

Interview with Barbara Gilman Heitsman Johnson

Conducted by Dean Bones

March 14, 2003

(On page 11 "Hildred" is referring to Hildred Hagestrom Hall.

On page 22 the person who owned and ran the Green Parrot Tavern was Claire Ekborg.

It was fun talking with Barbara about local history! However, she would say a short sentence . . . and many times she wouldn't finish the sentence, and then she would stop. So I ended up asking many questions and making many comments to keep her talking. It's embarrassing for me to read the transcript and see how much I talked! But please try to understand that I was trying to get her continue each time. Dean)

Dean:right to the mic...

Barbara: Ok... my name is Barbara Johnson... Barbara Gilman Heitsman Johnson.

Dean: There you have it. And this is just fine. Let's just continue. It's working just great. So... Barbara where were you born?

Barbara: Well, I tell ya', that's sort of a question, but I think I was born up at the old place. That would have been up at the Miles homestead... up at the Miles Lake... that's where the homestead... see, Grandpa homesteaded 350 acres.

Dean: So, as you're going from Woods, from Thousand Trails, is it what's on the right side, or on the left side...

Barbara: You know where Miles Lake is?

Dean: Right...

Barbara: Well, just right up from Miles Lake, there was a...

Dean: On the right...

Barbara: On the right is where the home was.

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: And, now I can remember swinging on a... there was a gate, evidently, that you opened to go into where the house was built... so, Mom said I was three.

Dean: Really. And you can remember that?

Barbara: I can remember that, but I don't remember much else... well, I remember the house... but Mom said I was three.

Dean: So, was there al... I thought I heard that there was a house down by ... uh, is it... was it... like McPhillip's Beach...

Barbara: Well, there was, but it wasn't down on the beach... Wilma says... but it wasn't down on the beach, 'cause that's where my mother was born.

Dean: So that's where your mom was born.

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Barbara: My mom was born. 'Cause in the summer, the people came to McPhillip's campground from in the valley, you know, in the summer, so Grandma... they went up there to... it was just a... it wasn't really a home, it was just a house, I guess, and she baked bread, and Wilma says Grandpa made cheese... now, I don't know about that part of it, but that could be so. But Grandma baked bread and sold to the people that were camping down there, and that's where my mom was born.

Dean: And that... I think it was Jack, maybe, or someone said that there actually was quite a bit more land there than is now...

Barbara: Oh, yeah, it's all different now. Yeah. And where the trailers are in there, that used to be open.

Dean: Oh, really.

Barbara: You could see all in through there.

Dean: There were no trees?

Barbara: Oh, well, there were some, but not many. And... because that was McPhillips, that wasn't Grandpa's.

Dean: Oooh.

Barbara: That wasn't Grandpa's ground.

Dean: So did your Grandpa own where the... his house was, and also where you were born at the time?

Barbara: (Laughing) Oh, yeah. He owned 350... there was three lakes on the property... you know where Towne Lake is? That was Grandpa's property.

Dean: Ok.

Barbara: The property came clear down to there. And then the big lake... Towne Lake, we called it... the big one.

Dean: And what about... you mean Miles Lake?

Barbara: Yeah, Miles Lake, I mean. And then Towne Lake's the one that was close to home.

Dean: What about the one by Sears? Is that.. was that one also on your property? Was that the third lake? I can only think of two.

Barbara: Well, there was there was three, but I never was to one of 'em.

Dean: Oh, I see.

Barbara: I think it was just small, and I never was to there. Yeah.

Dean: And how many brothers and sisters, or who were your brothers and sisters?

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Barbara: I never had any sisters.

Dean: Ok.

Barbara: And four brothers.

Dean: Oh, my.

Barbara: Warren, and Cal, and Jack, and Norm.

Dean: Ok.

Barbara: And I was in the middle.

Dean: And your parents' names were...

Barbara: Elsie and Brick, or Ernest, but my dad had red hair, and he was always called Brick.

Dean: So was that a nickname?

Barbara: Uh, huh (yes).

Dean: Oooh. I see... I wondered about that.

Barbara: Yeah... Brick Gilman. Yeah, uh, huh.

Dean: And you're related to the Miles, because...

Barbara: My mother was a Miles. See, that's... the old home place up there by Miles Lake, a number of the kids were born there. Some of 'em... 'cause they come from Minnesota, Grandpa and Grandma, and some of 'em, the older ones were born...

Dean: Oh, the Miles family...

Barbara: Yeah, the Miles family... were born in Minnesota before they came out. But my mom was born up there, and us three kids were all born there.

Dean: Ok, now, why is it called Miles Lake instead of Gilman Lake?

Barbara: 'Cause Grandpa Miles was the one that owned it.

Dean: And then the Gilmans...

Barbara: No, we... the one... huh uh, (no).. no, no Gilman Lakes.

Dean: Aaah...

Barbara: The Towne Lake, just past our place... you know where our home place was? Going out of Woods towards Tierra Del Mar... you know where our home was?

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Dean: Is it where Hagans....

Barbara: Where that... they got gravel and everything...

Dean: Yeah...

Barbara: Well, Dad built that.

Dean: Ooooh....

Barbara: We moved up there from Woods when Jack was about three.

Dean: Ok. What was your...what's your ancestry on the Gilman side?

Barbara: Kay has a terrible time. Evidently she said Grandpa never let a... anybody on the property to take census or anything.

Dean: Oh, really.

Barbara: She has lots of luck with the Miles, but not with the Gilmans.

Dean: So you don't have any idea where they came from or anything?

Barbara: Well, they came from Minnesota.

Dean: The Gilmans did also?

Barbara: Yeah, my dad was born in Minnesota.

Dean: Oooh...

Barbara: St. Paul...

Dean: And the Miles came from...

Barbara: Minnesota.

Dean: How interesting. So they must have been friends, or were they relatives back then...

Barbara: No, I don't think they even knew each other.

Dean: Really?

Barbara: I don't think so.

Dean: And what about further back than then? Do you know of in the old country... do you know where they came from at all, or what country....

Barbara: No, I don't. Well, Grandma Miles.... Grandma Miles was a Murphy... she was a Murphy, and they came from Ireland...

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Dean: Ooooh....

Barbara: She was Irish.

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: Grandma was... she was a lovely lady. That's an interesting picture.

Dean: So, what do you remember about your grandparents? What do you remember about your grandmother?

Barbara: Oh, I just loved my grandma. I spent lots of time with her. 'Cause they had the hotel in Woods. When they went off from the farm, they moved to Woods and they had the hotel.

Dean: What was the name of the hotel?

Barbara: Just Miles, I guess.

Dean: Oh, Miles... ok...

