran it?

Mabel: Well, I think it was owned by Shipherd's Springs then, who ever owned the springs. I understand that Mr. (Rudy) Hegewald found hot water down 700 feet. He drilled for it and there was hot water up there. So who knows where all these veins are in this area? I know **Mr. Kreitney**(sp) told me one time when we were down there, he said: "I can show you an outlet where hot water comes." Sure I didn't have sense enough to find out exactly, so there you are.

Pat: This was the man that had the asparagus?

Mabel: Yeah.

Pat: When you were working at St. Martin's Hot Springs, who owned it and

what kind of things did you do?

Mabel: Well, the St. Martin's company, surviving people of the original owner, daughters and sons owned it. And, I worked there for almost ten years I worked any place from the kitchen to the bath house, office, laundry, made beds. We did a little bit of everything. In those days, you worked until the work was done, there was no coffee breaks and there wasn't "I can't do it," or "I won't do it." You either did it or you were out of a job. Of course, jobs were scarce, and I started out there at 65¢ an hour, and when I quit I was getting \$1.25.

Pat: What years was this, about?

Mabel: Oh, 1952, or something like that.

Pat: So, this was after you were married and had a child?

Mabel: Yeah.

Pat: Tell me about the birth of your daughter, her name and when she was born?

Mabel: Well, I know that my husband took me to Vancouver where Kerma was born. And we stayed in the hospital seven day, ten day. I couldn't walk when I got out of there, practically.

Pat: They just kept you in bed?

Mabel: Oh, yes. That was the usual time to stay in bed.

Pat: What was her birth date?

Mabel: She was born Oct. 2, 1936. She grew up to be quite a gal. Almost six feet tall.

Pat: Yes, she took after her dad. Would you like to tell me about the number of patients you had in Carson?

Mabel: Well, I really started out with Virginia Gray. She was one of the old timers of Carson, and I took care of her for a number of days, and then we had to send her to Portland with her daughter, Maude Roberts. She wanted me to go with her, but I couldn't leave her, even if it was leaving by ambulance. I had a husband and daughter to take care of. I remember my daughter saying, "Oh, that was fun to go up there." And I said: "Why?" She said, "You could go up the stairs and you could run here and you could run there, and I could get into things in general" Then I took care of Jim Hutchings next

door. And both of the Metzgers. I took care of Rudolph Glur in the hospital. He was in the hospital and they called me to take care of him, I think it was Good Samaritan, I'm not too sure now. And then a number of people around here. Of course, all those babies, I took care of them, and their mothers. Oh, I gave Maggie Reagan high glucose for four years. That was every week. I'd wade in snow three feet deep and give her one high glucose every week. I knew there was something wrong with my head, but, I managed to do it. And, ah, Zelma Brockman, I gave her high glucose for years, too. And, I guess, different ones along the way.

Pat: Could we take a minute to talk about the depression years? You were married during the depression and had a child, how did people survive around here? How did they earn a living and feed themselves?

Mabel: Well, I know I was a school nurse, and I only worked four hours a day, and my husband worked P.W.A., I guess and he worked three hours, and I made more than he did, of course. I got a \$1.00 an hour, and he got that much, too, but his was three and I got four. Well, we survived on that. But before that, we lived off the land . . . berries and nuts and maybe a deer out of season, and we utilized every bit of it. And there was always fish to be caught and canned. And we had our own garden. Of course, I can remember that all you could find was 50¢ in a household. That's not very much.

Pat: That's all you had to your name?

Mabel: Yep. It was kinda hard. I don't know what they would do this day and age.

Pat: What did you do about clothing? How did you acquire clothing?

Mabel: Well, we still wore it a long time, I can tell you that. I can still remember washing on an old wash board, and boiling it, the clothes, to get them white, like the linens, and the old boiler. Somebody said, "What is a boiler?" Well, it was just a tub that was made for, well, that is all we used it for, although we got so that we boiled our vegetable in it as well. In those days you had to boil your beans and your meat for a number of hours. You couldn't just get them nice and hot . . .

Pat: You are talking about instead of pressure cookers?

Mabel: We didn't even know what pressure cookers was.

Pat: And this washer boiler you were talking about, it was oval in shape.

Mabel: Yeah.

Pat: How about other people? How did they manage to cope with the depression years?

Mabel: Some of them, I think, were really hungry. But we always managed to share anything that we had, within reason. If there was any left over someone else got it. I know we picked raspberries in a number of spots. They produced more than what I have right now on the place. And different things like that. And orchards, we would also scrounge around to find orchards that had . . . like apricots, peaches, and apples and crab apples. I haven't been able to find a tree with crab apples on it. I always made pickles and things like that.

