

# Interview with Gloria Sisco

Conducted by Students

May 9, 2002

**Student:** *Hi, my name is Nicole Hodgdon and today is May 9th and we are going to be interviewing Gloria Sisco for Blaine School.*

**Gloria:** I started to Beaver School... well, it must have been in 1939 when I was six years old.

**Dean Bones:** *Okay... you're not starting yet... I'm gonna'... (rearranges mic)...  
... that picture... but I didn't know at the time... I didn't understand that that's where you lived...*

**Gloria:** Uh, huh (yes)... well, that's where my mother lived...

**Dean:** *He wanted me... to once I copied it... he wanted me to give it to you...*

**Gloria:** Okay...

**Dean:** *Is that too close?*

**Gloria:** No.

**Dean:** *Okay. Yay. Thank you for coming and doing this.*

**Gloria:** Okay.

**Dean:** *And if she doesn't talk about her... about a cheese factory... ask her questions about the cheese factory, so okay...*

**Gloria:** Oh... my grandfather's cheese factory? Okay.

**Student:** *So, you attended Beaver School, right?*

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

**Student:** *Could you please tell us the name of the grade school... could you describe, like, where it was and the exact location?*

**Gloria:** Okay. It was right out about at the corner of this playground... right on the... kinda' like the bank... there was a bank that went down in the ditch and then the highway... it was right close to the road, you know... and it was just a two room school... first, second, third and fourth and fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth.

**Student:** *Okay. Do you have any idea when the school started?*

**Gloria:** No, I don't know how it had been there before that, but it wasn't... must have been about in the forties sometime that they built... now, it's what is your gym... your old gym that's in this building... they built that for a gym... well, that

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was while I was still in school... and then they put classrooms in there and closed the old school house, so...

**Student:** *So they closed the old one?*

**Gloria:** Yeah... they tore it down... it's gone...

**Student:** *Where'd the students go after that school closed?*

**Gloria:** Well, they stayed right here. But they were in a different building.

**Student:** *Oh, so there was two schools, kind of?*

**Gloria:** No... well, maybe for a while until they tore the old one down.

**Student:** *Could you please describe the school building in as much detail as you can, telling us about the outside and the inside of the building and like, did you have a bathroom and running water...*

**Gloria:** I think the outside of it was just wood, you know, like yellow if I remember right... but maybe it was white... it was just two rooms and it had windows all along on the road side, and there was no bathrooms... we had the two outhouses out back... where we had to go to the bathroom... there was a play shed... it was just a shed that had dirt on the ground and a roof over the top, you know, to play in when it was raining... and that's... there wasn't... that's all there was (laughing)...

**Student:** *There wasn't any type of, like... there wasn't like the swings like we have...*

**Gloria:** No.

**Student:** *There wasn't anything like that.*

**Gloria:** No.

**Student:** *Um... was there a bell on the school?*

**Gloria:** Yeah... yeah, I think there was a bell... I'm not positive, but there must have been, because we used to play hide and seek out in the bushes and stuff, and I think they rang a bell when recess was over.

**Student:** *Could you tell us, like, where certain students had to live? What were, like, the boundaries you had to live in to go to this school?*

**Gloria:** Well, there was a school at Hemlock, so those kids went to Hemlock, and Blaine had a school... I lived up Boulder Creek... there had been a Boulder Creek School, but it was closed, so I came down here... but it was mostly just between Blaine and here in Beaver and down the highway and up to Hemlock or so kids went to here.

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**Student:** Okay. What are, like, all the ways that the students got to school... did they walk, ride a bike, or...

**Gloria:** Well, I had to walk a mile down the hill and then Mrs. Jones... you know, Gwen Jones... she drove their station wagon up there and picked us up... when I was real little my dad brought me to school, 'cause he hauled the milk to the cheese factory every day and he brought me 'til I was big enough to walk... a lot of kids had to walk a mile or two anyway in those days... so... then Bud Jones, he was the first one to have a school bus to haul kids, and Mrs. Jones would go up the side roads and pick people up, bring 'em down to the highway...

**Student:** *Were there any kids that, like, rode horses, or...*

**Gloria:** No.

**Student:** *Bicycles?*

**Gloria:** Well, there might have been kids here in town that rode bicycles, yeah, but I can't remember any.

**Student:** *Can you tell us the time that the school started and was dismissed each day?*

**Gloria:** Hm... I think it started at eight o'clock and got out at three thirty every day.

**Student:** Like, what days during the year did the students, like... like, was there, like... did you have spring break or Christmas vacation, or anything like that?