Barbara: And we lived right across the street from 'em... and that's where Jack... my brother Jack was born... it was called the Virgil house, but they burned it down here a year or so ago...

Dean: Hmmm....

Barbara: And, uh... 'cause I remember very well when Jack was born, but Grandma... she was just a lovely lady... she was a very lovely lady. Grandpa chewed Beechnut... and I can remember him standing on the porch out in the front yard there, and I always sat in the grass, 'cause I loved to visit with Grandpa... and he chewed and he spit, and I just knew that he was gonna' spit on me... he probably did sometime... but it was Beechnut... it was the loose that he chewed.

Dean: What did he do for a job down here... or did he just work on the farm?

Barbara: Yeah, and then when they moved to Woods, then Grandpa ran the ferry. I got a picture of the ferry.

Dean: Yeah.... so, tell me about the ferry.

Barbara: Well, I can remember being on the ferry. It was... it was... there was a cable that ran from Woods across over to the other side of the river....

Dean: Right where the bridge is now?

Barbara: Well, in that same area... yeah, and Grandpa... then that cable that ran through the ferry, and he walked along and pulled, see.

Dean: He wore gloves, or something, didn't he?

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Barbara: Just gloves, I think, Grandpa did. He wasn't a very big man, but I can remember... he just used to walk along the side of it... he just walked and pulled, and that's how the ferry got...

Dean: It seems like it would be awfully hard...

Barbara: And then there was a piece of it that let down...

Dean: Oh...

Barbara: An end of it that let down for the cars to drive on.

Dean: Uh, huh.. (yes)...

Barbara: Yeah...

Dean: How many, uh... cars...

Barbara: Two.

Dean: Two at one time.

Barbara: Uh, huh (yes)...

Dean: Do you remember how much it cost?

Barbara: I don't remember... I...

Dean: You didn't have to pay, did you?

Barbara: No, I didn't... but here's a picture of it... you can see it in this picture. See the ferry right there.

Dean: So it's like a flat...

Barbara: Yeah, it's just flat, honey. Yeah, it's just...

Dean: Ok... that's a wonderful picture... oh, and the Della there, too...

Barbara: Yeah...

Dean: So that's a picture of Woods... oh, it is... ok...

Barbara: Yeah...

Dean: So he ran the ferry for quite a while?

Barbara: Yeah, I think that was for the county.

Dean: Oooh...

Barbara: I'm not sure whether it was county or state... but I just... would it be state, you suppose?

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Dean: I don't know.

Barbara: I don't either.

Dean: Probably the county. Why would people travel back and forth? Where would they be going?

Barbara: Well, they'd want to, maybe, to go to Pacific City, or go on that side of the river over to a needed area... that over in there...

Dean: Was it called Pacific City when you were a little girl, or was it Ocean Park?

Barbara: It was called Pacific City.

Dean: Ok.

Barbara: Yeah, but I knew it when there wasn't anything there.

Dean: Yeah...

Barbara: Except up on the hill... the low hill... when you first turn and go up like you're going up... there was several... and they were McMinnville people.

Dean: So it was McMinnville Heights.

Barbara: McMinnville Heights. And that's what was there.

Dean: What about the hotel that the Edmunds had?

Barbara: That was in Pacific City.

Dean: Yeah... it was there when you were a child, also?

Barbara: Yeah... yeah.

Dean: Ok. Ok, so tell me about going to school. You went to Woods?

Barbara: WELL, CERTAINLY I WENT TO SCHOOL AT WOODS!!

Dean: (Laughing)

Barbara: Gosh... I've got some fine pictures of our school, I'll tell you that.

Dean: I can't understand where it was.

Barbara: (Getting pictures out of a bag)... This is the Hebo Hotel...

Dean: Ooohh...

Barbara: And my mother and Aunt Stella are both there... worked there.

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Dean: Hmmmm....

Barbara: Now this... and this is my mother, right here...

Dean: Which one?

Barbara: That's mom, right there... and this is Uncle Dick Miles, one of her brothers, see, so that is very, very old. No date.

Dean: That's a great picture of the school.

Barbara: Now this is the whole school... that's all of us. That's all eight grades of us... in one room...

Dean: Where are you?

Barbara: Right there...

Dean: Huh....

Barbara: Ed Sears is in there... lots of Hurlimans, and...

Dean: Where's Ed Sears?

Barbara: Right here... that's Ed... no, there's Ed, right there... that's Ed....

Dean: Yeah, that would...

Barbara: I had one made for...

Dean: Are these from Lorraine Eckhardt?

Barbara: Yeah. Well, some of them are from another lady that gave me some.

Dean: I don't think I've seen these two pictures. I've got some pictures, but not them.

Barbara: Oh, haven't you really? Now, that's my mom and Aunt Stella in the... and that was taken right in the road by the Hudson House.

Dean: And this is your mom here?

Barbara: Yeah.

Dean: Oh, she is pretty. Who is this with them?

Barbara: I don't know. Mom told me, but I don't ever... I never... should have written it down, but I didn't, and I don't know. Now this picture is of me and my Grandma. She was so... such a dear. And this is mom and us three older kids. Mom had like three families. There's my two older brothers and me...

Dean: Ok...

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Barbara: And then I'm eight years older than Jack... and she had Jack, and then Norm, the youngest one, you know, was... well, I was fifteen when he was born. But that's up at the old place. That's up at Grandpa and Grandma's. And you know, several of the kids that were born up there... Grandpa and Grandma's kids... Grandpa delivered 'em.

Dean: Really!

Barbara: Yeah! Well, what would you do?

Dean: I don't know!

Barbara: He just delivered 'em. The last one, too, was a preemie, but they saved it.

Dean: So, who were your teachers in school?

Barbara: Awww... I can't remember... I remember Mrs. Bohne... was one, but...

Dean: B O H N E ?

Barbara: And she lived way up Blaine.

Dean: Really? I know the family was up there, but I didn't realize that one of them taught.

Barbara: Yeah, she did... she was one of my teachers, 'cause I remember I got to go home... this right here is Hildred.

Dean: Oh, it is.

Barbara: Yeah.

Dean: Hmm... See, I haven't seen that picture, either? Can you identify most of those people?

Barbara: No... a lot of 'em... Babcocks and Hurlimans... (laughing)... and I must have been...

Dean: I see where the "X" is...

Barbara: Oh, yeah... Oh, Mom must have done that... or maybe Dad... and Parker was... and Babcocks, there's lots of Babcocks, and there's Ed Sears, again, right there... and these are all Hurlimans... that's Louie... these were Blackburns... that was the whole school. But as I say, we were all in that one room.

Dean: Uh, huh (yes)..

Barbara: And you know something? We learned to read and write and spell. We had Palmer method every day.

Dean: Right. Wind up your arm and...