Pat: Did people used to use the barter system, like if they had a skill they would trade it for a product, or other . . . ?

Mabel: Not that I can recall. Perhaps some of them did, but we didn't.

Pat: There was a lot of sharing going on, though.

Mabel: Yes. That was true.

Pat: Well, after the depression finally got over with, then we had World War II. Could you tell me about (inaudible) in the early 1940s?

Mabel: Well, I know that my husband and I, and our little daughter, she was two years old . . . or four or five, something like that. But we decided to go down and visit his relatives down in California and his brother and sister-in-law decided to go with us. So we had to save all of our gasoline coupons for our trip down there. We couldn't find any place to sleep except in the car. Well, there wasn't too many places to stop. Well, we made it down there and we stayed a week, and on our way back we wondered why we were meeting all these here trucks of with soldiers. It was a caravan, it was going south. We didn't realize that they bombed Hawaii.

Pat: Oh, you were on the road when Hawaii was bombed.

Mabel: Yes.

**END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE ONE**

**THIS IS TAPE #2,TWO, SIDE TWO**

**Of an interview with Mabel Russell of Carson, Washington**

**This is part of an historical project by the Skamania County Historical Society**

**My name is Pat Hanson, and the date is Jan. 29, 1992.**

Pat: Mabel, on the other side of this tape we were starting to talk about World War II. Could you tell me about rationing, the threat of the Japanese, and any other thing that you remember about this time?

Mabel: I know blackout curtains, no lights, no nothing that you could get a glimmer of. And, rationing, that kinda hit us kind of hard, because we used to buying all our things from the store. Well, we charged everything until the end of the month. like sugar, and coffee and different things that were rationed. I still have some of the coupons, or tickets, or whatever you want to call them, someplace, if I can find them.

Pat: So, if you wanted to get a pound of coffee . . .

Mabel: You had to have the stamp . . . coupon.

Pat: And you could only have so many . . .

Mabel: Yes. Per person, or, say a month. You only got so month for a month's time.

Pat: Besides sugar and coffee, do you remember any other things that were rationed?

Mabel: Oh, I imagine flour, and . . .

Pat: Gas:

Mabel: Oh, yes, definitely gas.

Pat: Did that affect how you traveled and where you went?

Mabel: Oh, yes, definitely. If you didn't have coupons you didn't go very often. And, we couldn't afford to either. It seems like gasoline was awfully high. I don't know what they would think of it, compare it with today.

Pat: How did people manage to get themselves to Portland and back, if they were short on gas?

Mabel: Oh, they used them big old boats the, paddle. I can remember my mother

quarrying, a bill of goods as she always called it, but it would be sugar and coffee and flour and rice and such as that for winter. It would be quite a large amount. During the depression we couldn't afford that, or we couldn't get it if it was.

Pat: When your mother ordered your deal of goods, where did it come from and how did it get here?

Mabel: She ordered from someone on the boat, I guess. They would make up the order in Portland and bring it back at a certain time and they would pay for it at the (inaudible).

Pat: Delivered to the door, almost.

Mabel: No. You had to go to the boat landing to get everything.

Pat: Ok, and tell me where the boat landing was in this area.

Mabel: Well, practically, directly below Carson. I would say that when you got to the crossroads at Carson, the main highway, you went down over the hill there.

Pat: From highway 14, you would go down to . . .

Mabel: Might be able to find an old road down there yet, but I don't know.

Pat: Do you have any other recollections of World War II and how it affected your family?

Mabel: No, not really. We didn't go without very much. Because, a little moonlighting on the deer helped a lot. Of course, you weren't supposed to do that, but you either did that or you went without.

Pat: Tell me about the threat from the Japanese.

Mabel: Well, of course, that was a blackout area in that time. The only . . . they warned us not to pick up anything that we found in the forest, or any place, for that matter. I can recall a type of bomb, I think they called it a pencil bomb, and some youngsters found it. And that was the last of the youngsters because it . . . when they tried to pull it apart it exploded. I think that happened in Oregon someplace. But, ah, I can recall these, ah . . . we didn't know what they were, but we found out that they were weighted balloons, or a parachute, actually. We still have one of those at home. A weather parachute, it came down practically in our back yard, and we took a chance to try and find out what it was, but it was just a weather balloon.

Pat: And you actually have in your possession now?