**Gloria:** I imagine we had Christmas vacation and I don't remember any... we didn't have near as many days off as they do nowadays... but I don't remember any spring vacation, but maybe there was... it's been too many years ago (laughing)...

**Student:** *Can you tell us a typical school day from the moment you left your house 'til the time you got home?*

**Gloria:** Well, since I had to walk down that hill, it was easier going down (laughing) than it was going up, anyway... but, uh... we'd walk down the hill, and if it was really rainy, I would wear my rain coat and my galoshes and I'd walk down the hill, and then there was a grove of fir trees by the... by where Stewarts used to live... well, actually I guess it was Lobbs that lived there, it would be... and anyway, that's where I got on... in Mrs. Jones' car... and I'd put my galoshes and my rain coat under this one tree (laughing) 'til I come home at night and put 'em back on, and they stayed dry under that big tree, so...

And then come to school and I guess the teachers had to build a fire... there was wood stoves in each room, and I think the teachers built the fires... there wasn't any janitor that I ever saw, so they must have done all the work... and Mrs. Warmoth was the first grade through the fourth teacher and she lived up towards Hemlock, and Mrs. Gilbert lived right across the bridge... she was the older grades teacher... all the years that I was in grade school... the first three years that I was in school, there was just me and one other girl named Joan Julian... we were the only ones in the class through the first,

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second and third grade... and by the time we got to the fourth grade, we had done all the fourth grade work, so we got to skip the fourth grade and go into the fifth grade room with the big kids, and we thought we were something (laughing)... yeah...

And at recess time... everybody, of course, had to bring their own lunch, because there wasn't any cafeteria or anything... at recess... well, there was one game we used to play a lot... since the school building wasn't very big, you know, it was just like a two room house, we played Annie Over, if you know what that is... you have a ball and you divide up into sides and then the people on one side of the building holler "Annie Over!" and they throw the ball over the roof, and if somebody catches it, then they can run around and throw the ball and hit somebody and that person has to be on their side, you know (laughing)... that was such... (laughing)... and if it wasn't muddy, we could play baseball out in the front out that way... on the front grass, but when it was raining we couldn't play that, so there wasn't too much to do, and that old play shed wasn't... I think it had some rings in it, like you do aerobics on... or acrobats on, you know, but not much else... played tag and stuff, but... we didn't have near the things that you've got nowadays (laughing)... yeah... we used to play hide and seek out in the ferns that would grow up on the hill up there by where the fire station is now, and we'd hide in those and climb up in trees...

One day I... when the bell or the whistle... I can't remember what the teacher did, but something... and I started to get down out of that tree and the limb broke and I fell out of it, and I guess it knocked me out, because I came in the class later and the teacher says, "Where have you been!?" (laughing) I just fell out of the tree, but I guess I was gone a while, so... (laughing)... and then at night, you'd just go home and walk back up the hill, and when it was winter it got pretty cold walking up that hill, in the snow especially... a couple of times my dad said that there was cougar tracks in my tracks, and I thought, oooo... cougars were following me home (laughing)... yeah...

**Student:** *Can you tell us, like, (indistinguishable)....*

**Gloria:** Well, I remember in the first grade... I can remember this alphabet was all around the room, you know... phonics chart... and that was the first thing we learned was all the letters and how to say 'em... every day you did that and then you'd have writing, where you'd write certain things every day... your writing class and spelling... I can't remember anything else in the lower grades... I'm sure reading, writing and arithmetic (laughing)... you know, basically... and then the older grades we had to... we had on Friday, we had a recitation day and during the week everybody had to memorize something... the teacher'd give you a thing to memorize... the younger kids it was just a little poem, and by the time you got into the eighth grade, you were saying great big long poems and stuff, so I think it helped our memory, you know, to just learn to remember things that way... I can remember that... and we had... the teacher would help the kids that were having trouble a lot, you know, and let the other kids kinda' just work by theirself that didn't need so much help, because they didn't have aids and things like they do nowadays to help kids... and then we had a dunce hat, and you... if you didn't get your homework done or something you'd have to... you might have to stand in that corner and wear that dunce hat (laughing)... I never... don't think I ever did, but I remember Punk Fletcher did a few times (laughing)... yeah...

**Student:** *Do you remember how lessons were taught?*

**Gloria:** Well....

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**Student:** *Like, were they taught in small groups or bigger groups...*

**Gloria:** Well, just each class, you know... like, with me and Joan, there was only two of us... there wasn't probably ever more than four or five kids in a class, anyway, so it was kinda' small groups (chuckling)... yeah... and some things... I think... I can only remember that one thing that we all did together in the upper grades, and that was where we had our recitation day on Friday and everybody recited their... whatever they'd had to memorize that week... that we did together, but...

