

JERRY AND NELLIE FIALA

Tape 3, Side 1

August 13, 1996

M.O'R.: Did you use the river at all in your farming? Did you irrigate with the river?

J.F.: No. We had water rights down Wilson Creek.

M.O'R.: So you irrigated with Wilson Creek water, then?

J.F.: Yeah.

N.F.: It's clean water and it's invaluable.

J.F.: We have deeded water rights, first water rights on the stream.

M.O'R.: So you have the first claim to the water, then?

N.F.: We do, yes.

J.F.: Anybody else would have to wait until we get through before they could take our water. Our water comes first.

N.F.: When the neighbors down across the creek built, they talked to us about the creek, and we told them we had first water rights on it and that we have a temporary dam, can't put a permanent dam in. So they got water rights on the water from the springs in the bank above their house, and so that was below our dam, so it didn't matter. I suppose, if it hadn't been below our dam, we probably would have cared. If it had been above the dam, we would have.

M.O'R.: Because it possibly would have drawn water away from the creek?

N.F.: Yes. But we have had officials tell us we can't - you know, there's a certain time of the year they can draw water from the Tualatin and then they can't. Well, they have come after us about that, not investigating enough to know that we are on Wilson

Creek. We've had to go through that many times, explain, "Well, we get from Wilson Creek, not from the Tualatin River."

M.O'R.: And these are regulators that are concerned about water rights on the Tualatin?

N.F.: Yes. That's my baby. I insisted. I'm very proud that we have water rights on Wilson Creek. But there are lots of water rights on the Tualatin Oswego Lake's forbearers were from the Ladd Estate in Portland. You probably know all this about Oregon Iron and Steel?

M.O'R.: I don't know too much about the history, actually.

N.F.: You don't? Oh. There's a book - that new bookcase that belongs in the bedroom hides all my books. We have Oregon history books there. We're history buffs, and there is a book put out by - who is the lady from Oswego that put out the book about the Oregon Iron and Steel?

J.F.: Mrs. Trousseau. I think it was Mrs. Trousseau.

N.F.: I think so, too. There are many books in the area.

N.F.: *Iron Mountain Dream*. That's it, yeah. Because there is iron in the soil on the road that goes past Oswego, not the country club, but the place where they have horses, the riding club. Between Oswego and Lake Grove, there's a road cuts across, and it's in there. That's Iron Mountain, and that was where the road was where I think they expected to get rich on the iron. They thought it would be a big industry and it ran out. But that was why the smelter. I can't think of any more details right there.

M.O'R.: You remember the smelter when it was operating, or no, it had been closed?

N.F.: Oh no. No. Jerry wouldnt either, I dont think.

Jerry, the smelter wasn't operating when you were little, was it?

J.F.: Oh, no.

N.F.: No. It was a long time ago. It lasted very briefly. If you can find her book.

M.O'R.: I'm sure I can find it.

N.F.: You'd find out a lot about that. But do you have time to look up all the history books?

M.O'R.: Well, maybe. We'll see. You already commented on how hard your children worked here on the farm. I wonder, did they use the river for recreation at all? Did they go swimming?

J.F.: No.

N.F.: It was too dirty.

M.O'R.: Too dirty by that time?

J.F.: It was too dirty already.

M.O'R.: Yeah, but you swam there, is that right?

J.F.: When I was young.

M.O'R.: Right.

N.F.: But by the time the kids were old enough, you know, to let them go down there or something, it was dirty. We used to picnic down there when the kids were little, and it got so it smelled in later years.

M.O'R.: A noticeable smell coming off of it?

N.F.: Yes, and so we just - we laugh about the beautiful Tualatin and people wanting to save it and so forth. It is a stream of water, and did you know boats used to run up the river?

M.O'R.: Oh, yes.

N.F.: Yes.

M.O'R.: The ferries or steamboats of some kind that used to run up to - a ways up, I know.

N.F.: Yeah, how far up the river did they go, Jerry, to Tualatin?

J.F.: Oh, way up to Hillsboro.

N.F.: Did they?

M.O'R.: Yeah.

