

DYE, ARDIS REBECCA WOODWARD

Interview Date 7-07 & 11, 1989

Interviewer: Jeanine Liston

Tape: 89-11

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Ardis Woodward Dye was born February 25, 1903 in La Center, Washington and has just this March been certified as a "Daughter of Washington Pioneers." Her parents, grandparents and great-grandparents were all prominent pioneers in the La Center Lewis River area. She went to La Center schools and later taught in them.

- 0-15 Introduction: Names of Ardis' pioneer parents: William Wier, Charles Forbes, E. Matt Woodward
- 15-25 Tells of farm home she and family lived on 4 miles east of town. Purchased from Mr. Sands, now the Lawton place on County Historic Homes Register
- 25-38 Discussion of Lawton House
- 38-49 Tells what house in La Center proper she was born in. How her father carried supplies on his back from town to the farm.
- 50-71 Tells of Forbes Grandparents. Charles Forbes, Grange Master for many years; his origin, 1st marriage, reason for coming to La Center etc.
- 72-79 Tells of Forbes working as Engineer on Captain Will Wier's steamboat SWALLOW and meeting his daughter who worked in town's 1st post office.
- 80-98 Talks of father Matt Woodward working in logging mills. Walking the flumes; her lifelong fear of heights.
- 99-113 Mentions trip on Space Needle; several places on tour of Europe; her husband Joe
- 14-125 Moved to town in 1909 to attend school. Mr. and Mrs. Powell were teachers; he later became Cowlitz County School Superintendent.
- 126-142 La Center had no Doctor when Ardy was born; (A veterinarian, Doctor Brown); Midwife Grandma Lockwood delivered Ardy. Registered birth, but spelled name wrong. Difficulties from this.
- 143-146 Mentions certification as a Daughter of Washington Pioneers.
- 147-150 Tried to recall town fires; no recollection.
- 151-166 Remembering the terrible flu epidemic of 1918. She got it, and all family. Medical response to it.
- 167-174 Talks of the Doctors and nurses first use of the mask that she'd seen. Her brother Chuck's habit of bringing home all the diseases. How hard it was to get help for sick family and many interesting memories.
- 200-210 She recalls going away to school in the East because of the flu; Walla Walla and Cheney. Life time bronchitis from flu.
- 211-218 Teaching back here; Lucia Falls School where she had 5 students.
- 219-229 Tells of the French family; she boarded with them as a teacher; differences in their life style and her own family's
- 230-240 Tells of the Forbes homestead; the agriculture of the time. Something on

- how dairy products were handled.
- 240-252 Butter making and what they traded for in the town with their farm products.
- 253-275 Describes a trip into La Center on the big wagon to barter; items they brought back. What home chores different people had to do.
- 276-284 Tells how they kept food supplies, garden produce.
- 284-298 Tells of cider making at Forbes; family members that came etc.
- 299-320 Tells of her immediate family; sister and baby brother Eddie, who died of diphtheria.
- 321-328 Mentions being away at school at Cheney when baby sister was born back in La Center
- 329-339 Discussion about when she taught in La Center along with 3 other teachers in the old building.
- 339-346 Talks about Carl Landerholm, back from Harvard and very popular.
- 347-359 Mentions some other teachers. Tells of an attempt to bribe a teacher by a town person in order that his daughter might pass the 8th grade exam. Unsuccessful in La Center but in Vancouver where papers were finished – it worked.
- 360-371 Discussion of the different way justice was meted out back then and now.
- 372-379 Ardy's father, E. Matt Woodward as La Center Town Marshal.
- 380-399 Describes Woodward's run for Clark County Sheriff on the Bull Moose Party, and his admiration for Teddy Roosevelt. (Interviewer shows ignorance here by commenting on Bull Moose victory everywhere else!)
- 400-405 Remarks on the different politics in her family.
- 406-409 Woodward's ideas on free enterprise and being a Republican.
- 410-420 Woodward's move to Woodland after the highway bypassed La Center. Built Scandia Motel.
- 420-430 Discussion of the hotel in La Center; gambling etc.
- 431-451 Berry farmer bartering crop for credit at card games all winter. Trucks loved their La Center Cafe because of the huge strawberry shortcakes.
- 452-465 Recollections of how her mother ran the cafe; the help they had.
- 475-401 Talks of the later years of Grandparents Forbes; lived at La Center Hotel.
- 402-513 Something of the estate the Forbes left; what to who. Land near Lockwood Canyon.
- 514-526 Tells what Forbes land was sold to Taylors; Theo Taylors place; who lives on parcels now.
- 527-531 Talks of Grandpa Forbes; Huge Apple Orchard
- 532-539 Recalls family's church going habits.
- 540-550 Recalls Methodist Church on 5th Street in La Center; Decline of the congregation, and expensiveness of various pastors. Resulting in visiting preachers.
- 552-569 Tells of her friend who, although a Catholic, played organ and sang for Methodists. Was offended by bigoted visiting preacher.
- 570-585 Discussion of prejudice in that time, some area Catholics, her family's lack of piousness or prejudice.
- 586-598 Ardy's memory of winning a Bible for Sunday School attendance; but