**Student:** *Did the teacher mostly lecture or did the students learn from books?*

**Gloria:** Oh, we had books, yeah... we never had to take homework home... if you didn't do your work in class, you had to stay in at recess and do it... I mean (chuckling)... you just did it at school, because most kids had chores to do at home and stuff, and so... but, uh... yeah, we had books and we had workbooks, you know... spelling workbook and... I can't remember having a math workbook... I think we just had to write the math problems out of the book onto a piece of paper and figure 'em out and hand the paper in at the end of class... so every class you just did... the teacher would say, you know, do page something or other, and everybody did that and then turned it in, and then the teacher would have to correct 'em and the next day she'd give 'em back... but, she took her stuff home at night to correct...

**Student:** *So it sounds like you guys didn't have very much homework.*

**Gloria:** No. (laughing)... I don't think we did at all in grade school... maybe in the... except for the reciting... you might take your poem home to learn, or something, you know, if you had to memorize, but... in high school we had... but... started having homework then, but...

**Student:** *If someone misbehaved at your school, what were some punishments?*

**Gloria:** I can't remember ever anybody ever being punished for anything... they must have been, but there were so few of us, and nobody ever caused trouble, so... I don't know... I would imagine the teacher would probably talk to 'em if they did something wrong, you know... I never did get in trouble, but I guess I was... (laughing)... 'cept when I fell out of the tree and didn't get in the classroom in time... I can't ever remember anybody being in bad trouble when I was in grade school...

**Student:** *So you don't remember any incidents of what happened (indistinguishable)...*

**Gloria:** Just the dunce hat... and that would just be for not doing their work, you know... it wasn't for being bad, really...

**Student:** *How long would they usually be there?*

**Gloria:** Oh, for a half hour or so... not long...

**Student:** *I know you say that you don't remember how, like, students were disciplined, but do you remember how... if there were any parents that were involved in discipline for school behavior?*

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**Gloria:** No... parents didn't hardly come to the school, even, except to pick their kids up after school... in those days, but... well, it was because it was... you know... harder to get here and everything... I suppose they'd come if they had a reason, but I don't remember it...

**Student:** *Could you tell us about some of the technology in the school... like, was there a phone, or...*

**Gloria:** No... there was no phone... nothing... just a blackboard and chalk, and papers and pencils, books... and that was about it.

**Student:** *So you wrote with normal pencils.*

**Gloria:** Yeah.

**Student:** *What would happen if a student was at school and they were hurt or there was an emergency?*

**Gloria:** Well, I suppose the teacher would have taken care of 'em as best she could... if anybody had been hurt bad I guess she would have got help somehow, you know... the gas station was across the road, and I'm sure... I don't remember anybody ever being hurt bad, either, so... 'course, they might have, and I've just forgot... I'm not... (chuckling)... but in those days teachers had to be everything, almost... (laughing)... I mean...

**Student:** *So you don't any incident like that...*

**Gloria:** No, I don't remember anybody... I s'pose... I'm sure they must have got cut and stuff, but I guess the teacher would just bandage it up, or... well, we didn't have a phone in the school, so they couldn't call their parents... I don't know... (laughing)...

**Student:** *If they did hurt themselves, would it be from, like, running outside...*

**Gloria:** Yeah... it would just be from fallin' down or something like that... maybe you could get burned on the wood stove, but... I think we learned pretty early to not touch that (laughing)...

**Student:** *Was the community involved in the school, and was there any, like, parent support club?*

**Gloria:** No... there was no clubs like that then...

**Student:** *Was there any, like, after school activities or anything that the public was involved in?*

**Gloria:** No... we must have had a Christmas program or something, but I can't remember it... I suppose we did... maybe my mother could remember better than I can... but even like when we graduated when we were in the eighth grade, we went to the high school for our graduation ceremony, so I can't... I'm sure we must have had Christmas programs, but I can't remember them... just a blank spot (chuckling)...

**Student:** *Were there any sports or...*

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**Gloria:** No... just... we played baseball out in the front and... if... you know, 'til the bus came or your parents or whoever came to get you... if it wasn't muddy out there... but that was about the only thing there was to play... there wasn't even any baskets around or anything to play basketball, so...