Mabel: Yes. It's made of real fine nylon.

Pat: You've lived in Skamania County for almost 88 years now, are there any changes you could tell me about that you notice since you were a child?

Mabel: Definately. Highways especially. I can recall the first car that came into the area. They must have come on the boat because I don't remember where they could have come from. And that was about six inches (inaudible). It was a lot of fun plowing up through that dirt. They were headed for Shipherd's Springs, of course. That's where all . . . that and Collins. See at Collins, Washington, they had a big hotel there and that was right on the river front. The boats would come in and they would meet them at the docks, and take them over to the hotel. And I can recall the Chinese cooks in there, too.

Pat: Oh, tell me about them.

Mabel: Oh, alright. That was the first time that I ever ate banana fritters. They were wonderful cooks, though. And they didn't seem to mind we kids bouncing around the kitchen. We didn't dare go out in the dining room because it had the beautiful white linen and the best kind of silverware, and everything. And it had a bathhouse here, mineral bathhouse. And it had a bowling alley, and dance hall, ah, not dance hall, but bowling alley, if you would call that. But they would move the tables back and would dance in the dining room.

Pat: And this was at Collins?

Mabel: Collins, yes. I thought it was a large place, but more than likely, ten of fifteen rooms, perhaps. But those days that was large. It could have been more.

Pat: You mentioned the roads in this area. Do you remember anything about them dynamiting the rocks to make the tunnels on Highway 14 from here to Bingen?

Mabel: Yes, my husband was involved in a lot of those. You see, that was before the Workshore(??) construction company, and he had something to with those, too. That was before he joined the highway.

Pat: So that would be back in the 1920s, maybe?

Mabel: It would be the early 1930s. See, that would be after we were married. He seemed to enjoy his work, but as long as I can remember he would say, "Oh, geeze, why don't they do this?" and I would say, "You're not the boss of this job now." But he was very conscientious about his job.

Pat: Were there any other changes that you noticed in this county?

Mabel: Not definitely. I wasn't too involved with politics (chuckle). I know not too long ago I received a tax return from the county down there, for my mother's property. It was made out to John DuPree, and I went down and said, "How long do you keep the name on the record?" And they said, "Well, that's the name on the book." I said I didn't know that, I saw it in Ella DuPree. I said, "He's only been dead for 60 years." "Oh."

Pat: Tell me what you just said.

Mabel: I don't think I'd move any place else in the Northwest. I'm perfectly satisfied.

**END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE TWO (MOSTLY BLANK)**

**THIS IS TAPE THREE, SIDE ONE OF AN INTERVIEW WITH MABEL RUSSELL OF CARSON, WASHINGTON**

**This is part of an oral history project conducted by the Skamania County Historical Society. My name is Pat Hanson, and the date is Feb. 5, 1992.**

Pat: Mabel, when I was here about a week and half ago, you were telling me about different people that you helped nurse here in the Carson area. You said that there were more people that you couldn't remember at the time and since you've recalled. How about we just have you go down the list and we can talk about the people and what you did for them. Want to start?

Mabel: Well, some of these I didn't take care of, but I sure found that they had food and that their houses might be clean. But I will start with Vera Jones. She lived down there on Old Depot Road of Carson, and she was one of my best friends. She worked at the St. Martin's Springs for years, as I did, and we became very close friends. I took care of her later on when she became ill, and one day when I went down to take care of her, her little dog met me and he was barking to beat everything, and I found her in a come back of the house where she had fallen. She had a severe stroke and she died a few days later in the White Salmon hospital. The next one was **Vargel(sp)**. He was an old bachelor, and he didn't live very far from Vera and Charlie Jones down there by the river. And he had an old shack there. I found out that he was sick and I went down to see him. So therefore I cleaned house and



brought him food so he wouldn't be without. Oh, the next one was **Janey Hargadine**, that's Rex's mother-in-law, I believe, Rex Hargadine. I gave her high glouse. The next one was Lou Mellinger, and gave Lou Mellinger high glouse for a long time.

Pat: Now, where did Lou live?

Mabel: Well, she lived practically at the edge of town, south.

Pat: Did she have a business?

Mabel: Well, yes. Later on she had a flower shop. And I took care of her, too, when she was ill. And one of two, well, her son, well they are all gone now, but I took care of his son, as well. there at home. And then, that **Krestney(sp)**, he lived . . . **Mr. Kretney(sp)**, he owned an asparagus ranch, planted nothing but asparagus, rhubarb and onion. I cut asparagus there quite a while in summer time, and later on I attended his son's birth, **Jack Kretney(sp)**. Outside of that, I don't know . . . **Mr. Kretney**, I think **Mr. Kretney** committed suicide, if I'm not mistaken. And Jack, I don't know what happened to him. And his mother was from France, and therefore I think they spoke mostly French at home.

