

BESSIE TIDLAND

This is an interview with Mrs. Bessie Tidland. She is a pioneer of the Camas/Washougal area and presently resides at 1434 NE 4th Avenue in Camas. The date is the 23rd of July, 1975. Interviewer: Cliff Crawford.

Cliff: Well, you got a nice place here.

Bessie: Oh yeah, lots of work but I enjoy it.

Cliff: I don't think I've ever been to your place before.

Bessie: Well, probably not but you've surely been by.

Cliff: I meant to get up here some time ago and get some information about the old days of oh, steamboats on the river and the sternwheelers and so forth. Did you notice in the East County News there, they were going to have a bicentennial presentation of flag.

Bessie: This Saturday?

Cliff: Yeah.

Bessie: We got a wedding Saturday at 11:00. Bob's second boy is getting married. Just reading it, I thought, well, no use to read it because I can't go. Yeah, it sounds like quite a program. You're to be master of ceremonies?

Cliff: Right. I hope I don't have very much to do. If I do, it might not be too good a program.

Bessie: Then there to have flags.

Cliff: We're presenting the bicentennial flag to, we have two flags, one for the Mayor of Camas, and one for the Mayor of Washougal, and then it will be flown the first day of school in both schools. Then it will be given to the Mayors who will put it up on each city hall respectively. So it should be a pretty nice deal, it was a lot of hard work and Maxine Morris has done a whale of a job on it. They gave her the job as chairman of this thing you know, about three days before she had a deadline to have to have the full agenda in to be declared a

bicentennial community.

Bessie: Oh? Well, I guess she's a worker.

Cliff: Well, what I wanted to find out from you is to get some of your reminiscences from riding on the sternwheelers. Primarily what we're interested in is the . . .

Bessie: The what?

Cliff: The *Bailey Gatzert*.

Bessie: Well, I never did ride on the *Bailey Gatzert*. I've got a nice big picture of it but our boat that we depended on when I was just a girl, or a baby, my mother used to go to Portland and take me as a baby, I was born here you know, and we had the old *Ione* and that was a sternwheeler. Then after that, I was maybe 10 or 12 years old, we had the *Jessie Harkins* and that was a boat we used to go on, on up until the railroad come in in 1908 and then, course, that did away with the boats. But we used to leave here in the morning at 7:00.

Cliff: Where was the landing that you took off from here at Camas, was it Parker's Landing?

Bessie: Down at the mill dock. Yes, we had to go clear through the mill yard, clear on down the mill dock.

Cliff: Was that a regular scheduled trip coming down the river?

Bessie: Oh, yes, we'd be walking down to the boat and we'd hear the *Jessie Hawkins* leave Washougal, blow its whistle.

Cliff: Did it leave at Parker's Landing then?

Bessie: No, no. They never left at Parker's. They left, there used to be a dock at Washougal. Big dock used to go clear on through it.

Cliff: Right where Chet Tidland's, or Chet Mead's place?

Bessie: No, right where, right in there where the Washougal Woolen Mills, right into the river and the boat would leave from there and go on

down to Camas and then we'd get on a 7:00 and get in to Portland at 11:00.

Cliff: Well, it didn't stop at Parker's Landing then.

Bessie: No, it came right on down.

Cliff: Then it stopped in the slough down there at the big mill. Where was the stops from there on into, did you go to Portland?

Bessie: Yeah, we used to go at the foot of Washington Street. You know where Washington Street is?

Cliff: Yeah, that was the first stop from here?

Bessie: No, that was where we ended up at but we used to go like this . . .

Cliff: You zig-zagged back and forth across the river?

Bessie: Yes, there was dairies along, or people wanted to get on or off and the boat would go back and forth and that's why it took so long.

Cliff: How long did it take you from here?

Bessie: Four hours to Portland.

Cliff: So you'd figure on a trip would be four hours, so from here you would leave here and go, let's see, then you'd go on down the slough to Smith Rock or else across to Government Island

Bessie: Lady's Island, Government Island, then on this side there was . . .

Cliff: You use to stop at Lady's Island right across from the mill then?

Bessie: Yeah, and at Fisher's, then on down the river they used to make several stops and then we'd get to Portland at 11:00 and they'd start back at 2:00, come back to Camas.

Cliff: Oh, they'd give you three hours of shopping or whatever.

Bessie: Well, we didn't do much so we'd stay all night. If we're going to do

very much shopping, wasn't much here then if you were going to get extra clothing or . . .

Cliff: What year was this? When you were about 1912?

Bessie: Yeah.

Cliff: Let's see, any chance of finding out about when that was?

