

# Interview with Shirley Lobb Blanchard

Conducted by Dean Bones & Students of Nestucca Valley Middle School

April 16, 2002

**Student:** *Please tell the name of the grade school you attended, and describe, if you can, the exact location of the school.*

**SB:** I'm having trouble hearing...

**DB:** *(To Student:) You don't mind, do you?*

**Student:** *No.*

**DB:** So, you attended Brown School, and actually we know where.. where Brown is, because we all traveled up there, right, so I'm gonna' skip that one. Ummm.. if you have any idea of when the school started, or when it closed...

**SB:** *No, I don't.*

**DB:** *And the courthouse records were destroyed, so we don't have some of those records. Can you describe for us what you remember about the school building?*

**SB:** It seemed like it was an enormously big building, which if... when I see it now... or if I could see it, it's not very big. It was a big white building... one big room...

**DB:** *OK*

**SB:** And two little anterooms, or one where we kept our lunch, and the other we hung our coats in....

**DB:** *So, as you look at the building... is that what... it had two windows, didn't it?*

**SB:** Ya, two windows..

**DB:** *So the one on the left was what?*

**SB:** That was our lunch room... where we put our lunch buckets...

**DB:** *OK.*

**SB:** The one on the right we put our boots and our rain clothes.

**DB:** *Uh, huh (yes). So, was there a hall... there wasn't a hallway, probably?*

**SB:** No hall, just one great large room, with a heating stove in the center, which was, uh... as much as I remember, it looked like a fifty gallon oil barrel... about that size..

**DB:** *Right in the middle of the ...*

**SB:** Right in the middle of the room...

**DB:** *So the chimney just went..*

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**SB:** Straight through the ceiling.

**DB:** *Where'd the wood come from?*

**SB:** We had a wood shed out back, and John and Emanuel Borba usually kept the wood shed filled, and it was to the rest of us to keep the fire going.

**DB:** *The kids do it?*

**SB:** The kids did it.

**DB:** *Not the teacher?*

**SB:** Uh, well, we brought the wood in... I think the teacher put the... put it in the stove... as much as I remember.

**DB:** *Now, there was, uh... Quentin's grandparents lived right behind the school? Is that right?*

**SB:** His grandmother lived in a little cabin behind the school, off to the east a little bit...

**DB:** *And then...*

**SB:** And his uncle lived just down the hill from the school.

**DB:** *(to student) So, if you remember when we took a tour and got off the bus, and started walking, there was an orchard right there? That's where we're talking about.. where the uncle lived at...*

**SB:** Uncle Emanuel, yes.

**DB:** *Umm... and water, there was no water in the building...*

**SB:** No, there was no water... we had to go down the hill a ways, to a spring, and bring up a bucket of water with a dipper... we always were happy to be the one to go get it...

**DB:** *So, kids all took turns, or was it the same ones?*

**SB:** Same ones.

**DB:** *Same ones. Did you go alone, or did you have a partner?*

**SB:** No, we... usually someone went with us... one of... my sister, or somebody...

**DB:** *We went up and saw where the spring is.*

**SB:** Not much there anymore.

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**DB:** *No, there isn't. And that was all clear... wasn't it.. there weren't really trees, at that time, was there?*

**SB:** Yes, there were.

**DB:** *Oh, there were?*

**SB:** Ya...

**DB:** *So, you couldn't see...*

**SB:** Down where the spring was, there were trees around.

**DB:** *And then walking to the school, was that an open...*

**SB:** That was open...

**DB:** *OK. Was that, you think, from forest fire at one point, or had... it been logged?*

**SB:** I think... uh, I think it was from a fire, because I remember, uh, there were some huge logs in the... that had been piled up in the field, and we used to get out there and play among the logs, and they had been burned...

**DB:** *OK.*

**SB:** Now, whether it was from a fire, or where they... some of the Borba's had set them afire, I don't know.

**DB:** *So, was the school, you think, was it.. I don't remember what Quentin said... it was donated by Borbas but if it was on their original property, or not, I don't remember...*

**SB:** It was on their property.

**DB:** *Oh, it was. OK. And at the time... or was it long before you, when that... when the county road went up by the spring, or was that the main road at that time?*

**SB:** No, it wasn't the main road... they used it somewhat, but it wasn't the main road. The main road went on up where it does now, up into the forestry.

