

Mr. Fischbuch was selected as a oral history candidate because his family, from his greatgrandfather on, have been growing onions on his present farm outside of Sherwood (Cipole) since 1861. The farm is now an official century farm. His Greatgrandfather, Erwin Cummings, emmigrated from Steuben County, New York to Illinois, and then immigrated to Oregon City, Oregon. Mr. Fischbuck tells the story of his family and the farm during the 50 years before his birth. His Greatgrandfather, an onion farmer back in New York, spotted this flat, marshy land as an ideal location for raising onions. Therefore, this land was the first commercial onion farm in the state of Oregon.

Mr. Fischbuch talks about the geography and uses of the land throughout the years. He goes on to compare early day farming, highly labor-intensive, to the more mechinized, capital-intensive type farming of today. Most of the conversation revolves around onion farming in general; planting, weeding, and harvesting. As the tape continues, the discussion includes such topics as who the surrounding nieghbors and farmers were their occupations, the towns in the area, and the farming life in general.

Onions are a unique crop, in the fact that they require a wet, flat, marshy land. Cipole, where Mr. Fischbuch's land is located, is the Italian word for onion. Also, the southwestern part of the county, the Gaston, Jackson Bottom area has been historiaally onion growing area. While little mentioned as a farm crop, onions are an important vegetable crop raised in Washington County. In 1977 alone, onions accounted for over one million dolla~~ss~~ in value sales in the county.

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April 2nd, 1978

Chester Fischbuch

Accession No. LOH 78-176.3

START OF TRACK I

b). LM: The following interview is with Chester Fischbuch born on Sept. 18, 1913 on the same farm that he is living on presently. On April 2, 1978 Mr. Fischbuch took time off ^{from} the farming to sit down and talk about the history of his century farm, his neighbors, and growing up in the Southeast corner of Washington County.

LM: Good Afternoon. To start off the interview I would just like to ask some questions about your personal ^{life.} ~~self.~~ To begin, your age, and when and where you were born?

CF: I was born here in a old house where ^{sits on} this house ~~hits in~~ Sept 18, 1913. ~~That~~ Makes me 64 years of age right now.

LM: The reason ~~that~~ we are interested is you are living on a century farm and therefore the first question that comes to mind or the first type of question is your original family. I was wondering if you could trace your ancestry as far back as you have heard through the family or passed down? ~~the~~ ^{How} they arrived ^{did} out here in Cipole?

CF: My great grandfather Irwin Cummings was born in ^{Steuben} ~~Stubin~~ County, ^{New York} ~~NY~~. Then he migrated from there to Illinois and was there a while and then from ^{Illinois} ~~there~~ to Oregon City in the 1840's. He was there a few years and then he came here to this present sight in the late 1850's.

LM: You mentiondd that he came in the 1840's. Was that when John MC-Loughlin was set up out there at Fort Vancouver?

CF: I am not sure about that. I knew that he had stayed in the Oregon City area for a few years before he ~~came~~ over here. Then took up the donation land claim here and proved his claim in 1861, ^{That} is when it is on record.

LM: Did he ever or was ^{anything} ~~it~~ ever mentioned why he came out to the West?

CF: Not really, not that I know of.

MS: Well, his wife's mother and father came here in 1847 so maybe they came out to be with them too.

LM: ~~OK~~, Okay, you can continue with your story, three

CF: Then leading up to the present time why then he had ~~3~~ children -

~~and 2~~ ^{Two} of them were girls and ^{one} boy. The boy passed away I think

before the property was divided but then when the property was divided there was 2 girls to divide it to. One of these girls

married into the ~~Gilbert~~ family that settled into Tualatin. She inherited half of the farm and this man was Joseph ~~Gilbert~~ ^{GALBREATH}

she married who is my grandfather. That is how the ~~Gilbert's~~ ^{GALBREATH}

~~in my~~ family are here on this property now from her marrying ~~an~~ ^{GALBREATH}

~~Gilbert.~~ ^{GALBREATH}

LM: You mentioned yesterday when you were talking about your great grandfather that he was a prominent citizen in Portland. ~~He was~~

~~a blacksmith?~~

(10) CF: He was a brick mason, ~~and~~ He helped build the first brick building in Portland. While doing this he earned \$300.00. So the man that he worked for had a lot of property in downtown Portland so he gave him a full city block in Portland, which is now downtown Portland for his \$300.00 labor.

CF: So the next year he was able to double his money and sell it for \$600.00 so he sold it. As far as we know that brick building is still standing there in Portland. We heard just recently that it was.

MS: He built the courthouse in Hillsboro too.

CF: Yes, he also built the first courthouse in Hillsboro. The old brick part. It is still there and they use that part for the jail now ~~and~~ He built that.

LM: That is fascinating. I wonder how many millions of dollars that one city block would be worth today?

CF: It is hard to tell. ~~He also where~~ ^{Stauber} ~~he~~ was born in ~~Stubin~~ ^{Stauber} County, New York was a big onion growing county and they still grow onions there because I see it in the market reports, ~~and~~ I have often thought that is why he settled here by this lake ^{bed} is because he knew onion culture. I more less think that he did settle here on that account. He grew the first onions here in 1870. In other years they started fixing it up for onions and now there is about 190 acres of onion land here that is still growing onions.

LM: Do you think that he was the first one to think of growing onions in this area? Do you think anyone else had the foresight ^{to envision} ~~this as an onion field?~~

CF! Not that I know of because there is no other ones that were older or before hand that have any family's that are still growing onions. ^(VOICE IN THE BACKGROUND) He was the first one to grow them here then ~~Gilbert's~~ ^{C. C. Cregg's} continued on and then another old family, the ~~Sergino's~~ ^{C. Cregg's} they grew onions, not on this place but they rented other ground then later bought some of this bottom land.

LM: We are getting into a few things that I want to get into further, but before we jump into some of these topics I want to ask if you have any ideas or heard stories passed down through the family of what the area was like ^{well} when your great grandfather first arrived here in the Tualatin-Sherwood area. For example the fields, was that open?

CF: ~~Oh~~ I think it was full of willows and cedars. On this particular piece that I have now there is still an old cedar stump in there that I haven't pulled out that I hit with the plow once in a while. I think it was just ~~a~~ brush and a lake until it was drained.

LM: It was a lake then?

CF: I think so. I think it was a bog, it might not have been very deep but I know that it had to be cleared out. It was more small brush and willows and like I ^{say} ~~said~~ cedar trees.

LM: Can you describe why that area is a bog or a swamp land? What causes the water to settle there? The importance of the river?

