

The following interview is with Olive Weakly on October 4, 1975 in Orofino, Idaho, and the interviewer is Hope Hadley.

HH: I have your name down, and, can you tell me your maiden name?

OW: Hardin, Olive Hardin.

HH: H-a-r-

OW: d-i-n.

HH: Did you have any nicknames?

OW: Ollie.

HH: Ollie? Really?

OW: Ollie, everyone calls me 'Ollie'. O-l-l-i-e.

HH: Oh, that's cute. What is your date of birth?

OW: September the 19th, 1904.

HH: Oh, you just celebrated another birthday!

OW: Yes.

HH: What was your place of birth?

OW: Kamiah, on a farm out of Kamiah, but the address was Kamiah at the time.

HH: And we have your phone number. That was your first residence then in Idaho, was in Kamiah?

OW: Yes.

HH: And then, let's see, also you were born there. Okay, do you remember your mother's maiden name?

OW: Oh, yes; Fannie Elizabeth Mitchell.

HH: And, her date of birth?

OW: She was born January 6, 1880.

HH: And where was she born?

OW: She was born in Lynn County, Kansas.

HH: And, let's see, what year was she married - do you remember?

OW: No I don't remember...ha!...she married October 30, 1899.

HH: You farm the acreage behind here don't you?

OW: Yes, no, it's over here - and this is my grapes over here; I have four

different grapes.

HH: But you bunch them all up?

OW: Well, not all together, no; I have, oh, I have Jo Sherry, she's been here, I've had all sorts of them around here for foreigners. Oh, we had a regular Grand Central Station, here all the time.

HH: Do you remember what the date was when your mother died?

OW: Yes, July 21, 1971.

HH: Oh, you have such a good memory for dates—did your mother have an occupation?

OW: The most important occupation in the world—she was a housewife!

HH: I agree. But, she didn't hold any jobs on the side?

OW: No, no; she had a full-time job.

HH: Okay.

OW: She's like that little lady who's helping her husband on the farm; she did that type of work.

HH: That's alot of work!

OW: You bet it is; she was a real pioneer.

HH: What's your father's name?

OW: John Charles Hardin.

HH: And, his date of birth?

OW: He was born September 29, 1969.

HH: And his place of birth?

OW: Stumptown, Indiana.

HH: Oh, that's a great name!

OW: I don't suppose it's there anymore, now. Indiana; you see, that was right after the Civil War.

HH: Yeah...wow! It seems so long ago to me.

OW: Well, he's ninety years old now, you see. See, he'd be 106 if he were living.

HH: When was his date of death?

OW: He died May 31, 1958.

HH: What was his occupation - his job?

OW: He was a farmer, steam engineer, and he did various and sundry things, you know, farmer and he operated a warehouse as a Tramway Warehouse Operator. He did that for forty-four years, but he run the steam-tractor machines in the summer time.

HH: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

OW: I had one brother and two sisters.

HH: Okay, what was your brother's name?

OW: Lawrence Hardin. And he's deceased, of course. And, I had a sister, Eva, four years older than I.

HH: Eve?

OW: Eva.

HH: Eva Hardin?

OW: Uh-huh.

HH: And, your other sister?

OW: Ethyl; there was four of us.

HH: That's the way it is in my family - three girls and one boy.

OW: They're all dead but Ethyl and I. Eva died just right after mother did, so I'm kind of alone.

HH: Boy, I hope I'm good enough to remember the dates of my family. Boy, let's see, I can probably ask you these questions...maybe you could tell me something about what your family life was like when you were a child, and how it's really different now than then.

OW: Now, this is being recorded, isn't it?

HH: Uh-huh.