**DB:** *OK.*

**SB:** Up... Where ?? used to live, up in there.

**DB:** *??... So you mean, furth... Bays... um...*

**SB:** On up Bays Creek...

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**DB:** *Ah.. but the road to get to Blaine... was that where it is now? On.. on the county road, or was that on that.. on the Brown side of the river?*

**SB:** You could go that way, but I don't think very many people did.

**DB:** *OK. So it must have been earlier than that that was that was...*

**SB:** No...

**DB:** *I was told that was the main county road. What about a stage in your school or anything?*

**SB:** A stage? Oh, we used to rig up a stage, sort of. On Christmas and Thanksgiving... any holiday we tried to have some kind of a play.

**DB:** *So, parents were invited at that...*

**SB:** The parents came...

**DB:** *OK. What about a play shed, or...*

**SB:** There was a play shed.

**DB:** *Where was it located?*

**SB:** Just to... just in back of the school. It was just a big open air building, with a roof over it, pretty much.

**DB:** *OK.*

**SB:** Had some swings...

**DB:** *Dirt floor?*

**SB:** No, it was a wooden floor.

**DB:** *Oh, really? Swings inside, on the... under the play shed?*

**SB:** Uh, ya. But that... that was about it, as far as....

**DB:** *You knew what I was going to ask... There was di... haven't I seen in pictures of a bell in the school? Oh, I know there was.*

**SB:** Oh, yes, there was a bell.

**DB:** *Do you know where it is now?*

**SB:** I have no idea.

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**DB:** *Ah... it's in the church at Beaver.*

**SB:** Is it?

**DB:** *Quentin told me that his dad donated it to them, as long as they used it, they could keep it. And I... I just found that out last year.*

**SB:** Do they use it?

**DB:** *Ya, ya. Uh, but I'd like to know where all the bells are for the other schools. Something I'm curious about. So, from where to where did the kids live that went to the school? How far down Blaine Road...*

**SB:** Well, we lived farthest away, I think. Uh, there where Lance ?? is now, or.. uh, Lantzes, Marvin Lantz used to live there... we lived.. that's where we lived, and then Joe Haines came to school... he lived on up Bays Creek... and the Borba kids, and that was it... except occasionally someone would come in for a while.

**DB:** *So even down as far as where Quentin's house is now, they didn't go to Brown... would they have gone to Wolf Creek or something?*

**SB:** No, they would have gone to Brown.

**DB:** *Oh, they would have also gone to Brown. So when you say Lantzes house...*

**SB:** Where Marvin Lantz used to live... it's just the first pl...

**DB:** ??

**SB:** Edna Lantz, uh, huh (yes).

**DB:** *OK. All right. What about... how far up river... well, you didn't go up river, did you, so that would have been it.*

**SB:** No.

**DB:** *And what are all the ways that students got to school while you were in school... did they... you know...*

**SB:** We walked.

**DB:** OK.

**SB:** I can never remember my dad taking us to school.

**DB:** *Do you remember any kids being driven to school?*

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**SB:** Nope.... no... none of them were... well, uh... Haines used to bring Joe once in a while, and let him off at the bottom of the hill, and he would... 'cause he was on crutches... I don't know if you remember Joe or not... but he was on crutches, but he'd make his way up there to school.

**DB:** *How far up was their place? Up Bays Creek... was that in that cleared off area...*

**SB:** That cleared off place... just past the bridge.

**DB:** *OK. I heard Quentin talk about a... a boy that was on crutches...*

**SB:** Oh, that was Joe...

**DB:** *... and he had to walk...*

**SB:** Uh, huh (yes)

**DB:** *... quite a distance to school.*

**SB:** He could get around pretty good.

**DB:** *Why was he on crutches.. do you... remember what was wrong with him?*

**SB:** I don't think... I'm not positive, but I... as much as I can remember, I don't think he had any knees... kneecaps... 'cause his legs were stiff.