Bessie: Well, now I'm just trying to think; when the railroad went in, that was 1908 and up until then, we went on the boat or you could drive to Vancouver and take the ferry, there was a ferry at Vancouver then that went over on the Oregon Side, then there was a trestle that went way up high and we'd go on the trestle into Portland. You could go that way but you'd have to drive to Vancouver there.

Barbara: Excuse me, but your story sounds better than my T.V. so . . .

Bessie: Oh, this is my daughter, Barbara.

Cliff: Haven't I met you?

Barbara: Oh, I think you probably have. Well, I heard how you used to go down the river and all this and I thought gee, this sounds better than my T.V.

Cliff: It does to me, too!

Bessie: Well, now the boat has landed over there, let's see now I have to, the converting plant, beyond that to the river. Where is the garbage disposal place?

Cliff: You mean the Camas Sewage Plant just down from Parker's Landing down there?

Bessie: Oh no, not that far up. You take it from the converting plant right straight to the river and then up just a little ways, the boat used to land there in high water.

Cliff: Oh, where the incinerator is?

Bessie: That's what I mean. Right in there. In that area. Have you got that thing on?

Cliff: Yes, I don't want to miss anything. What we need to do is just have some record from somebody that did these things, you know. Who rode on the boats and what the names of them were and what was your impression of them and all of this.

Bessie: Well, that was, but the general landing was at the dock, as I say in high water.

Cliff: It was closer up into the mouth of the Washougal then?

Bessie: Well, not that far.

Cliff: Yeah, but I mean closer up there.

Bessie: Yes, in that area. Yeah, right in there. Now where's the pump station?

Cliff: Yeah, well that's what I was talking about instead of the incinerator, the pump station.

Bessie: Well, the pump station _____ Crown and the incinerator is Camas. Well, anyway it was right, my husband supervised the building, that pump station, that's one of his monuments. Yeah, well anyway, that's where the boat landed in high water and we, as I say, as far back as I can remember, we went on the *Ione*. Now there was boats before that but I just, I don't remember them. Then after the *Ione* was taken off, we went on the *Jessie Harkin*.

Cliff: Then, any special things that you remember on the trips? Any special events that was kind of humorous? What we're going to do is, a lot of the things that you're talking about will be in the Heritage, the Skamania County Historical Society Magazine, a little pamphlet. Mrs. Emory Strong is the . . .

Bessie: I don't know her. Do I? Where does she live?

Cliff: At Skamania Landing. Well, Emory has written several books and Mrs. Strong is working on a book or two and she would like to have, to incorporate this interview with you on some of your experiences

on the sternwheelers and some of your memories of how the place was then, with this presentation of our *Bailey Gatzert Edition*. We have the bell from the *Bailey Gatzert* and we have pictures of it and I got the pictures the other day on a loan basis from Chet and Chet gave us a couple of fantastic scrap books.

Bessie: Chester did? Oh yeah, those were given to him years ago.

Cliff: Right. He said he was 15 years old.

Bessie: Tim Turner gave them to him. He kept the scrapbooks for his son. He lives in California, and the son wasn't interested and I guess after talking to Chester, he just discovered that Chester was in those things.

Cliff: I know his scrapbooks were fantastically neat. They were so neat that the tops of all the newspaper articles are cut off so there is not date.

Bessie: Well, Tim Turner's wife, Anna, is down here in the nursing home and her mind is just as clear, if you ever want to talk to her. She would tell you a lot of things.

Cliff: How old is she?

Bessie: Pretty close to 90 but her mind is alright and she was raised here you know and she could just tell you a lot of things.

Cliff: Was she born and raised here?

Bessie: Well, she wasn't born here, I think she was born in Germany, but I'm not sure, but she grew up and was married here to Tim Turner. He was one of the old timers and he was interested in all this kind of stuff. He took us up one time, up to Bonneville this side of . . . did Chester tell you about it?

Cliff: Oh, out in the flat by Fort Cascade.

Bessie: Yes, Tim took us up there because he was so interested and wanted us to see that but his wife Anna could tell you a lot of things.

Cliff: Basically what we'd like to find out is some of the stuff that you

remember going that way as opposed to going toward Portland. Did you ever ride the sternwheelers up through the Cascades?

Bessie: Yes, I've gone through the Locks but I don't know which boat it was on.

Cliff: Oh I see. Any particular, this course was prior to the dam, so, did you go up for any special reasons or just go on the tours?

Bessie: Well, they use to have excursions all the time years ago on the river, boats, that was one of the things to do but I don't remember going on the excursion as a child. We went to visit, we went to Hood River that time. We went through the Locks and there was a boat by the name of something *Spencer*, it was two initials and it was a beautiful boat but I never rode on it but we used to live on the hill then when I was a girl and we could set our clock by that boat. That *Spencer* just went, we'd say, there goes the *Spencer* and it was just regular. Then there was the *Hassalo* that used to run from Portland to Astoria on big excursions but I never rode on that.