J.F.: When I was young, the boat was docked when the engines were torn out at Saum Creek. That's up the river from here. And I used to dig around the old hull of that, trying to find some relics, but I could never find any. They had all been taken away. I thought maybe I could find some pieces of iron, but there was only a few nails.

M.O'R.: But the boat itself was there, though, or no?

J.F.: Well, they tore the engines out, steam engine out, and from what I could always gather, it was a sternwheeler because they had a lot of shallow spots to go through, and the original dam was four feet higher than the one now.

M.O'R.: The Lake Oswego dam?

J.F.: They had that much more backwater in the river.

N.F.: Jerry, are you talking the dam where Lake Oswego goes down or down here?

J.F.: No, down here.

M.O'R.: Yes, the one on the Tualatin, yeah.

J.F.: The Tualatin Dam.

M.O'R.: Right, right.

J.F.: And then as I was always told, a group of farmers from up around Hillsboro and Forest Grove blew that dam out, dynamited it, and this that is in existence now is the second one, and right in the deed on the property, it states very clearly that the dam is to be maintained but never rebuilt. We have the deed. It's right on the deed on this property that the dam could be maintained but never rebuilt. That's the Tualatin down here.

N.F.: And they did rebuild it.

J.F.: Well, they tried to rebuild it.

M.O'R.: You mean after it was dynamited?

N.F.: I think so.

J.F.: See, that is nothing but what they used to call a [indiscernible] dam. It's all timbers and rock in between it, and some of that has washed out. And the Lake corporation went there and was pouring cement in it, and years before that, they never had any regard to fish, and finally the Game Commission made them put in a ladder.

M.O'R.: Do you know roughly when this was? When did the Game Commission have them put in a ladder?

J.F.: Well, that's been about 50 years ago. Maybe longer.

M.O'R.: Now, where was the place where you were looking for, where the sternwheeler used to dock?

J.F.: At the mouth of the Saum Creek. On the other side of the river, well, I'll say about three-quarter, half a mile below Tualatin downriver.

M.O'R.: And you said that you were looking for artifacts?

J.F.: To find some parts of it, relics from it.

M.O'R.: From the boat?

J.F.: Yes. The ribs and part of the hull were still in good shape then.

M.O'R.: Okay, so you could see that part of it?

J.F.: Yes.

M.O'R.: And you were just looking for other things, other parts of it?

J.F.: Yes.

M.O'R.: But you never found anything, huh?

J.F.: No.

N.F.: Are you asking how large it was? That's what I'd like to know, how large the boats were.

M.O'R.: Yeah, well, how big were they? That's a good question.

J.F.: The boat?

M.O'R.: Yeah.

J.F.: Well, it wasn't a very big boat. All that was left there was the bow of it.

M.O'R.: And then did they eventually clear that out, too?

J.F.: Well, I don't know whatever became of it.

M.O'R.: And the boats used to run from where to where?

J.F.: Well, it run, went down the canal into Lake Oswego, and they hauled grain from up around Hillsboro and hauled it from where they docked at the lake in Oswego down to the Willamette River, and shipped it to Portland.

M.O'R.: By river, via the Willamette then?

J.F.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: The canal then must have been bigger in those days to Lake Oswego.

J.F.: No.

M.O'R.: No.

J.F.: They used to the boat to haul sacks of grain.

M.O'R.: You've been here for many many many years before this happened, but do you remember in 1970, I think it was, or maybe '71, when the State cracked down on Washington County and said no more development, no more houses, building, no more building permits?

J.F.: No.

M.O'R.: Do you remember that, Nellie?

N.F.: Something vaguely, but it didn't work? Why not? Why was Washington County allowed then to go - they did do more after that, didn't they?

M.O'R.: Oh, of course they did, yeah, it was temporary, very temporary.

N.F.: Yes.

M.O'R.: What happened was that that was what triggered the formation of the Unified Sewerage Agency.

N.F.: Oh, yes.

M.O'R.: It forced all these small sewage treatment plants to consolidate into just the one big operation, and then they got a lot of federal money to construct new sewage plants like the one here at ...

N.F.: Durham.

M.O'R.: At Durham, exactly. Do you remember the construction of that plant at Durham?

J.F.: Well, I saw it, but it wasn't of much interest to us.