**DB:** *Oh.*

**SB:** And he'd just swing himself around.

**DB:** *And I think Quentin said it was miles that he had to go.. I'm not sure how far...*

**SB:** Uh... well it was... what is it? A quarter of a mile?

**Tom Blanchard:** Oh, it'd be a mile.

**SB:** About a mile...

**DB:** *OK. Ea.. each way probably...*

**SB:** We... we were pretty much on our own... if we wanted to do anything, we walked... no busses...

**DB:** *There wouldn't have been any traffic that would go up past there, either...*

**SB:** Very little.

**DB:** *Ya. So, what time... if you remember, what time did school start in the morning, and what time did it get out?*

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**SB:** We started at nine o'clock every morning, rain or shine... and we stayed... school let out at four o'clock in the afternoon. We had a recess... fifteen minute recess, and an hour for lunch, but it was nine to four, every day. And no spring vacations, no Easter vacation, no inservice days for teachers so the kids got out... no, we were expected to be there five days a week.

**DB:** *So about when did you get out for summer?*

**SB:** It was usually long about the first of May...

**DB:** *And when did you start... school?*

**SB:** Uh, September... 'bout the same as it is now.

**DB:** *OK. So, could you tell us what a typical day might look like... a typical school day... from the moment you left home to when you got back home.*

**SB:** Moment we left home... it was usually raining... I remember we wore boots to school, and slickers... and... old miserable slickers.. and we carried our shoes...

**DB:** *Oooh..*

**SB:** And that's the way our day started. And we walked. And we got to school, and... I don't know... we'd salute the flag, and... had some music... teacher played an old organ... think it was an organ

**DB:** *Was that like a... pedal organ thing, or...*

**SB:** Uh... It must've been.

**DB:** *Must've been.*

**SB:** And we sang some of the old songs... It's a Long, Long Trail, and... (laughing)...

**DB:** *Do you remember any other names of them? That would be fun for us to try to find some copies.*

**SB:** Oh, uh... oh, lot of the old songs... John Brown's Body, The Golden Slippers, uh... Long, Long Trail, uh...

**DB:** *What else?*

**SB:** Uh... Can't think of 'em.

**DB:** *So you started...*

**SB:** But we never had any modern... any songs like they have now.

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**DB:** *OK. So, you sang, and then what?*

**SB:** Oh, we'd usually do our reading, writing, and arithmetic, and that was... after lunch the teacher'd read us a story... read a book...

**DB:** *Do you remember any books that they would read... the names of some of them?*

**SB:** There... uh.... one was Uncle Tom's Cabin, and the other was The Oregon... uh... was a book on Oregon...

**DB:** *Uh, huh (yes)*

**SB:** But they were pretty interesting. She'd always stop in an exciting place and we'd have to wait 'til the next day to see what happened. And it rained a lot... we... we'd read in the play shed, or... the girls would usually play jacks with the teacher during the lunch hour...

**DB:** *Hmmm...*

**SB:** If we could get outside, we'd play Annie Over and sometimes marbles... uh... I know...

**DB:** *So in the afternoon... wha.... how was that different from the morning... was it same subjects....*

**SB:** Same thing... geography...

**DB:** *OK. How did you know school was out? Was there some bell or something, or...*

**SB:** We had a clock on the wall... (laughing)... we could usually tell when it was time to go home. Uh, I don't think she rang the bell.

**DB:** *What about to start school... did they ever ring the bell?*

**SB:** Oh, yes. Every morning....

**DB:** *That's when they rang it...*

**SB:** That's when they rang the bell, and sometimes we'd be down the road and we'd hear the bell ring, and we had about five minutes to get there, no matter where we were.

**DB:** *So... so it was... about five minutes before school started...*

**SB:** Ya..

**DB:** *Oooh... So, how... how were the students taught... (tape fades out)*

**SB:** No, she... um... that's been a long time ago... uh, no, we'd usually have each grade... course there were only... only at the most there was only about six of us in the school, so that wasn't really a



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big problem. Quentin and my sister, Helen, were in the lower grades, and, uh... it really wasn't a problem that I remember.

**DB:** *Was there ever much homework?*

**SB:** No... once in a great while, but we were expected to do most of it at school.

**DB:** *If there was ever a student who misbehaved at school, what might a punishment be?*

**SB:** I can't ever remember anyone being punished.

**DB:** *OK.*

**SB:** That probably came when we got home (laughing).

**DB:** *What might happen if.. if you did something at school that you shouldn't have, what might happen at home? Would they agree with the teacher, or with you, or...*

**SB:** We'd probably get a talking to when we got home... but I can't ever remember any of us being punished.

**DB:** *Not even Quentin?*

**SB:** Oh, he... (laughing) .. he usually got out of it, I'm quite sure.

**DB:** *(laughing) Uh... Was there any... what was the technology in school... I don't mean computers, but... I .. what... were there any phones?*