OW: We were a happy, hard-working family. Each child had chores to do; we had to learn to accept responsibility because we all to work in order to make

a living. Money in those days was scarce; however, I never remember a time that we didn't have what we needed to eat, and where. Not in the degree that we have today. Most of the things we ate, we raised! And, preserved ourselves. We each had some work to do in order to help make a living. We had a small stock ranch, raised berries and sold them - we each had to pick berries. We, of course, helped with the canning and preserving fruit and vegetables for our winter supply. We helped with hay making - of course, we girls were older, my brother was younger, we did the work of a boy at the time and helped chop the hay, have them over the hillside with horses; I rode head-pony from the time I was ten years old - until I left home - and, of course, he was used to work and since that we had to take the cattle to pasture, go and get the cattle, and he was not just purely pleasure, but we needed him to get over hills with too. So, now comparing my life now with the life then, I have more financially now than we did then, that is so far as - not that I am wealthy or anything now, but we had so many more, no less of electrical equipment like in a home; we had none of that type in those days - it was pretty through, very meager - we had very few labor-saving devices back then. We washed on a board, and clothes dried on the line, and my sisters and I had to take turns dish-washing - we were the automatic dishwashers. So, there was a closeness with the neighbors that we do not experience today. We were all happily in the same financial strata, and we loved one another and helped one another, exchanged work when there needed to be an extra man - men went together and sawed wood, made hay - because the money was not available to hire help! They exchanged work - didn't have to have money to have help; butchering, there was always someone who came. Or, my father would go to the neighbors when they needed to butcher, and help with the butchering. The same way with taking care of cattle; branding.

HH: No wonder they call it the 'Good ol' days!'

OW: Well, they did! So, they didn't use or need the money that we have to have today! Everything is paid services today. In those days, very few hospitals, and when a neighbor was ill and needed someone to sit up at night, Mother would go and sit up with Dad, if some neighbor became ill, or they in turn would do the same for us! And, doctors were few and far in between, although they were the most dedicated people in the world in those days - they'd ride for miles to attend a sick person. There was very, very little money being exchanged. In fact, I had Dr. Bryan from Kamiah ride six-mile horseback to see me when I had an ear infection, and he had fallen and broken his leg - he had his leg in a cast, and had to get off and on the horse with crutches - and he came to see me. I think he charged us \$6.00 for making that six-mile trip. What doctor today?

HH: No doctor today ...

OW: Would do that? And, he went for miles horseback, and attended people; childbirth, all that thing - he was about fourteen miles to woodland - he'd make it to either, if it was too muddy, he rode horseback. That time the roads were all just dirt roads, and the spring of the year, everything broke up and the snow was gone, and mud would be top-deep on a horse!

HH: Oh, wow.

OW: And it was really something to ride over those roads, and it was very difficult to go over them with a wagon. Mud got so deep, and so, at that time, why, they would ride horseback, otherwise, go and hack. And, he did that to go and visit patients, of course, and of course, everyone else the same way, well, it was too muddy, and would ride horseback rather than..

HH: Would someone ride in to him and get word to him that he was needed, is that how he knew where to go?

OW: Telephones, they had telephones.

HH: Oh, I see.

OW: They had telephones; the telephone system was different than we have - they had individual telephone companies owned by the farmers themselves. And, they'd have a central, and all party lines - there'd be fifteen, twenty, thirty, forty people on one line.

HH: Oh, wow; that's certainly interesting. I had no idea things were like that at all.

OW: Yes. They had telephones from the time I was born on - we had a telephone shortly after I was born...for as long as I can remember. Dad had to have one because he was managing his warehouse, and he had to talk back and forth to the Nez Perce all the time concerning grain shipments. And, so, he had to have a telephone. The other farmers had telephones, too, and they had their own central in the little town of Widden, and I think the telephone bill would amount to about a dollar a month.

HH: Oh, that sounds lovely!

OW: And then, they would call the doctor in Kamiah if anyone needed to have a doctor. And, sometimes, when got up on the hill, he would make half a dozen calls because if there was anything wrong with anyone, since he was up in that area, they'd call for him. So he would get quite a lot of calls!

HH: I could imagine! Can you tell me some of the things that your brothers and sisters - that you did together when you were children? You know, playing together and such?