Pat: And they lived here in the Carson area.

Mabel: Yes. And the location is where all those big buildings there on the hill. I always called it Knob Hill. All those big houses are located on property own by **Mr. Kretney**. **Mr. Kretney** offered my husband and I those seven acres for \$7,000, but we couldn't afford no \$7,000 in that day and age.

Pat: Was that back in the 1930s?

Mabel: Yes, it was the early 1930s. And then next come, Donna and Dick Olmstead. They were . . . Grandma Olmstead's Hotel. Grandma Olstead had an eight-room hotel what would be on the bluffs of Carson as you come in from the west. They were up on the west side of the highway. I took care of Grandma Olmstead when she passed away at 95 years old. Mary Miller was in Stevenson, but I had known Mary for years, she work at the springs, too, for many years, as cook and then she moved to Stevenson.

Pat: Mary Miller? Did she, was one of the original families to the area, a member of?

Mabel: Well, yes, I believe she was, because I can remember years ago, I can't remember Mr. Miller's first name right now, but she had two sons and a daughter. Rita was the youngest. And I can remember her at the springs,

and invariably . . . we had swinging doors at the kitchen and she would be parked under those swinging doors and I hit her a number of times, but she wouldn't get out of the way. And, later on when I saw Mary, I knew that she should go to the hospital because she had tuberculosis, and she went to where they could take care of her, some hospital in Washington here. And I took care of her mother, too. Her mother was in Stevenson, so I took care of her for awhile. And, Elva Lundy. Now that's, ah, Tonnie Lundy's sister. She was in an automobile accident with Hughey St. Martin. I don't remember if there were others in the car, but Hughey wasn't injured, but Elva was severely injured. She had a, think a skull fracture, if I'm not mistaken. And it made her, she was unable to, well she was unconscious for maybe a week, or something like that. And I took care of her during that time. I had to feed her with a tube. Knowing how in those days is something you don't even hear about these day.

Pat: Did the doctor show you?

Mabel: No, he didn't show me, but I fed her anyway, and I bathed her and massaged her, and moved her. Moving I think was the most important thing due to the fact that if you stay in one position too long you are likely to have pneumonia. One morning I looked at her and her eyes were rolling around, and I said: "Elva?" And she nodded her head. And after that she was OK. And I don't know after that whether Elva is alive today or not. And I'm not . . . I'm afraid to ask Tonnie because I understand he is not too good himself. Dolly Shuse(ap) was the next one. Most of these I mostly given them high glucose and taken them food, or either one. **Eva Melligan(sp)**, I took care of her a number of days due to the fact that she had to have bladder . . . well, I had to wash out her bladder every day, there was an infection in her body. And, **Theo Pergranzi(sp)**, that was a teacher here, and she had diabetes so I gave her high glucose for awhile. I found her in a coma, almost in a coma one day, and I knew all she needed was a big lump of sugar to bring her out of it. And then, Frances and Andy Zurcher. Frances died of . . . Frances was a cousin . . . Frances died of cancer of the throat. Andy Zurcher, he had, not too long after his wife died . . . no, I guess it was before she died . . . he was taken to the hospital, and one of his lungs was removed due to cancer. After his wife died he committed suicide.

Pat: How was he related, or was he related to Anna Zurcher?

Mabel: He was a brother. And **Rose Zurcher** was Emil Zurcher's wife. One of the doctor's in Stevenson was taking care of her, and I was with her, but she got so, ah, out of control that we had to take her to Holladay Hospital in Portland, and they treated her there for a mental condition, and she came out of it. Anna Zurcher, I took her to the hospital, once upon a time. I imagine she has practically forgotten it.

Pat: When you sent her, does that mean you looked at her and felt like . . .

Mabel: No, ah, a friend called me and told me that she wash hemorrhaging. So when I saw her I knew she had to go to the hospital, but I'm sure what kind of surgery they did. But, she came home and Anna's up and at it right now, at eighty-some years and going strong. I took care of her father **Andrew(?)**, too. He died of cancer. And Rudolph Glur. I took care of Rudolph Glur in the hospital for a week, but I don't remember which hospital now. And, Edith Glur, that was his wife, I was sent and she was in a lot of pain, abdominal pain, we sent her to the hospital and she had gall stones. Marie Roe, I took care of her for a few days. I don't exactly rember what it was. Eva Brockman the same way. Now, Eva is, ah, Ernest Brockman's wife. And, her children . . .