**SB:** No phones.

**DB:** *Electricity?*

**SB:** No electricity.

**DB:** *Um... what did you write with? Did you have pencils...*

**SB:** Pencils.. and we had a... pen and ink...

**DB:** *So it was an ink container...*

**SB:** An ink container with a... uh... one of those miserable pens that you dip in the ink.

**DB:** *Did kids really dip girls' pigtails in inkwells?*

**SB:** I don't know as they did, but they were certainly tempted to, I'm quite sure, especially Quentin. (laughing)

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**DB:** *And... uh... the pencils... were they bigger, fat pencils or were they regular size?*

**SB:** I think they were regular.

**DB:** *OK. What would happen, then, if you didn't have a telephone... if somebody got injured at your school... do you ever remember that happening... how would you deal with a... an emergency?*

**SB:** Good question... I don't . . . if we ever had an emergency.

**DB:** *.... people remember emergencies, but it kinda' makes me wonder, when I think about it.*

**SB:** I know my sister was... when she was.. when she first started, she would come to school, and pretty soon the teacher'd see tears rolling down her face, and she'd say, "Helen, you can go home and see your mama", and she would walk home by herself, and she was about six.

**DB:** *How... how old do you think she was at that point?*

**SB:** 'bout six...

**DB:** *Oh, you just said that.*

**SB:** First grade...

**DB:** *Oh... I meant, how far then, would she walk, about?*

**SB:** Oh... it was a mile... a good mile.

**DB:** *Was that ever scary, walking that distance?*

**SB:** Oh, it didn't seem to be.

**DB:** *Was the community involved in the school in any way?*

**SB:** Only they'd always show up for our programs... but other than that, they... I don't think they were too involved.

**DB:** *What kinds of things would you do for a program?*

**SB:** Oh, we'd have a little play.. we'd speak pieces, and sing songs, and...

**DB:** *OK.*

**SB:** ... some of those crazy things.

**DB:** *And was the building ever used for community functions of any kind, besides school things?*

**SB:** I can't remember that it was... it could have been, but I don't remember.

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**DB:** (to students) And if there's any of these kids that stay for a late bus... do any of you stay for a late bus? They're going to show you some pictures that we have on our website... we don't have very many, but we have a few, and there actually is an old Brown School, that is unpainted... a really old one... and there's the white building... unless we have the wrong school ...

**SB:** *I don't remember any brown... the white one is the only one that I ever knew.*

**DB:** OK. So, you mentioned she... several times... who were... who were your teachers, if you remember?

**SB:** One ... my first teacher was Fanny Smith...

**DB:** *OK.*

**SB:** I think I must... uh, I went part of the second grade and part of the third grade there... I was... we were back and forth from Idaho to down here...

**DB:** *Oh...*

**SB:** ... but Fanny was a special teacher... she used to spoil us terribly. I loved her...

**DB:** *How would she spoil you?*

**SB:** She would... I remember, she gave us long, black licorice sticks with a red jelly bean in the end of it when we got a hundred on our tests.. uh... and she'd just do little things for us...

**DB:** *And then...*

**SB:** And then in... next teacher was uh... Pat Quinn... Pat Easom...

**DB:** *Hmm... so Easom was her maiden name? Or married...*

**SB:** Quinn... she was Pat.. Pat Quinn...

**DB:** *OK.*

**SB:** And then she married Elmer Easom.. he used to come court her... we'd get pretty excited about that...

**DB:** *Would he come to school?*

**SB:** He.. he came to school a few times, and pick her up after school...

**DB:** *Ohh... ok, anybody else that you remember being a teacher?*

**SB:** That was the only teachers that we had... but...

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**DB:** *What about a principal?*

**SB:** Um... see... J. E. O'Neill used to come and visit school about once a year.. twice a year...

**DB:** *The county superintendent...*

**SB:** County Superintendent... didn't have a principal, I don't think... at least none that I remember.

**DB:** *The teacher, I think, probably served that role...*

**SB:** She did.

**DB:** *So.. wha... you mentioned some of the games that you played at recess... can you think of any others at this point? You mentioned marbles and jacks and Annie Over...*

**SB:** Annie Over, and... I don't remember what we called them... there were some other things... we'd chose up sides, but I can't remember what...