OW: We played house, we played farms, we improvised our farms; we didn't have all these things that they have today. We had to take a carrot and put four toothpicks on it, and make a horse or cow, or pig - whichever we wanted. Take mustard, they made lovely fences, with a little cross bar; fences around our...we did everything make-believe. We had our playhouses generally, we didn't have the dishes that they manufacture today - we'd take broken dishes and bits of them for our playhouse when we played. Then, of course, in the summer time, we swam; we loved to swim, and I learned when I was about ten years old. And, we rode horseback and visited

neighbors - Sunday was really a wonderful day. We enjoyed visiting back and forth; there was very few of them and they'd either be at our place one Sunday, and we'd go visit there next Sunday, we did. And, I remember a time that Mamma didn't get we children ready, although we had no church, she always made Sunday a special day - we always had to dress up for Sunday and she herself. Although she worked hard all week, she always had her Sunday dress on on Sunday. And, either we went to the neighbors or they came to our place. Not always, but alot of the time we did. We observed a one day of rest, unless it was just something very unusual, but most of the time we did. And, I think that was the general trend for most of the people in those days.

HH: Oh, it sounds so nice.

OW: I think so too, to observe Sunday., and of course, those people who lived in town had their churches, but we lived out so the community was small-all had Sunday School part of the time, and it was in the schoolhouse. There's the schoolhouse right there.

HH: Oh!

OW: My first school; I went there until I finished the sixth grade; little one room log cabin that my Dad and Mr. Simner built when we kids got old enough to go to school.

HH: This is Tramway, where is that?

OW: Yes, that's right near Kamiah, five miles of tread - and here is the tramway itself. Picture of it. Now that came, this tramway came from the Nez Perce Prairie, and all the grain from the Nez Perce Prairie practically, came down this mile and a half and was loaded onto the cars here after... I think the railroad was completed about 1898, something, this tramway started operating about 1903-4, before I was born.

HH: Oh, that's a fantastic picture.

OW: And, it operated until...1944, and then it was discontinued, but it changed

so many times, from town to town, that trailway.

HH: In those days, did your brother go on to college or did you or your sisters?

OW: I went on, and, no, my brother - they finished high school, but they didn't go on; I was the one. My sister married right shortly after she finished high school, and my brother went working - he didn't go on.

HH: Did your brother work with your father?

OW: No, he worked a number of different places; he worked for the forest service and geological survey, and making these geodetic markers here on rivers and things like that, he did that before he was married. Then, after he married, he bought a farm and planted until he died.

HH: So, you went on, was it a normal school?

OW: Yes.

HH: And became a teacher?

OW: Yes, yes; I went on and took summer courses at the University of Utah; took extension courses after I finished.

HH: Where did you first teach?

OW: I taught for the, a little, a school - just a summer school - it was at Fairburn out of Culdesac, and, the snow got so deep up in that area that they started school in April and would discontinue it in November.

HH: Oh!

OW: And, I got a chance to go out and teach that school that summer, so that's my first school. But, before I got through with that school, the Creig Mountain Lumber Company started moving a camp, Camp 6, right where the school was, and they wanted me to go on and teach the winter school also. And, this was a...I taught there for a while, and then got sick and had to resign and then went back the next year, and I had a portable schoolhouse; they moved it from camp to camp on a box-car. I had about thirty youngsters and they were all eighth grades. The schoolhouse was set on right close to the railroad, and it was on 'skids'. We used skid-logs and put the two sec-

tions together like they've done to a double trailer, now, and our playground equipment was...we had giant strides with a Jack-Pine cut off so high and a wagonwheel on top which was greased so they could take the rope and go around the giant strides; we had teeter-totters built between two trees, swings the same way; we had a playground equipment improvised at no cost, practically.

HH: Sounds like fun!

OW: The camp had quite a number of families in it, I think I had, if I remember, around thirty or thirty-five students and all eighthgrades. And, it was, of course, we were snowbound in the wintertime, and the only way we could get out was to take the logging train into Winchester, ride in the cab, engine cab of the logging train. And, then, the cars were left in Winchester, and we could get to Lewiston and once in a while we went out. The winter started early, and it lasted until May. You couldn't get over the roads then, they didn't plow the roads like they do now, we were snowbound. And so had to form our own amusement as much as we could.

HH: Sounds like you can do a good job.