Barbara: We just did these things, you know, and we did that every day. And... but you know, I think there was an advantage to this. I think you learned from the other grades.

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Dean: Right. When they were having their lessons.

Barbara: Yeah, yeah.

Dean: Did the teacher call them up to her desk, or did she just teach them right there in the...

Barbara: Well, I always went up to her desk. Sometimes I was the only one in the grade...

Dean: Oh...

Barbara: And I wasn't very big. I can remember sitting on her lap when I read.

Dean: (Chuckling) That's great!

Barbara: Yeah.

Dean: You had a stove, I assume?

Barbara: A big cast iron stove... you lifted the lid up and threw the wood down in it.

Dean: And....

Barbara: We had to go outside and down quite a ways to the bathrooms.

Dean: So, who brought the wood in?

Barbara: Well, the school board furnished the wood.

Dean: Did the older boys go actually build the fires, or did the teacher...

Barbara: No, the teacher built the fires. And they usually lived at Woods. I know a couple of different teachers that boarded with my mom.

Dean: Hmm... And you said that you lived in Woods, also, at one time?

Barbara: Oh, yeah... right across the street, though, as I say, just a year or so ago they burnt the house down. It was called the old Virgil House, and that's where Jack was born.

Dean: Do you have any pictures of that, at all?

Barbara: No, I don't... it's too bad, I don't... I have this picture of Beaver after it burnt...

Dean: Right.

Barbara: Isn't that something?

Dean: Hmmmm....

Barbara: And I have this picture that you don't see much of.... that's Buster.

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Dean: Is it Buster?

Barbara: Yeah. But we hauled lots of one log loads. You don't even see 'em... you don't see 'em at all. Yeah.

Dean: Do you remember any, uh... oh, during your school time, do you remember any specific stories of anything happening.... anything that sticks in your mind from during school, when you went to school there?

Barbara: Mmmmm... no anything... school was so different, you know... we played outside... we played Auntie, Auntie Over, you know, and we played Blind Man's Bluff, and... and... we played! What do they do now at school?

Dean: Walk around and talk. There isn't much really... yeah, they don't do a lot of those games....

Barbara: And, you know, we school programs in that little school....

Dean: Uh, huh (yes)... So around the school, was it very populated, or was it...

Barbara: Well, Hurliman's ranch was right there.

Dean: Uh, huh (yes)...

Barbara: And I... who was I telling.... oh, I think it was the Sisson girl... she's a horse... and she was talking about having her horse shoed... well, Hildred's dad... see, they came to Woods the summer that I was born...

Dean: Oh....

Barbara: ...in 1918... well, Hurlimans were already on that ranch, and they had... they was no tractors, they done all their work with a team of horses...

Dean: Now, which Hurliman was there? What was his name?

Barbara: Well, that was Antone...

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: And, uh... but Pete Hagestrom shoed those horses, and the teacher used to let us go and watch...

Dean: Ooooh....

Barbara: But they were a big team, you know... big horses... I can just see... he was the nicest guy... Pete was...

Dean: Hmm....

Barbara: Yeah... those were fun days.

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Dean: Can you.... what are some of the families... you named off a bunch of the kids, but what were some of the families that lived in Woods when you were there?

Barbara: Babcocks...

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: Parkers, Hurlimans, Kirbys, and, uh... Hagestroms... yeah...

Dean: What about... I've seen pictures of Robidee's store... was that operating when you were...

Barbara: That was before my time.

Dean: Before... oh... what were some of the businesses that were in Woods?

Barbara: There was a store across the street from Grandpa's... from the hotel there was a... and it had a... I think there was a post office in it, too...

Dean: Must have been...

Barbara: I'm sure there was a post office... I can remember when postage was three cents...

Dean: Wow... what about the sanitorium... was that before you, also?

Barbara: No...

Dean: Was that while you lived there?

Barbara: Yeah...

Dean: What was that?

Barbara: That's where they gave kelp or kelp ore baths...

Dean: Ooooh...

Barbara: And the people used to come... and there were several from Alaska that came, and they stayed at Grandpa and Grandma's hotel, 'cause they had rheumatism so bad, and they took those baths. And they got that kelp in gunny sacks... not big gunny sacks.... over at the cape...

Dean: And then they'd do what....

Barbara: And they... they had all these tubs in there, and they got terrible looking because that stained 'em so bad... but then they put that in their water and that's.... they laid in that water with the...

Dean: Do you think it helped?

Barbara: Well, they did. This one little old lady used to come from Alaska, and I remember her 'cause she used to bring me beautiful slippers that was made with the beads and everything....

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Dean: Oooh...

Barbara: Yeah...

Dean: That's a long a ways to come, and during those...

Barbara: And I used to entertain... I used to dance, and all this stuff... and anyhow, and I had costumes, 'cause when ever we had... we had costumed plays at school... we had costumes, you know... sometimes Mom had to make 'em, but I can remember I was a bluebell once, and I can remember that... and I can remember played the record on the old Victrola and I went in and danced for these old people, and they gave me money.

Dean: (chuckling) That's wonderful!

Barbara: A quarter, maybe, you know... but I... it was fun... oh, that was fun. And Grandpa and Grandma had the first radio in Woods, and we used to all gather there in the evening and watch... listen to Amos and Andy on tv...

Dean: Yeah...

Barbara: And then Grandpa had the first car... a model T...

Dean: In Woods, you mean?

Barbara: In Woods.... yeah... yeah... and I can remember going to Cloverdale with Grandpa... and we went up... course it was this Woods side of the road, you know, 'cause part of that road was planked...

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: It was partly planked road... so if you were going around the bend, you laid on the horn, you know, so if somebody was coming the other... 'cause it was just...

Dean: Very narrow...

Barbara: It was just.... Yeah, just room for one car.

Dean: What would you do if you met somebody?

Barbara: Well, I can't remember that we ever did!

Dean: So, Barbara, then, by the cemetery, Gist Cemetery...

Barbara: Yeah, up on the hill...

Dean: But didn't the road go up there by the cemetery?

Barbara: Oh, not in my day it didn't.

Dean: So it was always down below.

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Barbara: Uh, huh... yeah.

Dean: Do you ever remember ever going to that cemetery for a funeral?

Barbara: No.

Dean: No?

Barbara: No, but my understand that one of my mother's sisters is buried up there.

Dean: What's her name?

Barbara: Nina.

Dean: And what was her last name? I have the list at school... I can look... I remember reading Nina...

Barbara: Nina... uh... oh, they lived up Blaine... they lived... you remember... oh, I can't think of their names. 'Cause I didn't know Aunt Nina. She was dead before my time.

Dean: Uh, huh (yes)

Barbara: They're all gone now.