CF: Well it is just like a regular ~~peak~~ bog ~~and~~ In this ~~peak~~ you can find old decayed vegetation, ~~wheat~~ ^{wheat} seeds, straw, sticks, and ~~the~~ ^{stuff} ~~ngs~~ like that by just digging down below the plow line. I know of some places where they have measured it and that stuff is over 40 feet deep. It is just like a bale of peatmoss. There is about a foot of top soil, then there is about a two or three inch layer of ^{clay} ~~pea~~ I guess this is formed over the years and then it goes right into that ~~peak~~. Like I say it is ~~2~~ ^{two} to 40 feet deep in there.

well we call it The swamp, why

CF: The further outⁱⁿ the swamp we get^{er} the deep^{er} the peak. Right at the edge of my land that peak is about three feet deep right next to the high land. So it had to have been a old lake that has spent thousands of years forming that peak from vegetation. It is the oldest onion growing land in the State of Oregon and the best ~~peaking~~ ^{keeping} quality. *for onions.*

LM: So onions are really especially adapted to that peak type soil and the wet type ground. / You mentioned that there is a couple

CF: *Yes they are. It takes a lot of moisture.* of cedar stumps out there. Do you think that it was your great grandfather and the people that worked with him that were the ones that cleared the land or did they ever hire other labor ~~to do that~~

CF: No, I think they did it themselves. I never heard of anyone hiring anyone. The only thing that I ever heard of hired help was the Oregon Iron and Steel Co. had a smelter at Oswego. They hired the Chinese to come in here and cut cord wood and they had a big slide over on the Tualatin River across the highway where they hauled that wood and dumped it into the Tualatin River to float it to Oswego to the Iron Smelters.

LM: That is just right next door here?

CF: *Right.* Right across the highway ^{over} here. There was an old log cabin right down here behind my onion barn where the Chinese had to stay in. All that was left was the ^{ridge} ~~ridge~~ where the poles rotted down and you can tell where the door had been.

LM: What years are we talking about now about the Chinese?

CF: Well it had to be around 1890 or 1900 or somewhere around there.

LM: That seems to be quite a predominant thing a lot of Chinese labor around the County in this area and Hillsboro. So it is interesting to know that they were in fact in this part of the country. Yesterday your wife mentioned that you traditionally call this Beaver Dam. Were there beavers down there?

3¹) CF: I don't actually know but I just presume that is why they called it Beaver Dam. They figured that they could haul these sticks and stuff in there. Probably the beavers helped make that formation.

LM: So you think they contributed to the flooding that goes on down there?

CF: I think so.

LM: Now this field down here ~~has~~ traditionally floods during the winter then is that right?

CF: It is usually covered two or three times, comes up and down through the winter but never stays more than a week or two depending on how long it rains. You ^{has} ~~have to be~~ back in from the Tualatin River.

LM: While were on the subject is the Tualatin River quite ^{an} important irrigation source for ~~the~~ ^{your} onion crop?

CF: We don't get any irrigation from it whatsoever. It never is back in here in the summertime. We get our irrigation mostly from Rock Creek which starts above Sherwood. From these ^{covered or} tiled ditches we have in the ground we have so many springs in that ground to feed those ditches that we dam^y up the creek right in the ~~ground~~ ^{field} and use the water that comes out of the ground and put it back over the onions.

LM: Your family did the tiling down here then?

CF: Through the years, when they first started out they used to cut poles about six to eight inches in diameter and then laid them in the ditch, two of them side by side with a six or eight inch space between those logs and then they split wood like a shake. Maybe a inch or two inches thick and laid it crossways ^{over} ~~over~~ them and that made their ^{drainage} ~~draining~~ ditches. Then in the summertime they would put dams in the ends of these ditches and force the water up for subirrigation of the onions. They did that back in 1870's and 1880's ^{already} ~~all ready~~ ~~and~~ That is the way that they irrigated.

LM: A lot of the farmers in the area have done that through the years also.

CF: That is how they did it before sprinkler systems, that is the only way we irrigated the onions was with subirrigation and it worked pretty good other than right next to the hillsides where there is too much slope and couldn't get the water high enough without drowning some out by the dam.

I know where there is some old pieces of poles laying in the ground yet that I would never disturb but I can see the ends of them where they come out of the ditches. They have probably been in there for 60 years.

LM: That is interesting. A different type of question going back even further than your great grandfather, you mention that you turn up Indian artifacts. Can you describe some of these things? What you turn up when you are plowing?

CF: It is mostly arrowheads that I find ^{But} and I found those things that look like a donut made out of stone and I also find these things shaped like a wedge made out of rocks. Evidently that stone shaped like a wedge was used for mashing and, grinding their corn. That is what people told me. I don't know what those other things that look like a donut ~~what they~~ were used for but they were gray stone and perfect like a donut about four or five inches in diameter.

LM: Do you think Indians lived here or hunted here?

CF: They ~~must~~ have lived here, but I think that it was before my great grandfather was ~~enough~~ here because I never heard any of the family talk about Indians at all. ^{never}

LM: Do you still turn up arrowheads at all?

CF: Yes, I find three or four a year now, where I used to find 10 or 15. Another reason that I used to find more ~~too, was that I~~ ^{weed} hand ~~led~~ the onions and crawled through the onions and weeded by hand and we also ~~hoed~~ ^{hoed} them with what we called a shuffle hoe and you would hit one of those little arrowheads with your hoe and you would feel it and you would scratch and find a arrowhead. Now it is all done with machinery and we spray for weeds and never crawl in weeds although we use a little stick weeder that we call it to get the scattered weeds that the ^{weed} spray misses.

LM: Tell me more about the geography of the area. We are surrounded by hills and mountains around here. Can you describe some of these mountains here for the benefit of the tape here?

Chelalem

CF: There is ~~Onelcham~~ Mountain to the West of us and Parrot Mountain to the South and West of us, ~~and then~~ Mt. Hood is directly East from us which we can see out our kitchen window on a clear day.

(40) LM: ^{I saw it yesterday coming down here.} It gives a sense of isolation in here almost looking out this direction.

CF: ~~Right.~~ There was lots of big trees around here when I was a boy, ~~that~~ I can remember. ^{Those,} A lot of those ^{were} ~~was~~ just cut down for cord wood not so much for lumber until the last 20 years then they all went for lumber.

LM: Was there a sawmill in this area?

