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1248 (Fourth interview – Angela Brown)
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1250 Interviewer: Linda Stiles-Taylor (LT)
1251 Interviewee: Angela Brown (AB)
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1253 (Now showing several pictures of the building with Linda Taylor narrating)
1254
1255 Filming the crowded storage space and work area...
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1257 LT: ...happened in our storage space and work room, and this is certainly a good example of
1258 what the upstairs left looks like these days. (Change to a picture of the young adult stacks)
1259 Here's a picture from the loft area showing just how crowded the stacks have become in recent
1260 years, the growth of our collection. We've exceeded the ability to grow our collection without
1261 additional space. (Showing different stacks) This shows some of the nonfiction stacks. (From
1262 behind desk) Here's a view from our circulation desk to the wall that will be removed in the
1263 spring of 2001. (Showing the business Jim's Automotive) For years Jim's Automotive occupied
1264 the space next to The Forest Grove City Library on Pacific Avenue. In 1999 there was a change.
1265 (Another photo of the area) Demolition occurred. And this is the process of demolition occurring
1266 right here. (Another photo of equipment in a pile of rubble). It's completed in this picture right
1267 here. You can see the amount of debris that had to be removed from the site. (picture of cleaner
1268 area). Now with demolition completed there's the wall...
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1271 (Showing a picture of two people sitting on a couch with instruments)
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1273 LT: And here she is in an early picture. What were you up to in this particular one?
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1275 AB: This was a staff Christmas, or holiday party. We're playing bells.
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1277 LT: So you were performing a little musical entertainment?
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1279 AB: Yes, we were going Christmas songs, Christmas carols on the hand bells. The kids always
1280 liked it.
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1282 LT: You note your musical interests in the library because of being a great Bonnie Raiter fan and
1283 that you go with the library director...

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1285 AB: We view concerts together. Bonnie Raiter, yes.

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1287 (New picture with three people standing by the stacks)

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1289 LT: Same staff party, you on the right?

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1291 AB: Same one, same party. There I'm just eating (laughs).

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1293 LT: Another popular staff time around Forest Grove Library.

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1295 AB: Some of us caught eating in the act. These parties were potlucks.

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1297 LT: Kiera's in the middle and Jena on the right. Of those three employees you're the only one
1298 who hasn't changed your name.

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1300 AB: I'm the only one who still works here.

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1302 LT: The only one who still works here as well. So don't change your name because you might
1303 get ideas of leaving.

1304
1305 AB: I always said I don't have to change my name because it's already 'a', Angela. Kiera, Jena,
1306 so I don't have to change.

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1308 LT: Oh, gotcha. So you can keep it.

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1310 (picture of a newspaper clipping with title "Library popular but still underused")

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1312 LT: So here's a 1994 article in the paper with your picture figured prominently as doing
1313 circulation?

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1315 AB: Here I am, yes, hard at work doing circulation.

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1317 LT: Have you been in the newspaper often?

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1319 AB: No.

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1321 LT: That's one surprise coming to the Forest Grove library is that you do wind up in the paper.

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1323 AB: Yes, you do wind up in the paper, you're just doing your job and, you know, you wind up in
1324 the paper. This is still a patron of ours too, the woman in the picture. And that child of course, is
1325 a kid now.

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1327 (picture of Angela in an apron and paper hat with another woman on the right.)

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LT: Of course another of your responsibilities around here is to wear hats.

AB: Many hats, yes, many different hats. This was an infamous hat thing, which, what was the theme? Um, I remember. The theme was “Munch a bunch of books”.

LT: Back to the ‘we all love to eat’ thing.

AB: Yes.

(Another picture of Angela holding a paper chain in front of their face.)

LT: And what about this classic photo?

AB: This is my ‘you should stay home on your birthday’ when you work here. ‘Cause, I don’t know, they’ll figure it out anyway and have a party for you. That’s me getting a whoop-de-woo for my birthday.

LT: A whoop-de-woo has become a classic item around here so do you want to elaborate on what a whoop-de-woo is?

AB: Oh gosh. It started out as a story told by an employee in another department about when he was a kid and looking forward at Christmas time. They were very poor and they looked forward at Christmas time to getting their box, their gift, and inside would be a whoop-de-woo. It’s this empty paper towel thing, you know, one of those tubes, it’s what they’d get for Christmas. It was a joke. But we’d elaborate on it and we’d decorate ours. This one has a Scottish theme. It has a bagpiper on it. Kiera made that for me for my birthday. I still have it.

LT: Not surprising. So you have kind of an interesting story about how you ended up in Forest Grove City Library back in 1990, if you want to share that.

AB: I do. I came over, I originally worked for Forest Grove in the Utility department, and that was what I did for a year. During that year they had what they called an employee exchange, I guess they had it for a while, I don’t think they have it any more. There was an opportunity to work in a different department and I thought the library would be fun. So I came over here on an exchange and thought this could be a place I could like. Not too long after that a job came open. Actually several positions came open and that’s how I came to be here.