Pat: Who were her children?

Mabel: I can't recall . . .

Pat: Was Ray Brockman one of them?

Mabel: No. That was a different . . . that was Ernie Brockman's . . . well, Ray Brockman would be his nephew. Eva Brockman. Next was **Josie(sp)** Brockman, and she was 90 when she passed away. And I took care of her for awhile. Now, these others, like **Berdell(sp)** Price. I went to the hospital with her. And the next one on my list is **Gunner Johnson**. I took care of him; he lived in the same spot that Dale and **Berdell(sp)** lived in, and later it was Les Miller's home.

Pat: May I ask another question, Mabel? When these people had to go to the hospital when you or the doctor decided, how did they transport them, like to White Salmon or Portland?

Mabel: Well, later on they had an ambulance, but mostly by car.

Pat: This was back in the 20s and 30s and they were loaded into an automobile.

Mabel: Now, like **Berdell** Price, she had, ah, I'm sure she had a stroke and she died in the hospital. But, ah, **Gunner Johnson** lived in the same house that the Prices did. The Price house was built in 1925.

Pat: And do you know who lives in this home now?

Mabel: Well, it is a new family in there right now, but **Gunner Johnson** lived there. And I kinda kept track of him all the time, and I missed him for two days

and went over one day and found him dead in bed. And Les Miller lived in there after that. He was **Adele Price's** nephew through marriage. And I took care of Les and now he is living with his relatives in White Salmon.

Pat: If this house is still standing, could kinda tell me where it is located?

Mabel: You know where the tavern, the first tavern coming into town?

Pat: Bungalow Tavern?

Mabel: Well, it is that little bungalow right on top of the hill, south. It has been remodeled a number of times, of course, since then. And Dorothy Larsen. It was Larsen then, Johnny Larsen's wife, and later she married Ralph Anderson. But I had Bessie Larson in my home after an operation. I don't know how many days.

Pat: Did you do that very often, having patients in your home?

Mabel: Well, I think Dorothy was the only one that I ever had as a patient, because she didn't have any other place to go, except . . . they owned the little beer parlor down below the hill, across from the Legion Hall.

Pat: The Bungalow?

Mabel: Yeah. It started out as the Bungalow, too. And she didn't really have anyplace to stay except an old shack along side of it. I think it is still standing, though. So I took her in. George and **Cole** Ainsworth. I worked with Cole at the Hot Springs a number of years, but Cole become quite ill and George had had a slight stroke. So I kinda looked out for George before Cole passed on. Cole was one of my best friends, again. **Van Lonby**, he was a bachelor, too, and I sure had to look out for him, too. He lived, ah, oh well, where Bob Leonard lives today. It would be west of that on the hill there, and the house I don't believe is still standing anymore. **Alice McCall**, she was, ah, she worked at the springs for short time, . . . or quite awhile when I worked there. And, was going to see her one day, and was going back the next and found out that she had died in her sleep. And **Lorraine Garwood**. I looked out for her, too, when there wasn't any others around, like Virginia, or Rob or Donald or Roseland, she was the youngest daughter. And there were quite a few that died even before the mother died . . . passed on. **Lorraine** had a heart condition. Wayne Dillingham. I was the official at his birth. And, of course, when you try to take care of the mother as well as the baby. **Henry Steel**, died. **Hazel**, she had an operation, and I took, ah . . . she lived on top of the hill, then she decided she wanted to go down to the **Henry Steel's** bar or tavern down town. I think it was called Alice's Bar, or something like that.

Pat: Oh, you mean the tavern that right in the middle of Carson?

Mabel: Yes. And they had a kind-of-a leanto there, and she had a bed and they had their own cooking facilities. I went to see her one day, and found out she had an infection, and we sent her to the hospital and she died at the hospital. Really, you had to have a good fast car to get anyplace in those days. Oh, Herbie Hamblen. I guess everybody knows Herbie, in the local depot. I said that I took care of him for three months. And he said, "Three months. You took care of me for a whole year." But in those months when he come back from the hospital, you see he had steel rods in his back. One of those steel rods, well, it broke right in the middle, so he had to go back for more surgery.

Pat: This was to help straighten his spine?