CF: Not right close here. My uncle had one on ^{The} his place that cut lumber ^{for his own use} and run it with a team engine that another ^{brother} had. The nearest sawmill was Sherwood. ^{Other} Enough ^{Before} before my time there was a big sawmill at Tualatin ^{owned by John Smith} about two or three miles from here. ~~There was a sawmill there then, but nothing other than little private sawmills around here.~~

LM: ^{Good.} We might as well talk about actually onion farming. I think that we were touching upon it. That your great grandfather thought ~~it~~ that it was an ideal place to grow onions. How was it to set up an onion farm? What was involved in setting up the area and turning it into an onion growing patch? What did you have to do to raise them?

CF: ^{well} In those days, ^{near as} ~~that~~ I could remember, you had to have a team of horses and a plow, add a ^{disk} ~~disk~~ and a harrow and that was about ^{ALL} the ~~size of it~~ ^{NECESSARY TOOLS FOR} ~~size of it~~ ~~and~~ working the ground.

could you explain what
a wind row is?

CF: ~~No~~, you plant them and then it takes about 120 days and then we used to hand pull them, ~~which~~ ^{to} one person would have to work hard, ~~it was hard work~~ ~~to~~ ^{to} pull half an acre in a day and laid them in wind^{rows} and then it would take from 12 to 15 days of good weather to get those all cured so that you could harvest them. Now we pull them with a machine and it still takes the time to cure them so it depends on the weather in the Fall.

LM: You are talking about curing, you mean the sun dries them out?

CF: ^{YES} The sun dries the tops ~~yes~~ and ^{CURES} curing out the onions. The best of weather you shouldn't take them in in less than 10 days after they have been pulled in ^{To} windrows. wind rows ^{a windrow is four rows pulled into one row}

LM: How about if they are pulled and the weather turns for the worst? Does that hurt the onion crop?

CF: Usually not until after say two or three weeks of steady rain and it stains them, but still ^{don't} ~~doesn't~~ hurt them. But last year we had a week of terrificly hot weather and then a lot of rain and we couldn't get them out of the ground when they should have been out ^{of the ground} ~~and~~ They got over ripe and then after we did get them out of the ground we had another three weeks of rain and practically all of them spoiled during the winter. Most everybody had to dump them out in the fields this spring because we couldn't sell them and couldn't make grade. That is the first time that ever ~~had~~ happened in that way.

LM: That must have been quite a financial blow then to lose your whole crop?
?

CF: Then you had to have a barn to store them in that you could lay them in bins from 14 to 18 inches deep and then you keep laying a shelf and pouring onions and then lay another shelf and that is the way they kept them dry. They had ^{to have} lots of ventilation. Then as time went on, they started in with the tractors and heavy machinery and then when we started irrigating the sprinkler system ~~why~~ you packed it down more and the ground became harder to work, ~~and~~ ^{It's a} lot ^{larder} to prepare ^{a seed bed now} than it was in the olden days when you just went over it a couple of times with your harrow and disc and then they had a float or a ~~cart~~ ^{"cod" "lod"} masher to smooth the ground made out of planks and that was it. Then it was all hand weeding and there was a lot of weeds when that ground was new, ~~and~~

At the price ~~of~~ ^{wages} ~~weeds~~ are now you couldn't even afford to grow them because you couldn't afford to weed them if you had weeds like that. Then for picking up the onions, why one person would hold a hoop and a sack, ~~that~~ ^{you} had a round hoop and you ^{put the} ~~would hold~~ ~~the~~ sack around that and one ~~would hold~~ ^{held} the sack and the other two put the onions in it and that is the way that you picked them up. To pick up ~~18~~ ^{our 15} acres it would take 15 to 20 days with 10 to 15 people ~~going out there~~ ^{where now}. I do it in 3 days with about 5 people.

LM: Is the harvest season just a rather short period then, just a matter of a couple of weeks?

CF: Yes it is now. ~~You mean it would take that much time or the weather?~~

LM: ~~In other words when were they ripe or were they ripe for a long time or just gather them up?~~

CF: Yes ~~we did~~ ^{it WAS}. About once or twice in my life^s time that ever happened that we lost them and it was from rain the other time and they just floated away.

LM: I imagine that you had ~~reserved~~ ^{reserves saved up} as far as money goes. But how about if this would have happened back in the great Depression or even earlier it must have been quite hard. Do you remember a particular one?

CF: During the Depression onions in 1932 went to \$6.00 a hundred. So the onion farmers never noticed the Depression.

LM: Is that right? How do you explain that?

CF: I don't know what happened but evidently just the short crop of onions that year and that is the way the onion deal goes. If there is a short crop ~~why~~ you get a good price and if not, ^{why} usually it is a bad price. Japan in the last ten years has been taking a lot of our onions and sometimes they will come in and practically take all these onions ^{here in the} ~~in this~~ Sherwood ^{Labish,} and Gaston area and makes us a good price. If they can't get any over near ^{their} ~~there~~ country they have to come over here and get them. Western Oregon has the only good shipping onions that can stand the trip across the ocean to Japan. The Idaho sweets and Sweet Spanish can't do it. They tried it but they just didn't get there in good shape. Then only certain ground that you can grow onions on and that keeps a more stable market too.

LM: This must be quite a unique area then for just land in general.

CF: For onions, it is.
^{yes}

LM: We^{en} getting into the market aspects, Again I want to ask you a couple more questions on that, but back to what we were talking about the harvest. I imagine you ~~stand~~^{had} many days out in the onion fields harvesting and pulling onions.

CF: I sure did. I started in when I was ^{seven} 7 years old weeding onions at home. I remember the first time that I ever worked for anyone else I got 15 cents an hour for weeding onions and grown-ups got 25[/]cents and hour.

LM: You would have to work a lot of days to become a millionaire.

C.F. Yes, you sure would.

Would the families or the farmers that were raising the onions were they mostly a family operation with the children in the fields? Or would they hire local help? Or ^{even} migrant help to help during harvest season?

CF: It was most all the family would help and children but also a lot of times they would have to hire extra help. We even had to hire some extra help sometimes. I remember before I was big enough to grow onions that my mother and dad used to even board the children around for ^{maybe} four or five miles away like Scholls. I remember people from there came here, ~~and~~ They boarded them here and they worked for a dollar a day and ^{their} ~~there~~ board. That was the going price then.

LM: These are children or whole families?

CF: No, just children usually, ^{one man} ~~because one man~~ that was ^{later} road supervisor for Washington County until he retired was one that stayed here with my ~~folks~~^{folks} and he used to tell me how good my mother's cooking was, ~~all the time~~.

LM: What was his name?

CF: He is still living ~~yet~~. Herman Hosnagal.

correct?
HOLZNAGEL spelling
Rt 4, Bx 273 Sherwood

LM: So onion farmers really had no need for migrant workers traveling through?

