

FAIRMOUNT NEIGHBORS HISTORY PROJECT

Edith Maddron, Consultant
Judith Horstmann, Interviewer
August 13, 2010

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JH: First of all, I am Judi Horstmann and today is August 13, 2010. And I am interviewing Edith Maddron, who lives at 1949 E. 28th Ave.

EM: I did want to show you this. We had a septic tank when we built, and that is the... when the sewer was being put in. It was Bancroft bonding, this is what we had to pay over a period of 10 years, plus interest, to have the new sewer put in.

JH: OK. Wow, so it was 1968 that the sewer was put in.

EM: Yeah. That area that's...that you find there.

JH: Right. It's block 14, east half of lot 5, Chula Vista Park. Great. OK.

EM: That's what we owned. That was our property.

JH: Right.

EM: But the sewer itself went clear over to 30th.

JH: OK

EM: I think somewhere on there. And I made you a copy of that.

JH: Oh, great. Thank you so much, Edith. Great. OK, refresh my memory. Did you... this receipt shows that you paid for the lot in 1946. And so then did you start building at that point?

EM: Yes. What we did was move our... We were living in the Riverbank Trailer Park in a little 16-foot trailer.

JH: OK, now was that down on, off of Franklin?

EM: Yes.

JH: Uh huh. OK.

EM: And we moved our trailer up onto the lot...

JH: Oh, OK.

EM: and started building the basement.

JH: Great. OK.

EM: We lived in the basement for a good many years before we built the upstairs. The only picture I could find, Judi, and it's not going to be any use to you, I think. What did I do with that? It was a picture of... Yeah, of my husband being silly. And you know, I'm trying to think what that house up the hill was.

JH: OK. I was going to ask...

EM: I think it was the old Thompson house.

JH: OK.

EM: It was not, I don't think it was the one right above us, which is the Hayden house. I think it was clear on up the hill. I think it was the Thompson house.

JH: So you think this was on Spring rather than Laurelwood?

EM: This was right out here. (unintelligible)...right above. You know I think that was called Reed at the time.

JH: Oh interesting.

EM: I'm not sure.

JH: OK, so Laurelwood was Reed before?

EM: Yeah. That's my memory. I could be wrong on that.

JH: Well, they do have maps.

EM: Ok, well you can probably check that. And this was Lake Street.

JH: Oh, I remember...

EM: 28th was Lake St.

JH: I think you must have told me that before.

EM: I think I probably did. Because I think there was a dairy, Reed's Dairy. Imagine a dairy on the hillside. And the water went down the hill and made a lake at the foot of 28th. And there was also an orchard and I still have 2 of the old apple trees on my lot.

JH: OK, so how far did the orchard extend?

EM: You know, I don't know.

JH: Oh, OK.

EM: I just don't know. We were so busy building, and all, I can't really remember. This house was...do you want me to go ahead?

JH: Oh yes, this is fine, it's perfect.

EM: This house was owned by Glee and Clarence Comfort across the street. [The house is across the street to the south from Edith's]. Whether they built it, I'm not sure. But they might have. He was employed at the Springfield... in the lumber industry [Springfield Plywood].

JH: One of the mills?

EM: Master mechanic, or something like that. And I can't remember when Stephen bought that house. I think it was 1970, when the Comforts moved back to Washington. Glee and Clarence had one son. They went back to Elma, I think it was, Washington, where they had lived in their youth. And then Stephen bought that house.

Now the house right below me was built, the little house, was built by Joe Kats, K-A-T-S. I think it was S. Somewhere I got that - I'm not sure, I don't think it was Z. Anyway Joe and, Joe and Gladys Kats, and they lived in that while they were building the bigger house. And then when the Kats moved, they were divorced later, she worked for Sacred Heart I think in the office. They moved, I think they sold it to the Klonoskis. I think the Klonoskis were next. Jim and Mary Klonoski. And then the Klonoskis sold it to Joan Benson.

JH: OK then Joan owns the little house as well?

EM: Yes. I don't know the tenants. Let's see, the house and I don't know when the Palanouk house was built. I don't think it was there, I think it was built after we came on the lot. Jergen [sp.?] and Ethel Palanouk. Jergen worked for, I don't know what, but he lost a hand. So he was one disability. They had one daughter, Dana, who just died a couple of months ago in Salem. She worked for several of the state offices for years and she was pretty depressed and hadn't been well for quite awhile. Of all those kids who my kids played with. At one time some people named Freestone owned the house right above us. I think they were from Maine [ed. Utah]. And they had two little girls and one boy and my kids played with them. Now the Freestone family moved back to Utah. They were a Mormon family. I think it was Vernal Utah, but I'm not sure. So those were kids that played

together on the hillside. Of course Isabel [Prescott] was the *Madre familia* of the hillside. Did you ever see a picture of her, or did you know her?