Cliff: *Hassalo*, there was two or three of them. Maybe they were rebuilt but there was two or three of them.

Bessie: There was the *Lurline*, that was another one, but the *Jessie Harkins* and *Ione* were the only two that I was familiar with.

Cliff: Do you remember any of the old timers talking about the Indians or the old wagon roads in this area? I interviewed Maggie McLaughlin ,who is an Indian, you know.

Bessie: Maggie? She's Indian?

Cliff: Yeah, Maggie McLaughlin. She lives in Washougal, she's about 87 and her father was Chief Wacomac at Skamania, at Bonneville, at Cascade. I interviewed her concerning some of the locations in that area. Then, of course, of what she remembers, has been told to her from the old Indian battles and these things. It's kind of interesting to get all this information together.

Bessie: Well, I don't know anything about the Indians, I can't remember of any Indians. Course they were, but I mean I don't remember them but

this, did you know where John lived? It's right in this little hollow down over the hill here, right down by the Lacamas Creek.

Cliff: Oh yeah, oh back where the little campground is back in there or down by Reed Island Creamery.

Bessie: Well, it would be on this side of the highway, Reed Island's on that side, be on this side. Well, there used to be a sawmill there. Now this is what Ed knew, he was older than I was, and the road started then, from there, and it went on up like through the cemetery and do you know where the old _____ house was? It was burned down?

Cliff: Back out here?

Bessie: On the lake.

Bessie: Well, they burned it down here two or three or four years ago. See Jack put in that, when he put in that mobile home court, well, that's where it was and he burnt the old . . .

Cliff: Oh yeah, I remember where that was.

Bessie: Yeah, well this road started down there and went on up through the cemetery and went right in front of this old house and went on out to Fern Prairie/Proebstel and that's the only road around here at that time, there was no roads but just paths.

Cliff: Couldn't go this way?

Bessie: No, that was the old original road. So I don't know, like I say, I don't remember any Indians.

Cliff: Yeah, ok. I just thought if there was anything told to you by your folks. Do you recall anyone ever talking about the old fort that used to be on the flats of Washougal?

Bessie: No.

Cliff: Well, there was one there on Col. Riggs Donation Land Plan, right at the edge of the Columbia River, just on the shore from Reed Island.

Bessie: Reed Island?

Cliff: Reed Island up on Washougal Flats. Then do you remember the old candy Annie, Dr. Candy Annie. Used to have, I think that he had, something to do with bootlegging on the Cape Horn area. Now, do you remember where distillery point was? That was about what they called Cape Horn because of the bootlegging going on.

Bessie: That was quite a little settlement there at Cape Horn years ago. When they were logging and the men would come up on the boats, that's where they'd land. There was a post office there and a store.

Cliff: Well, when you were riding the boats, they must have stopped there then.

Bessie: Well, that would be above Washougal though.

Cliff: But if you went on an excursion, they must have stopped. Do you remember anything about Marrs Landing?

Bessie: Is that on the East?

Cliff: Yeah, it's just this side of Skamania Landing. See, that used to be Butler's Saloon and Butler's Farm.

Bessie: Used to be, wasn't there a railroad station by the name of Butler? And afterwards, they named it Skamania?

Cliff: I don't know. I didn't know they were named Butler before. Could have been because that's where Butler's Farm was.

Bessie: If I got this straight, there was a bad accident there and it was called Butler. After that accident they called it Skamania. You know where that is?

Cliff: Yeah where the post office. . .

Bessie: There's a store there. Well, that right there on the railroad, I don't know what it was but they've changed the name of the station and I'm sure it was Butler.

Barbara: Could you eat on the boat? Did you take your lunch when you went on the boat?

Bessie: Oh, no, they both had dining rooms. Yeah, I had ate down here at this River Queen and I told Chester in May, this sure makes me think of the old Ione. Course it's much bigger than the Ione.

Cliff: They were that fancy though, huh?

Bessie: Oh, yes, it was nice, I enjoyed it. The *Hassalo* and the *Spencer* were nice. All that I ever heard and read about but we were just a poor family, we didn't get out and go on all those places.

Barbara: I mean was the *Ione* a fancy boat? Did it have a nice fancy dining room?

Bessie: Yes, it had a dining room but it wasn't like the *Spencer* or the *Hassalo*. Wasn't nice like that. But it had a lot of the things on it that a boat would have on it.

