

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with

MRS. IVY LIVERMORE BANY

17260 S.W. Bany Road, Beaverton, Oregon

INTERVIEWER: SHIRLEY TANZER

Date of Interview: October 10, 1982

SUMMARY OF TOPICS DISCUSSED

INTERVIEW WITH: IVY LIVERMORE BANY

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

1. Family from Wisconsin & Iowa to Huber & Aloha
2. Father has sawmills, lumber yard;
Is county commissioner, judge
3. Lived at Nut Loft & 170th
4. Her two brothers
5. Her mother's dressmaking
6. Brother Francis dies drilling wells on Cooper Mountain
Brother John to San Francisco
7. Ivy runs beauty shop; Sanitary Beauty School, Portland
8. School in Aloha & Hillsboro
9. Methodist Religion
10. Married to Ray Stivers, Lived in Longview, WA
11. Life during Depression.
12. Her daughter's garden wedding
13. Huber Commercial Club Dances
14. The Nut Loft
15. Marriage to Wes Bany (Durham Rock Crusher)
16. Home Health Care
17. Jenkins Estate & family
18. Politics; Ku Klux Klan
19. Lewis & Clark Exposition
20. Canyon Road in 1905
21. Her property in Beaverton
22. Her philosophy of life

(Where unknown, phonetic spellings are used)

INTERVIEW WITH IVY LIVERMORE BANY

for

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Second Voice: Mrs. Bany's daughter, Florence

Place: 17260 S.W. Bany Road, Beaverton, Oregon

Interviewer: Shirley Tanzer

SHIRLEY TANZER: Mrs. Bany, where did your parents come from?

IVY LIVERMORE BANY: My father came from Wisconsin and my mother came from Iowa. They met at Myrtle Plain and got married soon after; they moved to Portland and then came out to Beaverton.

TANZER: Do you know why they decided to come to Beaverton?

IVY: My father had worked for M. N. Polson's in Portland but he wanted to start a mill of his own out to Beaverton.

TANZER: Was this a lumber mill he wanted to start?

IVY: No. He was cutting timber off of Cooper Mountain and all this area. Then he bought the property, 280 acres, and cleared that with the mill. Then he sold the mill and went to Huber (at that time, they called it Perkins Crossing) and started a lumber yard. He had the lumber shipped in over the railroad; then he delivered it all around there and people built their homes -- it's Huber and Aloha.

TANZER: Did he close the mill then when he had the lumber yard?

IVY: Yes. He sold. And they'd moved it away.

TANZER: Now didn't you tell me that he had two mills?

IVY: He had one up on Weir Road where we lived. He cleared all the timber around there. Then he moved down to what is now 170th and after he was there a while, he bought timber from the railroad company. He bought the property and cleared it -- 280 acres of timber. When he got that all cleared is when we moved down to Huber.

We lived in the top of the Nut Loft for a while and then he built a real nice home over on Blanton Street, about a block behind the Nut Loft. He ran that business for a while and then they wanted to run him for County Commissioner. He was County Commissioner about eight years and then they run him for judge in Washington County and he won the election. He was only in six months and he got sick and had pneumonia and passed away. That was in 1931.

TANZER: Let me ask you a few questions. First of all, was the lumber company called "Livermore Lumber Co.?" Did it have your father's name?

IVY: Yes. F. W. Livermore.

TANZER: What do you remember about the first house on Weir Road?

IVY: Well, I don't remember much about that because I was only $3\frac{1}{2}$ years old. I remember when we moved down on the farm, though, the second move to 170.

TANZER: The farm is still standing? Does someone live in it now?

IVY: Yes. The old house is the office for the houses they build there -- and there are hundreds of houses. It's the development office. He built that and my mother cooked for the men in the mill at first, but then they had more men working for them and she wasn't able to do it. So they hired help, a cook. They always had a cook.

And we had two Grandpas who lived with us. Grandpa Steel and Grandpa Livermore.

TANZER: Let me ask you about the Steel family. That was your mother's father.

IVY: They lived in Marshfield. That's where my father met my mother.

TANZER: How had he come to Marshfield, do you know?

IVY: No, I don't.