**Student:** *Could you tell us... do you remember any names of the teachers that you had?*

**Gloria:** Yeah... Mrs. Gilbert was the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade teacher... Erma Gilbert... and Thelma Warmouh was the first, second, third and fourth grade teacher... all the years that I was in... there were some other teachers in the last couple of years that I was in grade school... one of 'em... oh... I can't remember her name... she was red-headed... she was a teacher when I was in the eighth grade, and she was Joan Julian's aunt... should be able to remember her name, but I can't right now...

**Student:** *Sooo... there was one teacher for a certain amount of grades?*

**Gloria:** Four grades, yes...

**Student:** *Four? So did they teach them all together?*

**Gloria:** No... well, it's like I say... they'd tell you what you were to do, you know...

**Student:** *For your...*

**Gloria:** Yeah, like she'd say first grade do this, second grade do that, and I suppose she'd help the littler kids more and bigger kids just kinda' took on their own stuff...

**Student:** *Were there teachers that were ever unfair to students?*

**Gloria:** No... I can never remember one being unfair. They were nice ladies. I don't think they were...

**Student:** *Do you ever remember them ever, like, choosing favorites or anything?*

**Gloria:** I don't remember it... I just... there was so few kids in school, that you couldn't hardly do that or... you know... I think they liked everybody, so... yeah... I s'pose that they had to holler at the boys a little more, but... there wasn't very many boys... I was trying to think last night of any boys that were in my eighth grade class, and... Leslie LaFond was, and Punk Fletcher, and that's the only two I can remember... I think there was more, but... then during... while I was in school, Quentin Borba was in school, but he was older than me... he was gone on to high school... and... I don't know... my cousin Darrell went to school here, too, but he was older, too... I don't... I need to find some old pictures and see... I guess I've forgotten 'em...

**Student:** *I know you've already told us, but do you remember any other games that were played at recess?*

**Gloria:** Well, hopscotch... we used to play that... the girls did... and jump rope, you know... baseball... after they... after we got the gym built, then we'd play Red Rover... if you know what that is... where

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you get one team on each end of the gym and you'd throw a ball at the other side and try to hit somebody and if you hit them, they have to go on the other side (laughing)... such interesting games, you know (laughing)...

**Student:** *Could you please tell us any story that you remember about things, or is there anything that happened during school?*

**Gloria:** I can't really remember anything that I haven't already told you... I mean, I probably could, but it doesn't come to my mind right now... I remember that during the second World War they had a shed up by about where the fire station is now... it was a look out place for people to watch for enemy aircraft, and your parents... all the parents had to take turns and come and be in there for an hour or two every week, and so... sometimes your parents would be in the lookout tower while you were in school... but... that... I can't remember anything else just right off hand...

**Student:** *Okay.... um.... I'd like to change the subject... we'd like to learn a little bit more about you...*

**Gloria:** Okay...

**Student:** *... if we could, we'd like to ask where and when you were born.*

**Gloria:** I was born in Tillamook at the Charleton Hospital on Fifth Street... you know, where that... there's an apartment building there now... and it was the hospital in those days, and that's where I was born on June the 20th, 1933.

**Student:** *Can you tell us any of your ancestors?*

**Gloria:** Well, my grandfather, Nicholas, came over here... he came here from Switzerland, and he homesteaded up Boulder Creek, and built a cheese factory up there and made Swiss cheese, and he planted two orchards and there's still... part of the orchard is still up there... and that's where I lived until I was a senior in high school... we never had any electricity or running water or anything...

**Student:** *Can you tell us about where you lived... I mean, did you move?*

**Gloria:** I lived there at Boulder Creek until I was a senior in high school and we moved down here, up Bunn Creek on my... to where my grandfather had lived... and then that was the only time I moved until I was married, so... didn't move very much (laughing)...

**Student:** *Can you tell us about where you lived...*

**Gloria:** Well, it was up Boulder Creek... if you know where Boulder Creek is... well, way up there... about three miles up Boulder Creek, and my father milked cows and he brought the... after they had to close the cheese factory because the government passed laws that you had to have electricity to keep things cold, you know, and stuff... and they never... they just had a big cellar where they made the cheese all those years before that... but then they had to quit making cheese, so he started bringing his milk down here to the cheese factory every day, and that's where we lived... and he milked cows and we raised our own hay and most of our own food... and all those apples and plums



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and prunes and everything that my grandfather had planted trees... there was all kinds of trees... walnut trees, pear trees... so we just kinda' lived off the land, mostly...