- refusing to sign church pledge. 12 years old.
599-610 Wondering why she couldn't bring herself to do it.
611-616 A bit of her philosophy of life.
617-645 Remembering the town butcher shop; how meat was sold; what cuts were never bought so butcher gave them away. Later years butcher was Alfred Soehl.
646-655 Talks of other town businesses; Kane's department store; Fanning's grocery; how things were displayed and sold.
657-665 Reintroduction
667-696 Discussion of the dances in the area; mentions her father's dance hall and one in view area.
697-711 Tells of an incident at a Highland area dance; fight between husband and wife.
712-723 Remembering moonshine sellers.

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

- 0-10 From discussion of area dances to brother's various escapades. Her father's attitude as the town marshal.
11-28 Episode when brother Chuck was arrested for speeding – 40 miles an hour. Family's reactions.
29-39 Recalls the La Center Town jail; location, etc.
39-45 Father arrests and jails fellow for public urination.
46-51 Remembering the Culbertson Hotel by the river.
52-67 Humorous discussion of when La Center voted to become a city instead of just a town.
68-75 Ardy recalls selling bonds and stamps in town during World War I.
76-82 Describing businesses going up Main Street.
83-90 Lovely memories of when her father worked at the Headley blacksmith shop.
91-109 Tells of the time her father arrested a man who came to town with a team of stolen horses.
109-110 Mentions Clark County Sheriff Cresap.
111-142 Recalls the auto wreck she was in with her 1st car, a Ford Coupe. She and her mother coming from shopping in Portland; hit by drunk Boyd Coffee man outside of Salmon Creek.
145-150 How she and brother Chuck learned to drive. Her father's driving.
152-159 1st car in La Center; George Spencer's Sage.
160-167 Roads and boats discussed. Transportation.
168-187 Discussion of the severe winters when she was a child. Bobsledding on Main Street.
187-199 Ardy's sledding accident. Broken Leg. Mentions Dr. Lasater.
199-203 The treatment of her broken leg; pain with no way to relieve it.
204-211 Trying to recall the hospital that was in town at one time.
216-225 Talks of the telephone company in town; her first job.
227-257 Remembering all the good fishing in the Lewis; they cooked crawfish on the spot there. Legal and illegal fishing.

- 258-265 Talks of her father's hunting trips around Mt. St. Helens.
267-281 Recalls her father, and other La Center townspeople having gold claims
 up near the Rocky district.
284-291 Ardy's Santa Claus visits when she was a child in the logging camps
292-310 Horrible episode when an older child told Ardy there wasn't really a
 Santa Claus.
312-338 Ardy and brother's attempts at making extra money when they were
 young. Bark gathering, and one day at the town cannery.
339-347 Recalls the telephone switchboard job.
348-368 Trying to remember the type of boat that brought the Portland
 newspapers every day. – The Charm.
369-404 The trip to Portland on the steamship LA CENTER; Ardy had to go to
 the dentist and traveling alone. Recalls the trauma of losing her \$5
 overboard.
405-415 Dental treatment of the time; her father's pulling teeth at the blacksmith
 shop.
416-449 Tells about Dr. Zenier. Ardy's trip to see him after putting a rock up her
 nose when she was little. His being popular with all kids because he
 gave gum.
450-465 Mentions the few treats children got then. Fruits and vegetables she
 hadn't heard of them.
467-482 How garden produce was kept at her Grandparents Forbes; some old time
 gardening tips.
483-506 Christmas at Grandparents Forbes; Santa Claus coming etc.
507-514 Recollections of the Christmas tree.
516-537 Swimming on the East Fork as a child. Mentions Myrna Kane as
 watching the children.
538-563 Near drowning of May Brannigan, a friend. The rescue by Ralph Chicks.
564-577 Discussion of bathing attire of the day.
578-600 Closing off of the kid's favorite swimming spot; attempt to charge for
 swimming.
602-625 Grange mentioned; Diamond Hill district talked about. Prevalence of
 warts there; how they were cured.
627-635 Trying to recall ethnic townspeople.
636-664 Remembering the many saloons in La Center; the Robbins Saloon;
 daughter of owner was good friend.

TAPE ENDS AT 665