M.O'R.: Did it seem to make any difference? That's part of what I'm wondering about.

J.F.: Well, there was so much more sewage all the time, and part of that came from Tigard. I remember them building it there.

M.O'R.: Right about the same time Scoggins Dam went in upriver. Did you see some difference from that?

J.F.: Well, you see, that dam is much larger. There was an earthen dam up there.

M.O'R.: That's right.

J.F.: On Scoggins Creek. Earthen dam, and during '36 and '37, that all washed out.

M.O'R.: Oh, this is way back then, you mean.

J.F.: But it took the Bureau of Reclamation or Engineers that long to catch up with it.

M.O'R.: From '36 to the mid-'70s, that's ...

N.F.: '76, something in there. Well, it was always a matter of wartimes and money and people wanting it or not wanting it, that Scoggins Dam. And I never can remember, is there an R in there, is it Scoggins or Scroggins?

M.O'R.: Scoggins, I think.

N.F.: Scoggins. I guess. And the farmers, that flooded lots of land, and the farmers didn't want that land flooded, did they? How, what does the Scoggins Creek Dam flood? There was talk about that. It flooded farmland.

J.F.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: The new dam, the 1970s dam?

N.F.: Yes. So I don't remember the area, but it's quite large. It was used for recreation as well as -.

J.F.: And they sell the water out of that dam to the farmers. And I was reading in the paper here, somewhere up there on Scoggins Creek in July the water was still standing in the field and Scoggins Dam wanted money for irrigation water.

N.F.: They wanted the payment no matter whether people were flooded or not.

J.F.: They were still flooded from the February storm.

M.O'R.: Did you have a option to get water from the new Scoggins project?

N.F.: I don't think we were ever approached on it at all.

J.F.: No.

M.O'R.: Well, you had your own, but I was just wondering if they talked to you about that.

N.F.: Yes, we had our own. No. We would hear about it, and there were certain things that go on that we have to pay on that we object to.

What is it, dear, that we pay out \$3 a month on something. We pay it every three months. I could tell you in my checkbook.

J.F.: Well, the Department of Utilities, isn't it?

N.F.: Something like that, maybe you'd like to know.

J.F.: For the improvement of the Tualatin River.

N.F.: Do you know about that?

M.O'R.: No, I don't know about that.

J.F.: All taxpayers ...

M.O'R.: Well, Jerry, tell me a little bit about the original dam up there, the earthen dam?

J.F.: That was long before my time.

M.O'R.: Oh, I thought you said it washed out in '37.

J.F.: Well, I never saw the dam up there. All I know is what I read in the papers, the reports.

N.F.: 1937 was exceptionally high water.

M.O'R.: Right, you told me that the floods were almost as bad as '96 then.

N.F.: Yes, that's right. The falls in Oregon City were almost level, and again in '64 they were very high. I worked for a family in Oregon City in '37, I took care of their children, and they were on a high bank, and it was just up ready to go over the yard and went down.

J.F.: Department of Utilities.

M.O'R.: Do either of you know about that original dam that washed out in '37? Was it managed in the same way for flood control and irrigation?

J.F.: No, it was just for that locality up there.

M.O'R.: Okay, so it wasn't as big a project as the later one then.

J.F.: I think it was, I don't know, but what I understood, it was owned by a bunch of farmers.

N.F.: Was that the Clackamas County Department of Utilities?

J.F.: Yeah.

N.F.: Yeah, that was the name of it then, and how come I paid \$19.50? Must have been more than three months.

J.F.: Well, we run behind sometimes.

N.F.: Every six months maybe or something.

J.F.: It's three something a month.

N.F.: Well, that was probably six months that I paid.

M.O'R.: And this is money that's earmarked to restore the river or something?

N.F.: I'm not sure.

M.O'R.: Well, when the second Scoggins Dam was built, most people say that they noticed the difference in the river after that, that if nothing else, there was more water in the river in the summertime. Did you notice?

N.F.: Yes, it was let out a little at a time, which is true probably. Instead of it just all running away, they were holding it back.

M.O'R.: Right, then they could control it.

J.F.: That didn't matter much to us here below the intake to Oswego Lake because they took it and dumped it all off.