**Student:** *If you know... do you know why your family or your ancestors moved to this area?*

**Gloria:** Well, I think my grandfather homesteaded up there because he had been from Switzerland where they were up in the high mountains, you know, and he wanted to plant trees, and so he wanted a place high up in the hills, so the apples would do better and stuff... and I think that's why he... because when he first came here, they lived over at Bay Ocean, and then he found that homestead, and they moved up there then, so... I think it was because he liked the mountains and he liked to look for gold and silver and stuff, and found a silver mine up there on Alder Creek, and he... after my brother... my dad and his brothers got big enough to do the chores, my grandpa would go off for days at a time and just look for gold and silver and stuff... and one time when Mt. Hebo caught on fire and the fire was burning down towards the homestead and my grandpa was gone, and my grandma sent my dad off out through the woods to find him, and when he got home, the fire had burned right down to the... just about to the edge of the fields and then it quit, I guess, because the fields were cleared and there wasn't any trees to burn, but... but it didn't burn them anyway...

**Student:** *Could you tell us any significant events that occurred during your childhood?*

**Gloria:** Hm... well, my brother... he was three years younger than me... and he got polio... one year there was an epidemic of polio, and it... he kinda' got a little crippled from it, and my parents had to take him clear out to Portland... to Doernbecker Hospital... every week for therapy, and that was pretty much of a event in those days (laughing)... because it took all day to go to Portland and back... well, it still does, but... I can remember that... and, of course, the war, and how we had rationing on so many things... you could only get so much gas and so much sugar... had to have coupons for things... had to have black curtains to hang on your windows if there was a air raid warning... but I don't think we'd a heard one way up there in the mountains anyway... (chuckling)... but in town they did... they had 'em sometimes... and... every Saturday we'd go to Tillamook, to go to the feed store, which is still right where it was then, and get grain for the cows and stuff, and then we'd get to get a treat, maybe, and I used to like paper dolls and I'd get some of them and cut 'em out every week... and then on the way home we could get to stop at the South Prairie Store and get a ice cream come... that was the biggest treat of the week... (laughing)... because we didn't have a refrigerator or anything, so we never got ice cream very often... until my mother got a... one of those hand kind of ice cream freezers and sometimes she'd make ice cream during the summertime when we were makin' hay, and every year we had to cut all the hay and put it in the barn for the winter... had horses to pull the... what do you call it... the mowing machine and the hay wagon, and... I used to have to shock hay, but I didn't mind it... it was kind of fun... just had to take a pitchfork and make this big pile of hay and then when the men would haul in the hay, well, they'd throw these big piles on the wagon... and we used to ride on the wagon into the barn (laughing)... yeah...

**Student:** *Could you tell about some of the chores and responsibilities that you had growing up?*

**Gloria:** Well, I had to feed the chickens when I got big enough to do that, and help put the grain in the stanchions for the cows... when I got bigger, sometimes I pitched hay down out of the haymow, but my dad mostly did that... then when I got bigger I'd help clean the barn after he'd milk, but he wouldn't let anybody help him milk... he just milked all those cows by hand every day... I don't know...

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fifteen or twenty of 'em sometimes... so... and then sometimes I had to help cook in the house if my mom was... she took art lessons in Lincoln City, and one day a week she'd be gone... that was when I got into high school, though... and my dad would take her to Lincoln City to art class, and so when I got home from school, I'd start supper and stuff... nobody really worked me very hard... I used to like to peel chitum bark in the summer to make money for school clothes... I'd go up in the mountains and take a ax and a couple of gunny sacks and cut down chitum trees and peel it and bring it home... bring 'em down and spread it out to dry and my dad would take it to Tillamook and sell it... so that was one way to make money... about the only way to (laughing)... up there in the mountains...

So there wasn't anybody I could baby-sit, because I lived probably five miles from the nearest people... people didn't baby-sit in those days... I guess everybody just stayed home and took care of their own kids... I don't remember... I s'pose some of the people down here in town might have, but we didn't' up there... my parents used to go to grange up at Blaine at the grange hall on Saturdays... my father was the master of the grange for years, and my uncle... he played the fiddle in the band when they played for dances and stuff... I remember going there and just sittin' around and listenin' to the music all the time... when I'd get tired I'd go out in the kitchen, lay down on the table and go to sleep (laughing)... and then they'd have picnic... Fourth of July picnic every year, and that's when we'd get soda pop... I think it's the only time of the year I got soda pop, was at the grange picnics... I used to just love strawberry soda pop (laughing)... I still do, but it doesn't taste as good as it did then, I don't think (laughing)... and, uh... well, I can't... there wasn't a lot to do... well, we'd go to the movies down at Cloverdale... there was a movie theater there... during the second World War... we used to go down there once in a while and watch a movies if good movies were on... but... then when I got in high school... but that's different... I mean, we're talking about grade school, now...

