

WALKER, LOTTIE (GRAY)  
BAGGETT, CAL (I)  
BAGGETT, ESTHER (I)  
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Interviewer: LOUISE FRASIER  
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"I am interviewing LOTTIE WALKER of Seattle, Washington. This is July the 18, 1974."

"Would you tell us where you were born?"

"In Portland, Oregon in 1890 – in March, 1890. And when I was eight months old, I was taken by my parents to Burmington Mountain, if anybody knows where that is."

"Well, that's just north of Amboy."

"Way up on the mountain. They decided to – that they were going to take a timber claim. And he took my mother and sister up there with me, and my father worked in Portland. And they were scared out, I guess, with cougars because we didn't stay there."

"They come up on the house!"

"And the cougar – mother went out to the path where she thought maybe my father was coming (the dog was barking), and come to find out, the dog was after the cougar and the cougar was following the dog right up the path, I guess. Well, anyway, she ran and went into the house and closed the door and tried to keep everybody as quiet as possible. And the dog treed the cougar onto the house, he got on the roof. Well, that's all the excitement, it was all over then, but they were very frightened."

"Well, did the cougar just leave then?"

"Along in the night when it got quiet, they heard him jump off the roof and go. But, I'm not sure, but I guess, that's the reason they never stayed there."

"I don't blame you."

"When did you come out to Chelatchie?"

"I think I was about five years old (Maybe it was before that) that I came to Chelatchie, when my father (what did I say --homesteaded?) homesteaded forty acres. And he had a cabin, log cabin built on the forty acres. And we lived there and my mother lived there with us children and my father still worked in Portland. He always worked there."

"Can you tell me how you got out there? Did you come in horse and buggy, or wagon or what?"

"Well, only wagon we had was what they called the stage. We used to go up to La Center by boat, and out on the stage. So, I don't know how. I don't remember exactly how I got there, but I suppose that was the way."

"Now, where was I?"

"You came out to the forty acres."

"We came out to the forty acres. Well, I guess, we lived there for a while, but we didn't actually move there to stay until I was about seven years old."

"You went to school at Chelatchie."

"I went to school at Chelatchie before I was old enough to go to school. I went to school at Chelatchie before I was five years old. Well, I went there that day to visit school and I got sick on the way home, and I laid down in the fence corner and waited till school was out so that I

had somebody to walk home with. And, so, I'm a little confused what happened those early years. But anyway...."

"I think you wrote me that ED THOMAS was one of your teachers."

"He was two different times."

"I understood that he taught there."

"And two different times, he taught me. But, I was eight or ten years old then, I guess."

"We didn't live there all of the time during that early part. We'd live in Portland for a while and then come back again. And that's the reason I'm a little confused."

"Well, you probably lived there long enough each year to prove up on your homestead."

"Well, then we really settled down for good, and we stayed there about the five years straight."

"Which were required."

"Yes. And I was just about – I must have been about ten or twelve when that started, and I stayed there until I was fifteen and that was my longest period there; and that was when – during that time when we had the big fire."

"I was in school that day and it got so dark we couldn't see to study. They had to dismiss school at two o'clock."

"Is that right?"

"And we had to go through all that smoke to get home, but it got too dark to study. And we went home and Mother was upset; she had been packing things together thinking we might get the fire on us. And then we took our clothes, the things that we might need and we went over to my grandfather's place which belonged to my uncle at that time."

"And that is where the Chelatchie School later stood."

"Yes, that's where the Chelatchie School later stood. The early Chelatchie School was about on the prairie, that's where I attended first."

"Could you recall anything about the fire that you would like to tell us?"

"Oh, yes. And then, as I was starting to say, we got our things together that we might need and we went over to my uncle's and stayed there all night, slept over there because we were too near the timber and we didn't want to be so close. And then the next day, my sister sent for me to come up to her house and help them to kinda keep on the lookout for the fire and to assist her uncle in getting the message to her because she was hard of hearing."

"Now, that was ELLA MANWELL at that time, later Gregory."

"And we had quite an experience that afternoon. And I remember how strong the smoke was, we were almost choked with it. Shall I tell the funny part, Anita?"

"I didn't know there was anything funny."

"My uncle had some prune brandy that some bootlegger had brought up there, and my sister couldn't cook or anything, so she gave us some hot water with brandy in it."

"Well, that probably pepped you up."

"And we sat there on the fence and....and anything that she could give us to eat; and sat there on the fence waiting for any messages that my uncle would want to pass along to my sister."

"Now, you told me that this uncle was PETE BANIGER, wasn't it?"

"That was my sister's uncle. Her maiden name was Baniger."

"Oh, I see."