Mabel: Yes. It was either that or a wheelchair for the rest of his life. So, I managed to make sure he always had his bath, and everything else, every day. He said I took care of him for a year, and I said I don't see how I could. And Elsie, (Herb's mother) I took care of her, also. When she came back from the hospital she used to be over his home and I guess Herbie was in the hospital then. And I would call her and say, "Elsie, don't you want to come over and eat dinner tonight?" She never refused (chuckle). Couldn't blame her, instead of cooking it herself, for one person again. And, **Mrs. Means**. **Mrs. Means** had a arthritis until she was just a pitiful person, she was in so much pain all the time. And I took care of her. I wasn't alone with her . . . Donna Vance helped me. I usually went in the day time and Donna at night. And we both took care of her for weeks until **Mrs. Means** decided that she would go back east to her own family, and my husband and I took her down and put her on the plane and up her on board. I got one letter I got from her, thanking me. Outside of that . . .

Pat: Can I ask another question. You were talking about the pain she had with arthritis. Did you ever have patients that took the baths down at the hot springs?

Mabel: That's where I met her to begin with. And she decided that she wanted me to take care of her instead of working at the hospital. So I ended up taking care of her. It was, ah, really I felt so sorry for her because she couldn't move a joint that didn't ache. She was almost a cripple, she couldn't walk very well. And, **Archie Axel Bloomquist**. I was called there not too many days before he passed on, too. **Axel** had cancer, but I did the best I could with him. And **Bob Foley's** birth. I was called there, and I got there in time to officiate at the birth, and the doctor got there in time to tie the cord. I had some really ding ones in those days. Now, I was at Truman Price's birth, too.

And then I attended his memorial last year in 1991. While I was at the memorial, one of his sisters said, ah, “Do you remember treating Truman when he was real young?” And I said, “No, I didn’t.” She said, “Well, he got stung by a scorpion, and Peggy Price, his mother, said, ‘No doctors. I know what we will do. We’ll call Mabel.’” So, you know what Mabel did. She applied Epson salt packs and he came out of it OK.

Pat: Of the top of your head, can you think of any other remedies, home remedies that have worked?

Mabel: Well, my favorite is mustard plaster cures pneumonia, most anything. I don’t know if you want to apply one of those mustard plaster on your chest these days and age. And we had some other kind of . . . I can’t think of the name of it right now. But so many people used that. My husband used to say, he’d prefer a mustard plaster any day. See, it increase the circulation, for one thing. They even used it in the hospital years ago. Then we had a pneumonia jacket. When we didn’t have anything to do, we was sitting around making pneumonia jackets out of dolls, and, ah, and cotton. Well, it was just insulated, that’s all. There wasn’t any antibiotics, you know that.

**Agnes Smith.** Well, I was only called there once. Agnes was in a lot of pain, but I don’t really recall her . . . what it was about. **Ida Greer.** Henry and Ida was one of the first settlers here, for one thing, and, ah, I took care of Henry when he had pneumonia, and sent him to the hospital. But he came home, and he died at home later on. Ida Greer, well she, she, ah, had a heart condition, I believe. And another thing, she, ah, contacted pneumonia and died in Vancouver in one of those hospitals.

Pat: You said they were one of the first settlers in Carson?

Mabel: They were early settlers.

Pat: Do you remember what they did?

Mabel: No. It wasn’t that early. I think he worked on one of the scows down here. Some people called them flatboats, but they weren’t, they were scows. They loaded them with cord wood, and they would put up the sails when the wind was just right, and take up to The Dalles and dispose of them up there. And, **Bert and Alice Harshberger.** Alice was my aunt. my mother’s sister. One night, Bert woke up, they lived right in the middle of Carson, and he heard a loud noise. He was a deputy sheriff so he got up to find out what was going on, and some guys was robbing the post office, which was right across the street from them. In the meantime, when he got over there, he had a flashlight and somebody hit him on the head and they found him later laying in the street. And my husband and I took him to the hospital at

The Dalles with a fractured skull. And **Marvin Dalen**, that was **Alice Harshberger's** son, he was living there at home with his mother and step-father. We found him dead in bed.

Pat: Do you know why?

Mabel: No. I imagine it was heart attack. And **Paul Schindler**, he owned a interest in the store down here, **Schindler & Price**, or Price & Schindler, whichever came first. To begin with I took care of Paul when he had pneumonia. I took care of him a week or so in his own home. I don't know who lives there right now. I think it is on second street in Carson. Anyway, then later on I, ah, went by train, this was in the 1940s then, to pick him up in Los Angeles. My husband's sister and son-in-law, and his mother lived in Los Angeles, or in Hollywood really, Hollywood district. And when I got down there Paul was ready to come home. So we had a compartment on the train, but those were the days when everything was black, we couldn't have lights any place.