**Student:** *You can do that...*

**Gloria:** Well, we... sometimes we'd go to Netarts... there was a skating rink at Netarts and bunches of kids would go in there and go rollerskating, and, uh... then, of course, we had basketball teams and stuff then... the boys had basketball... the girls would play basketball, but we didn't have... we didn't play other schools, you know, we just played it in PE class... so then, we... but all the teams were right in the county that we played... there was a high school in Nehalem, and one in Bay City and Garibaldi, Tillamook Catholic and Tillamook V and Nestucca... and that was about the only places that the teams went to games was those places... and then we had a pep club... cheer leaders and a pep club, and everybody thought it was an honor to be in the pep club, you know... you got to wear a outfit and go to the games and sit in the section and cheer... yeah... I guess we had kinda' quiet life, but it was good, I mean... (laughing)... there wasn't any terrorism or anything, anyway, in those days (laughing)...

**Student:** *When you were a child, what did you want to do when you grew up?*

**Gloria:** I was gonna' be a surgical nurse, and I went as far as to pass my entrance exams and get all ready to go, but I graduated from high school when I was sixteen, and I went and took all these tests out in Portland and I was gonna' go to Providence Hospital to the school of nursing, and when I got done with all this stuff, they told me I couldn't go 'til I was eighteen, because you couldn't live away from home in that dormitory until you were eighteen, so I a whole 'nother year to wait, and I ended up gettin' married instead of going to nurses training (laughing)... so, I don't know... nowadays, I'm sure they'd probably let you go when you were sixteen... well, actually I would have been seventeen by the

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time school started that fall, but... and I remember I was so proud when I took my entrance exams... we took 'em at the University of Portland... and girls from all over the state were there, you know, quite a few of 'em from Portland and from all over the state... that was one of the best places to take nurses training... and when we got all done, at the end... next time we went back we took a kind of a test to see if you aptitude was good for being a nurse, you know... and after... I was leaving and this professor came up to me and he said, "Did you know you got the highest score in the entrance exams?"... and I thought... OH! I was so proud of that, and I thought that well, that just shows that you can learn in a little school like Nestucca was... anything that kids can learn in big schools... so that was... I was really proud of that...

**Student:** *What were your favorite, like, games, sports, your hobbies...*

**Gloria:** Oh, I liked volleyball when I got in high school and we got to play volleyball at recess... for sport... I don't know... I read a lot... I always read a lot, so I always had a book to read at night... I slept up in the attic up at the homestead, and it had a window on each end, and just a kerosene lamp to read by, you know... and every night when I'd get done reading and blow out my lamp, this bat would come in and fly back and forth (laughing)... and fly back and forth, looking for bugs... (laughing)... and then he'd go out... I can remember that... every night that bat would fly in those windows and back out, but... so I never have been very much afraid of bats since then (laughing)... and, like I say, I used to cut out paper dolls when I was a little kid... my mother said she never saw so many paper dolls... I don't think I played with 'em very much... I just liked to cut 'em out and then the next week go get some more and then cut them out... but when I got bigger, I quit doing that... and I don't know... I just read and did my school work, I guess... we had some homework when we got in high school... but, it's like I say, in grade school I don't ever remember having homework...

**Student:** *What do you remember most about your mother and father?*

**Gloria:** Well, my father was just... worked all the time... that's all... he was very quiet, and he never did give me a spankin'... never in my life did I get a spankin'... I probably should have a few times (laughing)... but, he did swat my brothers a few times, but I guess men just didn't think they should spank girls, I don't know... my mother didn't spank me, either, but she would yell at me... she still yells at me (laughing)... she's 89... and she's out in Forest Grove in a assisted care place... and she came from Lake Oswego, and her family lived up... well, they lived up Bays Creek for a while and then up Bunn Creek here, and, uh... it's like I said, she took art lessons and she won quite a few prizes with her paintings... even at the state fair and everything... I've got quite a few of her paintings, but she can't paint any more because her eyes are too bad, and she's too...

(end of first side of tape)...

**Gloria:** ... were down here at Beaver, and his wife taught me the piano... and I took piano lessons there... and that's how I learned to play the piano... and my brother... well, one of my brothers... after they moved away from there, my younger brother took piano lessons, and he learned to play the piano, but... it's like I say, I don't know how in the world we got that piano up there, or where it went when they moved away... I wasn't here when they moved out of there... well, I was, too... must of just hauled it in the wagon... I don't know... or the trailer behind the car... but, you didn't have... we had battery radios and kerosene lamps... 'course there wasn't such a thing as TV, but I used to listen to Inner Sanctum Mysteries and... oh, that's how I got started to likin' mysteries... I just love to read

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mystery books and watch mystery movies and stuff... and I started listening to them on the radio years ago... The Grand Ol' Opry was on and some of those old things that are still there...