Cliff: Do you remember any incidents that, of what might have happened such as a race or a wreck or anything? Chet did tell me that you had one thing that was rather humorous. About somebody learning to read.

Bessie: To read? Oh, the Greeks?

Cliff: No, it was, he was Chet's uncle or something that would go on the boats and said it was one of your favorite stories.

Bessie: How could that be? Learned to read? I bet it was when Bob, when my brother was little, he was just learning to read and he'd go along, you know how little kids do. They had "Ladies Toilet" on the door and he go along and say, "Ladies Toolett". That's what he'd mean. I couldn't think of who it was but it was my brother.

Cliff: Was your father and mother raised here?

Bessie: They came here in 1889. That's when Washington became a state and my brother was a year old and then, my older brother, not this one, and they lived here until they died from 1889(?). Then my husband's

father came here in 1884, so we're old timers. Saw the town grow.

Barbara: Mother was born up on 10th street.

Bessie: On 10th St., on the end of 10th St. there. For a long, long time there was only three churches here for years when I was growing up. Now look at them. Course, there was a Catholic Church, but it was out on the lake.

Cliff: Whereabouts on the lake?

Bessie: Well, do you know where Dead Lake is? Well, there's a cemetery there now.

Cliff: At Dead Lake?

Bessie: Yeah across, I don't know how you'd get to it. Do you know where Deer's live? Blanche Deer?

Cliff: Tim Deer?

Bessie: Well, you know when you. . .

Cliff: When, you go into the entrance at Fallen Leaf Lake?

Bessie: Yeah.

Cliff: Yeah, always you go into the entrance where Crown is now.

Bessie: No, it isn't there. You have to, like the lakes along here, and you start to go up the hill after you leave the lake but you have to go around the lake and the cemetery is there unless they've moved, now maybe they've moved the graves. There was a little church there and a little cemetery. Then they built the Catholic Church up on the hill.

Cliff: Up where it is now, huh?

Bessie: No, the Catholic Church now is right here but before they built that the Catholic Church was on the hill, do you remember that?

Cliff: No, it's been here ever since I've been here, course, came here in

1948. or 1946 rather.

Bessie: Well, before that, there was a Catholic Church up on the hill.

Cliff: Well, wasn't there one at the head of the steps?

Bessie: That's Presbyterian, but the Catholic's right there, too. Yeah, that's the one and they tore that down when they built this but before they built that one on the hill. There was this little Catholic Church and now, maybe Glen Farrel knows about it from his father, I don't know, or grandfather.

Barbara: Betty _____ might know, too.

Bessie: They're Catholic, that's why I say that, but no that little church was there first and a cemetery.

Cliff: Well, now it would be, I'm trying to get it spotted, located, it would be as you're starting going past moorage then, going on that side where those houses on the left are.

Bessie: Yes, then you'd have to turn where those houses are and go back in the lake.

Cliff: Oh, go back in the lake there? In other words, back in there.

Bessie: Yeah, between there and the hill, yeah. Now if you had a boat, you'd go across there and maybe you'd find it if the graves, they haven't moved them. See now they have out here at this cemetery a section of Catholics and they may have moved them, I don't know.

Cliff: How many was there back there? Graves.

Bessie: How many? I don't know, I never was there, just what we knew about it.

Cliff: That's interesting really, I didn't know anything about that. They buried them by the church. That's real interesting. Can you remember anything about an old road that would have gone through Oak Park and gone down that way?

Bessie: Gone through Oak Park?

Cliff: Right. It would have gone through, do you remember this fellow that found the spurs in his garden a while back? They were sterling silver spurs.

Bessie: Oh, I think I did read about that.

Cliff: Right back of Pete Fertillo's house, down in the flat right there.

Bessie: Pete Fertillo? He lives at Forest Home. You said Oak Park.

Cliff: Oh, I'm sorry, in Forest Home there. He found those, one spur one year and digging up the garden, he found the other one next year and they were sterling silver spurs, we have them in the museum in Stevenson. I asked him and Jim Attwell, who was an author from Skamania Landing, also asked him if we could get them for the museum and so he, I think he sent them to Jim and Jim put them in the museum. But I was wondering if there was possibly at any time that there was a military road had gone through the Forest Home area, as it was going toward the Vancouver way like an old wagon road.

Bessie: I know the two old roads that I always know, the one that goes up 10th St., that's an old road and it used to go on up to Coon Hill.

Cliff: Oh, on up through the canyon there where the highway goes now.

Bessie: Well, that's a new one but there was an old one. You know where Ward lives?

Cliff: Yeah. H.R?

Bessie: Well, this old road that went up through 10th St. on up, up, up and I guess it would have been in front of Ward's house and went clear on up through Prune Hole.

