

MARRY GRESS

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BURNED BRUSH and load the landing up with logs and help dad cut the limbs off the trees, because dad always did the falling. We didn't have to worry about that, but our job was burning the brush and things in that order. There were three of us girls. On the day dad didn't need us in the woods we'd help stepmother in the home washing the clothes, cleaning the house and this and that. It wasn't very easy; we worked hard. We worked hard all our lives. Working in the woods and at home. That's where school came in. We missed so much of it helping dad out in the woods. And then helping my stepmother at home. So, that's where our problem came in. 391

400 I'm not exactly going to high school. I'm taking a tutor course through Portland Community College. And I'm trying to get my GED. Through them. And I hope I make it.
406 414 Well, I think what wanted me to go ahead on it because I had missed so much of it when I was in school. And when I come to problems to filling out papers for welfare and business places and stuff. I have a problem with reading and writing and spelling out words and stuff. 419 And stuff that I wanted to learn how to do better in learning how to read and write. And cope with the outer world, you know the higher bracket. And that's what I decided that I would go back to school and do what I missed when I was in grade school. And learn how to read and write and things like that. I never had the opportunity before. So, that's why I decided to go ahead and start again.
430 And then, with the kids here I'm wanting them to go to school every day. Because I want them to miss the hardships I had to go through when I was a kid. 433
437 That's why I sending them to school. To get their education that I had missed and hadn't able to do it. 440

MARY GRESS:

473 The only way you can get it is by going out and work for it. And with people out on welfare when you go out and work they only allow you so much. I mean, well like me, if I babysit or something. If I make over forty dollars or over thirty dollars well they deduct one third of that. Off of my welfare checks, or off of my baby sitting checks or whatever I happen to be doing. If it's working in the cannery or in the nursing homes or whatever it is. They only allow you/thirty dollars a month. And then, well that's the whole main problem. And then they, well just take for instance if they allow you thirty dollars. And if you make over that they deduct one third of that off of your welfare check. If, you know, like us. We get, what is it? A hundred and what from the welfare. 491

INA FRETTIM 492 I don't know.

MARY GRESS A hundred and nintyeight or something like that.

INA FRETTIM May I say something else 494 In order for poor people to survive nowadays

January 31

Marty Gress Home on Pumpkin Ridge Rd.

Ina Frettim 493 - 500

In order for poor people to survive nowadays we have to live almost in communes together, because none of us have enough to maintain an apartment and food. My total income is a widow's pension ^{and} is \$87.00 a month. The government will let me make \$300.00 a year . . . and yet, I can't even find a hole to crawl into for less than a \$100.00 a month rent. What am I supposed to do?

Ernest Hatter 504 - 513

I get a \$120.00 a month and allowed to make \$300.00 a year, or they cut my pension. And, how can I live on \$120.00 a month, pay rent, buy your clothes, buy your food, pay your light bill, and everything. You can't possibly do it. Nobody can.

Ina Frettim 514 - 531

I've been to welfare and unless I'm totally disabled I'm not allowed to have anything more than what I have to live on. And if I can pick up a broom and sweep the floor I'm not totally disabled. ⁵²¹ I have to prove myself a 100% disabled in order to get any more than what I have coming- where I have \$87.00 a month. And then my income would be \$155.00 a month. I think if this is to help poor people the best way you can do it is start lowering the rent- or build more low income homes - then maybe there wouldn't be so many poor people living in shacks like this.

Marty Gress 532 - 579

I think the same thing she said- that if welfare could give us more or give us the opportunity to work where we can make more money and not take it

Gress continue - 579

away from us, you know, not cut it off of our checks or something like that- well I think we would be a lot better off. But they won't do it. And, I know when I was working up in the cannery up in Idaho I told welfare that I was working in the cannery. Like I said, I can only make so much and then if I make over what their budget is, well they deduct all my welfare checks. And that's the way they do it. Say you make forty dollars or fifty dollars. It doesn't matter what it is, they deduct one third of it and then let you keep the rest. Like she says, how can anybody live on that much plus whatever little income you get. You just can't do it! Especially with a family. When you've got a family and you only say get 190.00 a month from welfare and another ^{This isn't her rent.} \$100.00 from vetrans or whatever it happens to be- and you got to pay a hundred and something for rent and your groceries and lights- and water and garbage and whatever else is involved- how you gonna do it? You can't do it. It's impossible. And try buy clothes and stuff for the kids and whatever supplies and stuff and things they need for school. You just can't do it. And that's where a lot of your low income people are complaining about is they're not getting enough money to be able to fill their needs. And I think that's the whole main problem right there. And they claim you're supposed to be 100% disability to even be on welfare. But I know a lot of people and I'm not going to mention any names but I know a lot of them are driving Cadalacs and going in there with fur coats and drawing welfare and getting by with it. And they won't even help people that really needs it- like us. I don't think we're really getting enough to survive on. I think that before they spend money to go to the outer planets and spend money to go to the moon they should be spending money to take care of the poor people here on earth.

Jan. 31

Marry Gress Home

Ina Frettim 730 - 736

My husband has been dead five years. And I get a widow's pension of \$87.00 a month and I'm only allowed to make 300. I made \$400.13 this year and my check is going to be knocked down a dollar. Now, how am I supposed to survive. Because my children are grown and on their own I'm not eligible for any kind of help.

Marry Gress 736 - 738

Welfare refuses to help her because they claim she's able to get out and work.

Ina Frettim 262 - 265

I'm from the old school. I know how to bake bread and I know how to stretch the pennies. Otherwise we wouldn't know how to live as well as we do.

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You take her husband right now he's really not able to work, but he's down there trying just the same. He's a hundred per-cent disability just like myself.

Marry/ One lung is gone with and the other one is going.

Ina Frettim 327 -

Being poor doesn't necessarily mean that you can't be happy. There's more happy poor people than there is happy rich people. *- Cliche that is attached to the problem -
The problem is with Ina*

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The good Lord must have loved poor people he made so many of us.

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