CF: No not at that time there was always enough children around that could work for weeding onions. They never used to get jobs in factories and stuff like they can now days in stores. They were pretty much out of it until they were grown out of working away from the farms.

LM: We were talking about you were saying during the Depression that the onion farmers ~~did~~ ^{faired} rather well. Did the onion market before the Japanese entered into the picture pretty stable or unstable? Did it ~~fluctuate~~ ^{fluctuate} up and down from year to year?

CF: It would ~~fluctuate~~ ^{fluctuate} but not too often but sometimes you would get a real good price that would carry you through for two or three years ~~maybe~~ and then if you could get a decent price for a few years after that it would leave you sitting pretty good. Unless it got real bad. It seems like when it got bad it ~~got~~ ^{was} real bad. I remember it being 35 cents a hundred in the late 30's ~~one time~~ ^{year}. ~~Machinery in those days, I remember the first tractor that I bought~~ ⁶⁰⁾ ~~ght in 1932 was a small catapillar crawler and that sold for \$1265.~~ ~~and now the smallest. I don't even think that catapillar didn't~~ ~~make one small enough I think about the D4 is it's smallest. Now a~~ ~~small John Deere~~ ^{would} ~~cost you \$18,000.00 and it don't pull much more~~ ~~than that little thing could do.~~ ~~the one I bought for 1265.~~

LM: That just demonstrates the rising costs for all farmers.

That's a lot of onions.

CF: I bought that little tractor in 1932 with 200 sacks of onions.

LM: Is that right?

That was the year they were a good price

CF: ~~the~~ plow I remember was \$112.00 for the two ~~bottle~~ *bottom* plow to pull

behind the tractor and now they are \$500 and \$600 or ~~worse~~ *more for 2*

LM: You have been quoting a few prices here. You are saying ~~3200~~ *1932*

\$6.00 a hundred. What does that ~~lay~~ *work* out in layman's term how much, in other words for a comparison, how many hundreds is in a harvest? How many hundred pounds?

CF: There is 15 tons in a carload and on this 15 acres for the ~~past~~ *last*

few years I have been growing around 300 tons of onions. I grow ~~twice~~ *maybe* as many onions ~~as~~ *now* my father did or when I started ~~to~~

to farm. Twice as many per acre. I've gone as high as two carloads which is 30 tons to the acre now, and usually a carload and a half 20 or 25 tons was ~~year~~ *my* average crop. Where it used to be 15 tons was a big yield.

LM: When your great grandfather and father and grandfather were raising onions, who would they sell them to? Where would the onions go? Were they local?

CF: I think they were more of a local ~~thing~~ *deal* then, they just went to Portland. They might have shipped to California but I think that it was mostly local.

LM: Was there ever any bartering among the different farmers in the surrounding area?

CF: Not that I know of, ^{for eggs or} Maybe butter or something like that or fruit but I ^{do} know of a couple of families that used to take vegetables and go to Portland and peddle them down there. ^{Elsners who} ~~Elsners~~ that were farmers until just a few years ago they sold there place, their father used to make several trips a week to Portland with vegetables and apples and whatever he had to sell and ^{maybe} chickens and ~~stuff~~ ~~things~~ like that.

LM: I get the impression that your family and the onion farmers that was your ^{sole} ~~sole~~ farming commodity then? That must have been quite unusual. To my understanding most of the early farmers were quite ~~d~~iversified. In other words they would raise ^{their} ~~there~~ own needs and any excess they would sell and they would live off there farm.

CF: Mostly all of the people here just had nothing but onions and a little grain. We did milk cows, I had from 10 to 15 head of cows and milked them by hand. We figured that we could buy our groceries with the cows and help pay the taxes and then what we made off the onions, why usually we could lay that away. But then it got to where you had to go to grade A with the milking and it would cost a lot to put in a milking parlor and go grade A and also put in a milk tank. So we just quit the cattle then and just went to the onions and the hay and grain. Then I did have some beef cattle after that until a few years ago until hay got to be such a high price and then the beef went down so I was ^{just} ~~was~~ ~~bet-~~ ^{well} ~~ter~~ off to sell the hay and not have the trouble of having the cattle.

Start of Track 2

LM: We were talking about the market for onions. Could you go into when onions became a national and international crop? Or how the market gradually grew over ~~a period of~~ time in the local small Portland basis?

CF: I never thought much about that but I know that they started shipping to California ^{in the 1920's} ~~first~~ and then from there ^{to other parts of U.S.} ~~of course~~ that was usually by rail which is now ^{is usually by} ~~by~~ truck. We ship onions clear to New York when New York is short now and down in the South ~~and~~ ^{Georgia} Tennessee ^{to} and all over the country, ~~now~~ when they have a shortage there. Mostly Idaho onions go East if there is a market for them. ~~We ship them~~ ~~We send to East too.~~ I don't know when that got started shipping them, I would say around ¹⁹²⁰ ~~1940~~. I know that they ^{started shipping} ~~shipped~~ them ^{onions pretty well by then} ~~then~~ because we use to load a lot of cars right out here on the switch, here at Cipole.

LM: When did the international markets open up, like Japanese? ^{you mentioned the}

CF: I can remember we used to ship to Manilla and to China ^{in the 1930's} ~~over~~. They always took a small onion maybe from an inch ~~to a inch and a half~~ ^{2 inches} in diameter. But then in the last ten years I would say that Japan has been buying onions here and bought a lot of them. Like I say they ~~would~~ take 200 to 400 carloads out of Western Oregon at one time. Now they all go in these containers and we just fill them at the warehouse and ~~send them on the boat~~ ^{go down and truck them to the boat}. I know that they have paid the farmers here ¹⁰⁰ ~~ten or three years ago~~ they got as high as 12cents a pound for those onions.

CF: Then the brokerage and all that, the shipping went on top of that it must have cost them 20 cents a pound when they got over there. Last year we only got 3 cents a pound for them in last fall. If we would have had some decent onions to sell them, but Taiwan, I guess had a pretty good crop and got onions from them last year.

LM: This area here, this swamp out here is especially suited for onions is there other areas in the county that are good for onion growing? Gaston ~~is I think?~~ ^{I think is one of them.}

CF: Gaston is one and they have 300 to 350 acres and then the old Lake Labisch lake bed has about 1500 or 1700 acres and that is it for the Western Oregon onions.

LM: Where is this place ^{now} Labisch? ~~seven~~ seven miles north of Salem

CF: Labisch is about ~~7~~ ^{seven} miles ~~this side of Salem~~ that is the old Labisch lake bed and part of it is called Brooks if you know where that is on the old

highway 99E. That is the starting of it down to the ^{pudding} river ~~of the main lake bed~~ ^{There's a lot of necks run off the top} that is all Pudding River drains it. They started growing there ^{swamp} after this opened up in Sherwood. Then Gaston, I don't think ^{has}

growing onions there for more than ⁴⁰ ~~20~~ years. Two men one from Brooks and I don't know where the other one was from. One was ^{possibly about} or about 25 at the most.