"And the Banigers were well-known pioneers down at La Center and Ridgefield."

"Now, in those days that you lived there at Chelatchie on the homestead, where did you get your groceries?"

"Well, we got them at Amboy. We either got a chance to get a ride to go down there and buy groceries or we'd send for some by my uncle who used to go in, sometimes he'd buy 'em for us."

"Did you ever go to La Center – that was an important trading center."

"Well, not especially for shopping. We went to La Center whenever we made a trip to go to Portland. We used to go to Portland occasionally and we'd always go in a MR. WOODIN...."

"OLD JOE WOODIN."

"OLD JOE WOODIN. He run a stage and hauled freight, and we got to the boat that way – went to La Center with the boat."

"Do you happen to remember who had the Post Office at that time? My grandmother did part of the time that JOE WOODIN drove the stage. Her name was Bowers."

"Yes, I remember her."

"Do you? Oh, I would appreciate your telling anything you know or remember about her."

"I don't remember anything about her except that I knew who she was and had been at the Post Office."

"She had the Post Office in her house – in her living room."

"Yes. I remember MR. HUBAL, was that your brother?"

"He was my uncle. He was never the postmaster, but he carried the mail. Later it came into Yacolt, you see, and...."

"Seems to me I knew him by sight; see I was too young to be too much interested in the older people. I was like they are now."

"Well, there was no mail delivery, you had to go to Amboy to get...."

"You had to go to Amboy to get the mail and we had to go to Amboy to mail a letter."

"That's right. Leaders helped each other a great deal, though, didn't they?"

"Yes. And we did have my uncle to call on for favors of that kind and neighbors."

"Now, one family living near you then was the McArthurs."

"Well, I was just thinking about them, they were one of our nearest neighbors."

"I remember BILL MCARTHUR."

"Well, I remember all but Joe. I never knew him, he had grown up and had gone to Vancouver and I understand he was teaching – maybe he first went to be educated, I don't know, but he was teacher in the school for the blind in Vancouver. And he never came home much, at least, I never saw him. And the next older one was Pete. He will be in this picture I had told you about."

"Oh, yes."

"And PETE MCARTHUR. And the next one was Bill, and then was Lois, and the younger one was Burt. And PETE MCARTHUR went up to spend some time in the army during the Spanish American War, but I guess he wasn't well, because he was discharged. He come home again and that's when he went back to school – grade school. And he was sitting in the big arm chair (teacher's chair). He was such a big fellow, they thought he better sit.... Sometimes when people look at that picture, they want to know if he was the school teacher."

"And the two Bowles, Johnny and what's the other Bowles boy? JOHNNY and CHARLEY BOWLES, their pictures are in there. And the Gregory girls are in there."

"I think you sent me the names of the people, I have that in your letter. I'll appreciate that in that picture."

"Aside from the excitement of the fire, I remember seeing the Bozart fire stuff flying around all burned up after the fire."

"Were you ever over to the Bozart place near where I lived and the JOHN GREGORY place?"

"Oh, yes, yes. I stayed out there for three weeks and worked for a dollar a week."

"That was at the Bozart's?"

"Oh, yes. I think I was there three weeks, I'm not sure...."

"Were you back to the Dorfman place?"

"Yes, I knew the Dorfman girls. The last time I ever met them was after they left out there and we were living in Portland again, and Mother and I went and called on them."

"Is that right?"

"They lived out there in south Portland not too far from where we lived."

"Their mother, (as I understand) became insane from staying alone up there."

"I never met her, so I didn't know."

"My mother remembered that she became (I guess) a bit violent and when they came through Amboy and stopped at the Post Office, they had her hands and her ankles tied so she couldn't get away. But she'd stayed alone up there in the woods and that was probably...."

"Oh, no wonder."

"Her husband was a peddler."

"I didn't know what he did, I knew they were Jewish people."

"He traveled around selling things."

"Eva or Ava, I don't know which her name was; Eva, we called her. EVA DORFMAN, she was a lovely girl."

"Do you remember the name of the other little girl?"

"No, I don't. But Eva was the mother of the house when we called on them in Portland. She was making the home for them. And that's the last I heard of them."

"You see, my place, I really have two places, see; front 80 of my place was the JOHN GREGORY homestead, and my back 80 is the Dorfman place. And when we moved in there in 1931, there were no houses, of course, they were all burned in the 1902 fire. But we got our start of rhubarb back there in the Dorfman fields, and that's the rhubarb I'm still using."

"Well, the JOHN GREGORY house didn't burn, did it?"

"Yes, his house burned, too. There weren't any buildings on it when we moved in there. We could tell where the well was."

"He must have built another one."