M.O'R.: In the lake, huh?

J.F.: Yeah, they took what was running out of the Scoggins Dam and put it into Oswego Lake. The Lake Corporation figured they wasn't getting enough water.

N.F.: Well, I think they have some priority from way way back. The Lake Corporation is so old.

M.O'R.: Actually, that's another topic that we might talk about just briefly, the changes that you've seen in Lake Oswego over the years. It sounds like it was a much different place back when you were a kid, Jerry. Not so much a community for the wealthy, but just another place?

N.F.: I have seen the difference, too, in the 54 years I've been conscious of it. A great deal. It was so built up, they've let it build up above Palisades Market, up in there, houses everywhere, it seems to me. We have a friend, an old schoolmate of Jerry's who lives up in Paladin Heights, and there's quite a few houses although they're not crowded up there.

But the town, the same stores are not there. One thing, because of the malls around the country, Clackamas Town Center and Washington Square, things like that. Just like downtown Portland has suffered from the malls, Lake Oswego has. But there are still the basic things there for the residents who live there, and they have good schools, and they have art a good deal in Lake Oswego. They have that art center just as you're going into Lake Oswego from here. The Lakewood Grade School has been turned into a community art center. I don't know what they call it now. But at any rate, they do have things like that going on; that's a big thing in Lake Oswego.

M.O'R.: Has it always been a place for wealthy families from Portland to build their houses?

N.F.: A great deal, yes, a great deal. A fellow who wrote our will a few years ago lives on what he calls the poor side of the lake. The others are, I think, on this side, and I don't know what the difference is. Well, yes, the railroad runs close to the other side, that's what it is, and the duck pond area. But yes, it's been a place for the wealthy, and ...

M.O'R.: And because of that, there's always been a fair amount of political power there, too.

N.F.: I think so, yes. And the schools were inclined to brag a bit about if a kid went to school in Oswego, you know, Lake Oswego. You know, it wasn't Lake Oswego till fairly recent years. It was Oswego, and I'm just getting now to where I can address the garbage bill to Lake Oswego instead of Oswego. But at any rate, there has been that esteem connected with Oswego.

M.O'R.: Ever since you remember it, huh?

N.F.: Yes. With its growing and its crowding, I guess? that has gone down some. I mean, there's more of a mixture of people. One thing that has made a difference in Lake Oswego was when the

cement plant, because of the environmental quality group, they had to close down the cement plant because of the ash, the dust that settled on the cars in Lake Oswego, and the people didn't like that on their cars. Well, that plant had employed many many people there. That was the biggest industry in Oswego, and that made a difference.

M.O'R.: Now, there were a bunch of lawsuits filed, or two lawsuits actually, that were filed on behalf of the Tualatin River about 10 years ago - this would have been 1985 or 1986, to force the Department of Environmental Quality here in the state and the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington to clean up the Tualatin. Have you followed that at all?

N.F.: Yes, I remember about it. But I don't think they have found dumped tires or old wrecked cars or such as that in the Tualatin. A lot of these people don't know what Jerry has known and told me, and many other people know. It's never been a clear stream. It has a mud bottom, not a rock bottom, and so it's not a sparkling river. It's slow because the mountains aren't very high where the headwaters, and I think our general angle on that is that they don't know what they're doing, that they're trying to do something that's been there forever.

M.O'R.: So do you both think that there's been no change in the Tualatin for the better, or do you think it's maybe a little cleaner now than the days when it had so much algae in it and it actually smelled?

J.F.: Well, at one time, it was really bad.

N.F.: Do you think it's cleaner now than it was 10 years ago?

J.F.: I believe so, by looking at it. I don't go down there or nothing.

N.F.: Well, when we go into Willamette, we're right down by the river. See it oftener than when we do here. See we can't go

to the river anymore, which is good in a way. When we had young grandchildren, they're older now, but when they were real little and they would be here, it was nice to know they couldn't get to the river.

J.F.: I don't know when I went down past the river here last, but it looks as muddy.

N.F.: As I was telling Michael, it's never been sparkling clear blue water.

J.F.: No, no, it was always off shade.

M.O'R.: Right. But you used to swim in it, though.