Cliff: Oh, it came out somewhere up where Archie lives, Archie Rogers?

Bessie: Oh no, no way off this side.

Cliff: Oh, on into the draw where the road comes out now. It wandered

around up through there. Well then it must have gone where your son Bob has got his place

Bessie: Well, that's where the new Prune Hill Road is. Yes, back somewhere in that area. And you could still see marks of it, then the other old road was the one that went past, you know where the grocery store is, on 7th St. well that's the only road I know.

Cliff: And that one went on through though and went on out too.

Bessie: Yeah, 'cause that's the only two I know.

Cliff: Well, I was trying to get some connection of possibly, ah, some reason why those spurs would be in that spot. I went up and went over the whole area with a metal detector to see if I could. I found a lot of stuff, but the stuff appeared to me to have been, it all had been burnt and I couldn't determine whether it was burnt from a burned barrel over the last 50 years you know, burning trash, and possibly even the spurs had been into some box or trash that had been thrown out and burned but you couldn't tell the difference whether it was, whether these spurs had been in a building that had been occupied by a soldier because on the thing it said, Lt. something Lear and had his name, U.S. Army and so I was trying to connect some Army activity at that particular spot, early Army, which would have been in the 1850's or 1860's or 1870's, somewhere in there. With the finding of those spurs but the spurs were sterling silver so they must have been

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Tape 1 Side 2

Cliff: Somebody had thrown something out and had it burned. Instead of an Army post or something or other. However, there has been some indication of a military road had gone through the area of Crown Park up here at one time, prior to you, undoubtedly, however the military road had gone through there because we found, I didn't but a friend of mine that does this sort of thing, found a civil war bayonet. A civil war vintage bayonet that had come off a rifle from that age and it was deep in the ground and he found it in the park. So, and then it came out that there was some indication that possibly a military road had gone through the Crown Park area. Now it might have joined this one you were talking about that came up Lacamas Creek back here up

through the cemetery up here on the hill and then the branch, one went that way through Forest Home and the other one went out towards Fern Prairie. Because I have pictures taken in 1867 of a picture taken right down at the other end of Dutch _____ house taking a picture of the end of Lady's Island with farm houses and everything. There had to be a road run through there as early as that. I'll show you the pictures, kind of interesting.

Bessie: Well, I have quite a few pictures, quite a collection that Ed got.

Cliff: This is what I'd like to see if you have them available.

Bessie: Ok.

Cliff: My research has been mostly in photos. Here's a picture of a man taken in 1844. His name was Lt. George Derby and he surveyed the military road from Vancouver to The Dalles on the Washington side in 1855 and I'm going to get copies of his map so that I can see just exactly where that military road went through this area. It would be real interesting I think to . . .

Bessie: Do you work in connection with Mrs. _____?

Cliff: No, well I do anything I can to help her but. . .

Bessie: Well, she come one afternoon and we went through all this stuff.

Cliff: Mrs. Kaiser.

Bessie: Who?

Cliff: Mrs. Kaiser. Gee, I wish I could find these pictures. I sort of set it aside because it's not exactly the area that I'm really studying right now. The area that I'm really studying is the Cascades, where the Indian battle took place.

Bessie: Oh yeah, up here on, what's the island. . .

Cliff: Well, in the, it's in the Bonneville to Stevenson area. Don't tell me I'm not going to be able to find that picture. I've probably got it in a group of envelopes that are down at the photo shop and having slides made.

I have these separated all by upper, middle and lower Cascades and these pictures, most were taken in 1867 and they are beautiful photographs taken by a man by the name of C. E. Watkins. Oh, Carlton E. Watkins, but it's, I suppose I got in to the mess of pictures I have. I have a program I have to put on in Stevenson Monday night for the Lions Club.

Bessie: Oh, is that, you go out and lecture and show pictures?

Cliff: Uh huh, I lecture and show photographs and locations in that area.

Bessie: But not around Camas.

Cliff: No, I started in this area for the simple reason that I couldn't believe that here we had such a historic area with more people killed at the massacre at the Cascades than there was at the Britain massacre. More people were killed there at the Indian battle, yet we don't even have a sign along the highway that states that there's a historical event that ever took place. This is an interesting picture, this is, that is a picture of Maggie McLaughlin in Washougal when she was a young girl. She is in the group there.

Bessie: Oh? These are all Indians?

