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198 Interviewer: Linda Stiles Taylor (LT)

199 Interviewee: Marcia Oriet (MO)

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202

203 LT: [a picture of a young girl] ...years old is that right, Marcia?

204

205 MO: Yes.

206

207 LT: And here's a picture of you when you were how old?

208

209 MO: Uh, fourth grade...[inaudible]

210

211 LT: ...Puts you about 10?

212

213 MO: ...About 10 years old.

214

215 LT: O.K.... [picture of a group of school children in front of a school] And here's a
216 picture of you, front row center...and what grade was that?

217

218 MO: Fourth grade.

219

220 LST: 1943...and your name then was what?

221

222 MO: Marcia Dee Kiser...K-I-S-E-R.

223

224 LT: Marcia Dee Kiser. And which school are you in front of?

225

226 MO: Central.

227

228 LT: And Central school still exists today, although now it's an administration building.

229

230 MO: That's right.
231
232 LT: And you're holding the sign.
233
234 LT: [picture of woman at a desk holding a book]...Ok this picture we have is Hazel
235 Moore...who was the librarian when you first started using the Forest Grove City
236 Library.
237
238 MO: Yes, yes.
239
240 LT: And you remember Mrs. Moore?
241
242 MO: Very, very much so. She was just the only librarian there...[laughs]...that was it.
243
244 LT: No other staff people, huh?
245
246 MO: Nope, not that I remember, not that I remember.
247
248 LT: And was she friendly to children?
249
250 MO: Well, it was...libraries were a little quiet then. And, I'm not too sure they had a
251 bunch of children things. Um, you were required to respect the library and just went in
252 and got my books and walked home.
253
254 LT: So when you were six and you went in at first, were you looking for picture books or
255 just magazines...
256
257 MO: Probably at the level I was reading [inaudible]
258
259 LT: Did you remember what any of your favorite reading was...was it magazines or did
260 you have things...?
261
262 MO: I read everything that I could read at the level I was. I don't remember at that grade,
263 but I went through history books and novels and mysteries- and of course romance and
264 all of that. But I, uh, just enjoyed everything.
265
266 LT: [picture of a building] And this would have been the building that you used when
267 you first began going to the library at age six?
268
269 MO: Yes, it was right next to the Creamery...Forest Grove Creamery...and uh, four
270 blocks from home. So...
271
272 LT: And home at that time was where?
273

274 MO: Twenty two...222 B Street and, uh, I was even born at the house. But, everything
275 was in walking distance. My folks didn't have a car for years and so Forest Grove was
276 just little Forest Grove.
277
278 LT: So you'd walk to the library, walk to Central School?
279
280 MO: Uh-huh. And when I graduated from high school, I walked to work. I worked at
281 Forest Grove National Bank for 10 years, and most of those years I walked back and
282 forth to home and...
283
284 LT: Wonderful concept [light laughter].
285
286 MO: It was...it was. Yes, I've seen it grow- I've seen Forest Grove grow.
287
288 LT: From the early day... You said you always wanted to be a librarian yourself.
289
290 MO: Yes, I did. I love libraries.
291
292 LT: And you've been avid reader your life long.
293
294 MO: The only one in the family for years, and now my husband reads, my kids read.
295 Yeah, I was the only reader, always had a book in my hand.
296
297 LT: Have you seen, as the library has changed over the years, has your- what you come
298 to the library (for has) changed, like do you check out videos, or computer software or are
299 books still...
300
301 MO: Books are my focus. The books are my focus. That's my be-all. I'm afraid some
302 day you might run out of books.
303
304 LT: (Laughs) We keep adding on to the library and keep putting more books in there.
305 Hope springs eternal.
306
307 MO: I'm always here, I'm always here. But now if I can't find something I can go on the
308 web and reserve books that I might want, so I have a little out there where I can find them
309 myself. I just went to the mystery library on the web and found some mysteries up to
310 date and I reserved them and they came in.
311
312 LT: It makes it handy to have those options. So your own family, when you were a
313 child, did your parents read?
314
315 MO: No, I was the only one...
316
317 LT: The only one?
318

319 MO: ...Out of four kids. We all worked when we got older and we were raised during
320 the depression and I was the only reader in the family.
321

322 LT: And so for- did you go to the library by yourself as a child? Was it something you
323 were on your own, and kids were allowed to go on down?
324

325 MO: Oh, yeah. I probably had a sister going with me, I'm sure, or I'd go by myself as
326 the years... I really don't remember, but I could have gone by myself because the town
327 was very safe. We had one policeman.
328

329 LT: (Laughs) Everybody knew him probably, he knew everybody.
330

331 MO: When we went to Central school we'd have our roller skates on and go down that
332 hill and Mickey Maguire, the policeman, was always there to direct what traffic there
333 was. So, it was a small town. You just walked around.
334

335 LT: And you mentioned that when you first signed your first library card as a small child
336 that nobody ever asked you....
337

338 MO: No one ever asked me after that for many, many years to re-sign a card. I would
339 have liked to see the card, you know. I never had to show ID or do anything. They never
340 challenged my little signature.
341

342 LT: Your little first grade signature was the one that was with you in perpetuity.
343 (Laughs)
344

345 MO: That's right.
346

347 LT: What do you remember of your walk on the typical trip to the library in those days?
348 What kinds of businesses or things would you see between your home...?
349

350 MO: There was a grocery store on the block where the library was- on my way from B
351 Street, there was a grocery store. And there was, I can't quite remember... the one on the
352 corner that you crossed Main Street to go to the street where the library was down by
353 Pacific, there was an ice cream parlor. Mrs. Eastwood had it. And we remembered Mrs.
354 Eastwood because that's where the ice cream was, you know...ice cream cone, but
355 (chuckles) she always threw this towel over her shoulder and years later people said you
356 know she might have had dandruff. But you know the cleanliness things nowadays are so
357 far reaching. We didn't pay any attention to that. That was just good ol' ice cream.
358

359 LT: ...Important matters of consequence at the ice cream parlor. You'd keep track of
360 where that was located.
361

362 MO: And the Grove Theater. And of course the library, (unintelligible section). Some of
363 the businesses are still here.
364

365 LT: Did you go to the movies at that time?

366

367 MO: Oh, oh, oh, Wednesday night movies. My dad liked Westerns and it was bargain
368 night and the whole family would go up to see the movies. I think it was about seven
369 cents or something like that, per person, and (unintelligible) and the whole family would
370 go up to the movies and then come home.

371

372 LT: Do you remember when the library moved to this building?

373

374 MO: Yes, I don't remember the year, but I remember I was thrilled that it was a bigger
375 library and I would be thrilled with the new one.

376

377 LT: Another big step. Well thank you very much for being with us today, Marcia. Not
378 only have you been avid reader, you've been an avid library supporter both in volunteer
379 capacities, on boards and in all sorts of ways for many, many years, and we're grateful
380 for that.

381

382 MO: It's a great library.

383

384 LT: Thanks.