LT: What do you remember about the early days when you first came in 1990? Are there things that stand out?

AB: That was the year we lost the bussing.

LT: Ah, the wild year.

1373 AB: Yah. That was the year that the funding for the Forest Grove School District decided they
1374 couldn't fund transportation, so as a result of that there was a major impact on the library where
1375 kids were coming here after school in droves and for long periods of time, waiting for their
1376 parents to pick them up. Most of these kids lived outside of town and had no way to get home
1377 until their parents came to pick them up.
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1379 LT: After a long day sitting at a desk and some energy to burn by the time they got here.
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1381 AB: Crazy, yes, it was crazy. I can't remember the numbers, but there'd be twenty or thirty kids
1382 at a table, and all over the place. Sometimes they got a little rambunctious. Most of them were
1383 good kids though, but it was a challenge.
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1385 LT: It didn't discourage you though. It was your opening experience.
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1387 AB: I remember it was the spring time and they were particularly being rambunctious that week.
1388 I think it was right before a holiday week and I was going to take a week off the next week, and I
1389 remember I was really glad I scheduled that vacation because I really needed it.
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1391 LT: And what kinds of job responsibilities did you have in those days?
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1393 AB: My first position was...I was a library assistant going the interlibrary loans and processing
1394 those. And doing all the holds, pulling the holds and all that. Vicki does it now. That was my
1395 first job.
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1397 LT: Then you made the shift too...
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1399 AB: Someone left and I got a promotion to the job I do now which is the job I've done for seven
1400 years which is acquisitions.
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1402 LT: Acquisitions, meaning you get to...
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1404 AB: Meaning I get to order all the books and tapes, all the materials.
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1406 LT: And you're on very good terms with the UPS man who comes and gives you your cartload
1407 after cartload after cartload of boxes of new book.
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1409 AB: We're buds, yes.
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1411 LT: You've seen an expanding book budget, no doubt, since you began that position.
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1413 AB: It's always been pretty healthy the whole time I've been doing it. It went down one year; we
1414 lost a chunk of it. Mostly we decided to take that out of the reference budget so it really didn't
1415 affect my job a lot because reference materials is mostly standing type orders that come in, you
1416 know, I don't actually order them they just come. I pay for them, that's about it. But besides that
1417 it's gone up every year. Then we recently started adding monies for our expansion, so I have an
1418 extra hunk of money this year, and I'll have another one next year, so it's challenging.

1419 LT: And did you have any experience with libraries before you came here? Was it something
1420 you...?

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1422 AB: I hadn't worked in a library before. When I was just out of high school I worked at
1423 Blackwell, a place that made card catalog cards.

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1425 LT: In the good ol' days when there were card catalogs.

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1427 AB: When there were card catalogs, I made those, yah. That was like a warehouse job though,
1428 out in a warehouse. That was the closest I ever came before coming here.

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1430 LT: When you see what library service is in the '90's in Forest Grove do you have any things
1431 that stand out in your mind? Or what it is that particularly interests you about being in the
1432 library, working here?

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1434 AB: Well one thing I've been involved in is service to the Hispanic patrons which is, had a
1435 committee, a standing committee dealing with that for several years now. I think we're starting
1436 to make some headway there, finally. But we've increased materials budget and added materials
1437 for those patrons, and doing some outreach, and hopefully going to be doing more of that.

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1439 LT: As that community grows then our services to that community grow.

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1441 AB: Our services are going to grow, yes. When you add...that's why we formed the committee.
1442 We're starting to see that. So hopefully we'll be able to keep up with that.

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1444 LT: Do any other major events stand out for you in the '90's as far as in the library that...I
1445 imagine technology changing had in impact on you.

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1447 AB: Yes, that had a major impact, especially in the last couple of years going from an old type of
1448 computer system to the one we currently have. It affects my job quite a bit because the vendor
1449 we chose to use wasn't really ready with the acquisitions part of their system yet so I spent a year
1450 sort of working outside of an automated system. I had to invent it myself and put little parts of it
1451 together. But now I'm starting to use what's there of that vendors system, working out some of
1452 the kinks so that's getting better.

1453
1454 LT: Things on Polaris is improving and therefore...

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1456 AB: Polaris is improving. Polaris is almost there.

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1458 LT: Almost what we hoped it would have...

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1460 AB: Yes, almost what we hoped it would have been two years ago.

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1462 LT: So its been a challenge but you've risen to the occasion, your still in there swinging so...

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1464 AB: I hope so. I've had to make a lot of changes.

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1466 LT: So flexibility is an important part of being an employee here.
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1468 AB: I've had to be very flexible, yes.
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1470 LT: We've been lucky to have you with that flexibility. Thanks Angela.
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1472 AB: Thank you.
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1474 (end of tape)