Hayes and they opened that up and diked that Wapato Lake it was ^{and the other ones... oh I can't think of his last name now.} called. Brown was the other man's name. They started growing

onions there, ~~and~~ what they did was lease a lot of the land out. They didn't ~~own~~ ^{own} themselves, but they leased it out. They had to dike that whole Wapato Lake from the Tualatin River.

Then they put a big pump in there and they would pump the water out of the onion bed back into the river.

(10) LM: Through~~o~~ut our conversation we have talked about the other onion farmers. I am interested in some of these people. For one I know the ~~Saragino~~ ^{Cereghino} family.

CF: I am not sure but I think they got here in about 1890^{when they arrived here.} They had quite a large family and most of them^{all} but one got into the onion growing business on this flat here. ~~Maybe~~ for several years they just leased the ground and then eventually bought some of it. The oldest ~~one~~ ^{he David Cereghino} bought a place over on the southwest side of the flats, ~~and~~ that was just a hay field when he bought it and he made onion ground out of that which was about 15 or 20 ~~4~~ acres. Then later he bought 8 acres that came off of the old donation land claim of my grandfather's.

LM: How did that family become interested in onion growing? Did they have a background in that or have you heard?

CF: Not that I know of. There was another old Italian that lived right at the crossing there by the Cipole station which ^{I guess} was known as ^{"Sandpit"} ~~sand pit~~ at that time. He had ^{Six} ~~6~~ acres of onion land, ~~and~~ I don't know where he bought that, but it was just across the section line from the Cummings Donation Land Claim. He grew onions there, ~~and~~ ^{Cereghino} now whether the ~~Saragino~~ family knew him ^{or} ~~and~~ came out here ^{on} ~~from~~ ^{account of him} ~~there~~ I don't know. I grew up with a lot of the ~~Saragino~~ ^{Cereghino} boys, the three younger ones.

LM: I think that I asked you this yesterday. Did they come straight from Italy or immigrants from before that?

CF: I don't know how long they had been in Portland if they came directly here. I know that the oldest boy was born in Portland. He passed away last Fall at 85, ~~and~~ He was just a baby when they came here, ~~and~~ I know that they lived in a log house that the present sight of the old first house was there.

LM: Did you ever hear of the name of that original Italian family that was out there by the station? What their names were?

CF: I believe it was Regetto. ^{of the other Italian family?} Later and even ^{I guess} before my time he had left here and there was an old fellow by the name of Rasmussen that bought his place and was there until he retired. Now Delmar Walgrave owns that piece of land and still grows onions there.

LM: We were talking about the Italian families. Was that how the name of this area came about? It is called Cipole isn't that?

CF: ^{well} Cipole is the Italian name for onion and maybe through the Italian ^{Regetto} ~~Regino~~ and ^{Cereghinos} ~~Saragines~~ why they named it Cipole after the onions on account of the Italians. Probably the old fellow that lived there by the station. ^{maybe.} He was Italian and he grew onions, Regetto.

LM: You said before it was called Cipole it was called Sand Pit. How did that come about?

CF: My grandfather had a big sand pit there ^{when} ~~where~~ they made the railroad they took sand out of there. Whether that is why they called it sand pit ~~or what~~ I don't know.

LM: It sounds logical ^{as anything}

CF: I saw old letters that said Sand Pit, Oregon on them.

LM: When did it come to be known as Cipole then? Do you have any idea?

correct spelling?

Well,

CF: It must have been at least 1900 because I saw this old letter that my mother had from somewhere that said Sand Pit on it. She was born in 1881 so she might have been a young girl when she got that letter ^{or had gotten from someone} from someone.

LM: Before I ask about some of the other families, we keep talking about the onion ~~class~~ ^{flat} and the other farmers. How many acres are we talking about?

CF: Well there is about 190 acres of better onion ground in the bottom that can ^{all} grow onions. There is about 12 growers in the ^{area} ~~area~~ area.

LM: So it doesn't take a tremendous amount of acres to raise a profitable crop then?

CF: I would say the average is about 15 acres is what most of them have.

LM: That is pretty unusual in these days of expanding farms and taking ^{vast amounts of} land ⁱⁿ of acres. Is that happening in other parts of the country? In Southern California with the onion crop ^{particularly}?

CF: I would think that the prices of there land and taxes in California or somewhere like that they would probably have to have more ^{LARGER} ~~big~~ farms and more diversified I would think.

LM: Back to some of your neighbors, this might not be onion farmers but some of the names that are common around this area are for example are the ~~Nieberg~~ ^{Nybergs}. Did you grow up with that family?

CF: They were in Tualatin a long time. I don't know when they settled there, ~~but~~ I know when Mr. ~~Nyberg~~ ^{Nybergs} was Mayor and that was when I was going to high school in the early 1930's.

CF: He had been Mayor for Tualatin for ^{between} ~~about~~ 25 to 30 years and I know ^{MORBACK of} Mayor Sherwood had been there about the same time and they seemed to be competing against ^{one another to see} each other ~~to see~~ who would be Mayor the longest, (laughs). ^{The Nybergs} ~~They~~ also grew onions in that ^{bottom} ~~area~~ ^{LAND NEAR} ~~in there~~ ^{Their} ~~behind~~ their home ^{there} ~~too~~ at Tualatin. Nybergs had quite a large family.

LM: How about the Sagert's? I think that you mentioned them to me the other day. ^{correct spelling?}

CF: They were an old family and over ^{out of} ~~South of~~ Tualatin ^{south of Tualatin} and they always had threshing machines and hay balers and done a lot of custom work around the country. They must have had a threshing machine for 40 years or more. ¹ ^{Low Saggart}

LM: Could you describe what a threshing machine is for the benefit of people that ^{never heard of that before?} ~~don't know?~~

CF: Well, they were a big machine that thrashed the grain, ~~and~~ they had a steam engine for power when they started ^{it} ~~to~~ out. The farmers would stack their grain and have it ready in big stacks and then the machine would pull up to these stacks and thrash it for them and then they had a team with a water wagon to haul water for the steam engines. If they didn't have the grain stacked it would take about ^{five} ~~5~~ or ^{six} ~~6~~ teams of wagons to keep grain hauled to the machines, so it was quite a deal when the threshing machine came into the community. For us kids it was like a circus coming to town, (laughs). I for one was one of the water boys for all the threshing around the community. ^{and other neighbor boys} ~~my~~ age (from 10 to 14) would get drinking water for the ^{help.}

CF: What I looked forward to was that big dinner meal. After ~~the~~
Wed be water boy, usually, my cousin and I. *When the*
crew ~~got done~~ eating *we* always got to eat too. They would
got through
start in as soon as the thrashing season started which would
be around the Fourth of July we would start some of the early
grain and it would run into September and finish up thrashing
clover. My uncle ^{run} ran the steam engine for Lew Sagert for some
forty ^{odd} years. Then after the steam engine ~~then~~ came the oil
pull tractor, ~~the gas engine.~~ *It burned Distillate or Kerosene*

LM: This Sagert man was quite . . . ?