"Well, I can remember when he and Myrtle lived back there and then they moved to Portland, too, one time were neighbors of ours."

"Now, Myrtle married a Pritchard, didn't she?"

"Yes - no..."

"Myrtle married JOHN GREGORY."

"Yes, but later."

"I don't know who she -"

"Yes, she married Pritchard first."

"I think they divorced, and then she married Clarence."

"She came to our home while I was teaching one time and my mother was living with us; and my mother had known her. And she stopped because she wanted to get something from my place for her son. Her son was born, she wanted to take him something from my place, so she and my mother went out and dug up a few things that she could take back with her to her son."

"I was just asking about her son."

"What was his name?"

"Clyde. He was about my age. And I understand he died several years ago down on the coast, wasn't it?"

"That was a couple of years ago."

"He was a half brother to Inez, she's the one that told me he died."

"Well, on this story, I wish I could tell you more than that."

"Well, I think you have helped a great deal. Can you remember any buildings especially at Amboy? Do you remember any of the store buildings, what they looked like?"

"Yes, I remember the first store, DON CROTCHMAN'S store. I remember when that Odd Fellow's Hall down across the road....Now, I don't know whether I'm right about this or not, but I think that was built when I was just a little girl."

"Well, the Odd Fellow's Hall was upstairs, above...."

"Yes, that's the building, but there was a store downstairs, some other little thing."

"Well, the other big building you might be remembering was the Grange Hall right across the road."

"The Grange Hall, that's what it was."

"There were two halls, the Grange Hall and...."

"I even joined the Grange when I was 13."

"I must write that down, I even belong to it now. I'm a lecturer now."

"That's the only time I was ever there, I guess."

"You were a member of the Mountain Valley Grange, huh?"

"When I was 13, that's all I know about it."

"You don't remember the password or anything like that?"

"No."

"Did you ever go to dances at Amboy?"

"Yes, lots of dances. That was about the only highlight that was in our life down there if we could get a gang together and go on a wagon down there and take our goodies along."

"I remember going with my folks; and we children, we'd be put to sleep in the dining room, and when they were ready to go home, I'd ride on my dad's shoulder going home. We just walked, we were close."

"The whole family went, they didn't need baby sitters then."

"No, we went with the parents everywhere they went."

"Yes, I remember those dances, had quite a good time, too."

"I remember that the Odd Fellows used to have a big oyster supper once in a while, and MR. BEESUCKER prepared the oyster soup."

"I never knew MR. BEESUCKER, but I remember that name...such an odd name."

"See my uncle married FLORENCE BEESUCKER, so we knew the family quite well."

"But all the people that had homes out there at the time we lived out there, I knew them personally, or knew of them."

"Now, did you know the Kayhills, did you know WILLIAM KAYHILL?"

"I didn't know them, did they have any children?"

"No, I think not."

"He had two sisters."

"I knew the Kayhills by name, and I knew where their home was, and I knew the people that moved there later. I knew Scotts, they moved there."

"Hoffmans, they lived on the Kayhill place."

"Well, now, who lived there first, Scotts or Hoffmans?"

"Scotts. I went to a party one time when she lived down there, and she had lots of dolls."

"Oh, Scotts?"

"Now, there was a MRS. SCOTT who taught school at Chelatchie. Was that the same Scotts?"

"Well, those were the Scotts that lived on the Kayhill place for a long time. DORIS SCOTT, we were talking about. There was Doris and two boys and ADEL PRITCHARD was engaged to one of the boys and he died before they were married. And GEORGE SCOTT married LOIS MCARTHUR, and...."

"I remember them, they ran the creamery for a while, didn't they? Is that the one? – At Amboy?"

"Yes."

"And DORIS SCOTT was sister to those boys, and she taught school, I believe, for about four years, three or four years at Chelatchie....and she was a good teacher."

"I always heard that she was, many people mentioned her."

"And I always liked her so well, so I knew her, but I didn't know the parents."

"There is a MR. SCOTT who belongs to the Historical Society who is related to these people."

"Oh. And who else did I know?"

"What about the McKeys, did you know the McKeys? Or the Gerburs?"

"Yes, I know them, not intimately, but I was acquainted with them."

"Well, BILL GERBUR had a very nice farm there at Chelatchie."

"We used to go see, Mother and I sometimes used to go and see Grandma McKey. She was Bill's mother, and I don't think he was married, I think his mother kept house for him."

"I remember once visiting Grandma McKey and that she gave me some fans, paper fans that would open up."

"Oh."

"Oh, I thought they were just wonderful, and she always saved her funny papers; we didn't take a paper that had funnies in it, and she'd always save them for us, and we'd go over. She'd give us this stack of funny papers."