Cliff: Yes, uh huh. They are all Indians from Skamania. They lived, you know where the cemetery is at Bonneville? Well, that's where they lived. They lived just across the road from that where that big substation is. Well, I've got to apologize, I can't find that picture and I did want to show it to you. This picture was taken in 1898, this is Maggie here. There are two or three people in this picture that are still alive. This lady's father was Chief Tomalitch, her name was Virginia Miller, and her father was Chief Tomalitch. He was hung at the battle of the Cascades for being one of the bad guys that helped start it and found out later that they had wrongfully hung him because he wasn't one of the bad ones.

Bessie: Oh! That's terrible!

Cliff: Yeah, well they do that, they did that with Indians in those days quite often.

Bessie: Yes, they didn't give urn much of a chance.

Cliff: It was stating in one of the articles that I read that the end of each one of these, at this 6 mile portage railroad track, the little trains went around, you remember that portage track at all?

Bessie: Well, I, just by looking down, yes, and seeing it but I don't know what year it was but this lady this afternoon said that she remembered riding on it.

Cliff: Riding on the portage track?

Bessie: Do you think she did? I thought it was older than that.

Cliff: Well, there was some of the portage that was left and kept in use clear through into the . . .

Bessie: We used to, you know, park in there, we'd read about it, we could see parts of it but that's all.

Cliff: Well, you mean the point of something where you could look down on it? Do you remember all the fishwheels?

Bessie: I remember one. There were fishwheels on the river but I can distinctly remember one but I suppose at that time I, there was a lot that I saw.

Cliff: A tremendous amount of fishwheels in that small area. The portage track ran from Hamilton Island to the upper cascades, that was the lower cascades, the upper cascades, which is about the location of the present plywood mill at Stevenson. To get all the traffic around those rapids. Let's see, is there anything that I'm missing. I think Chet must have said that you rode on the *Bailey Gatzert* or something so we were

Bessie: I may have but I can't, I would have been too young to know and I don't know the name of the boat, that might have been the *Bailey Gatzert* but we went to Hood River on it.

Cliff: The *Bailey Gatzert* ran, that you would have been involved with, ran from, it was built in the 1880's till 1907 and then it was taken into

Portland and rebuilt, made longer, made heavier and just made really modern, just completely rebuilt it. Then it ran from 1907 to in the, 1926 or somewhere in there, it ran at that time. It was one of the most popular ones on the river.

Bessie: It was. Well, as Lou said, in 1907 when they had the strike here, they brought a boat up here and tied it to the dock and then they brought these men into break the strike. They stayed right on that boat. Course that was in the mill yard and they ate and slept and I think that was the *Bailey Gatzert*. Shall I go get my pictures. I had a picture of that and Ed wrote on there.

Cliff: Oh great! It would be real interesting to see these pictures.

Bessie: Lots of old timers in there.

Cliff: In this picture here?

Bessie: Uh huh. When I started to school, there was only three rooms up in the school and when I was in the 8th grade, it was the 8th grade and the high school all in one room.

Cliff: Oh, is that right? Now speaking of some other local history, do you remember when Cottrell made the first electricity for Camas/Washougal?

Bessie: Well, I remember but I couldn't tell you the date.

Cliff: Oh no, I just wondered if you remembered the first electricity that was in this part of the area, Cottrell built it from that dam there by that little bridge that crosses over below _____ of the building.

Bessie: Well, this is just a family picture. There's my brother and myself and I don't think there is anyone there that would . . .

Cliff: You see this is something that I, Tom Ough.

Bessie: Yeah, you know Tom Ough, Jim Ough?

Cliff: Yes.

Bessie: Jim lives out in Forest Home. Well, Tom is Jim's brother.

Cliff: You know, I was noticing that some of the oldest, well the oldest graves in the Washougal cemetery, 1857, or something like that, and they are Ough's.

Bessie: Well, you know the story about the Ough's?

Cliff: No, but I'll listen.

Bessie: He was an Englishman and he married this Indian woman and you know the English don't pronounce the H's and they asked him what his name was and he said it was Ough and it was H-O-U-G-H, the original.

Cliff: Oh, so that's why, course, everything now is O-U-G-H.

Bessie: Well, the old Ough place used to be up there on the old road went in to Washougal straight. I don't know if it's still there or not. It was where a lot of the Oughs lived at the last. Now Johnny Ough, that would be Jim's father, now he was, they said, 3/4 Indian and he showed it and Tom Ough showed it, Indian.

Cliff: Was that the little fellow?

Bessie: Yeah, he was a year old. He lives in California.

Cliff: Which one is you?

Bessie: Right there.

Cliff: Who is straight across from you?

Bessie: Oh, her name was Stoober. They were old time. You know the Gefeller's?

Cliff: Johnny? Yeah

Bessie: That was Johnny's aunt and Johnny's mother's name was Amelia Stoober. A, Swiss and then she married Gefeller and she was Johnny's mother. Now that's an old, old picture of the mill people.