Dean: Now did you know Grandma Woods, or was that before you. I know Hildred knew Grandma Woods... that Woods was named after?

Barbara: Oh, gosh, I don't know... Grandpa Woods....

Dean: I can't think what her first name was...

Barbara: Is it Woods was named after?

Dean: Yeah. I've got an article over at school about her. Was it Joe Woods, and I can't think what her name was...

Barbara: Huh... no, I don't remember... I just remember my own grandma...

Dean: Right.

Barbara: Yeah. It was a fun time to live, don't you know.

Dean: Why did your family move to this area, do you think? The Miles and the Gilmans, from Minnesota...

Barbara: I don't know why they come. I guess... why did they come to Woods?

Dean: Yeah.

Barbara: I don't know. Never did ever think about it.

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Dean: Ok. Now, what about the Lakeside... is it Lakeview or Lakeside Cemetery that was just north of where you lived...

Barbara: Up on the hill.

Dean: Yeah. Did you ever go up to that cemetery?

Barbara: Uh, huh (yes)... uh, huh (yes)

Dean: Were you ever there at a funeral, or was that...

Barbara: Oh, no... huh, uh (no)... no.... never was there to anything, but I've been up there and out in it with the boys, had taken... 'cause I was kinda' scared to go out there...

Dean: So, were there headstones when you were there?

Barbara: Yeah, there was.

Dean: I haven't been there yet to know if there are any stones left.

Barbara: You took Cooks Road... we called it Cooks Road... 'cause at the end of that where the people live that's got the...

Dean: Yeah, I see there's a road...

Barbara: There's a road that goes up... well, that was up... went to Cooks...

Dean: What... Cooks? Was that a family?

Barbara: Yeah, well, it was two boys that lived there. The older two.. Cooks older two boys lived there. And they'd come out... they had horses, they didn't have vehicles, they...

Dean: Was the cemetery before you got to their house, or...

Barbara: Oh, yeah. It wasn't too far up the hill.

Dean: I wonder if there's any stones still up there...

Barbara: Oh, I imagine... why wouldn't there be?

Dean: Huh. We have a list of people who were buried there...

Barbara: And it's on the left hand side of the road going... going up... and it's... it wasn't really a long distance from home...

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: ...walking up there. As I say, I've been in it, but I with... I didn't want to go by myself.

Dean: Now, they didn't use it, then, after...

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Barbara: Huh, uh (no)... not after we lived there.

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: No... and as I say, we moved up there when Jack was about three. Those were good days. We had a good life, and we had a good home, and we always had plenty to eat... but it wasn't always in season, if you know what I mean...

Dean: Yeah...

Barbara: If we needed meat, Dad just...

Dean: Got meat.

Barbara: Got meat.

Dean: Right. What do you think was the best advice or lessons that you learned from your mother and your father?

Barbara: Oh, my mother was a wonderful person, and she... I learned kindness from my mom, and consideration for other people, 'cause she was a lovely lady.

Dean: And what about from your dad?

Barbara: Dad was a Gilman, and he... and I worshiped him, 'cause I was the only girl, so to Dad I was kinda' special.

Dean: Were you spoiled?

Barbara: Not really. I don't think I really was.

Dean: Now, if I ask your brother, what would they say?

Barbara: They probably would say that.

Dean: (laughing)

Barbara: Jack probably would. He's such an old... have you ever talked with him? (chuckling)

Dean: Um... no, I want to do the same interview with him... he's been in at school...

Barbara: Now, he'll... if you tell him I said anything, he'll say, "Well, H@#%, that's not right".

Dean: (laughing)

Barbara: Yeah... that's not... he'll say she doesn't know what she's talking about.

Dean: If I interview him, I'll let you read his interview.

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Barbara: Oh, God, he'll say she doesn't know what she's talking about. Isn't she dear? (Looking at picture...)

Dean: Yep... she's grown up a little.

Barbara: Oh, she's a lovely lady. I'm just so proud of her.

Dean: Ok, so... what occupations have you had throughout your life? What jobs have you had? From your earliest one that you can remember...

Barbara: Oh, well, I used to charge twenty-five cents to take people across the river at Woods, 'cause I could row like you don't know what. A boat... and I had a small boat that I could use, so I took foot passengers... that's the first job I ever had.

Dean: Was that cheating your Grandpa... or I mean your dad...

Barbara: No...

Dean: From the ferry?

Barbara: No, well, Grandpa... he just took cars.

Dean: Aaah... oooh... really?

Barbara: Well, he took passengers if he had enough of 'em, but I'd take 'em across for a quarter.

Dean: How much did he charge them?

Barbara: I don't know what they charged on that ferry, but that.. it was fun... and then my most wonderful job was at school.

Dean: How long did you work at school?

Barbara: Twenty-seven years.

Dean: And you cooked.

Barbara: I started in 1959...

Dean: Hmmm....

Barbara: And I retired in 1987...

Dean: Had they remodeled the kitchen during that time...

Barbara: The kitchen has always been... I... it's a good kitchen... I just loved that kitchen...

Dean: Uh, huh (yes)...

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Barbara: That's a lot nicer kitchen than they've got down at Cloverdale. That was a good job. And I loved my kids, and I loved my big kids.

Dean: Yeah... I know people loved the food.

Barbara: Oh, yeah, I guess so. They talk about it.

Dean: (chuckling)...

Barbara: Rick Gilman told his wife that he wanted some garden casserole, and he says now don't try to make that until you call Aunt Barbara. (chuckling)

Dean: Ok... What, um... Tell us about your own family... your husband and children...

Barbara: Well.... let's see now... I was married in 1938... and we lived here in Beaver... Kay was born right here... you know the house that's just the other side of Becker's Cabins...

Dean: Ooooh.. yeah...

Barbara: That's where Kay was born.

Dean: Oooh... I didn't... I didn't know that...

Barbara: Uh, huh (yes)... that's her birthplace... yeah... there was lots of... you know, people don't visit like... we used to visit.. and we used to play cards so much with people...

Dean: Pinochle, or Poker?

Barbara: Oh, Pinochle.

Dean: Pinochle.

Barbara: Oh, yes. Roy and Ella, you know... and we played cards with them on... pinochle, yeah.... but they don't do that any more.

Dean: Not much. So, tell me... my dad talks about chicken feeds, and how people would go to somebody's farm, and they'd go get all their chickens and kill 'em, and they would take them and they'd do a chicken feed, invite everybody down, and you wouldn't even know your chickens were gone....

Barbara: Oh, God, that sounds like Ray Bones!!

Dean: Ahhh (laughing)... well, he said people did it to them, and he was in on some, and...

Barbara: I remember when your mom and dad were married.

Dean: Ooh..

Barbara: Yeah...

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Dean: So, you lived at that place for a while...