OW: Well, cause we were really isolated. I went back thirty years after I taught there - I wanted to see what it looked like - and I was amazed at the way everything had, the logs and the skidlogs, everything had rotted down and becoming that you could barely see that there had been a log there, just a slight muck in the earth where these skids had been. They were doing, at that time, destructive logging with a donkey, they call it, and they'd skid the logs from maybe six or eight logs, attached to this cable out in the woods a quarter of a mile, and they'd bring the logs to the railroad side to be loaded and everything in the path was snapped down, and when they got through logging, it was the worst looking mess you ever saw...just everything had been destroyed, there was nothing, and it was just an open fire-trap. This was virgin Ponderosa Pine and Fir

timber at that time we went in there; beautiful, beautiful timber. And they took out the very best, and the rest was left to be burned in that shamble that was left. And, I wondered what it would look like after thirty years, and it amazed me to see that land had come back, that all those sawed logs were completely rotted into the earth and there were trees that were, oh, as high as I'd say twelve, fifteen, twenty feet - was re-foresting itself in that area that had been broken out and farmed. And, I had heard, when I came here, that someone said that they had the stumps that Lewis and Clark cut to make their canoes for floating down, that someone saw the stumps and that...

HH: Not the way that logs rot, anyway, it couldn't have been.

OW: No...it couldn't have been, and so I knew that that story could not have been true. And, there was another thing in that story that always kind of leaves me...they said that they used Pine trees; a Pine tree? You couldn't make a boat out of a Pine tree that would float! No matter how, you couldn't do it! And, down here at Canoe Camp, which is where Hidden Village is now, there was huge Cedars washed in there; dead Cedars all along these places that time, because all this upper country was Cedar forests. And every spring when the river raised those big Cedars would float down the river, lodge in sandbars and everywhere else. Why wouldn't they have used those light Cedars?

HH: Light Cedars, sure!

OW: It looks to me like that must have been - of course, they had to put each of those canoes around Saliloe Falls...how could they carry a Pine tree? It would hold six men, five men to a canoe.

HH: Oh, good heavens, they couldn't possibly have done it.

OW: They couldn't possibly have done it!

HH:No!

OW: And, I always think, I have no proof, but they could have managed to hollow

out a Cedar and carried it!

HH: If they had Indians with them, they probably would have known better than to use Pine.

OW: Well, the Indians, I've seen them and how they dug out canoes; they never used Pine, they used Cedar!

HH: Yeah! Right!

OW: So, it looks to me like the canoes they must have made in 18 and five(1805) were made of Cedar from down on this island because there was, well, for years it's been logs lodging there as they come in...different types, and there would have been adequate lumber there to...it just doesn't make sense! Some of these things ~~that they~~ say!

HH: I think they're just guessing!

OW: I think they are too. Well, that's the reason I would wonder about that story. Now, of course, some historians...it says Pine, I think it does say Pine, but they might have called anything Pine. There must have been some reason, because how could they have...you couldn't have a canoe less than that would carry five men less than twenty feet long, could you? And how could you lift a Pine log? They'd have been superior men to carry it!

HH: Yeah! Did you teach for quite a while?

OW: Seventeen years.

HH: Seventeen years, so were you married part of the time you were teaching?

OW: Oh, yes! I've been married when I was teaching; I taught after I married too...my husband was a teacher also.

HH: How old were you when you married?

OW: I was thirty.

HH: Oh! Was that unusual in those ~~time~~ times to marry when you were thirty; did most of the women get married - as you said, your sister got married just out of high school - did they usually get married real young?

OW: Younger, younger, but I was working and you couldn't be married and teach

school. Whenever you got married well, that automatically let you off, and I had worked pretty hard to, I had worked my way through school myself, so I wanted to take advantage of it as much as I could, and then I didn't meet the right guy!

HH: How did you meet your husband?

OW: He was teaching when I was teaching. And, he was a widower; his wife had died with, she had tuberculosis, and they had one little child - he was very frail, and I had him in school, and I fell in love with him before I fell in love with my husband.

HH: That's nice!

OW: And, I raised him; he was in the first grade . And, somehow I felt that maybe things are planned...in this life, for us; and the guy I married was the right guy. We had a very, very happy married life

HH: Was they boy you raised, was that the only child that you had?

OW: The only child, our only child. Of course, he is the same...he is my adopted son, and I have seven lovely grandchildren.

HH: Oh, that's wonderful.