"She was always nice to the young folks, I liked her."

"One time, she told my brother, Charley, who died quite young, that if he catch a rooster that he could have it. So, he spent most of the afternoon chasing a rooster, and he caught one."

"He probably earned it."

"He was just a little fellow, he did very well to catch it."

"Yes, I remember Grandma McKey, and MR. and MRS. WINDBLOWN."

"Oh, yes."

"And Grandma Awlrey and Grandpa Awlrey."

"Do you remember when the Awlrey's had a creamery?"

"Yes, I was just mystified to see them run that creamery....that cream separator."

"I guess they must of had the first one."

"It was the only one out there, I think."

"You see, they were grandparents of HAZEL FRASIER, who lives next door to me, and she has often told me about her grandfather."

"She was HAZEL WENDAL, wasn't she?"

"Right."

"I remember her when she was a baby. Her mother used to smoke a pipe."

"Yes, I heard that."

"And she had a music box, but it seemed it was made with pins that she run something over, I can't remember now. Grandma Awlrey had that, she used to play that for us children."

"No wonder you liked to go there."

"And she wore a bonnet, looked like a Quaker."

"JOHN WENDALL hauled freight from Yacolt to Amboy for a long time."

"I guess he did that after I was older."

"After you had left, I think."

"At one time he had a store up at Chelatchie for just a short time."

"We'd ride horseback to that store."

"Is that right?"

"That's the only way we got to go was ride horseback or walk."

"Well, it was right there where Bill and – (what's the boys name?)."

"Frank."

"Frank built the st... the house there, didn't he?"

"I think so, I don't think the old folks did. And then there was a store there either before or after the house was built."

"I can remember once of being at the store."

"They didn't keep it very long."

"No, I would think only a year or two that they had it. And then they moved to Amboy and he used his team to haul freight from the train depot here down to Amboy. I think the stores kinda hated to change to the trucks, you know, they liked him so well, and she was so dependable."

"Oh, yes. Well, I can remember the other freight handler, what was his name?"

"JOE WOODIN."

"My mother talks so much about JOE WOODIN because she went to high school in Vancouver and her only way to go was to ride in with JOE WOODIN."

"All the way to Vancouver on the stage?"

"Open wagon, too. And she said that they would get out and walk up the hills."

"Most times, it would be so muddy he couldn't make it so the passengers would all get out and walk up the hill."

"One time I remember, (this is when I was older), I wanted to go to Portland, I had relatives there, my father was there and I wanted to go to Portland and Mother fixed -- arranged so I could go. And I had to carry my suitcase and a lantern and walk to Amboy."

"We did that lots of times."

"And I stayed there all night at -- Pitchards were living there then for a while and I stayed all night at Pitchards. And I got up in the morning and took the stage into Amboy, and oh, I remember, my teacher went in, MISS SHIVUS, when she was teaching up at the Tum Tum School. And she went in, the two of us went in and we sat in that open wagon in the pouring down rain, and there was ice on the puddles and they would cut the horses' feet. And when we

got as far as Battle Ground we were able to go in there and get something to eat and change into dry clothing. And then we had a covered wagon the rest of the way.”

“Now, Lewisville used to be a stopping place, too, I guess.”

“Lewisville? Well, that’s that way, but this is going into Vancouver, this other one.”

“Well, I think that’s the one you went by.”

“Yes, I think you went through Lewisville.”

“To go to Vancouver – rather than Battle Ground, I think. I don’t think Battle Ground was much then.”

“No, we went to Battle Ground.”

“Did you?”

“Yes, we did.”

“Yes, by Lewisville.”

“It might of been through Lewisville, I don’t know, but we were at Battle Ground because we went to the back of that store there somewhere and changed our clothes and got dried out. And oh, I was cold!”

“Those were the days.”

“It would be hard for young people to do those things now. I remember when I was going to college in Corvallis (and my folks were living in Amboy) my brother and I walked up here to catch the six o’clock train from Yacolt and we wore old shoes till we got up here to the railroad tracks and we sat out there on the old railroad tracks and changed our shoes and put our old muddy ones under the track, and they’re still there.”

“You never picked them up, huh?”

“We had no transportation other than just walk.”

“We made lanterns with coffee cans, and we’d use them and we’d hide the lanterns and pick it up when we came back – sometimes – sometimes, we’d have lanterns strung all the way. We could pick up a lantern any place.”

“Now, this is CAL BAGGETT talking. Cal, when did you first come to this area?”

“1909. Well, why don’t you tell us a few of your experiences?”

“I’ll tell you two stories and maybe you got one of ‘em. But the school at Chelatchie. There was 52 scholars, one teacher, eight grades.”