**Student:** *Could you tell us the best advice your mother or father gave to you, or any lessons that they ever taught you?*

**Gloria:** Yeah... my father... he told me once never to go anywhere without takin' something with you... like, if you went upstairs for something, well, take something up that needed to be took up, and bring something down that needed to be brought down, and in other words, make every move you make count for something, and every day at the end of the day, he'd ask you what you'd done... well, if you tried to say nothing, that wouldn't work (laughing)... you have to do something... he said, "What did you do today? What did you learn?" or what... and when you get thinkin' about it, you do learn something or do something every day that... and I've learned... I kinda' learned from that... like down at Neskowin when I'm workin'... if I go out to the laundry room to... I take something out that needs to go... just saves steps, you know... it just... I guess that was just one thing that he taught me...

And my mother... well, I don't know... I just know that we didn't ever lie about anything... because what's the sense of lying... I mean... (chuckling)... if you do something wrong, just admit it, you know, because if you lie, it just makes... then you get in trouble for lying beside what you did when it gets found out, so... so that's where I learned not to lie from... from, uh... I don't think my father ever lied in his life... not even just to... he just said what was what, that was all... so...

**Student:** *Can you tell us about any of the occupations or accomplishments throughout your life?*

**Gloria:** Well, I had eleven children and raised them... that was one job... and then I got a job at Cloverdale School and worked there for twenty years in the cafeteria, and I've been working down at Neskowin Lodge in the summers and on weekends for years and then I kinda' started working in the office doing reservations and stuff, and I still do that four days a week, so... and that's... I guess that's the jobs I've had... well, I remember when I was at... when I was... the year I got out of high school... we lived up Bays Creek... or Bunn Creek on the farm that had been my grandfather's... and they had what they called fire watches in those days, and the logging companies, when they got done work, they had to have somebody sit there for three hours after they closed down during fire season, and I got a job... the guy stopped there by the farm one day and asked me if I wanted to do that for three hours a day... and this was way back in 1950... and I got \$5 an hour to do that... that was a lot of money in those days (chuckling)... I'd drive the old tractor up there and sit there and watch... watched where they'd logged that day for three hours and then read a book while I was doing that, and then come back home and that wasn't a very hard job... but they had to have somebody there because it was a state requirement of the fire department... forest service or whatever...

**Student:** *Can you tell us about your own family?*

**Gloria:** Well, like I say, I had eleven children... one of 'em... Mike... was killed in a car wreck when he was 24... out in Portland... and the rest of 'em... some of 'em live around here... you probably... maybe you know... Ken Sisco, and Phyllis is his wife... and they live down in Nestucca Bend... Diane Powers is my daughter and Vern and her kids, they live up by the first bridge... second bridge... and Kathy, used to be Yates... now it's Bailey... lives over the other side of Beaver... lives over the other side of Beaver... she works for the Forest Service... and, uh... my son, Sherman, lives at home with

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me... my daughter, Christie... she lives in Dallas... she's married... her husband works at Safeways in Dallas... and the rest of 'em... let's see... Steve lives in Tillamook... or no, he doesn't... he lives at Hemlock, but he works in Tillamook... Scott's in California at Clear Lake... Ralph's in Kalispell, Montana... and who am I forgetting? Larry lives in Salem... Patty lives in... her and her husband, Mike Nosack... she was in... he was in the army for years and they went to Germany a couple of times, and then they were in Colorado and Reno... now they... he's retired from the army and they live in Battleground, Washington... I think that's all of 'em... if I forgot somebody, I don't know (laughing)... but there's... they're all healthy and well... and of course I've got about twenty-something grandchildren, too... but...

**Student:** *Do you have any great grandkids?*

**Gloria:** Huh?

**Student:** *Do you have any great grandkids?*

**Gloria:** Oh, yeah... yep... I've got five... Patty has four grandchildren, so they're my great grandchildren, and Ken has one grandchild, so that's my great granddaughter, and they're gonna' have another baby, so that'll make six great grandchildren I have... that's why I feel old, I guess (laughing)... I don't feel old, though, I think... I find myself thinkin'... well, you know, I'm not old (laughing)... like Mrs. Alt one day... down in Cloverdale... I go down and help her once a week and make her bed and vacuum and dust for her, and she's kinda' crippled up, and she said something the other day, she says... "I'm hobblin' around like an old lady!"... and we both just about died laughing! (laughing)... I mean, she's almost ninety, I think... I guess you have a right to hobble like an old lady when you're ninety years old... but... all in all, I guess I've had a good life... I've had to work all the way through it (laughing)... but it kept me from gettin' bored... yeah... I enjoyed all those years I worked at the grade school, because I got to see so many kids and actually, there was some of the children of the kids that were there came back through school when I was there, so it kinda'... yeah...