JH: Oh, yes, actually we purchased our property from her. Right. And she was still living in her house for a period of time. In fact, we were actually, Howie and I, our wedding was in her backyard under the big oak tree.

EM: Oh yes, I know it so well.

JH: So I'm assuming that your family and the Prescotts also played together.

EM: Oh yes. They were the closest actually. And we had lots of hillside parties at Isabel's house.

JH: Would that have included most of the neighbors around?

EM: Yes. We came at different times. I can't remember when they all came. Now the two, what we call stilt houses, were here on this side of Laurelwood [Lane]. Where the Wegelins now own that. Those – this is a long story. Do you really want it?

JH: Well we could have...could we have a shortened version?

EM: I'll do my best. I told you that we were living in a trailer house. And my husband was going to school on the GI bill. And at that time there were two other veterans who were going to school on the GI bill. And they were also living in trailer houses. One of them was Charlie Marsh and the other was Gerry and Audrey Purcell. And they were architecture students and they built those two houses.

JH: Oh, no kidding.

EM: We all built them at the same time. We all worked together on it. And we all had little boys. Audrey, Mrs. Purcell, was the first war bride to come to Eugene. And then several years later they moved back to England to her home. Gerry was an American, but by that time they had had a little girl, so she has a double birthright. She was born in America. And she and her husband found us and come and visit every year.

JH: Oh great!

EM: She wanted to find the house that her father had built. Gerry Purcell. The Marshes moved, I don't know the year, because I don't know who had the Wegelin house, I don't know who they bought it from. At one time there was a staffer from Sunset Magazine in one of the houses, I don't remember which. The Marshes moved to the San Francisco area, when they all got their degrees. See they were back and going to school on the GI bill, the government was doing what it should, it seemed to me. They were getting their education and getting started, and their livelihoods.

Bill [Edith's husband] was a printer. So after we had got the house built and he got his degree, we started our print shop, in the other end of the basement. We had the first lithographic press in Eugene.

JH: No kidding, I didn't know that.

EM: It was an ATF Little Chief, I think it was. We ran our business in half the basement and then we had both kids. Then we moved upstairs and moved the business into the whole basement. And then we moved out to W 5th out where Eugene Mirror and Glass is now. 5th and Chambers.

JH: What was the name of the business?

EM: Industrial Litho, which we sold in 1975 and retired.

JH: So, there wasn't a problem as far as zoning was concerned, trying to have your business here?

EM: It never came up. I'm sure we never inquired about it. But then others did other things. The Prescotts had their, the Prescotts were gardeners for awhile, after Art got sick. And he was ill for quite awhile. Originally they had bought the store on 13th from the outfit, the gardeners...

JH: Not Williams.

EM: No. Very well known name.

JH: Oh, you mean Eugene Flower Home?

EM: Yes... The Prescotts were gardeners, but they weren't making it all that well, so then they ran it out of their home. Oh, Chase Gardens.

JH: Oh, I see.

EM: Yea, they bought from Chase Gardens. The Chases, you know, had the name and the history. And they could get the funding, but by the time the Prescotts had it, it was not easy. People would go to Prescotts to get information on what to do with stuff they'd bought at stores.

JH: Oh, that's too bad.

EM: I used to think that's not quite.

JH: When you moved here, why did you choose this area?

EM: It just looked good. We also heard about it through a friend. That's another long story. Her husband was an electrician. And since (unintelligible) and her brother bought a lot on the hillside and Sonya was a friend and she told us about it. So we came up and looked at it and we liked it, so we bought it. Friend to friend is how it happened. But the brother never developed it. I think he must have sold it to Kats. As far as I know, Kats were the first ones to build on that lot.

Now the woman next to Kats and to me and Jack Power – that was a little white house. It's been added onto at least once. When we found it, it was lived in by Virgil and Margarite [Langtry], they were here before us, as were Isabel... and the Baileys. Isabel and Art talked to the Baileys, I think, to get that lot from a very well known architect, whose name I can't remember. Jack Powers, he's Perry John Powers, but I always know him as Jack, he and I graduated from high school in Salem at the same time. We were co-valedictorians.

JH: wow, great! And what year was that?

EM: 1937.

JH: Wow, congratulations!