Cliff: 1900.

Bessie: Yes.

Cliff: Well, I see that you've done the proper thing here, everything on all your pictures is marked very plain on the back. In this picture here, I bet that was Charlie Farrel, it even looks like him.

Bessie: Right here? I think it is. Did Ed have that on there?

Cliff: Well, he's just got three down here, it says, Jake Linder, Mike Decker and Charlie Farrel and George Purier.

Bessie: Oh, George Purier. Well, George is not up there. George is down here with that hat on.

Cliff: Well, what he's done then, he's just wrote names.

Bessie: Uh huh. This is my great uncle _____, who lived with us many, many years. A lady was looking at that one day and they didn't know who she was and they said, look at that old _____. So they had a good laugh at that and I said, that's my uncle. Now, out at the lake, what do they call that, that other's an artificial lake.

Cliff: Uh huh. I know where this dam is.

Bessie: Yes, well, Ed's father built the first dam, Ed built the second dam and Chester had to haul gravel for the third dam.

Cliff: Chet, your son, huh?

Bessie: Yeah, but that's, but I think, Ed's got names on, who's that there? Charlie McKeever.

Cliff: This dam built in 1902 by Elly Tidland.

Bessie: Yeah, that was Ed's father.

Cliff: It was completely replaced in 1923 by E. H. Tidland. This has in turn been replaced with a concrete steel structure location is upper dam

at Lacamas Lake. This picture was taken about 1916 during the winter flood. Standing on the dam, from left to right, Charlie McKeever, Reuben Purier, Jr, Reuben Purier, Sr., and Aubrey McKeever

Bessie: That's Jack McKeever. That was his name, Aubrey.

Cliff: Well, he was pretty young there, wasn't he?

Bessie: Oh yeah, see McKeever's lived right there by the dam.

Cliff: Well good, that's a nice picture, why don't you get. . .

Bessie: Oh, here's another picture of the dam. It's not quite the same though.

Cliff: No, it's a little bit different. Old upper dam at the lake, taken about 1904.

Bessie: Now this is that big fish they caught. We got a better picture than than somewhere but it was caught down there. This is Mr. Lamra, he was superintendent of the mill at that time. This is the man, he just had one arm on one hand and that's a Kennedy, but I guess you didn't know them. On the other picture, it's a big one, it's got the names.

Cliff: How much did that sturgeon weigh?

Bessie: Well, it's got it on this here.

Cliff: Oh, he's got their names. Oh John ____, Hugh Kennedy, I knew Hugh Kennedy, Edwards, the man who caught the fish is #3, Sam Bennett, Charlie Rickert, P. J. Lamero, and Jess Harris. Sturgeon caught at Camas in 1916, weight 1,050 pounds. Wow, what a huge one.

Bessie: Yeah, I don't remember what they did with it. I suppose they cut it up and sold it to everybody.

Cliff: I suppose. That's a fantastic picture. I've seen this picture in other magazines and stuff but never with the explanation of the fish or all the names of the people. This is real, you know Mrs. Ford? Martha Ford?

Bessie: Yeah.

Cliff: I tried to get her to write on the back of her pictures the names: of the pictures because if something happened to her the pictures are absolutely worthless because nobody knows what these old folks did. I went through the museum a while back at Skamania and through away bundles of pictures of people who nobody had the slightest idea who they were and I just chucked them away.

Bessie: Same with family pictures. Now you know there was a saw mill out here at the lake. You know where the sawdust pile is at the lake? And their was a railroad, this is down at the dock at Camas.

Cliff: Uh huh, this is where you caught the steamer then. This is Lady's Island?

Bessie: Yes.

Cliff: And the sternwheeler there. The sawmill was located at the lower end of Lacamas Lake. Lumber was brought to the river on a narrow gage of railroad, the grade of which is still visible in many places, especially through the cemetery where the entrance road is in the old railroad cut.

Bessie: I think their building those houses.

Cliff: 1885, then the only thing is, I don't know the name of the steamboat. Did you see those nice pictures that was in the Camas paper this last time of Charlie _____?

Bessie: Charlie had old pictures and Charlie grew up there and he knew the country. This was out in Forest Home, now there used to be green houses out in there and this house was right next to a house where we'd built but we lived right there for 38 years.

Cliff: Well, you know somebody told me there was a lot of truck guards or something.

Bessie: Oh well, it was green houses. They used to raise tomatoes, lettuce, and cucumbers and my husband's father bought this one but he didn't live too long after he bought that but you can see some down

here but that little house still stands there. You know where Tom Palmer lived?