**Student:** *Do you have any special skills or interests that you'd like to tell us about?*

**Gloria:** I don't think I have any special skills (laughing)... no... as I told some old man down at the lodge the other day... why I needed to unplug the toilet, and I grabbed the toilet plunger and went... and he says, "You do that?" "Well," I said, "I guess I'm the jack of all trades and the master of none!" you know... kinda' just do what has to be done... no, I never was... I didn't excel at anything, I guess... just did the best I could at everything...

**Student:** *Are there any community or religious activities that you were in that you would like to tell us about?*

**Gloria:** No... I really... since I'm busy about seven days a week, I don't... I don't go to anything... I used to go to all the basketball games and stuff... now I just watch 'em on TV... (laughing)... it's easier... yeah... always went to my kids' games and my grandkids' games, but I don't do that any more because they're all out of school, anyways... just Jessica once in a while... I got to one of her basketball games this year... that was all, because I work nights down there at Neskowin, and so I kept missing her basketball games...

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**Student:** *Almost finished...*

**Gloria:** Okay...

**Student:** *Please share some of your thoughts about living in the area...*

**Gloria:** Well, I think people are really lucky to live in this area... it's... you know, you can get to anything you need... to get to pretty easily, you know, like to go to the stores and everything, and there's hospitals and... and yet you're not having to fight miles of traffic every night on the way home from work, and it's not polluted and crowded and everything... I think we should all be... you know, pretty lucky... I know people that come here to visit... they want to stay, but they can't... (laughing)... we had a lady come from New York right after 9-11, and she came and spent a week down there at Neskowin and she said, "If I could just stay here and not have to go back to New York!" but she had to... so I guess we're pretty lucky here... there might... there could be more jobs and things for young people and more things for young people to do... I've always thought there should be a recreation center someplace, where there was a swimming pool and a bowling alley and stuff for kids, you know, but... if I was ever a millionaire, I was always gonna' build one down by where the Red Barn is, but I've never been a millionaire yet (laughing)... so... that would be good... but aside from that, I think it's a pretty good place to live...

**Student:** *This is my last question...*

**Gloria:** Okay...

**Student:** *Okay... once again, we're really interested in stories... are there any particular instances that you can remember...*

**Gloria:** Well... I don't know... I probably... I just can't think of anything right now... nah... I remember my father tellin' me about... but I... his mother wanted to go to grange every Saturday night, you know... his dad didn't care if he went to grange, but she wanted to go... and this one night, it was snowing really hard, and they had... they didn't have cars in those days... they had a buckboard and they had a sled that you took out when you went out in the snow, you know... and so she told him... him and Uncle Herman... they were... I suppose they were teenagers, you know... to hook up the sled, she wanted to go to grange in the sled... well, they didn't want to do it... they thought they could make it in the wagon, but... she said, "No, we're takin' the sled." So they took the sled, and they came down off the hill, and then when they got down to where Boulder Creek Road goes up Blaine Road, there wasn't any snow... (laughing)... here they are with the sled, and there's no snow... so she made 'em just pull the sled up the road (laughing)... my dad said he could have died, pulling into the grange with a sled and no snow (laughing)... he said his mother was... he said his mother was... I guess she had to be I guess... he called her the "taskmaster"... she was always tellin' what to do... had the chores and they had to do 'em, and... yeah... I don't know... there must have been something interesting that happened in my life...

**Other voice:** *Eleven kids... I think that's pretty interesting...*

**Gloria:** (laughing)... yeah... I don't know... there's been a lot of things happen, but I can't think of anything right now in particular...

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**Student:** *Well, thank you for coming and visiting us...*

**Gloria:** Oh, you're welcome...

**Student:** *We're gonna' make a copy of your comments and stories and we'll send it to you...*

**Gloria:** Oh...

**Student:** *And we'd love to have you come to the Gathering on May 29th...*

**Gloria:** Oh, okay...

**Student:** *And, um... we're gonna' have Emily and Tacy and Amy take you down to the archive room and we have photos on a disc and we'd like to see if you can identify any of the places or people...*

**Gloria:** Oh, okay...

(end of tape)

Transcribed by  
Darleen Cole  
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