J.F.: Oh yes, when you would put it in a bucket or like the people used to use it to go, they would go there and haul it for washwater because up here on the hills above us, the water was very short. There were no drilled wells, only one, and they used to haul water to wash their clothes with.

M.O'R.: From the Tualatin?

J.F.: Neighbors up above us here, they had a great big sled and they had a team of horses, and they would have barrels of water on that covered with sacks so it wouldn't splash out when they hauled it. It was about a quarter of a mile haul to the house.

N.F.: It was used for everything but drinking and cooking, I think, because it wasn't a lot of water. But we have been very fortunate with our well.

[End of Tape 3, Side 1]

JERRY AND NELLIE FIALA

Tape 3, Side 2

August 13, 1996

M.O'R.: This is Michael O'Rourke for the Washington County Historical Society. It's August 13th, and we're continuing the interview with Jerry Fiala and Nellie Fiala.

So, Jerry, I thought I would just start by asking you this morning, I think we got up the point where you had your job in town, and you were living here in the '40s. That's where we left off last time, and I think I would ask you how life changed here on the farm when your father died. Did you inherit the farm then?

J.F.: Well, I took care of it as best I could. When you work 16 hours at a shot, you don't get much time to work on the farm. We put in crops with the help of my brother, what little I could get, and then we rented the property out for hay crops.

M.O'R.: So you rented it to another farmer?

J.F.: Yes.

M.O'R.: And what crops did you put in when you were farming it?

J.F.: Well, we got a contract with a cannery to start growing beans, and Nellie took care of all of the details around the farm.

M.O'R.: Okay. I'll ask her some questions about that later. And when your father died, was the property divided up between all of you?

J.F.: Between us three children. I got the eastern end of the property.

M.O'R.: And did the other two also have other jobs, or did either of them -?

J.F.: Well, my brother was employed somewhere in Portland with a wash machine outfit, repairing machines, and my sister was trying to raise cattle and didn't enough land left.

M.O'R.: Was it here she was raising cattle?

J.F.: Yes. She was in poor health and couldn't do much. Then when the children grew up, why, we tried to farm it, but it was too much friction, and there was only little over seven acres of cleared land on her part. The rest of it was all pasture.

M.O'R.: On your sister's part?

J.F.: Yes. There was quite a bit of friction. She wanted to run it, and I wanted to run it, and it didn't work too well.

N.F.: She had been a stenographer in Portland for many years, and quit thinking she could make it on the farm, and she wasn't that able. She wasn't young, and she wasn't able to do enough of the work herself, and that was when it was rented out for the hayfields when Jerry's mother was still alive, and then it was left to the three.

M.O'R.: When you rented out, you mean all three parcels were rented out?

N.F.: Yes, the whole thing was. And then the friction came after the sister died - well, not completely, but anyway, it was different ways of running it, and so we ended up with this, and that's when we put in the vegetables, and the rest of it down there was still left in hay and some horses and things like that. They've cut the hay primarily to feed the stock that's there, the horses. It's been a mixed-up thing through the years, one thing and another.

M.O'R.: I just wanted to get an idea of what that transition was like.

N.F.: I realize that, and because there was the death of his father, the death of his mother, and then the sister, and then the brother, he's the only one left.

M.O'R.: Well, let me come back and ask you another question, Jerry. Do you remember when the Army Corps came in and were going to improve the river, the Tualatin River, by straightening it out, and also, I think, putting riprap on the banks or something was their plan?

J.F.: Yes, I remember that, and one of the neighbors down in Tualatin Dam Park, as it was called then, said "Well, why don't they just make a concrete ditch out of it?"

M.O'R.: So people didn't think it was a very good idea?

J.F.: No.

M.O'R.: And did people try to stop it then?

J.F.: No, it just didn't materialize. The Corps of Engineers did in later years dig out part of the river up by the city of Tualatin, four feet deep in the rapids there, to relieve the water in the upper river.

M.O'R.: To make the river run a little faster maybe?

J.F.: Well, I never went there to see because it was so dirty that it was just unbelievable. Algae floating here all over, every limb was completely covered.

M.O'R.: With algae, huh?

J.F.: Yes, and the fish were gone. There were no more fish.