TANZER: Did that Grandpa Steel ever have property here?

IVY: Yes, he had taken up a homestead just out of Marshfield a little ways.

TANZER: But he did not have a homestead in Beaverton?

IVY: No. No, he passed away at our home down to Huber. Both of the Grandpas passed away at our home. My Grandpa Steel was 89 and Grandpa Livermore was 86 when he passed away. My folks took care of them.

TANZER: How many children were there in your family?

IVY: There were three. I had a brother Francis Livermore and a brother John Livermore. I was the oldest and they were both born on our farm on 170th.

TANZER: Mrs. Bany, what did your father farm?

IVY: Well, that 80 acres he cleared off, he just put hay in there and they fed it to the cows. They baled it.

TANZER: Did he have a dairy herd?

IVY: Yes. He put cows out there and we took the farm over and ran it. I think we were there during World War I, about three years.

TANZER: What did he do with the lumber mill at that time?

IVY: Well, he had sold that. And he had moved down to Huber at the time we were living there, and she was born out there in that house that's the office of the housing development. --I talk so slow on there.

TANZER: Well, it you're thinking and talking, don't worry about it. We've got plenty of tapes.

IVY: (Laughter) I doubt if you could understand.

TANZER: Oh, I can understand. It's easier for the transcriber to type when someone talks slowly. That's much better for us. --So did he give up the lumber yard in Huber, your father, that is?

IVY: He gave it up when he went in as the County Commissioner. He ran two terms as County Commissioner and then they put him up for judge. He was only in six months and he had pneumonia and passed away.

TANZER: What happened to the business when he passed away?

IVY: All the lumber and everything was sold out. My brothers took over, and then we sold property around there.

TANZER: Did your brothers continue with any part of the business?

IVY: No. My brother Francis was working in the Bank of Beaverton as a cashier for three or four years. John was a surveyor for Washington County for several years. After my father passed away, the boys didn't want to keep up the lumber business.

TANZER: How close were you to your father?

IVY: VERY close.

TANZER: Did you do some things with him?

IVY: Oh, I rode to work with him when he was going back and forth as Commissioner. I went to high school in Hillsboro, and then I took up beauty work. That was ten years I worked in Hillsboro.

TANZER: Tell me about your mother.

IVY: My mother had heart trouble. All of us took care of her at home.

TANZER: What kind of childhood did she have, do you know? Did she ever talk about it?

IVY: Well, yes, we talked about it. She had a sister and I guess they had kind of a hard time because it was on a homestead and everybody got sick with the diptheria. She lost part of her family and then she went to work for a dressmaker. She was working at that when my father and her met. She always did all of our dressmaking. She sewed for just her family.

MRS. BANY'S DAUGHTER: Actually, she worked in Portland for a tailor the first eight years of their married life. I've forgotten the tailor's name.

TANZER: Where did your parents meet?

IVY: In Marshfield. I don't believe Marshfield exists now. Isn't it Coquille?

TANZER: Actually, it's part of Coos Bay. The high school is called Marshfield High School, so it's contiguous to Coos Bay. Tell me about your brothers. What were they like?

IVY: They were very ambitious. Francis was in the bank working and he was married with a wife and daughter. A couple of years after they were married he went into the well drilling business.

TANZER: After the banks closed?

IVY: Yes. I believe it was 1930. He went to work with Mr. Jansen and then he took the partner in with him. He was drilling wells up on Cooper Mountain and he passed away on the job. He had a heart attack. He was young, just over 30.

TANZER: What about your other brother?

IVY: My other brother got married and had two sons. He lost his wife and remarried and went to San Francisco. And he also died of a heart attack.

TANZER: Young, also?

IVY: Yes. He had a store in San Francisco. They had a great big place, all fancy, called So An -- it was a gift shop.

TANZER: Do you keep in touch with his family?

IVY: Oh yes, his sons have been here since I've moved down here. One came one day, the day we moved and the other one came a couple of days afterwards. They are married and one does computer work and the other one is in Roseburg. He used to be a butcher and they went out on the farms and did the butchering. He gave that up because his back hurt and then he opened a business, a frozen food locker, and was a meatcutter for years and years. Then he sold the business to his son and moved to Florida.