OW: And, I enjoy every one of them. The oldest one will finish the University of Washington next spring - Chemical Engineering; excellent student.

HH: Well, if you taught after you got married, how did you, how did you manage that?

OW: Well, I - after the depression was over, they needed, in fact, they wanted a man and woman - husband and wife combination in one of the schools out here by Orofino - Branner. And, Ed and I went out as a husband and wife combination; they wanted the husband and wife - that was good. He got the upper grades and I got the lower ones. He went from that into forest service, and was in forest service for about five years; got a Civil Service appointment. And, it seemed like I never could get away from teaching because when they needed a substitute or something, they would call and wanted

to know if I wouldn't take over, and I generally would. And, I taught in Noosaka for a while, and I taught and finished a term out here in Gilbert, and, then, of course, we taught at Branner. Then the war came on; my husband went into the service and was gone for two years and twenty-one days! And I started teaching here in Orofino.

HH: How old was your son when the war - World War II?

OW: Yes, he was fourteen when Ed left, and he was seventeen when he came back. Well, he was fifteen, yes, fifteen - because he was seventeen when he came back. And, at that time, they couldn't get people to man look-outs for the forest service; so, since Ed had been in the forest service and Edward had been accustomed to being in the woods alot - all of us, the three of us had - and our main recreation was fishing and hunting and just wandering around the woods, and, so he manned a look-out! When he was only fifteen years old! And, he was on a look-out for a couple of summers and feigned it rather nicely when his dad was away. And he finished high school in '46 after his dad got home; the University of Idaho in 1950 - became an engineer - the head for Atomic Works; he's been with them ever since 1950.

HH: How long did you know your husband before you got married? Did you have a long engagement?

OW: No! Not a long engagement. I knew him possibly, oh, I might have known him two years before I had met him. Then, when he started teaching - just a year before, he was teaching the upper grades and I was teaching the younger at the time - but we really didn't have a long engagement. About a year, I suppose.

HH: Well, that's still pretty long - a year! Some people's are alot shorter.

OW: Well, I think the first date I had with Ed was in February - came to the tournament up here, and then we were married the next January the sixth.

HH: Oh, that sounds really nice. I'm supposed to ask you something-I know you talked about the reason you got married was because you loved him, which

I think is just nice in itself - it seems to be enough - but, one of the questions I have on here is if you had any expectations about what marriage would be like, or any ideals, you know, for your marriage - what it was going to be like?

OW: Yes, we did. And, since he passed away, I went over some of the things that he had written to me when he was over seas - what he hoped to do when he got back - and most everyone of those things we accomplished.

HH: Oh, that's wonderful! What were some of those?

OW: Well, we wanted security; we had gone through the Great Depression, and we had seen people that didn't have enough to eat. We wanted a place where we could raise our living, and be self-sustaining in case another depression came on - which we thought possibly would have after World War II; everyone figured there would be another depression after World War II. I think everyone felt that it was coming; so, that's what I saved towards while he was gone and what he saved toward also, and we bought this place, and, had kept it. And, I still have it I'm still holding my ground here! Ha! It's hard for me to do, but I'm trying to keep it as long as I can. See, because it's home and I love it.

HH: That's great. Did you do alot together with him; I know you mentioned hunting and fishing, you sound like you did so much together?

OW: We did! We'd go steelheading; I'd helped him pack deer out of the woods, and elk, and, our chief recreation was outdoors. After Dworsac was completed, we were on the lake with a little boat, and we'd go fishing and as he got older, it was more difficult for us to make small streams and things like that, but we did that. And, we attended church together. We had common friends: we had all our lives, practically all our married life we had a number of friends together, and we led a very full life. One of the things he was asked at his 50th Anniversary graduation from high school, they asked him what was the greatest accomplishment he considered that he had, and,

he said, "Well, we have peace of mind." - which we had had. We had attained that, and that is something.

HH: That's very special, not everybody can say that.

OW: That's right.

HH: That's beautiful.

OW: And we tried to be honest with everyone, and everyone was the same with us.