Barbara: No, never lived in that house. Buster's folks were living there.

Dean: Oh...

Barbara: No... I lived first... you know, up at my old place, which I gave to Bill, you know...

Dean: Uh, huh (yes)

Barbara: ... across the driveway there was a little cabin.

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: And that's where we lived when we were first married. And then Dahls, and then Pete and Lloyd Woods bought the place where we lived... that's who we bought from, was Pete and Lloyd... and then I lived across from school... there was Gilbert... Gilberts had the store on the corner...

Dean: Right...

Barbara: And they had two rentals, and we at different times lived at both of 'em. That's where we lived when Kay started school.

Dean: Oh...

Barbara: Yeah...

Dean: Now, she's a little bit older than Bill, isn't she?

Barbara: She's 64 and Bill is 60.

Dean: Oh, so not that much older.

Barbara: Yeah...

Dean: Ok... and then you... when did you move to your other house? By the store?

Barbara: We bought that from Pete and Lloyd... oh, what year did we buy that, I wonder? Oh, gosh, I don't know what.. I can't remember... it must have been... Kay went to the first grade at Beaver, and the second grade at Hebo.

Dean: Where did you live in Hebo?

Barbara: Binford's Cabins.

Dean: Oh, yeah.

Barbara: Yeah.

Dean: And then you moved back?

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Barbara: And then we come back to Beaver, and we moved in to Pete and Lloyd's house. 'Cause Toad... Buster's sister and Lloyd's Woods had lived there, and they moved out, and we moved in there, and then we lived there all these years.

Dean: So the store next door...

Barbara: Yeah...

Dean: Uh... who ran that when you first moved in there, or the earliest you can remember?

Barbara: I can't... I'm not gonna' tell you their names... I can just see 'em, but I can't...

Dean: Cases owned it... Bertha Case...

Barbara: Well, yeah, but before that... before Bertha Case... oh, I can't remember their names... Tom... I remember the name Tom.... see, there used to be gas pumps there...

Dean: Oh, I didn't know that...

Barbara: Out in front of the house... there was just two...

Dean: Do you remember the brand?

Barbara: I don't remember... but there was...

Dean: And it was that old building that was there, that we know of....

Barbara: Well, kind of... the people that had that kind of gas station, they lived in Effie's house...

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: And the store was already there...

Dean: Hmmm... and then after... then Bertha and... and I don't remember her husband...

Barbara: Oh, don't ya'? Oh, I do.

Dean: I just remember...

Barbara: He was a shingle weaver... I always... do you know what a shingle weaver is? Well, you know shingles come in bundles?

Dean: Yeah...

Barbara: Well, you have to weave them...

Dean: Aaaahhh....

Barbara: Walt...

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Dean: Walt Case?

Barbara: Walt Cason... Walt Case... yeah... that's who... when we first lived there...

Dean: Ok.. who else lived nearby? Bertha Case, and was... I mean, uh... Effie moved in...

Barbara: And uh...

Dean: Who was her husband?

Barbara: Bill... Monroe... he was a Monroe... that was Bertha Case's son, 'cause she'd been married many times...

Dean: So when my dad went to school with Monroes, would they have been her sons?

Barbara: Yeah... Monroe...

Dean: I didn't know that.

Barbara: Yeah... Bertha's... she had Bill, and she had.... they were good lookin' guys... she must have had four boys, and Annabelle, the daughter... Annabelle... she had a beauty parlor in Tillamook... now we're going so far back, and I'm just thinkin'....

Dean: Yeah, but it's helping.. and, even just a name, you know, just... this helps, so that's great... just remember what you can... don't worry about it. What about who lives next to....

Barbara: Mac Koontz was on the... there was nothing there...

Dean: Oh...

Barbara: ... 'cause, uh... Bill uh... you know... Brownings built the house where Bill is...

Dean: Right...

Barbara: ... and bought that piece that's... that was two lots.. they bought that...

Dean: The... where Pearl lives, you mean? Or...

Barbara: No...

Dean: ... where the shop is, or... I know where the house... oh, I know what you mean! Where your son lives now was two lots.

Barbara: Yeah... that was two... well... and the big garden that he has... that was all one piece of ground...

Dean: I see.... And the Koontz's lived then on the next one...

Barbara: Yeah... and your folks lived up there...

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Dean: Right...

Barbara: 'Cause Bill helped your mom... she had been a scout leader, and Bill helped...

Dean: I didn't realize that... I knew she did scouts, but I didn't realize he helped. Past them were the VanLoos. Remember them?

Barbara: Oh, yeah.

Dean: Ok, tell me their names. I have tried to remember... because I was told that what they lived in was an old livery stable...

Barbara: Well... and I remember that you just... it went... you just drove right up like this into their...

Dean: Yeah... and then the house was actually off to the side, but it was like a big shop.

Barbara: Yeah, it was just a...

Dean: Like a livery stable! I can't think of their names...

Barbara: I can't either. 'Cause we hauled logs for him. Uh... pretty near say that....

Dean: So at the... where the station is now, when you lived there, was that Gilbert's store at that time, or was that long before you.

Barbara: No, that was Gilbert's store when we lived there.

Dean: And the Green Parrot...

Barbara: And the Green Parrot, where we used to dance ourselves silly.

Dean: In the upstairs...

Barbara: Upstairs...

Dean: Who ran that at that time?

Barbara: Uh.... uh.... the oldest Stewart girl... what's her name....

Dean: Oh, you mean Bernice and...

Barbara: Yeah, and what was his name?

Dean: I would have said it if... ???

Barbara: No....

Dean: What's his name? Uh.... Bernie? No that's what...

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Barbara: Oh, I can't think of...

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: I could see him...

Dean: Yeah... one arm...

Barbara: And it was the tavern down...

Dean: Right...

Barbara: 'Cause Buster loved to play pool, and he'd go down there and he did... and he'd forget to come home...

Dean: Would he?

Barbara: For dinner... yeah...

Dean: (chuckling)

Barbara: Oh, God... I used to just boil when he didn't come home when he'd go down there, 'cause he just loved to play pool. And he played pool with Teddy Allen's dad... Chris Allen, that lived way up...

Dean: Where Mary Versteeg lives?

Barbara: Yeah!

Dean: Yeah... So, what about down here... were there other buildings....

Barbara: Well, there was houses.

Dean: Right over here by LaFond's shop?

Barbara: Well, yeah, that's where... we lived in one of 'em... they were mill houses...

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: ... and there was three of 'em.

Dean: And this was Angell Mill? Is that what that was called?

Barbara: Oooh, I don't remember that name. I don't remember their name, but anyhow, we lived in the first one, and there was another one, and then there was another one, and Hildred at one time lived in one of 'em.

Dean: Because her husband was a Meyers...