Cliff: Did it go around the side of the hill? Is this Tidwell Heights there? Oh, this is up towards 10th St. looking across the flats

Bessie: Yes, that's right. But that house is still there and that's where Tom Palmer lived. He's gone now, he died.

Cliff: What was the Palmer that lived over next to . . .

Bessie: Bill.

Cliff: Oh, Bill Palmer, yeah. Well, that was farther down this way. Well, where is this location, this isn't quite to the ballpark yet then is it?

Bessie: Not quite, no. The ball park would be about here.

Cliff: Well, this would be just about 7th St. here then. This little dirt one here.

Bessie: Yeah, this is 7th St. and this house is still here but they've kind of added on to it and changed it. It's a square and then the street is up here. It curves up by that house and comes up to 10th.

Cliff: Gee that's a beautiful picture. Green houses of Fred Palmer and John Stooger. 1905. That's a nice picture. Forest Home in 1905. We are going to start a museum here and these pictures, to have copies of them made, would be just fantastic to just have a copy made and then you could keep them in the museum and you could keep your own pictures then.

Bessie: Now, you spoke of where you found those spurs, now this is the flat, and where this house is now, yeah it's gone now, there are little apartments there now.

Cliff: Well, this is looking over the heights, looking toward the Troutdale area.

Bessie: Yeah, and there is a store right there, and then the little apartments are just above or just beyond that.

Cliff: Well, where those spurs were found then would be closer to this place. It would be down in this area, down in here.

Bessie: Uh huh, and Mr. Palmer, that's the older Palmer house on Rock Hill and he put that all in to orchard. Oh, he had a big orchard there, apples and pears and plums and. . .

Cliff: Now, from this picture, I'm trying to get located here, this sort of goes like this. This must be 7th Street about down in here.

Bessie: Oh, this is some of the old mill.

Cliff: The paper mill in Camas? Gee what a mess.

Bessie: It was 1906. This is over in the mill yard in 1906. See where that X is, that was, I don't know who owned the house, but Doc _____ bought that house, tore that down, but that was Doctor Ury's and I use to go there and have him treat my tonsils and Ed hung out his first little sign, he made it for the blacksmith shop but that was the place and that's their horses. That's Camas, we used to have delivery teams then. Now this is Jim Wright and Rufus Blair, they killed that cougar. He afterwards married the village doctor, Doctor Spicer, and she became Dr. Wright. But the Blair's are old timers around here, too.

Cliff: Well, I see just the other day that Mike died. Mike hadn't been well for a long time.

Bessie: Oh, hadn't he? Well somebody asked me and I said well I thought it said the heart.

Cliff: Gee, that's a big cougar.

Bessie: Yeah, he caught it around here, I don't know just where.

Cliff: Your grandfather what?

Bessie: My grandfather came out here before 1889, a year or two, and we just happened to have a mild winter like we had this winter so he wrote back to father and they lived in Wisconsin

Cliff: Where the snow was deep.

Bessie: Yeah and cold. So they told him what a mild winter, good climate and so forth so the next winter they came in 1889. That year the Columbia froze across and they drove across it with horses. But that's what it does here. Sometimes we do have a mild winter, then again we have a cold one.

Cliff: I don't think we have anywhere near, say in the last 50 years, I don't think we've had anywhere near the severe weather that we used to have 40 or 56 years ago.

Bessie: Maybe not. Unless we're more protected by our oil and electricity.

Cliff: Well, what I'm talking about is outside. When I was a kid in Northern Idaho, we used to plan on at least four months out of every year of having solid ice skating. Now, they very seldom get ice skating. It just seems that the trend of the weather in the many years has been to a little bit milder situation. You never see the river frozen over now and it has been in the past, not only one year but several times.

Bessie: I went with a _____ boy down to _____ one winter and we had to stay a week or two, the river was froze over and boats couldn't go. You don't ever see that anymore. There is a picture I think here of a boat stuck down here, no, this half hit a rock, I thought that was ice but I don't believe it was.

Cliff: Do you know that the name of the point on Lady's Island, do you know what the name of that point is, down on the lower point of Lady's Island?

Bessie: No I don't.

Cliff: The name of that point is Hassallo Point. I was just wondering if it got it's name from the Hassalo boat hitting it.

Bessie: What does the name Hassallo mean? It don't sound Indian. It must have a meaning. Maybe a man by the name of Hassallo lived on the island.

Cliff: Well, that could be. Hassallo Point is that rocky point on the lower end of Lady's Island.

Bessie: Unless it is named after . . . That's the old school house that I went to. As I say, when I went, there was only, this room on the east was not finished but these . . .

(End of Tape.)