**DB:** *Did you ever go off and play in the woods?*

**SB:** Oh, yes. We used to take walks in the woods.. pick flowers...

**DB:** *With the teachers, or...*

**SB:** Usually.. well, sometimes she would go, but that was... a lit.. kinda' crippled... she was... limped pretty much... so she couldn't really get around real well.

**DB:** *And what caused that, do you know?*

**SB:** I... think she had polio, but I'm not sure.

**DB:** *So... we really want to hear any personal stories that you remember about anything happening... anything associated with school... whether it was a walk to school, or... something you might think about back in your school days. Is there any situation you can recall?*

**SB:** I remember Quentin's uncle Emanuel used to stand in the barn, and we'd walk by to school, every morning, he'd catch us, and he'd say, "Good morning, boys"... and of course, we were pretty indignant... we were not boys.. so we'd say, "Good morning, girls", and he'd ... "I'm not a girl, I don't wear dresses"... and then of course, we would re... "Well, we don't wear pants", and that would catch us every time... just embarrass us to death...

**DB:** *He did that just to tease you?*

**SB:** Oh, ya... he loved to tease... but he used to really get our goat. Let me see... uh... one year, I remember, there was a Jack Larrew... was in school for a... a few months... I don't know whe... what happened to him, where he went, or anything, but he was there for a while... he used to show off and

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crack eggs on his head... all these boiled eggs... well, one time he got the wrong one, and he was a mess for a long time... he had egg yolk running all over him. He never did that again.

**DB:** *Did he bring them for lunch to eat?*

**SB:** Ya.

**DB:** *(laughing)*

**SB:** And he'd always crack 'em on his head. That sorta' cured him. Uh...

**DB:** *OK. I'm gonna' change the subject a little bit... just so we can learn a little bit more about you... if it's ok to ask this, when and where were you born?*

**SB:** Caldwell, Idaho...

**DB:** *OK.*

**SB:** 1924...

**DB:** *And you were a Lobb?*

**SB:** Yes.

**DB:** *OK. What's your ancestry?*

**SB:** Well, my folks were both English, I think, and... uh... my dad was a World War I veteran... uh... disabled... hundred percent disabled...

**DB:** *From the war?*

**SB:** From the war.

**DB:** *Are they buried around here?*

**SB:** Uh... yes... at Beaver... both of my parents...

**DB:** *So that's why... Wilma is also buried up there.*

**SB:** Yes, she is.

**DB:** *Oh... we haven't ... this group hasn't been up there yet.. we'll walk up to the cemetery and look it over.. 'cause one of the projects that I hope our school will take on some year... you know, when we look up there at the graves, I've asked my kids last year how many people do you think are buried here, and they guessed maybe forty... because there aren't very many headstones.*

**SB:** No.

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**DB:** *We have a listing, and there are over one hundred and forty people.. a lot are unmarked... and so, it would be good for us to grid that out and mark... remark those... that's a project we may take on.*

**SB:** I know Quentin's little brother is... Loren... is buried up there...

**DB:** *That's what he said.*

**SB:** ...my dad was present when he was killed. They were cutting wood up on the... behind the school, and a tree fell on him, and my dad took him in to the hospital.

**DB:** *Hm... you said your dad's... you mean, Quentin's brother.. is that who you mean?*

**SB:** Quentin's brother, uh, huh (yes).

**DB:** *Right.. ok. So, did your family... I think you already answered this... but did your family live in one place, or did you move in different places as you grew up?*

**SB:** We... uh... my home is in Idaho... in Caldwell... but we came down here in the summers, when I was younger, and we were back and forth, but dad liked it down here, so we eventually moved down here permanently... well, sorta' permanently... then we left... he put... sold the place, and we moved back to Idaho when I was just starting the seventh grade.