TANZER: So this is the son of John? Tell me about your own family activities at home; your mother, your father, your brothers. How did you spend the evenings? Did you play games? Did you do your studies? What type of activities did you have as a family?

IVY: Very, very good. I played the piano. I took piano lessons. John sang the operetta at Beaverton High School the year he graduated. He had a very good voice. We had a real good home life. Everybody worked together helping each other. We had lots of animals there at Huber.

TANZER: What kind of animals did you have?

IVY: We had a fox for one thing. We raised foxes. That was the thing.

TANZER: What did you raise them for, the fur?

IVY: Yes.

DAUGHTER: And then we had pigeons, chickens, a cow, a goat, pigs, rabbits. I know. I had to feed them. (Laughter)

TANZER: Did you live with them then?

DAUGHTER: Oh yes. She got a divorce from my father and came home. Then I went to Beaverton High School and graduated from there in 1936. Four years from now, it will be the 50th for me.

TANZER: So how did you enjoy living in the same house with your grandparents?

DAUGHTER: Oh, wonderful!

IVY: We all got along. Everybody helped the other one.

DAUGHTER: In those days my mother would bring her towels home from the beauty shop and wanted a fresh uniform every day.

IVY: And 'she'd iron it for me every day. Those were the Depression days when we were all hanging together.

TANZER: Tell me how you got into the beauty shop and why.

IVY: A friend of mine was thinging of beauty work and I decided I'd like to do it because I was always fixing everybody's hair around home. My brother and my father helped me and I went to beauty school. When I graduated, my father as a gift to me (he belonged to the Oddfellow Lodge) got me to go in under his membership and I'm a Rebekah. And then my brother Francis, we was married and he joined Masons and he took me in under his membership and I'm an Eastern Star. That was my gift from my family. And I've always kept up with it. Haven't been able to go recently.

TANZER: Now where did you go to beauty school?

IVY: I went to the Sanitary Beauty School in Portland. It was a six-month course and then she followed later and worked for me in Hillsboro. We went back and forth on the Greyhound.

TANZER: Did you take the Red Train, did you say?

DAUGHTER: That was for high school when she went to Hillsboro.

TANZER: How come you went to school in Hillsboro? Why didn't you go to school in Beaverton?

IVY: There was no high school when I went there.

TANZER: You went to Beaverton Grade School?

IVY: No, I never went to Beaverton. We were at Aloha and I finished there and then I went to Hillsboro. I had a course at St. Mary's in business for about a year so I could help my father. I made out his bills.

TANZER: What was your religious affiliation?

IVY: We were Methodist, all our family. We went to church in Beaverton.

DAUGHTER: You used to ride down with the minister and his horses. It was at Progress, wasn't it Mother? You used to call it the M. E. Church, so that was the Methodist Episcopal at the time.

IVY: Yes.

TANZER: Do you remember the Reverend's name, that you rode with?

IVY: Reverend Horner. That's when I was a real small child living up on the hill. My brother and I, as soon as he was big enough, went with Rev. Horner, the Methodist minister.

DAUGHTER: That's when you won the Bible. I told her she was the Minister's favorite.

IVY: I was 12 years old when I won that. I had to write an essay on certain things in the Bible and I had to get up in Sunday School in church and read, and I won the Bible. And I was only 12 years old then.

TANZER: After your schooling at Hillsboro High School, you got married.

IVY: I was 19 when I married her father, Ray Stivers. We lived together quite a while. We lived in Longview, Washington, and he was a truck driver and -- oh, I don't know, it was one thing and another. We didn't get along (laughter) so I separated and come back home when she was 12 years old.

TANZER: Approximately what year would that have been, when you were 12?

DAUGHTER: I was born in 1917. It was 1929 when she started to beauty school, and she went to beauty school six months and then you opened your shop in Hillsboro, and then it burned down and you moved up over the Delta Drug Store.

IVY: Yes. They moved me in the night -- I'll tell you that. On a Saturday night there was a fire next door to where I had my beauty shop. It was right across from the Courthouse.

