

INDEX TO TAPE
JOHN AND RUTH GATES
ACC. NO. LOH78-209
MAY 30, 1978

TRACK 1

- 0-10 Interviewer's introduction. Narrators' introduction. Ruth Gates born in 1904. John born in 1905. Discussion of Ruth Gates' ancestry, Joe Meek, Mountain man, original Washington County settler. Joe Meek coming from Virginia in 1840, taking up a Donation Land Claim in the Glencoe area.
- 10-20 Joe Meek, his wives, and his progeny.
- 20-30 Farming in Glencoe (Joe Meek) The Mountain Man's relatives. Ruth Gates as a young girl growing up on the farm. Threshing and threshing crews.
- 30-40 The city of Hillsboro. Hillsboro High School. Farm girls (specifically Mrs. Gates) boarding in the city while attending school.
- 40-50 John Gates. He discusses his high school experiences, his Model "T" Ford and fellow students. Discussion of the city of North Plains.
- 50-60 Neighborly farmers. The country school. The Grange movement. The Pumpkin Ridge Grange. Ruth Gates' Father was a former state legislator. The political issues of the day. The United Railway running into Portland.
- 60-70 Farmers bringing their crops into Portland along Springville Road. Crops and calamities.

TRACK 11

- 0-10 Farming in the 1920's from a personal perspective. Leaving the farm and moving to the city.
- 10-20 The self-sufficient farm. Farming during the Depression.
- 20-30 The beginnings of mechanization. Specialty crops. Woman work on the farm.
- 30-40 "Old-time household appliances, i.e. the wood stove, the wood coil, etc. A wooden water tower.
- 40-50 The Gates' family involvement with the Washington County Historical Society. The society's goals and objectives. The museum in its previous location in the basement of the old Hillsboro city library. Pioneer history. Gathering artifacts. The Washington County Jail.

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50-60 Washington County Fair and Fairgrounds. Horse races. 4-H Clubs.

60-70 The future of farming in Washington County. Mechanization. The competition for land among farmers and developers.

I left the museum one sunny and warm spring day in 1978 and walked north out of the city of Hillsboro, following the Southern Pacific railroad tracks crossing the bridge over McKay Creek, and on up to the farm and home of Mr. and Mrs. John and Ruth Gates. Ruth Gates is the granddaughter of Joe Meek, mountain man, statesman, and one of the original people settling and farming in Washington County. Indeed, the entire state of Oregon.

Partly as a result of her noted progenitor, she and her husband John have been involved in many historical activities around the county, including the Washington County Historical Society.

At the outset, it was the interviewer's intention to touch upon such subjects as Joe Meek and his historical significance, growing up in a rural atmosphere, farmlife, and the history of the Historical Society. Interviewing two people at a time proved to be somewhat of a handicap however. Both husband and wife had information to offer, but it was difficult for the questioner to zero in on one of the narrators without ignoring the other. On the other hand, where one memory fails, the partner is there to recall. The couple bounce ideas off of each other. Overall, the tape provides a generalized look at life on the farm in Washington County.