**DB:** *What was in Idaho that drew them back there?*

**SB:** Well, that's where my folks were from...

**DB:** *OK.*

**SB:** That was home.

**DB:** *Where you live now, did that used to own... belong to your parents at all... that property.. or not?*

**SB:** The place where Lantz... Edna Lantz lived... that was our place.

**DB:** *How much land did they have with that...*

**SB:** Oh, most of Camelback, uh.. I think there was a hundred and some acres...

**DB:** *So it went back beyond the place, then...*

**SB:** Uh, huh (yes). And the place where, uh... Petey Smith lives... uh, that was part of our place.

**DB:** *Who owned where.. where you live now.. who had that?*

**SB:** Uh...

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**DB:** *Was that part of the Borba place?*

**SB:** That was John Borba's place... Quentin's folks.

**DB:** *Oh. OK. Think of any events that occurred during your childhood... and we're not talking necessarily school... but, any important events that you remember. Whatever... worldwide events, or.. anything in your family, or community?*

**SB:** I remember the big fire... going home from school, and it was dark, or all but dark... and they...

**DB:** *How close did it come to where you lived?*

**SB:** How close did it come?

**DB:** *Was it quite a ways away....*

**SB:** No, it was close.

**Tom Blanchard:** Oh, it was probably ten or twelve air miles north..

**DB:** *Uh, huh (yes).*

**SB:** I remember the ashes falling.. the leaves.. burned leaves falling...

**DB:** *Was that kind of a scary thing?*

**SB:** Very scary.. I know my folks were ready to... were packed and ready to leave if we needed to, but...

**DB:** *About what time was that fire? What year? Do.. you recall?*

**SB:** Oh... I don't know.

**DB:** *Was that the first one of the three big ones?*

**SB:** I think so.

**DB:** *Any other events that you recall?*

**SB:** Nothing much happened in those days.

**DB:** *I've read that the area across the river was called Hazel Bend. In fact, I think his name was John Blalock, who used to go to Brown School, long before you...*

**SB:** John Blalock was our... was the place that we owned.

**DB:** Oh.

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**SB:** *My dad bought it from Blalock.*

**DB:** *Oh. So, he's ninety-one, maybe... something like that... he came last year... it's the first time he had driven back to the Brown School area, but he couldn't find it. And now that we know, we could actually take him up there, but, uh... he wrote articles about Hazel Bend... across the river.. the community there.... if you're interested, I could show you those.*

**SB:** I would love to see 'em.

**DB:** *Let me make a note of that, so I make sure that I do it. Uh... what were your chores and responsibilities when you were growing up?*

**SB:** We were pretty much free spirits, I think, I... don't remember really having any chores, except helping around the house.

**DB:** *What about.. did you have brothers or sisters at all?*

**SB:** I had two sisters and brother.

**DB:** *Did your brother have outside chores more than the girls did?*

**SB:** No, he was the youngest of the family, and pretty spoiled. (laughing)

**DB:** *OK. When you were a child, and I know this is a hard one... but, do you know... did you have a dream of being something... did you wanna' be something when you grew up, or... or what?*

**SB:** No, I don't think so. We pretty much... we were a pretty close knit family, and our lives centered right around our.. our family.

**DB:** *Uh, huh (yes). Did you do... what did you do with the family? Did you do games, or stories, or skits in the evenings, or what did you do to entertain yourselves?*

**SB:** My older sister was a wonderful story teller, and she pretty well kept us entertained.

**DB:** *Was that Wilma?*

**SB:** Yes.

**DB:** *Really?*

**SB:** She'd tell wonderful stories, but she'd always quit right at the exciting place, and we'd have to promise to do the dishes or something, in order to get her to continue.

**DB:** *(laugh) Where did she learn the stories?*

**SB:** Pardon?



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April 16, 2002

**DB:** *Where did she learn the stories?*

**SB:** They were just made up stories...

**DB:** *Really. Did you... do you remember any favorite books, or favorite hobbies?*

**SB:** Reading.... I really didn't get into reading until I got a little older... um..

**DB:** *Books probably weren't that available, either.*

**SB:** No, they weren't. We had... never had any library... only what was at school, and... our school did not have much.

**DB:** *What were your parents' names?*

**SB:** Alice and Jim Lobb.

**DB:** *And what do you remember most about your mom and your dad?*

**SB:** What do I remember most?

**DB:** *Or what were some of the memories you have of them?*

**SB:** My mother worked very hard... dad was disabled... he had part of one lung, was all... and so he was really limited on what he could do... but, uh... they were... both of them were just wonderful parents.