We tried to be good neighbors and good friends - do unto others as you would have others do unto you. And that was our main way of living. And it pays off! I don't know what I'd do today if it wasn't for my friends, and my memor-
~~is~~-I don't know what I would do, because they've been so wonderful to me and my husband; to have someone to care when you wanted it.

HH: Does your son and his wife live in Orofino?

OW: Oh, no, they live in Richmond, nearly 200 miles away. We see one another four or five times a year, but you can't much oftener than that. The grandkids came and stayed a summer with me; mostly, quite a bit of the summer. They painted the house for me and things like that; the boy was working full-force, serious, and it was finished for the next year. And, the girl came, and she helped me clean house and things like that. So, they come quite often, and they're all I have.

HH: It must be wonderful to have so many grandchildren.

OW: Yes it is, it is really wonderful. That was the main...when he passed away, that was the main consolation that he still wasn't dead...I could look into those little grandson's eyes and see his.

HH: That's nice.

OW: And, it was truth, and it still is; I'm glad I have him.

HH: Can you, there are some questions here about your experiences when you lived out on the farm as a child; can you think of anything in particular that was interesting or any stories or-I know you were telling me about the grasshoppers last night - which I thought was just a riot!

OW: Well, that was down here in P , I told you that happened. But, on the farm, when I lived out on the farm, possibly one of the things that was most impressive to me as a child , there was no road, where we lived; we went by rail, the roads were not built this side of - like from here to Kamiah - you see, that road was not completed until 1939, something like that, and we lived five miles down the railroad from Kamiah. And, Mama wanted to come down through Brier for something, and she left her kids alone; the train left at 6:10 in the morning, and didn't get back 'til 4:00, and my sister was four years older than I, and she was possibly about fourteen or fifteen, and that would make me about ten or eleven, and of course, were obeying like all kids do before she came home - having a grand time - and, about 2:00 in the afternoon, our yard was full of Indians.

HH: Oh!

OW: And, oh! You know, all talking Nez Perce and we couldn't understand what they said, and they wanted to buy some berries, we had some berries. And, we were just half afraid, you know, all of us were really frightened of them, but yet...and, of course, they were laughing and having a good time and they had their horses, they all had horses, and they had these baskets that they had made of cornhusks, I guess. Anyway, they picked berries and filled their baskets and they took thimbleberry leaves and put on top of these baskets and buckskin, and just wove that right across to hold the berries firm in the baskets. The baskets were approximately, oh, sixteen inches across and possibly a foot and a half deep, and their saddles were built so that they could tie things onto the back part of the saddles; there was a hole in the back part of the saddle so that they could just put a rope through and they would tie those things on the saddle, they weren't like the saddles we have now. And, oh, they were laughing and talking and having such a great time and after they were around a while, some of them spoke English - I imagine most of them did, but they talked in Nez Perce

most of the time - and of course, it was kind of surprizing for youngsters to have someone talking in a different language, and after they got through they went above the house a ways - they were crossing, forty or so of them, across the river from our place, and, one of the horses fell down. They didn't get excited at all, they just went around below 'er and picked her out of the water and she got back on her horse and went on across. The river, the deepest part, was possibly, oh, four feet deep or some five, they were going in a shallow ford; evidently they had known for centuries where this ford was, you see.

HH: How did they pay for the berries?

OW: They had money. They had money, and they paid for them. And, they wanted vegetables, and my older sister said, "We don't have a cellar of vegetables," but we took some of them anyway! That was one of the things that as a child I remember quite well.

HH: Oh, I would too! Was your mother...

OW: She got back after they left.

HH: Had she worried about you, I mean, when you told her that the Indians had come?

OW: Oh, after she got home, certainly we told her when she got home that the Indians had been there. Ha! Ha!

HH: Did she worry about you?

OW: Oh, no. No, they wouldn't hurt us anyway; they just...but they, we just weren't used to them being around that way. Sure, we'd see one occasionally, but to see a whole yard full of them!

HH: Wow! Gee!

OW: But, when you're only ten, that kind of frightens you! We were all younger. That was one of the times that one of the outstanding things happened... that was the funniest thing that possibly happened.