Barbara: Right...

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Dean: Yeah...

Barbara: Ozzie Meyers... yeah... Ozzie... Ralph was one, and they were most like twins, Ralph and Ozzie.

Dean: Ok, then tell me this... in the Beaver Cemetery, it says two of triplets of Oscar Meyers... so one must have lived. Who was that?

Barbara: I don't know. I don't know.

Dean: And that was Edith Creecy's dad, was Oscar Meyer, and so was... oh, shoot, they were both teachers...

Barbara: Well, there was one that... what was her name? She taught over here at school...

Dean: And that was one of the daughters, wasn't it?

Barbara: Yeah...

Dean: Right. Yeah, I could do it if I'd think about it. What about where the Arc... where the 76 (gas station) is now... was there anything there?

Barbara: I don't think so. Well, there was an old building there, but I don't know what it was for.

Dean: And then, was it before you when the IOOF building was over here? I've seen pictures of this huge...

Barbara: It must have been before my time... would you tell me why that brick chimney is out there?

Dean: Yeah, I don't know... but Dad could, I think, 'cause I think he...

Barbara: I'd like to know what it is...

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: See, it's something about the cheese factory, I think.

Dean: Right. Must be. Dad worked there, so I'll ask him about that.

Barbara: See, when we lived up... this table, which as you know very old... out of date about sixty years... anyhow, I bought that from this house next door where Merle Jensen lived, 'cause he was the cheese maker.

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: He took his own life, you know. Merle did. And then they sold, and I bought that table and chairs from Merle... he was the cheese maker.

Dean: Sooo...

Barbara: That's Kenneth Jensen's brother...

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Dean: Did he live there before Alex Walker, or after Alex Walker, or...

Barbara: Probably before.

Dean: Hmmm...

Dean: And then the store that was down here...

Barbara: Auntie Aronsen...

Dean: And they had a gas station that was a Flying A, or something like that...

Barbara: I don't remember what it was... I remember it very well, 'cause we traded there.

Dean: Do you remember Grandma Wolf?

Barbara: Oh, yes!

Dean: Myrtle.

Barbara: Myrtle Wolf. Yes, I remember her. She was about this big, you know.

Dean: Right. Very large. I remember that. And I remember her living in a trailer. Dad said she used to live in a house for a while... a cabin, or something...

Barbara: Well, there was cabins right back of the store, 'cause Lloyd and Ethel Mason lived there, too.

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: And Grandma Wolf lived in one of those cabins.

Dean: Who lived in the Mason's house? Was it, uhhh... Abe...

Barbara: Abe Bays.

Dean: Yeah, ok...

Barbara: And we paid him six dollars a month for water.

Dean: Oh...

Barbara: He had the water... he owned the water.

Dean: Did you get your mail in this house?

Barbara: Right here.

Dean: Was it just right here on the porch area?

Barbara: Right there.

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Dean: Uh, huh (yes)

Barbara: Where the wall is along there, that was open... yeah... and...

Dean: That's...

Barbara: Daisy.

Dean: Daisy who?

Barbara: Roy Woods' grandma.

Dean: Oooh... did she live in this house?

Barbara: Yeah.

Dean: Ok, what about the little house that Mrs. Brassfield lived in... was that there then?

Barbara: Well, that's been there forever. Ethel Mason's folks built that.

Dean: Ooooh....

Barbara: Ethel's folks... Grandpa and Grandma Clouse built that...

Dean: And Masons have been here for...

Barbara: For a number of years...

Dean: Ok... and then going on up the road, Charlotte Finnell... how long did the Finnells...

Barbara: Oh, a long time. Uh... she... Chuck... Rick was born here... in Beaver... well, at the hospital...

Dean: Right...

Barbara: Who else was at that... uh, what was his... I don't remember names like I should...

Dean: You're doing fine.

Barbara: (chuckling) Well... who lived this of, uh, Marge and Jack Kellow... this side of the river... that pretty place there...

Dean: Nicklaus...

Barbara: Well, Nicklaus lived up here.. I think...

Dean: Oooooh....

Barbara: I think Nicklaus built the house where Norm and Joyce lived...

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Dean: Ok...

Barbara: And now that's been sold, and somebody else is there now.

Dean: Did you know the Sappingtons, then? Were they living up here?

Barbara: I know the name...

Dean: Uh, huh (yes)... up on Blanchard farm...

Barbara: Uh, huh (yes)...

Dean: And for a while, Joe Haynes said that his parents owned that farm, I think, or rented there, or something.

Barbara: Really? Yeah... well, there's lots to tell about this area, you know it? I'm really thankful that I've lived here. People think I had a very non... not much happened in my life, 'cause I moved from Woods to Beaver (laughing), and I've never done much traveling.

Dean: Uh, huh (yes). But it's been good, then.

Barbara: Very good life.

Dean: What about your husband, Buster?

Barbara: Yeah...

Dean: Was that his real name?

Barbara: Fred.

Dean: I knew that.

Barbara: Fred William.

Dean: And where did he come from?

Barbara: He come from Portland.

Dean: Uh, huh (yes). So, his family was out in that area?

Barbara: Well, uh... one sister married Lloyd Woods... his youngest sister... Toad....

Dean: Oooooohhh.... so that's how you moved by that house, and then bought the house.... ooh, I didn't... I didn't know that.

Barbara: Yeah... yeah...

Dean: What did he do for work?

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Barbara: Buster?

Dean: Yeah.

Barbara: Well, he start... when we were married, he was working at Tillamook Box Factory. Did you know there was one?

Dean: I've heard of it, but what would they make boxes for?

Barbara: I don't know. They made boxes for apples or something...

Dean: Ok... and then what did he do?

Barbara: And then.... well, we even picked hops, if you can believe it.

Dean: Where did you go to pick hops?

Barbara: Out by Salem.

Dean: Yeah.

Barbara: 'Cause we were very poor. We didn't have much money in those days. And then at the war time we moved to Portland and he worked for King Brothers Boiler makers, that built... (end of side one)

Barbara: ...Brothers Boiler makers, and then we came back to Beaver, and he bought a dump truck, and it was in... poor Merle Aronson spent many nights trying to keep that truck on the road, bless his heart... and anyhow... and then eventually he bought a log truck, and Lloyd, his brother, Lloyd Woods, bought another one at the same... they were just alike... at the same time... and he had that for quite a while, and then we bought several new ones.

Dean: So he hauled logs for quite a long time.

Barbara: Lots of one loads.

Dean: Uh, huh (yes)...

Barbara: Yeah... he bought, uh... oh..... what's Joyce's husband's name? Char... Watts...

Dean: Oh, yeah...

Barbara: Watts lived up... you know where David lives... up at Coles?

