

754 Interviewer: Linda Stiles-Taylor (LT)

755 Interviewee: Ann Dondero (AD)

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757 AD: It's been an official job since August 27th, 1979, but I began as a volunteer in
758 1974/75, and a neighbor who was a former teacher, as was I, decided to revive the
759 program that at least a couple people, periodically had story times at the library but, not
760 officially. So we started a weekly program of one session a week.

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762 LT: Preschool story time, right? In the old Forest Grove City Library that was very small.

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764 AD: Right, it was on the corner of 21st and College Way, and its now by Pacific
765 University, but it was the one deeded by Mrs. Rogers.

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767 LT: You had the background as a former teacher, but you also had small children.

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769 AD: Well, a small child.

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771 LT: A small child, that's right, you only had one at that point. And so what, when you
772 first came to Forest Grove was there any kind of children's services going on.

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774 AD: Not really, and that's why, Judy Saxton, whose husband was at that time was a
775 student at Pacific, and my husband was a professor at Pacific happened to be neighbors
776 and happened to be former teachers and so we were among the people who began the

777 program. But it was sort of her brainchild to have had this happen again. She recruited
778 volunteers, so a lot of the early volunteers were from Pacific University families.

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780 LT: And who was the library director at that time?

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782 AD: Mike Smith had just come on as library director and there were a couple of other
783 people. The people who started before them were Nancy Fordise, and Margaret Forside,
784 were people that I know of that had children a little older than ours and had done the
785 earlier story times. And then ours was sort of a part of The Friends of the Library so they
786 supported us in those days as they still do now. They're a very important part of our
787 program.

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789 LT: And what kind of turnout would you get at story time in the old days at the library?

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791 AD: Probably 15 to 20 children.

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793 LT: So you'd have to pack them in there into the building pretty much.

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795 AD: Yes. I mean the whole library wasn't much bigger than this room, and we had a
796 carpet that was basically, a 9x12 carpet that was basically a little more than the children's
797 area. And we did bring that carpet over to this library which is, Barbara Jannette who also
798 began, slightly later than I did, but wrote a poem about the carpet after we moved to this
799 library because we moved the carpet with us. And in sort of honor of her I still do that
800 poem at the beginning of story time.

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802 LT: Can you recite the poem for us?