M.O'R.: This would be about what time, about when was this?

J.F.: Well, up to about 10 years ago, it was really rotten.

M.O'R.: But when you were young, it was clean water.

J.F.: Clear as it could be.

M.O'R.: When did you first notice it starting to get bad?

J.F.: Right after the Second World War.

M.O'R.: Okay, so in the '50s, huh?

J.F.: When Washington County started building so many buildings on the land.

M.O'R.: Of course, it's gotten even worse recently.

J.F.: And as time went on, it got worse.

M.O'R.: The river, of course, has gotten a little bit better, but they're still building lots of houses out in Washington County.

J.F.: Yes, Washington County spoiled the river.

N.F.: Do you think that it's getting better? Is this the general opinion, their rules and regulations about what goes into the river, do you think it is helping?

M.O'R.: Well, I don't know. Do you think it's helping?

N.F.: I haven't been down to the river for years. We're all brushy. I see the river down the road when we go to town, but it doesn't look any better to me. But then, you know, while it's clear water, it's not a blue water river. It's a mud bottom.

M.O'R.: Right.

N.F.: And so it's never looked sparkling like the Clackamas, and it's a slow-moving stream. It isn't from the Cascades, it's from the coast mountains, which makes a great deal of difference. But I think it's hopeless for the Tualatin these days because of all the damage that's been done to it, all that's been allowed to be done to it.

M.O'R.: You know, I might ask you both, besides the algae that you saw in the river, did you see anything else in the river? Was there any evidence that people were dumping things in the river?

J.F.: Well, some of them that really inspected it close said that there was live sewage all over up above on the river.

M.O'R.: And how did you handle your own waste here on the farm?

J.F.: Well, it was just plain old outhouses at that time. Here we have septic tank and have to have it pumped every so often.

M.O'R.: But you never dumped your waste into the river, though?

J.F.: No, no. We're too far away from the river.

N.F.: It would have been Wilson Creek, and we wouldn't want to touch that. But Clackamas County's very strict on that now, on the sewage and all that. Your drainfields have to be so many feet and so far, cover a certain area. Our son's home was built just - I think they've been living there, oh, maybe they started building six years ago or so. Anyway, they run into all these things. It's very new, very fresh in our minds of what Richard's had to do. They didn't have room for a drainfield on their piece of property, so they went under the road, and it goes into our land a bit, and things like that that you have to be so careful about.

M.O'R.: Much more regulated than the old days, huh?

N.F.: Yes indeed, very, and it's good and it's bad. You lose your freedom because some of the things they go overboard on, we feel. And I don't know about Washington County men in charge, people in charge, but in Clackamas County, they don't seem to get together on what people are supposed to tell people. One will have one idea and one another.

In fact, Jerry and our other son's wife ran into some very difficult situations when they were trying to get a permit for Wes to build down there. There was no reason for him not to build there, but there was a lot of red tape. Said that he couldn't build on the land because it was farmland. Well, he only owns two acres, and it isn't good, it's steep land primarily. Just red tape. I don't know how Washington County is on that.

M.O'R.: And that's what you mean by overboard, that they've gone overboard?

NF: Yes, yes.

J.F.: When our son was trying to get a permit to build the house, the inspector came out and told us - the office in Oregon City, that the land was perfectly flat and all good farmland, and he said to Wes' wife and I, he says, "You'll never get a permit to build on that land. I am the law."

N.F.: Which riled them completely. But there were hearings. Several of us spoke at the hearings, and a lady who lived on Halcyon Road, I can't remember her name now, but she's moved away now, was there, and she knew what she was doing. She could tell them, and he got his permit.

M.O'R.: Roughly what year was this?

N.F.: I was still able to get in the car.

How long ago did Wes get his building permit, honey? Four, or about five or six years ago?

J.F.: Four years ago.

M.O'R.: Okay. That hearing aid must be a bit of a nuisance.

J.F.: It is.

M.O'R.: Maybe I'll ask you a little bit about raising your kids here on this land. How was that? How was the parenting experience and how did your kids, to what extent did they appreciate growing up here on the farm?

N.F.: Very much. They've appreciated it very much. We are proud of our family. They are good people, and they are hardworking people. All of them have specialties in different fields.