Dean: Yeah...

Barbara: And there's a road there by the... that goes... well, we hauled lots of... 'cause it was all old growth...

Dean: On Tony Creek...

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Barbara: We hauled all kinds of one log loads out of there.

Dean: Uh, huh (yes)...

Barbara: And as I say, they don't know what hauling logs is now.

Dean: Right...

Barbara: I think it's really sad. 'Course now they're not allowed to cut it.

Dean: Yeah, that's right. So, you haven't mentioned Bill yet. You had Kay, and then you had Bill...

Barbara: Yeah, I had in Portland...

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: Ok... and then we came back to Beaver, and you wouldn't get him out of here for anything in the world! No way! There's no place to live but Beaver!

Dean: Yeah. Ok, and just for the purposes of getting it on the tape, then tell about his kids and Kay's kids, if you can mention that.

Barbara: Oh, well, Kay has, uh... she's a lovely daughter... such a lovely daughter... she has three kids... she has two boys and a girl, and one boy lives in Eugene...

Dean: And his name is?

Barbara: Is Bill... William, and Brian, the other boy has his own business there in Florence... he's a mechanic... he has a good business... and then the daughter, Brenda, is married to a Coast Guard, and they have lived different places.

Dean: Uh, huh (yes)...

Barbara: Started out in Alaska, and then they went to Coos Bay, and then they went to San Francisco, now they're up in Washington, because he made chief and he's a recruiter, so they don't have to be by water anymore. Yeah... So that's Kay's three. And Bill... 'course there's Kari Kay... she's such a lovely... she very lovely... and she's in Wyoming....

Dean: Ooooh.... I didn't know that.

Barbara: Yeah, she's a beautician, you know... and Seth, he's just kinda' different... Kari Kay loves him, so I try to... (chuckling)... well, he's just different, you know...

Dean: I don't know him.

Barbara: And Kevin has had nothing but sorrow...

Dean: Hmmm...

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Barbara: He just dearly loves his child, he's a wonderful father to him, but he don't get him, you know, only on weekends... Lennie goes and gets him... his

name is Clayton, but Grandma calls him Bud... he's my little Bud... this is... that's my little Clayton...

Dean: How old is he?

Barbara: He's four... will be...

Dean: Oooooh.... that's a great age.

Barbara: Oh, he's just... he's very sharp for his age, really. He has... after this girl Kevin left Kevin and went back down to Lincoln City, she had another baby down there, another boy, so Len had brought him here to visit, and I asked him, I said, "Well, tell me about your baby brudder"... he calls him his Baby Brudder... he says, "Oh, Grandma, he can't talk." (Laughing) And I just thought I'd just die, it was so funny how he.... he can't talk!

Dean: (Laughing)

Barbara: But he's just had just sorrow, and I don't know how it's gonna' be any different. He's thirty-three... never been married... and he's had... oh, I don't know, I guess three different girls that he's been really in love with, or thought he was. He's a good boy, he's a hard worker, but he's just... it's kind of a sad life.

Dean: What does he do?

Barbara: He works for Fallon in the woods. He runs some kinda' piece of machinery that falls the trees, and limbs 'em and cuts 'em the proper length...

Dean: Yeah... right... a very modern piece of equipment...

Barbara: It's run by... it's run... it's computerized...

Dean: Yeah...

Barbara: That's what he does... has for quite some time... and he lives, you know, in the trailer up on the place here.

Dean: He must like it here, too.

Barbara: Oh, he'd never live any... no, Bill, you know... I mean, even to take a trip, you just don't do things like that... you just stay in Beaver (chuckling)... I guess it's wonderful.... I don't know... sometimes I'd... now Len is leaving the twenty-second... she's going to Kari Kay's for spring break...

Dean: Good for her. Yeah... you going with her?

Barbara: No, she never asked me.

Dean: (Guffaw! and slapping his leg)

Barbara: Besides, she's flying, and I don't fly.

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Dean: Yeah...

Barbara: And Kay and Lennie are very good friends, and they travel every summer... they go someplace.

Dean: Oh, good for them.

Barbara: So that... Kay and... this summer when, uh... Lennie and Kay will go back to Kari Kay's again. They bought a manufactured home... kids nowadays don't know anything about money, you know it? How do they just snow themselves under? Huh??

Dean: Yeah, everything is... every advertisement is buy, buy, buy and stuff, isn't it? It's easy to do.

Barbara: Yeah, but God! Then they get so far in debt, I don't know how they... I could never sleep!

Dean: Right. Yeah.

Barbara: But she's an excellent beautician, but I don't think they're ever going to have babies.

Dean: Hmmm...

Barbara: I just don't... they been married four years, and I just don't feel that they will. I could be all wrong.... not that she's ever said anything, but they just don't seem to have the... she loves Kevin's baby very much... she's very good with him, but I just don't think they feel that they want a family. So they don't know what they're missing. But...

Dean: Are there any other... any stories you can think of, of days gone by, anything that... a funny story that maybe you've passed on to your children that you remember about when you were little, or your parents or anything?

Barbara: Oh, Dean.... not really. I did lots of funny things, I imagine.

Dean: Well, then make me a deal that if something comes to your mind that you might just jot down some notes about it, that, uh... maybe I could get a story out of you at some point, or talk to you again.

Barbara: Ok... this has been wonderful! I've enjoyed...

Dean: I like this preserved. And what we'll do is... Darleen Cole will type all this up...

Barbara: Oh, heavens...

Dean: ...and we'll give you a copy, and you can look it over and you see if there's anything in there that you don't want anybody else to read, and once you deal with that, we'll take out anything you don't want there, and then we'll make copies and you can give them to your family and we'll keep 'em in a file at school so people can learn from 'em.

Barbara: Oh, my daughter would like that.

Dean: Yeah.

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Barbara: Yes, she'd like that.

Dean: So she does genealogy?

Barbara: Yeah. And the Mormons have a beautiful church down there. Man, they must have money. That's a brick building that's out of this world.

Dean: So she goes there for...

Barbara: She goes there... she has to pay, but not a lot...

Dean: Yeah...

Barbara: And that's... she goes there for her...

Dean: Does she have a computer?

Barbara: Uh, huh (yes)...

Dean: So she can go on the computer and get information, too... there's lots of information...

Barbara: Yes, yes... she has a computer.

Dean: Right.

Barbara: She's a very lovely lady. Divorced... I hated that, but...

Dean: Not much a mom can do...

Barbara: You can't live a life for 'em, you know.

Dean: Yep...

Barbara: Everybody makes mistakes... I've made 'em in my life, too, I'm sure.

Dean: Really? You didn't tell about any of those.

Barbara: (Laughing)... Well, I'm sure I probably have, Dean.

Dean: Here are your pictures.