HH: You were saying that you had a, you were really close with your neighbors;

did you have like county fairs, and on holidays did you all get together?
OW: We'd go to Kamiah to the fair, and we'd take our lunch and put our lunch together; we only had, well, only one real close neighbor to us. They were about three miles from us, over the hills and everything, but we visited alot back and forth, and worked together alot. And, this neighbor was the first woman that had come in there - most everyone who had come in there were men, miners - and mother just had no women hardly, and she was so glad when this neighbor moved in, and she had been so lonely before, no one but miners and people like that coming. And, of course, whenever anyone came in those days, no matter what time of the afternoon, first thing Dad would say is, "Well, have you been to dinner?" And, if they had been out riding looking for cattle, they'd say, "No," they hadn't, and, well, Mama immediately start dashing around and get something on the table for them to eat! And, right upto the time she died, when anyone would come here, she'd say, whisper to me, "Ollie, get something for them to eat! I'd say, "Mama," I'd say, "they don't want to eat; it's two o'clock in the afternoon, they possibly had dinner before they came!" But, she couldn't get over the idea - the pioneering idea - anyone who came, you got coffee and cake or whatever you had; something for them to eat! Everybody did that in those days.

HH: I think it's nice!

OW: Well, it was, because where you're going by horse transportation, it's rather a slow mode of travel and you're on the way quite a while.

HH: Did she and your father come out in a covered wagon from Kansas?

OW: No. They came out, you see, that covered wagon era was over before they came; they came out west in 19 and 1 (1901) and the trains were into Spokane, and the train had not come up from Portland to Lewiston yet. And, Mother and Dad...Dad had come in 1897, and he had worked out in the Genesee boat in Uniontown country - as steam engineer and various towns there, and

he never was satisfied in the east after he had come west - he wanted to come west, and he finally persuaded Mother to come west, and Eva, she was born in September, and they came west in February. And, at that time, it was rather a sad parting, it was just like going to the moon today - they didn't know if they'd ever see one another again after they left. And, she ended up in Colton, Dad took her to these friends and they, of course... he had worked on the Kelly Ranch, fruit ranch, down in Elrya and had done, well, had helped with the spraying and generally worked on the pumps there and things, so he had a job waiting for him there when he got up here in February. And, she moved down from Colton, down those steep old grades, and she was so frightened - she had never been in rough country like that before - and, when they came to the Switchbacks, they had to come on so, you know, that he...so, she got out and walked and carried the baby. She was afraid to go down. Well, they lived down there until time to go back up and harvest, and Dad went back up there and harvested and she cooked for the crew, just like this lady was telling us last night, Mother did their cooking, and they had been out here until in 19 and 3(1903) Mother went back home to her place in Kansas and visited her folks. And, she was so thrilled to get back home; I hadn't been born yet and when she had come back, Dad had got this job at the warehouse up here in Kamiah, the year round work, so he had gone up there and she had come back to this place, and she thought this was a terrible place because she said the farther up the river she came, the steeper the hills became, and she just couldn't hardly stand to think of living...and where in the world would she live in these hills?

HH: I guess it's a difference from Kansas!

OW: Yes! And so she got off, she said she jumped the mudhole when she got off the train. She said she wanted to turn around and go back the next day. Anyway, Dad worked there until spring and there was a homestead that hadn't

been taken right close to where this town was, so flat on that homestead. And, of course, she became adjusted to it, but not for twenty-one years - until after I finished high school, she wanted to go back and see here folks again.., and she was very lonely, and she used to tell me about - Dad would go out to Portland, of course - he'd get more by the steam engine, maybe \$2.50 a day was all he made at the warefouse, probably he would get about \$10.00 for running a steam engine. And, he'd go out and get that extra money, to run us through the winter, buy sugar, flour, overalls for the boy and had ~~dress~~ for the girls and overshoes and things - the necessary things that we had to have in those days, and they never bought flour in ten pound packages - they bought a barrel of flour, which was four sacks, fifty pounds a sack, and the same way with 100 pounds of sugar, and they laid in the winter supply in the fall. Well, he would do that when he came home from harvesting, and I think most all the men in those days did that very thing. Well, Mother would have to stay alone on the ranch, before we youngsters, because in order to prove up, you had to ~~live~~ live on the land, and she had to stay there. And, she told me when I was well, before I was born, I was born in September, and she was all alone with Eva, and how frightened she had become...the moon would be shining, she'd look down in the canyon like and close to the railroad track, and at that time there was lots of hobo, and imagine she'd see somebody. And, she was so frightened she said she couldn't sleep at night, many a night she lay there and worrying, because she was only twenty, twenty-one years old; she was just a girl and in there all alone. And, she said, by the time morning came she'd want to sleep, and then she'd have to get up and take care of Eva and do her work. So, she'd be so tired and she had told me that 100 times how lonesome she was. She was alone, so it was hard...she was lonesome for companionship too. What kind of woman did that all the time?