CF: He had a son named Fred and he also followed in the same deal
because he had thrashing machines and balers. In ^{these} ~~them~~ days they
had ^{a crew} ~~maybe a guy~~ that was baling the hay like Sagert's would have
a couple of so called buck ^{like} ~~rigs~~ with big wooden teeth to bring
the baled hay up to the machine. I mean hay that was put in ~~shots~~
and you would just drive up under those big ^{shots} ~~shots~~ and slide them
up to the baler and then two men pitched them in. That is the
way that they did ~~that.~~ *it.*

LM: That is interesting. Again you mentioned another man and I think
you said he lived on a century farm himself. A man named Art
Martinezzi. Where is his farm?

CF: This farm is I think called 108 street now which used to be Jer-
gen road off of 212. But that century farm came from his mother's
side of the family but he was born and raised over south of Tual-
atin. His dad had quite a prominent dairy there and had registered
jerseys for years.

CF: I remember the boy telling me, Art who is now retired that when he first got married worked for \$1.00 a day there for his dad. Supporting his family ^{with a} for \$1.00 a day. That piece of property right now is covered completely with ^{all} new homes. Yes it is

LM: How about some of the other surrounding farmland going this direction along those hills over there? What has that land been traditionally used for?

CF FARMING
CF: ~~Bend Road and Bull Mountain Road?~~

LM: That area too but just right over the hill here right on the side of what is now Pacific Highway? where the power lines go over there.

CF: That goes ~~clear~~ along across King City but that was some good farmland in there. There was an old family by the name of Fairbanks had it first, ~~and~~ Then the next family had it for years and years by the name of Scott. He had that for a long time. It is ^{I don't even remember them} about 150 acre farm in there, ~~and~~ That land is still being farmed yet.

LM: You mentioned the Elsner's . . .

CF: They lived across the river at the end of Bend Road in by the BAGGENSTOS FARM Baginstoff farm which is a big potato growing farm. Elsner had some onions in a little patch over there and hay and grain. It ~~There~~ was three brothers that farmed together. But that has all been sold. I think one brother kept his homesight and that was all.

MS: Krause growse ussd to grow quite a few vegetables

CF: Yes Krause growse had squash in there across the highway and hay and grain and at one time there was a big berry farm in there. after then Krause sold the farm.

Spelling?

Spelling? Krause

CF: A fellow ^{had} rented that ground and grew strawberries. That was part of the Old Donation Land Claim that had been sold off. Scott eventually bought ^{some} ~~part~~ of it too.

LM: Changing once again here, this is a traditional farm area, ^{Was} it back when you were little or back at the turn of the century was it pretty isolated in here? In other words, ^{and} what was the communication between ~~the~~ transportation methods that people depended upon?

CF: Well you had telephone but it was horse and buggy in those days. I remember in the late 1930's that I would know every car that went past here on our road. I knew right where they lived and all which wouldn't be too many of them in a day that went by here. ^{I would know who they all were.} I knew where they all went until after World War Two then they come in here so fast that I lost track of everyone. (Years ago

MF: You used to have a gate here on this old dirt road? ^{we had a dirt road with a gate on it.}

CF: ^{The gate was on the road before it was a Co. road.}

LM: When did they start paving the roads? Had 99 been paved as long as you can remember out here?

CF: Yes 99 has, even the old one was paved that is called Pacific ~~Dr~~ Drive now up here across the intersection, ^{up here} The four lanes went in in the 1950's I believe it was.

LM: How about the railroad? The old Oregon Electric went through here then?

CF: Yes it did, and a lot of people road to Portland on ^{The Oregon Electric} it or to Newberg. Children that went to high school road the Oregon Electric to the Newberg High School because it was the nearest ^{high school} around.

LM: Was that something people did quite often was go into Portland on the Oregon Electric?

CF: Yes I think they did. They usually went on the Oregon Electric because it was a one or two day trip to go by horse and wagon to Portland.

LM: Is that right from here?

CF: A lot of times they stayed over ^{It was a two day round trip from here to Portland.} night. It was probably 20 miles by the way the road went in those days in a horse and wagon and then those big chuck holes and you couldn't ^{team of} go very fast. You couldn't trot your horses I don't presume

LM: Did you ever ride that Oregon Electric then into Portland?

CF: Yes I rode ~~it~~ ^{The Oregon Electric} into Portland.

LM: How old were you then during these years? It wasn't operating for very long was it?

CF: I was probably only 10 years old. I remember my uncle the last time taking me ^{down} to the zoo and we went on the train. I remember going to Sherwood with my dad in a horse and buggy when there was mud puddles in the streets. In Sherwood

50)

LM: ~~How about~~ ^{one of} the traditional means of communication has been through the mail. Where was the nearest Post Office from here?

CF: Sherwood, ^{That's been there} was for a long time. We got our mail up on what they call the old Highway which is now ^{Southwest} Pacific Drive. That is where we had to go to get our mail.

LM: When did mail service come in then? Individual mail service?

here I guess in

CF: It came here in ^vthe late 1930's then they put a route through here. Sherwood at one time had ^{five} routes, ~~now~~ it is cut down to ^{four} ~~of course~~ ~~because~~ they made it bigger I guess. I remember my mother used to send me with a lantern and go up on the old highway at 4 o'clock in the morning to get our bread because the bread truck would go by. ^{A lot of mornings I would go up there.} Of course the bread truck knew who was standing there with a lantern. *Stop and get out and get the bread.*

LM: That is mighty early in the morning. Where was he coming from then?

CF. You ain't kidding!

CF: Out of Portland I guess. ^{It would four or five} They get out pretty early. I used to go to early market in Portland. I would get up at 3 o'clock and maybe go down to early market with a car filled with onions and get back and go to ^{high} school.

LM: That makes for a long day I would ^{imagine} think.

CF: Yes ^{it would} ~~it does~~.