**DB:** *So when you say he was limited, he probably couldn't, uh... endurance wasn't much, or he'd tire, or...*

**SB:** No, he couldn't do a lot of the walking, or... or anything. He enjoyed driving and... uh, ...

**DB:** *Can you think... I know these are hard... but what was the best advice... or what was some of the advice that your mother and father gave you... maybe some lessons you learned from them?*

**SB:** Boy, those are hard ones. (laughing)

**DB:** *And you know... if later on, you think of anything more that might help us out.. something to say... you can call and tell us, or just write a short note, and I'll talk to you later.*

**SB:** OK. Sorry... I...

**DB:** *No, you're doing... a lot of these kids can't remember their school work the next day! I forget things the same as they do, so don't apologize.*

**SB:** It's been a long time.

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**DB:** *So tell us about any of your accomplishments or occupations that you had over the years.*

**SB:** That I had? Um.. I just... being a housewife, and loving my grandkids.

**DB:** *And you've raised how many kids?*

**SB:** Pardon?

**DB:** *How many kids did you have?*

**SB:** Just two.. Tom and Kathy.

**DB:** *All right. How many grandkids do you have?*

**SB:** We have seven grandkids, and... two, four, five great-grandkids.

**DB:** *Wow. And are there some special interests that you have in anything.. you know, some people crochet a lot, and some people are interested in traveling, and...*

**SB:** I love to read and I love to travel, but ... we don't do much of that anymore.

**DB:** *Maybe someday when he retires.*

**SB:** (laughing) When is that going to be?

**DB:** *I don't know...*

**Tom Blanchard:**... telephone operator...

**DB:** *Ya!*

**Tom Blanchard:** You can tell a story about that.

**DB:** *So, where were you a telephone operator?*

**SB:** In Tillamook.. I had almost fifteen years.

**DB:** *So, people actually... you were the operator they got when they called?*

**SB:** Um... well, there were a number of us...

**DB:** *Uh, huh (yes).*

**SB:** ... but when I started it was... in the old office, where we had... number, please... and we would connect...

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**DB:** *Really?*

**SB:** ... uh... the numbers.

**DB:** *So they would just connect somehow on the phone, and you were the....*

**SB:** Ya, would connect to the switchboard.

**DB:** *Did you actually push it in a hole or something?*

**SB:** Oh, yes... I think... uh.. there used to be one of the switchboards down at the hospital... I don't know what they ever did with that.. maybe it's still there...

**DB:** *Hm...*

**SB:** ... ones that we used.. but we would have... uh, fifteen or so calls up at the same.

**DB:** *How'd you get started in that?*

**SB:** Just went down and applied for a job.

**DB:** *Really. Are there any community or religious activities that you'd like to tell us about?*

**SB:** Oh, we're pretty much involved with our church. Um...

**DB:** *I know what church that is, but why don't you say it so they have it on the tape...*

**SB:** Hemlock Church of the Nazarene... up on the corner of...

**DB:** *Did I read... did I read that... that's not the name anymore?*

**SB:** It's not the name anymore, it's Countryside... but I don't think I'll ever get used to it.

**DB:** *Ya, that's ok. Ok, we're almost finished. What are some thoughts you have about living in this area? Do you think it's been good, or difficult, or anything?*

**SB:** Well, I can't imagine living anywhere else... this is a good place to live... if it would just quit raining.

**DB:** *But you think it was a good place to raise your children?*

**SB:** I think so.

**DB:** *And.. you guys, you don't know the view that they have out of their home, but it... you have to have one of the most beautiful views of the river.*

**SB:** Ya, we do. And the mountain.

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**DB:** *And the mountain. So, we're very interested in stories.. not just facts about things... but... pretend that you're sitting here with your grandchildren... tell us some stories that you would like your grandchildren to hear about your life experiences, or even life experiences of your parents that you've heard them tell... are there any stories that you want your grandparents... grandchildren to hear and tell their kids?*

**SB:** Well, I'd have to think about that. I...

**DB:** *OK.. you do... and if you think of something, then, uh... it would be great for us to hear. Ok, so we're going to type up your comments and stories... we'll send a copy to you, and then, we also would like you to know that the Gathering this year is at May 29th, at twelve o'clock noon, and these kids... that have been thrilled with doing all the camera stuff over here.. these kids are actually gonna' do a presentation about Brown School...*