Pat: This was during World War II.

Mabel: I got as far as Portland, and they took him from there to a hospital, and Paul died in the hospital. Before he died, he wanted me to have, he had a hand-carved mirror. It's about, oh, maybe 4'x6', and it's hand-carved, the frame is. One time I had two or three come to the door and they wanted to if they could redo this mirror for me. I said, "No, thank you." And I found out that all they were doing, they were going through neighborhoods looking for antiques. Now, I will tell you how silly I was. I painted that frame with brown paint and and then I found it was finished with (inaudible) gold.

**END OF TAPE THREE, SIDE ONE**

**THIS IS TAPE THREE, SIDE TWO OF AN INTERVIEW WITH MABEL RUSSELL OF CARSON, WASHINGTON**

**This is part of an oral history project conducted by the Skamania County Historical Society. My name is Pat Hanson, and the date is Feb. 5, 1992.**

Pat: We were still talking about people in the past that you helped. Do you want to continue, Mabel?

Mabel: Well, the next one on the list would be **Mrs. Flanagan**. She lived directly behind **Paul Schindler's** home there in Carson. And, I took care of her for about a week. I don't recall what she had. She was **Bob Flanagan's** wife. And the next one would be **Mrs. Gale**, she was an elderly lady and they right in the middle of Carson, I think their home was remodeled and it's a beautiful spot right now. She was elderly, I took care of her. I'd come in

every day to see her, I don't know for how long. And, **Virginia Gray**, she was, ah, one of the first ones in the community. Her house still stands on Smith-Beckon Road, the corner of Smith-Beckon and the main road.

Pat: That would be Hot Springs Ave. Right across from the Wind River Middle School.

Mabel: Yeah. Well, I took care of her 50 years ago, and her daughter **Maude**, who was was 90 or more right now, and she was the youngest of the children. And her daughter **Maude** sent me a letter thanking me for all the nice things I done for her mother, and all I did was cry. Now **Harry Crow(??)** is on this list. I'll tell you where he lived. He lived right here in the middle of Carson, on the Carson Creek. And Mr. Acker is renovating the home right now, so you know how old that would be. It is on the Wind River Highway just before you get to Hubert Smith's (now J&L Hardware) on the left hand side. And I took care of his wife, **Alice Crow**, she died at home. Now, **Maggie Reagan**, I took care of her for, I gave her, I think, Vitamin D shots for four years. That was when, sometimes I would wade through the snow up to my knees. **Nina Craig**, that was an aunt, and I took care of her, too. Then **Florence Roberts**, I think Charlie Roberts worked out in the woods, if I'm not mistaken. Later on I took care of Florence. **Mildred Larson**, everybody knows Mildred and Bill, of course. And when they ever wanted anything, you know who she'd call. I was down with her a few days before she passed on. **Elsie Bloomquist**, she called be from the Metzgers, **Henry Metzger** and Mrs. (**Maria**) **Metzger**, took care both of them. Mrs. Metzger went to the hospital and she died of cancer, I think. Henry Metzger, he died in a nursing home at the age of 97. And their son, Ernest, I always saw that he had . . . well, I gave him shots, but I don't know what for. But, anyway, I always took him some food, especially huckleberry pie, and jams and jellies and the whole bit sometimes. **Elva Perry**, now she was one of our best friends, my husband and mine. And I took care of her at home for awhile, and I knew that she would have to go to the hospital, and she died of cancer.

And **Verdie Monaghan**, Verdie belonged to the Olmstead group, she was a daughter, and I know I attended her one time when she spilled hot kerosene or grease on her back or abdomen, I can't recall exactly. All I had to do was look at it and knew she had to go to the hospital. I did what I could do for her to relieve her pain. In those days there wasn't any doctors to run to, that was early, maybe in the 1920s again. She had to have skin graft after she went to the hospital. Grandma and Grandpa (inaudible), I took care of both of them, and they both died of pneumonia. And **Zella Brockman**, I gave Zella Brockman, who was **Mrs. Riley Brockman**, **Kat Brockman**,(sp) or **Kat McCloud's(sp)** mother. Gave her a high glouse for years again. And I used to stop and always talk to her, of course. Zella was a dear person. Mrs. **Wells**, I



can't recall, I know there was something. So many of them, I can't remember. Oh, **Nella Johnson**, she lived towards the Old Depot Road again. First turn on the road going west on the main highway now. I think there is an old, where they have so many piles of (inaudible) on the side road there. She lived down in that area. And **John Myers(sp)**, I was asked by the doctor to officiate. It was in the winter-time, of course, and we had a four-wheel drive and they couldn't get out of Stevenson, so it was up to me to find out if he was dead, and he was.