HH: She must have been strong.

OW: Oh, they were - they worked hard too. In a garden she worked, and canned and things like that too; they were busy!

HH: Can I ask you a little bit about the Depression and what it was like for you? Did it hit you particularly hard?

OW: My husband, well, the main part of the Depression I went through was before I was married, you see. Uh, the Depression was harder on some than on others, and, I can't say that I suffered all too much, although I lost every penny I had. I had taught and saved about \$500, which was quite a lot of money in those days! And the bank, I had it in the bank at Kamiah, and it closed and took everything I had. And I moved to Keck that fall and I had my first teacher's salaries a \$100/month, and I had deposited it in the bank there and I think I had about \$40 left after I paid my board and it closed too! Well, anyway, we got by pretty well, but, those who lived on a farm raised everything they had there to eat and clothing was inexpensive - buy print- I can't remember exactly the price, but I think \$.15 a yard; wasn't much! Then it grew worse because we had to take registered warrents - we couldn't get our salaries in cash, we had to register our warrents, then take a chance on selling registered warrents once in a while to someone. But, it didn't cost much to live - you could buy all your groceries for \$10.00 - not much. I had to quit boarding for a while; I had to batch, get a room and do my own cooking because there wasn't the money to pay board in cash. So, I know my groceries bill would be about \$10.00 a month. My folks lived on a farm and they raised everything they needed, and, actually, they didn't suffer. But it was those people who hadn't a home; and, at one time here in Orofino there were 150 men where the park is now out of work. The people really got frightened, although those men would not harm anyone; they were just hard working men and didn't have a penny. And, they would ride the trains and try to find work in different places. And, I remember the minister coming to peck, he was Rev. Driver coming down, and he was so worried about those

people. He would go down and talk to them, and they were without food, they were without clothing, without shelter; they took packing boxes and paper cartons and built some shelter to sleep under. And then the police got afraid, and they burned those things.

HH: Oh, no!

OW: Oh, yes! Our minister came down that Sunday night and cried when he spoke, and finally, they set up a relief program - that was before the relief programs were set up - and they set up the program where they could issue and they put on the WPA where they could work and get money enough to buy something, but it was really tragic - they were hungry! And they couldn't get work, and so many of them you'd see were up in the woods! Well, the woods work was all closed down, everything was all closed down, so they came where it was warmer in the winter to try and get along some way. But, I don't believe, now I can't say this, but I don't believe today that the people, if they had to face the same thing that we did, would do it, as gracefully as those people did.

HH: I don't think so.

OW: I think there would be all sorts of violence, now maybe I'm wrong, but ..I hope I am wrong, but there wasn't at that time. They just seemed to...somehow manage. And, of course, the Depression actually wasn't over until World War II started; it was still hard for people, but they were, they had more work then they had while we were in the '30's - '32 and '30's, it was really tough then.

HH: ...Well, the rest of these we've gone over...I can't ask you what you would do if you had more leisure time! I think you probably have lots now, don't you?

OW: Well now, I don't have much leisure time.

HH: Really?

OW: No, I'm canning all the time something; dried prunes the other day...try one of them.

HH: Oh, I'd love to! How do you do that - in your oven?

OW: Yes. I just got them ready.

HH: Mmm, those are good.

OW: I thought they were. I'm going to put them in the freezer because they're quite moist and I wouldn't want them spoiling, now I'll just zip-lock them and serve them when I want from the freezer. I try...I can all the time.

Would you like to see my shelves?

HH: Oh, I'd love to! Yeah!

(the end)