**SB:** Well, good.

**DB:** *They're gonna' do one on... on what's called Powerpoint... like a slide show, but it's on computers and it will show up on the wall, and they are going to do some writing... they are gonna' use what they learned from you to answer some questions about the school... and your... the transcript from this interview will be kept forever... as long as we can... so that maybe someday, fifty years from now, when your grandkids or great-grandkids come along and say I wanna' learn more about... you know, my great-grandma... that we're gonna'... we have an archives that we've established here at school... and all this is gonna' be kept. And we just yesterday went online with our library system, so not only will our books be online, but people from across the world can actually... if they want to search for somebody, could type in Shirley Lobb or Shirley Blanchard, and what would come up... it would just say... transcript of an interview.. would just say what we have here... And it might say biography about you, or anytime somebody else mentioned about you, we might... so they would know where to look to find any information... so...*

**SB:** That's wonderful.. It's so far beyond what I had when I went to school... we learned the basics, and that was about it.

**DB:** *And, you know, all these kids can type... which, you know.. I just... I learned that in high school.. but they can all type really well, and they... they'll do the typing of a lot of this... this stuff, so... Um... What I'm gonna' do, is I'm gonna' have them take you into the.. if you still have a little bit of time...*

**SB:** Uh, huh (yes)

**DB:** *... take you into the computer lab, and I think there's about six pictures of Brown School, and... just for you to enjoy looking at them.. and then you're going to ask if you can identify any of the people in the photos... and Arturo, you need to make sure that... that we get those names down spelled correctly. Oh, you're gonna' do it here? Oh, you're on the ball. So we'll be leaving and you guys can just do it here... o.. ok, when I go... and.. thank you for coming. See, that wasn't so painful, was it?*

**SB:** Pretty painful.

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**DB:** *But... and yours will be the same thing, Tom. When you come in... oh, but with a different group of kids..*

**Tom Blanchard:** OK, all right. Well, I'll have a little idea of what they want.

**DB:** *And if you... if you do come across any photos, or anything else that you'd like to share, we'd love to... well, well.. you'll see that we copy them and they go on the computer and we give them back. So... Guys, do you have any questions that you might want to ask, or any comments?*

**Student:** *I have one...*

**DB:** *OK..*

**Student:** *When you were walking to school, did you, like, see any animals when you were there?*

**DB:** *Did you see any animals when you were walking to school?*

**SB:** Umm... nothing that impressed me.

**DB:** *Not like a bear or cougar or something...*

**SB:** We used to have bears... uh... couple of cub bears... should have told you that... I forgot it...

**DB:** *That you had as pets, or something...*

**SB:** Well, our neighbor and dad set a trap back on Camelback, and they were wanting to get a bear, but they got this ol' mother bear, and she had these two cubs... just newborns... and they couldn't get her.. there was no way they could get her out of the trap, and so they had to kill her... and they caught the little female cub, but the other one got away... and they took 'em, probably close to a week to catch him, but then they brought him down, and we had them at our place for a long time.

**DB:** *Then what happened to them?*

**SB:** Uh, well they were about half grown, and went back to Idaho, and... they.. 'cause they caused nothing but problems up there... dad put them in a little barn that he had.. and it scared the cows so bad, he couldn't...

**DB:** *You took them to Idaho?*

**SB:** We took them to Idaho.

**DB:** *Oh, my...*

**SB:** Put 'em in the barn.. scared the cow half to death... and so he had to bring 'em back.. brought 'em up to the house and put 'em in the basement... well, that was ok for a little while, but then were gone to town one day, and they come back, and the water man was at our house... and they had

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turned the water on, and the basement... flooded the basement, and they were sitting up on a little shelf up above the washing machine, and... that didn't work... so they tried 'bout everything.. and we finally ended up taking them up to Boise, and they put 'em in the zoo, and they were in the zoo up there for years.

**DB:** *Really?*

**SB:** Ya... long time.

**DB:** *Would you have kept them...*

**SB:** Oh, yes...

**DB:** Who'd like a couple little bears in their basement? My dad told me that two bears lived over here, too, and when... visitors would come, they would climb up the trees, and the same thing... they got into the house one day, and they took... got all the food out of the cupboards..

**SB:** Oh, they're a nuisance..

**DB:** *That's a great.. see, that's a... that's a great story. I'm glad you thought of it...*

**SB:** Sorry... well, it takes... it takes me a while to think of these things, but then I'm old. (laughing)

**DB:** *OK... that's all... thanks for coming. (end of tape)*

Transcribed by Darleen Creecy Cole