M.O'R.: Who are your children, just for the record? Can you tell me the names of your children for the record?

N.F.: Yes. Wesley is the one that lives down there. He's our eldest.

M.O'R.: And how old is he?

N.F.: He was 51 in January. He is married for the second time. His first wife, they had no children. He married a woman with three children, and Jay still living at home, he's 20. He works, and he's also going to Clackamas Community College, a fine young man.

M.O'R.: And so he lives here in this house? No.

N.F.: Wes' house down there.

M.O'R.: Oh, Wes' house, okay, right.

N.F.: Our second child is Doug, the engineer, who lives here, has never married. Our third child is our daughter Ann who works for Washington State, and I think I told you before, she doesn't like us to talk too much about it. She's in the corrections field, and you don't tell things about people, about what goes on. And the youngest son Richard lives out here. He's married to Terry, and they have the two children, and Lauren is 13 and Cole is almost eight. And Richard is in the computer field. He owns part of a company in Lake Grove, and it's a big business, it's a good business. He often travels to contact other people. He's in Omaha today. He was in Pennsylvania last week in Philadelphia, and things like that.

So they are busy active young people. His wife caters, and I don't see how they ever get going, how they do everything, but the children run in, which is wonderful.

M.O'R.: But you raised them all in this house?

N.F.: Yes, they were all raised right here. Would you like to hear about our building, in the war years we built what we could.

M.O'R.: Sure, tell me about the building this place.

N.F.: Well, we were married in 1942, right in the war years. Didn't I tell you about what happened to our wedding ceremony, during the evening?

M.O'R.: I don't think so.

N.F.: Well, it was blackout time, and we were married in the First Methodist Church, the old building in Oregon City, it's right where the one is now, up above town.

M.O'R.: Oh, I do remember, you did tell me those stories, yes.

N.F.: The lights, yes, the light showed in town, yes. And then we lived in Portland till we get the house built. We built it bit by bit with what we could get. And we had a 24 by 24 foot house, this room, the kitchen and bath and one bedroom. Then we built the two bedrooms on, and then we built the living room on. I think that we got it all done before Rich was born. So there's 12 years in there, and they weren't all spent in building.

But, at any rate, we have lived here, right here. Jerry worked in town.

We started the beanfield when Rich was two, and he's almost 40, and this is the first year we haven't sold vegetables commercially, although I find we are selling commercially. Did I tell you that this morning? Yes, they've been calling about it. Sometimes, we, the kids and I would have out there 80 people.

One weekend we needed beans picked, they just needed to be picked, and the cannery wanted them. I think it was on a Saturday which we didn't usually work, or Sunday, but we had 120 people out there. It grew. Everybody brought everybody they knew. And we had some bad experiences in the beanfield. I was frightened more than once by the people who came.

M.O'R.: Oh really? Can you tell me about some of these experiences?

N.F.: Yes. One time we called the Employment Bureau. We will not hire people through the Employment Bureau, wouldn't ever again. We get unknown quantities and quality. Three women came

out. They'd been used to working in a big field and filling their sacks clear full. I think it was after school started, and so I was out there with them, them and with others, and they expected me, they'd fill their sacks as full as they could, and they expected me to carry them in. I had told them not to fill them too full, and they had to carry their own sacks and we never carried them in. Well, the boys when the kids were here did, but I didn't. I took care of the scales and the tickets and things. But one of them wasn't very nice about it, and I told them we didn't need them any more.

Another time, our church, the Methodist Church in Oregon City, has a program, one of several churches in Oregon City that does it, one takes each day of the week. And this woman wanted to help. She'd been helping in this program, and so she came out to pick beans, and we told her whatever they could use that week. I think it amounted to 75 pounds. She brought help, and they were out there a long time, and I went out there and I was afraid to say anything with the people that she brought with her there.

So finally she knew that I was unhappy about it, and she said, "I think we have enough." Instead of 75 pounds, she probably had 275 pounds. So I called my friend at church who was heading this, and Virginia talked to her, this lady who was here, and she said, "What have you done with beans," or something of that sort. And she called me and she said, do you want them back? They're sitting in boxes in the garage, wasted."