LM: You mentioned high school. What were the schools that farm children ^{would go around} ~~want to in~~ this area?

I think

CF: We had a grade school here at Cipole and then in 1926 or 1928 they built the Tigard ^{high} School known as Fowler ^{school} Tualatin had a high school. ^{I don't know how long the one was at Tualatin, but} I went there one year and then went to Tigard in 1930 I believe. ^{I think I went my first year to Tualatin in 1928} They had buses ^{that they had to take.} ~~then to take~~ ^{us.} school buses.

LM: You went to elementary school down here in Cipole?

CF: ^{Cipole.} Yes, ~~and~~ I rode on the school buses with Joe ^{It's spelling} ~~Battle~~ which you know ^{has} had about 40 buses yet and this is the first year that he hasn't run school buses. He had buses when I went to Tualatin. ^{Started with} ~~two~~ ^{about 1928}

He lost the contract just last year.

CF: Then Virgil ^{Meyer's} ~~Myers~~ had the bus line for Tigard in the ^{C-30} ~~1930~~s and I rode one year on Virgil ^{Meyer's} ~~Myers~~ buses and then the next year ^{Intel} ~~he~~ took over the Tigard district and had ^{it} ~~it~~ ever since until this year.

LM: I didn't know that. Cipole elementary school when you think of the olden days you think of the one room school houses. This remained open for quite a while until recently did it not?

CF: Right. When my mother went to school they had a school known as ~~still~~ ^{the} Cipole School but it was over ^{on} ~~at~~ which is now Eddy Road just on the hill ^{above} ~~where~~ it crosses Rock Creek towards Six Corners. Then they built the new one right here in the ^{Cipole} ~~backbone~~ area. I went to school here for 6 1/2 years and then I believe in 1926 they built this new school ^{which} ~~that is~~ still standing ³ here being used for industry. I finished my year and ~~4~~ at this school. We walked to school in ^{them} ~~these~~ days. ^{ahalf}

LM: When did the school close down then?

MS: Glen ^{was} in second grade. He went his third year in Sherwood.

CF: About 1965. Yes, that would be about right, 1965.

LM: I have a few more questions here. A few miscellaneous questions.

15) I was talking to your wife yesterday and she was telling me about water rights on the Tualatin River. She called ^{it} ~~it~~ Riperian Rights.

CF: Riperian Water Rights and we have those on the onion land. ^{They} ~~those~~ are water rights that people have used water before 1900. By my grandfather damming up these ditches and ^{sub} ~~self~~ irrigating the onions he used the ^{onion} ~~rights~~ ^{water} before 1900 so we were able to get the best water rights there are which is the Riperian Water Rights.

CF: Lake Oswego had water rights on this Tualatin River over most everybody else but not ^{over} us. They can't tell us what to do. Except the ^{Krause} Krowse family he sold out to the Lake Oswego water district. For what he got I don't know but that ground is listed as not being able to have your Riparian Water Rights on it. Lake Oswego comes ahead of them on that. Which was about 30 acres of it.

LM: ^{How} These are rights to the water in the Tualatin River? ~~or what?~~

CF: It is rights to the water in this Rock Creek and what comes into our onion land and what we have in our onion land. In other words we can hold this water in this bottom here and don't have to let go down to the Tualatin River. We do not get water backed in from the Tualatin River, But they can't tell us to take out our dams ^{and let} ~~unless~~ the water comes on down the river.

LM: Has that ~~created~~ any kind of controversy at all? ^{Does Lake Oswego} ~~People don't~~ want that water coming out of the creek?

CF: They need all they can get in the Summertime, but they haven't ever tried to make us take our dams out or anything like that because they can't.

LM: Speaking of the creek and the swamp, you mentioned that it ^{flooded} ~~floods~~ over in the winter? Does it ever freeze over? ^{if so} did you ever do any ice skating on it?

CF: I have skated on it a couple of times or just played on it rather not skated. I never ^{could} ~~did~~ ice skate. But there has only been two times in my life that ^{I remember that} it froze over where you could go anywhere on it but it did one time.

Spelling?

CF: It was froze over for a couple of days and we played out there on it and then about a foot of snow came and ~~did~~^{done} away with that. Five or six years ago ~~it~~^{the water} was up and froze over and had about ~~4~~^{four} or ~~5~~^{five} inches of ice and then the water went out from under it and ice just sat on the ~~ground~~^{land}. Cars went down there and jeeps and motor-cycles ~~and~~ They really had a big time for three or four days. Then finally the ice started breaking up and one of the owners over there where they were playing around ^{so much} at he put up a cable and a no trespassing sign because they were breaking up the ice and into the land. That night the wife and I had went out to dinner and we got back about 11:00 ~~and~~^{we} saw about ~~5~~^{five} sets of head lights going around and around down there. In the morning we got up and saw something down there on the ice and couldn't figure out what it was. We got the field glasses and looked and it was a car upside down. A old 1955 cadillac had been tearing around out there and ran into the open Rock Creek and somersaulted across the creek upside down and had to pack a girl out clear down to the onion bridge to the ambulance. That old car laid there until spring until we started working the ground because it started ^{pouring} raining that next day add they were never able to get it out of there. The water came up and over it ~~3~~³ or ~~4~~⁴ times before spring. Come ^{three four} up and go down.

End of Track 2

Start of Track 3

o) LM: When I look out on your land I notice the power lines out there and that indicates to me that this area has grown and so therefore its needs electricity. ^{has grown also.} Do you remember when they were put in? Or how long they have been in? The story behind that?

CF: I think the Bonneville power line went in about 1935. Most of that they just took easements on the land and paid us so much for an easement and then we had the right to farm the land under those power lines and they also had the right to go in there whenever they wanted to to repair lines. They had to pay if they had any damages going in there. Now PGE has put these steel towers ^(Portland General Electric) in there in about 1963 I believe. They have room for ~~a few~~ ^{three} more cables. They are only using half of that tower now. Also before the PGE line went in I believe, I guess it was after that. There is an oil line out there too. It went in before PGE did. It went in on the edge of the old Bonneville power lines then. I think they just gave us \$25.00 for putting the oil line ~~in~~. They pump oil from under the bridge at St. Johns to Eugene ~~thru~~ ^{They'll put} through that. They pump gas or diesel oil or whatever. ~~If for gasoline~~ ^{they'll put} ~~they'll and then put coloring and and the other right on behind it.~~ they will put ^{coloring} in and then put the other right in behind it.

LM: You mentioned the Bonneville ^{was} first. Did that actually come from the Bonneville Dam up there on the Columbia then? Do you get electricity from there ^{or} or is that just being transported back and forth?