Barbara: Oh, yes, those darned ol' things....

Dean: And I probably will talk to Lorraine (Eckhardt) about getting copies or something of those pictures.

Barbara: I love this picture of Dad and the... you know, Beaver burned at one time, years ago, see, and that's... look at all the snags...

Dean: Yeah...

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Barbara: Isn't that something? See, and it says right down here 1907...

Dean: Yeah... I think I've got a copy of this picture....

Barbara: And this is such a lovely picture of my...

Dean: But is that... is that Bunn Creek Road going up there?

Barbara: This house right here (pointing to picture) is down here at, uh... at whatchamacallits... you know... across the railroad... across the bridge...

Dean: Ummm... where....

Barbara: Millie Hubbs...

Dean: Oh, it is?

Barbara: That's... this is Hubbs' house right there...

Dean: Let me see that....

Barbara: See it?

Dean: Oh, I do now.

Barbara: Yeah... that's it.

Dean: Who lived there?

Barbara: Well, I don't remember.... I know Lily Wallace lived there for years...

Dean: Ok... let me tell you something.... I got a postcard from Lily Wallace...

Barbara: My God, how old is she?

Dean: I know! Because when Marge and Jack Kellow told me I should get information from Lily Wallace, I said, "What do I do, go to a cemetery?" They said, "She's alive!" And I said, "How old is she? 173?" Because when you're a kid and she's your teacher, you think she's got to be at least 80-something. But she's 90... 91 or 92... she sent me pictures...

Barbara: Really?

Dean: Would you like to see them?

Barbara: Oh, yes!

Dean: Ok, they're at home but... and wrote information, and Brian Kellow is going to interview her about her history... she wrote some things for me... but I could get her address if you'd want to write her.

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Barbara: Oh, I'd love to! I'd love to... that would be something to hear from Lily Wallace.

Dean: Because he just got a postcard from her the other day... she lives in Kansas... she remarried...

Barbara: Yeah, I knew... I did know that Marge... Marge has heard from her off and on during the years.

Dean: Her name is Knight... is that what it is?

Barbara: Oh, really?

Dean: Something like that, but... but I'll get her address for you...

Barbara: Bless... now, Shelley... you know my Shelley Watts...

Dean: Yeah...

Barbara: She was in... that was a lost year with Shelley, Lily Wallace was... she wasn't very good to Shelley, and she... Shelley was short and chunky, you know, and she made fun of her...

Dean: Oooo...

Barbara: In front of the kids, you know, and uh... Shelley... she always came to the kitchen when she got to school because I always gave her love and a kiss... and she always came... well, Lily came and said she was forbid to do that... well, I got my dandruff up... I said... so I just went to the principal, and he went and told Lily, he said, "I believe in families"...

Dean: Who was the principal at that time?

Barbara: I can't remember his name...

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: The one that his wife left him and went with the banker down at Cloverdale... the two women got together...

Dean: Was it Nedrow, or...

Barbara: No....

Dean: No, I don't think it was...

Barbara: Anyhow, but Lily had forbid her to come to the kitchen, and I just boiled so I went to the principal, and he went and talked to her and told her that that was fine, that she was allowed to go there... 'cause she just came to be loved, because she didn't get it at home... 'cause Joyce wasn't a person that showed any love to her kids...

Dean: Hmmmm....

Interview with Barbara Gilman Heitsman Johnson

Conducted by Dean Bones

March 14, 2003

Barbara: She fed 'em and clothed 'em, but Shelley told me, she says, "Aunt Barbara, I can't ever remember my mom loving me".

Dean: Hmm...

Barbara: You know, loving her... and she always loves me... always kisses me, Shel does, and Joyce is very jealous of me.

Dean: Wow....

Barbara: And that's sad.

Dean: Yep, it is.

Barbara: 'Cause she's such a wonderful girl... she's just... she's always was a good... she's a good student, and she's always had good jobs... now she's at the factory (Tillamook Cheese Factory), and she has her own office.

Dean: Oh, I didn't know that.

Barbara: She quit... well, they didn't have good insurance and stuff... the vets didn't, you know... but it's really good at the factory.

Dean: Sure... good for her.

Barbara: So she quit and she has her own office.

Dean: You know, I'm wondering if you have any good stories about any of the teaching staff or any of the staff at school while you worked there.

Barbara: Oh, gosh, I had so many... I had so many good teachers... just all kinds of good teachers. I was looking at some pictures the other day, 'cause I've got pictures always, every year, of all of us... the staff and everything, you know, and the cooks were all...

Dean: Starting in 1959?

Barbara: Oh, I don't know how far back.

Dean: You know, I would love to copy those on a computer, 'cause I've gotta' tell you that I looked for pictures of Beaver School... you know the class pictures... they're all gone, except for the late 1970's or into the 80's... somebody must have burned 'em...

Barbara: Oh, really?

Dean: They're all gone... every one... all of 'em... and so, I would love to try to make files of 'em...

Barbara: Well, yeah, I'll get 'em out and see that you get 'em...

Dean: It only takes a couple days to copy them and get 'em back, but...

Interview with Barbara Gilman Heitsman Johnson

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Barbara: But then I look at those and I just think that there's all those kids that I know, you know, and the teachers...

Dean: Right...

Barbara: And you know, Bill Starr might have had his faults, but he was the best principal I worked for. 'Cause that kitchen was... Bill was a part of that school... it wasn't just stuck off down there by itself and you fed kids... it was just... and he was... I really enjoyed working for Bill.

Dean: Who was the first principal that hired you?

Barbara: Oh, God, he lived down here in that house this side of...

Dean: Winegar?

Barbara: ... where Elton and Leta lived...

Dean: Winegar?

Barbara: Yeah...

Dean: Yeah... I think that's who lived there... or was it Stan Knight?

Barbara: I didn't work for Stan Knight...

Dean: It must have been Winegar...

Barbara: 'Cause Stan... uh... he was there when Kay graduated from grade school...

Dean: Ok...

Barbara: Stan Knight was... yeah...

Dean: Hmmm...

Barbara: Hmmm... well, this has been fun...

Dean: Well, walking down memory lane...

Barbara: Yeah... it's good for a person's mind...

Dean: So this is...

Barbara: Cloverdale...

Dean: And....

Barbara: And the... yeah, but look at that... see, that house that's the white one...

Interview with Barbara Gilman Heitsman Johnson

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Dean: Yeah... oh...

Barbara: That's there by the...

Dean: Yeah... the Nellie Fox house...

Barbara: Yeah... this one right here... that's that...

Dean: Actually... and it was Charles Ray's house at first...

Barbara: But, see, there's nothing but a mud road... nothing at....

(end of tape)

Transcribed by:

Darleen Cole

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