Another time there was other people out there ...

M.O'R.: They overpicked just because ...

N.F.: Yes, they just were picking. I mean, because they were there, I guess. She came to pick 75 pounds, she brought friends with her to get beans, and evidently they all picked more than they wanted. It was just a waste and it was frightening.

I ran into several situations like that where it was frightening. We got some from down on Burnside one weekend, and had a young friend who is still a very dear, very good friend of our kids, and Ron was way up in the field, and these people had brought more people than we wanted. They'd loaded their car, and they wanted money for bringing these people, the other people, and I didn't want them to pay them what they asked. I would have paid some, but not what they were asking. I called Ron in, and he said, pay them and get them off the place. We ran into things like that. It just wasn't pleasant sometimes.

There was a girl who's very well known in Tualatin now, who was here and brought her two brothers, I think, with her, and she was bossing her brother. She stood up to me and she said, "I tell my brothers what to do and what not to do," and I said, "Just take them home."

That's all you can do with problems, especially when I was out there alone in some of these situations. Anyway, it was things like that. We had problems, but we had very good customers, we had wonderful dealings with Portland Canning until it closed down. We sold them cabbage. Our son had cabbage down on the other end of the place, and we had the beanfield for many many years. It was a pleasure, and we still hear from some of the young people, and it's nice to have them remember us and to know about them.

M.O'R.: And this was never your primary support, though, the income from the farm?

N.F.: No, because Jerry was still working in Portland at that time. Then when he retired ...

We were through picking for Portland Canning when you retired, weren't we?

J.F.: Yes.

N.F.: Yes, we were picking for the stores then, a lot of stores. Primarily Wizer's has stayed with us, the store in Oswego.

M.O'R.: Have you had any problems here with Lake Oswego downriver from here? Is it downriver or -?

N.F.: It's upriver.

M.O'R.: Oh, it's upriver. Oh well, then you wouldn't have any problems.

N.F.: The canal was up from Stafford Road and on up a ways.

M.O'R.: Okay, I was thinking it was below. Well, the dam's below, but the canal is upriver.

So have you ever had any problems with the Lake Oswego Corporation or with the dam down below?

N.F.: Not really. It's historical, very historical. The dam has been in there many many years, and that of course is how Oswego has water from the canal.

M.O'R.: Right, for the lake, sure.

N.F.: It crops up every once in a while about it. I talked to a friend yesterday who was in the homeowners with me, and he was remembering when they dug the rocks out of the river up by his house. He lives just this side of Washington County line.

M.O'R.: I guess there was a foundry in Lake Oswego that had water rights from the Tualatin. Do you remember that operation?

N.F.: Oregon Iron & Steel.

J.F.: Yeah, they had a smelter.

M.O'R.: A smelter, okay.

J.F.: Yeah, and water from the lake used to run a sawmill there.

M.O'R.: So they used the water to power the sawmill?

J.F.: Yes. And there's still a generating facility below the dam in Oswego. There are two six-foot pipes that run down there to run the water from the lake to the generator.

M.O'R.: But is the generator still used?

J.F.: They say it is. But I would say that it must take a lot of upkeep because the whole powerhouse has been flooded several times.

M.O'R.: Well, I started to ask you about your children at one point. How did they grow up on the farm? What sort of things did they do here on the farm to either help you or to have fun?

N.F.: They worked. They worked.

M.O'R.: They worked, huh? What kind of work did they do for you?

J.F.: Everything, even planting the crops.

N.F.: Clear through, planting and harvesting, and then as they got older and the few got larger, they bossed in the field, worked on the truck, delivered the beans to - when Wes was 16 and he could drive the truck, take the beans to the cannery in Sherwood. So the summers were very busy. And actually their main participation at school outside of their classroom was the sports.

Jerry was taking the kids to the basketball games and football games since they were little, and they've always and he's always - until just lately when he can't drive at night anymore, and sometimes Doug, who lives at home, takes him and then bring him home. Doug has written for the local paper and he's scorekeeper. He's very active in the sports. In fact, he has honors from the Oregon Athletic Association, outstanding sports writer and just keeping track of the sports.

[End of Tape 3, Side 2]