My father, he was the judge over there. That's the reason he picked the place for me to move to. It was a small beauty shop but when this building burnt down, the business people in town moved me. I didn't even know I had a fire until Monday. They called me and said, "Your beauty shop is on the lawn of the Courthouse. (laughter) What do we do with it?"

Well, I said, "I'll be right up." All the family helped. There was a man who rented buildings around town, and he came over and said to me, "We'll move you. Everybody is going to help." It was over the Delta Drug Store. I was there 10 years.

TANZER: When did you marry Mr. Bany?

IVY: Oh, I didn't marry him until later years. He worked for my father when he was 16. He cut timber all over this country for that mill. He was married to a lady; she was a Gasner and her folks lived up on the hill. She got sick and passed away. She was a sister to my aunt (my Uncle Ernest's wife) who lived right on 179th.

TANZER: That's Ann. So she was a sister to Aunt Lena.

IVY: Lena and Dave Jansen they were.

DAUGHTER: This Aunt Babe was married to Ernest Livermore, and 179th was called Livermore Avenue at that time. Then it was changed to numbers.

IVY: It was a funny thing when my uncle married her. The Banys lived in that house over there (that was Whiz Bany's parents) and my Uncle Ernest bought the house from the Bany's.

TANZER: So there was a very close family tie?

IVY: Oh, yes. (laughter)

DAUGHTER: Cooper Mountain is related to Cooper Mountain.

TANZER: I want to ask you a few questions. First of all, did your father make a good living with his business?

IVY: Very good. He was a prosperous man. We never wanted for anything, I would say, until the bank went broke (laughter). That was in the 30's.

TANZER: Now your father was president of the bank?

IVY: Yes. He was president and ...

DAUGHTER: They closed the doors and it never opened again. I don't know what they paid off at that time.

IVY: Well, it opened later.

TANZER: But when it reopened, did they pay?

IVY: Yes, after a certain time. I can't remember what really happened right away.

TANZER: What was your life like during the Depression?

IVY: Well, we never wanted for anything that I know of. Everybody worked together and helped each other. I can't remember having too much trouble. We got along fine. Of course, losing my parents and my brothers after -- that was in later years -- after I married Mr. Bany, I lost my brother Francis. He came over and drilled the well. We gave him some property over here for drilling and he built a house; and while he was drilling wells, he passed away. That

was the worst thing. We was losing our family. But we seemed to weather through it, no matter what happened. We just keep a going on and when my husband got sick, I took care of him.

TANZER: How long was he sick?

IVY: He was sick about five years, in and out of the Veterans Hospital, and home. I took care of him when he was home. The doctor kept a-sayin' "I think we should put Mr. Bany in the rest home. Mrs. Bany's overdoing." And I wouldn't listen to it, no.

TANZER: Well, you can be happy about that.

IVY: Yes. I took care of him. We was married thirty years. He was 90 when he passed away. We was very happily married.

DAUGHTER: Now all our mail is addressed to the "Grandmas" on Bany Road. (laughter) Our grandchildren write to the Grandmas with out-size big envelopes.

IVY: She's got grandchildren and I've got great ones. (Laughter)

TANZER: How many great grandchildren do you have?

IVY: Eight great grandchildren. And my daughter had three children. These girls have helped paint the house and all of this work was done by the grandson that married the oldest granddaughter. He's a house contractor.

TANZER: Has the church continued to be part of your habits, and in what way?

IVY: Yes, both of us belong to the United Methodist Church in Beaverton.

DAUGHTER: Janet's a Lutheran. We seem to be inclined to follow the religion of our spouses. I had attended as a child the Baptist at Aloha. We were married by the Methodist Minister out of Beaverton, had a garden wedding at my grandparents' home in Huber.

IVY: And you was married right over on Blanton Street. We had a big wedding right out in the yard.

TANZER: Was the weather favorable?

DAUGHTER: Yes, it was. July 21, 1940, and it was a beautiful day.

IVY: Lots of family!

DAUGHTER: That was mostly all family. My father was the eldest of 13 in his family -- so, relatives!! All the family came. All sides of each family came to the wedding.

TANZER: How do you feel about Beaverton?