CF: I don't think that we get it from there. We get it from PGE ^{always} and I don't know where this is but this Bonneville might be supplement PGE lines to somewhere.

LM: How far down do the lines ^{stretch then?} ~~go?~~ Quite aways?

CF: I know the Bonneville crosses the highway over at Beaverton, ~~and~~ these same lines go through here. There is some sub-stations clear up there by Hillsboro to ~~the~~ ^{now} whether ~~that~~ ^{They are} is the same ones ^{or not}
I don't know.

LM: Another sort of a ^{extraneous} idea. You mentioned that this place ^{might have been} ~~was~~ called Sand Pit at one time, ~~and~~ I understand that Sherwood had quite a funny ^{monker} ~~name~~ at one time.

CF: Yes they called it Smocksville because there was a ^{man} ~~name~~ by the name of Smock that lived ~~there~~ that had a lot to do with the town at one time, ~~and~~ ^{oh} so it was called Smockville until, I don't know ^{a little} when they changed the name to Sherwood. Probably ^{before} 1900. But it was known as Smockville until that time.

LM: I am jumping around a little bit here. In conjunction with raising onions and having a farm I ^{would} imagine you built barns a lot. Was it quite a thing to building a barn out there? How many barns do you have?

10) CF: My father built this old barn here and that was built in 1912. That is made with about 8 inch poles and then it has pole ~~rafters~~ and had ^{for 4x6} ~~by 6~~ plates. There is about a half inch pipe or rod ^{drove through the} ~~IN~~ tied to each one of those plates ^{of the poles} ~~to each one of those pipes.~~
~~them~~

CF: It with stood the Columbus Day storm which a lot of barns around here that weren't built with poles didn't stand, ~~46~~. The onion barn I just built that in 1958. They still had the sawmill in Middleton and I logged some logs off our property here and sent them up to the sawmill and he delivered me back the lumber for \$20, ~~00~~ a thousand. That way I was able to get some real good lumber because I picked out some nice trees to make it out of. ~~These~~ Logs were worth about \$40.00 a thousand then but actually my lumber was worth \$60.00 a thousand then. But the Columbus Day Storm came along and it took all my good timber down.

LM: So the Columbus Day storm did destroy a lot of the barns?

CF: Yes, I think that there was ~~7~~ ^{seven} or ~~8~~ ^{eight} barns that we saw go down here from our house that day. Three of my grandfather's old barns. The first onion barn that was built and then ~~the~~ ^{Their big} cattle barn and the hay barn. They were all in pretty good shape yet but the ~~storm~~ ^{Columbus Day} storm took them down.

LM: You were also mentioning something that I found fairly amusing. Before the advent of chemicals and fertilizers or pesticides you had what you called a "Fly Catcher"? Can you tell me about that contraption?

CF: It was made with wheels off of ~~our~~ ^a bicycle~~x~~ and like a wheelbarrow frame only it had a bicycle wheel and it was atleast 20 feet wide and it had three compartments. Then a piece of cheesecloth or netting drug on the ground ⁱⁿ on the onion tops and scared the flys ~~off~~ ^{up}. When they flew ~~off~~ ^{up} they ~~flew~~ ^{went} up into this first trap and from there they moved on through till they got to the top.

CF: Then you could spray them or let them stay there until they died
That was before we had DDT and other insecticides. We would get
that maggot fly and the magots were quite a problem in the onions.
I have seen them practically wipe out a whole ^{stand} bunch of onions.
They would get some wet cloudy weather and that seemed to cause
them to lay eggs and they would really be bad then.

LM: When did they start to use chemicals and fertilizers? ^{come along?} Was that
really a booming business then?

CF: It sure was. It seems like World War Two was what ^{started that} ~~that got really~~
going. ^{(and chemical use has been} (That is about the time that DDT started) ^{to be used} ~~in and has been~~
growing ever since.)

LM: Now that DDT ~~is~~ no longer in use what other kinds of things do
you use for that?

CF: We have a good control now that is called diazinon ^{spelling -} and it is not
^{DIAZANON} very harmful. You can put it on a lot of crops one day and have it
^{edible} ~~eatable~~ the next day. ^{MALATHION} Malathion ^{spelling.} is another good product for flies
and insects that is not harmful. We also have a way of keeping
the onions from sprouting now. They have a material called MH30.
About five days before harvest we spray the green tops with this
^{chemical} ~~chemical~~ and they take it in and all the present cells will develop
but it won't make any new ones. Therefore the onions won't ~~spr~~
^{spr} out all through the season. Which also helps to ship them to
Japan so they don't sprout on the way over there.

LM: We are getting into this a little bit. I would just like to con-
clude with some ^{brod} questions on present day onion farming and the
future of this area as a onion growing area and ~~the~~ farmland.

LM: Do you envision this area ^{here} as remaining as an onion growing field? Or do you think the expanding growth of cities and towns will overtake it? How do you see the future from your perspective?

CF: As far as the onions, which we call onion bottom the old lake bed I think that it will always be an onion growing place of vegetables because it is so soft and spongy that it would be awfully hard to build on it. Then for the flood waters too, even though they clean the Tualatin River out some I think they could stop it from flooding so much. But it would ^{be} pretty soft ground to ~~grow~~ ^{build} on so I imagine that will always remain as an old lake bed for farming. Right up to it it will be all industry or homes.

LM: Again it has been a traditional onion farm. Will you or some of the neighboring farmers ever diversify or grow other crops? I think you mentioned that you were going to grow a cover crop of alfalfa out there.

CF: That is not ^{on the} ~~for~~ ^{lands} onions. The alfalfa is good for the highland and puts a lot of nitrogen in it. It also takes a lot of fertilizers out but you can put the potash and ^{phosphorus} ~~phosphates~~ back in. Those big roots ^{are} ~~are~~ the ground just like ^{subsoiling} ~~subsoiling~~ to so it is ^a good crop to plant and makes a lot of nitrogen in the ground.

LM: Your great grandfather grew onion here and your grandfather and your father and you grow onions.

CF: I do and now my boys ^{is} ~~are~~ starting to grow onions. There is five generations. But I presume the way that the cost of production now that either you will have to have more acres of onion land or have another job ^{of something} to go a long with it with this many acres. I

CF: Cont) *I* would say that you should have 25 or 30 acres to really make a good go of it. That way if you had a good price ^{why} you would have enough to carry you over between the ^{year} years.

LM: That is all the ^{prepared} questions that I have unless you have something that you would like to finish up with.

CF: I can't think of anything right now. ~~Probably a lot of things that you don't think about them.~~

(30) LM: Thank you very much.

End of Interview