Pat: You had to verify.

Mabel: Yeah. And, I took care of **Jim Hutchings**. Not too long ago I made his grandson . . . no I guess it was his son, and I said: "Are you James Hutchings?" And he said, "Yes, Mabel, don't you know me?" I should have, because he's about the age of my daughter. And, **Wayne Huett(sp)**, I don't remember him but my daughter says I took care of him, too. But I don't even recall who he is. And, **Laurie Meders(sp)**, I gave her high glouse. She reminded me of that not too long ago. She said, "I can remember when you gave me high glouse." And **Earl Verne**, that's **Lenora Miller's** uncle. Someone called my attention to him one night that he was in so much pain, and I didn't even know who he was. But I'd taken care of his sister, and found out that he had injured his leg, or his foot, or something, and so he had big red stripes going up his leg, and you know what happened. Hot Epsom salt patch.

Pat: One thing, you were not employed by the county, or the state to help these people.

Mabel: No, I wasn't, but I worked on PWA or PAW, as a county nurse. I traveled from here in Carson to Cape Horn. That was my territory. Then I would go down the highway and try to thumb a ride home. Sometimes I had to wait a long time, in those days there wasn't buses or cars too often (chuckle). But, every so often, a salesman would come through, and I couldn't get home without their help.

Pat: Mabel, was this during the Depression years?

Mabel: Yes, it was.

Pat: And they did not provide you with transportation. You had to . . .

Mabel: No, they didn't.

Pat: And you didn't have a vehicle, so you had to hitchhike.

Mabel: And the funny part was, I was four hours a day and made \$4.00, and my husband worked three hours and he got less than I did. It was hard times. We lived off the land.

Pat: Now, another question. In later years, did you continue working for the county? Or did you just go out and help these people?

Mabel: No, I just went out and helped these people on my own.

Pat: Did any of them give you money for your services?

Mabel: Well, **Maude Roberts** said I was so nice to her mother that she sent me a nice big check not too long ago.

Pat: Did you ever bill them, or was it they would give you things.

Mabel: No. There was no bills, no nothing. Thank you was enough.

Pat: OK. So sometimes you got some extra produce, or . . . ?

Mabel: No, I can't recall any. We had as much as anyone else in the locality.

Pat: So, you were just a Good Samaritan, you helped your neighbor.

Mabel: I guess so, I just like to work, anyway.

Pat: You were willing to share your skills to those who needed it.

Mabel: Yeah.

Pat: One other thing I was curious about. Many of your patients, of course, were seriously ill, and despite your care, did not survive, there are several cemeteries in this area. Can you tell me where they are located, if they have a name and anything you might remember about them?

Mabel: Well, Eyman Cemetery, I don't know if it is still Eyman cemetery or not, but it's located north of town, and it would be on Metzger Road.

Pat: No.

Mabel: That, Eyman Cemetery was first. My grandfather is buried there, and his tombstone says "1910," but this abstract says that he died in 1908. At the age of 70. He was one of the, well he was the settler of the Carson area. He owned 168½ acres here, homesteaded, and I don't where he got the 8½ acres.

Pat: So, the Eyman Cemetery is on the west side of the highway north of town.

Mabel: Yes. That's the oldest one. And the next one was here on the Smith-Beckon Road, to the left out there. My dad was buried out there, my mother is, too. And my little brother was buried in the Eyman cemetery. He was kicked in the head by a horse when he was 2½ years old. He only lived just a short time and they buried him out there in the Eyman cemetery. Then later on when my father passed away at 51 years of age, well, they moved him over alongside dad.

Pat: There were those two cemeteries. Do you know much about the one at St. Martin's?

Mabel: That one. As long as I can remember the St. Martin family was buried there.

Pat: So, it was pretty much just their family.

Mabel: Yea. There is not too many of them. Most of them later on were buried out in the Carson cemetery.

Pat: Are there any parting words that you have for us, Mabel?

Mabel: Well, I traveled quite a bit. I traveled across the United States five different times, but there is no place like home. I'd rather live right here in Carson than any place that I know of. And I'm only 87.





