IVY: Oh, I like Beaverton, but, My! It's growed! We don't much like traffic (laughter). Of course, I'll always hang to Beaverton.

TANZER: Where did your mother do her shopping when you were growing up?

IVY: Beaverton. And I'll tell you how we did it. My brother and I drove a horse. We didn't have cars when we were smaller. We had one horse hooked up to a buggy and everybody in Beaverton knew us. They'd say, "There's the Livermore kids." One day the horse got unhooked and it went out, but I hung on to it and jumped out right in the mud.

DAUGHTER: Somebody didn't hitch it up properly did they?

IVY: Oh, no, we did it; we put the horse in. It wasn't hooked up right, and I jumped right into the mud, right in front of Cady's store where we shopped and they came out, asked what happened, and helped get my horse hooked up again. (laughter)

DAUGHTER: Oh. Mother used to ride her horse to school.

IVY: Oh, yes. We had horses.

DAUGHTER: They had sheds, and they had the woodshed and everything.

TANZER: At school?

DAUGHTER: Sure.

TANZER: And what did you do for excitement in Beaverton?

IVY: Well, I don't really remember. Dancing, I think at the Huber Commercial Club in later years was the big thing. Everybody went to the Huber Commercial Club. That was right above 170th where you turn to come out here. They built a big clubhouse, but they've taken it down now.

TANZER: I've seen pictures of that. So, did you go to Portland for entertainment?

IVY: Oh, yes. And we went to shows.

TANZER: How about shopping? Were you able to do all your shopping in downtown Beaverton?

IVY: No. My mother, when she was alive, would take us to Portland to Meier & Frank's and Lippman-Wolf for shoes and that sort of thing. She sewed most of my clothes until, oh, maybe I was sixteen. She had a Wheeler-Wilson sewing machine and...

DAUGHTER: One of my daughters has that. I'm the one that has my mother's.

TANZER: Does the treadle one work?

DAUGHTER: Oh, yes, they both work. They're not in use, though. My daughters prefer the electric.

IVY: But she has it in her sitting room, up to Salem. Her husband was fond of antiques so they got a lot of our old chairs and lockers.

TANZER: How lucky they are.

DAUGHTER: She says she feels right at home when she comes because of all her furniture there.

IVY: Grandma's (that was my mother's) fruit jars, green ones, that we had. Oh, Janet wanted those. And she built a shelf in her kitchen for all those green fruit jars. (Laughter)

TANZER: Those are very expensive if you go out to buy them. They really are antiques and she's very fortunate that she has them. Was your father able to leave any money to the family?

IVY: Oh, yes. I got the Nut Loft, but I didn't sell it for many years. That was mine.

DAUGHTER: That was the F. W. Livermore building materials it had on the front of it, until they painted it, of course. And it's been many things. We call it the Nut Loft.

IVY: Because Mr. Jack, he rented it for a long time and he had people coming there -- the reason it got the name of The Nut Loft -- they cracked nuts there for years -- three or four. He hired people to crack nuts. A lot of ladies worked there.

PART ONE AUDIO RECORDING ENDS HERE

TANZER: We've talked about the fact that you married Mr. Bany and you met him through your uncle and aunt. Where did you live after you married Mr. Bany?

IVY: I was living in Longview, Washington. I took up a nursing course down there; I trained at Longview Memorial Hospital for a year and got my license as a Licensed Practical Nurse. Then I came back to Washington County after I married Wes.

I met him over to my uncle's one Sunday and, of course, I'd known him all my life. He said, "Can I come down to see you some day?" And I said, "Yes, but be sure and phone me ahead of time so I'll know when you're coming down." Well, he didn't miss any time. The following Saturday night he found me and he says, "Will you be home tomorrow?" and I said, "Yes." And he said, "I'm coming down to see you." I had told him where I was living and how to get there. I said, "About what time will you be down?" He said, "It will take me an hour or two."

TANZER: Where were you living at this time?

IVY: I was living out in Kelso, Washington, with a friend of mine. She took up nursing and that's how I come to take it up. We trained in the Longview Hospital.

TANZER: After you married Mr. Bany, did you move and live in Longview?

IVY: Oh, yes.

TANZER: What year did you move back to Portland?