EM: Thank you. Of course we both went to the University of Oregon and I was in journalism and Jack was in romance languages. He lived in an apartment in the Bailey house at one time. His mother was from Salem. At some point, I'm not clear about this, I think they left and lived in the next Bailey house, but I'm not sure. Jack and his mother, Mrs. Powers, bought that house from the Langtrys, I think. No not the Langtrys, there were at least two owners in between. Now the Langtrys, Virgil was a court judge, I don't know in which court. His wife, Margarite – Bill found that she was someone he'd known in central Oregon. Bill was born in Lower Bridge, Oregon, right out of Redmond. He was a central Oregon boy and I grabbed him when I went to work for the Redmond Spokesman.

JH: Oh my gosh.

EM: This is a picture that again I don't think you can use at all. This was at Margarite Comfort's and we were at her place over there. This is Margarite Langtry, and I think that's Audrey Purcell, but I'm not sure. This is Elsie Bailey, I don't know who she is, this is, I think, Elsie Bailey's mother, Mrs. McDowell. She had 14 kids. They were Canadians. Elsie was a Canadian. And then this is me and that's Tom. So it had to be in 1947, because he was born December 1946. I think this is Mrs. Giddings, who lived in a house around the bend there and I can't tell you which house and I don't know whatever became of her.

JH: So was this a summer picnic?

EM: Um-Hmm. She invited us. I believe she was kind of a retiring person, she was kind of shy. But she and I got to be pretty good friends. She painted.

JH: Now do you paint as well?

EM: No. If I have any talent it's in writing. I worked on the LaGrande Observer and then on the Redmond Spokesman and then the Register Guard. I was working down there when Bill was overseas. He was a B-17 pilot, flew over in Germany out of England. Thirty some missions over Germany.

JH: Was it difficult for you when he was away at war?

EM: Well, I had the job and my folks lived in the area, so I did have family here. But also, it was a different time. Everybody was pulling together, not like it is now. I remember during the great depression people pulled together. We had an uncle and aunt who moved in with us, so we could all make it on the farm. Everybody at the Guard, when somebody'd get a letter, everybody would be happy. It was just that kind of ambiance. It was a good place to work. And also they needed us. You know, they're either too young or too old and most of the men had gone to war. We did all sorts of stuff. I was on the desk or out on the beat. It was very interesting. And Tugman was one heck of a good newspaperman. Oh I thought so. I have great respect for him. He was not only able, but he was kind. You wouldn't have thought that to see him, but he never tore you apart in front of anybody else. If he had a question, he brought you in his office and you listened. I remember one story where I wasn't careful enough to get the other point of view and he invited the other person in to give me his point of view. So we did a little follow-up on that.

JH: Well that's a good way of doing it, you know.

EM: Yes, he didn't tear you apart, "I just want you to listen" and you listened. Marian Lowry was his main handmaiden. She was the one he really depended on. She was a lousy writer, but an awfully good reporter. You know paper was at a premium so we were trying to keep our writing as tight as possible. But nobody could edit Marian. She just didn't get edited. She was accurate, but her stuff wasn't, well I didn't think it was anyway. But I thoroughly enjoyed the work.

JH: Now did you stop at the Register Guard when you had your children?

EM: Yes. I was about 5 months when I quit. Because then you didn't work right up until...and Bill was working in the print shop at the university. And I think they've still got some people who would remember him from there.

JH: Did he major in journalism as well?

EM: No, he majored in business. We started our business. What else do I need to tell you?

JH: Well I was going to ask, Tom was first. And then...what is your daughter's name?

EM: Jan.

JH: And you said that they played with other kids in the neighborhood. Did they do anything in particular or just sort of?

EM: No, no. I don't know what their games were. We just turned them loose. You know, we didn't worry about them. There was a big tree over there that meant something to them; I don't think Jan ever did tell me what it meant. She's still alive. Of course Tom's died, as you know. Bill had Alzheimer's, so did Tom, so they're both gone [actually Tom died of long term consequences of earlier treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma]. That's why I didn't put down any family here. I didn't think you wanted any deceased on there [referring to a Personal Data Record form requested by the Fairmount Neighbor's History Project].

JH: Well we have it on tape too, so that's fine.

EM: But of all those kids, Frank's gone and of course Tom's gone and Dana's gone and they're all the generation down from me, and they're gone. Dana, I don't know what she finally died of. Tom started with Hodkins, was cured of that, and then the treatment just ruined his insides. He went to Stanford and they did a very up-to-date and very invasive treatment. I don't know how many surgeries Tom had over the years; he was very, very ill for a lot of time. And some good years. And two good wives. He and Sue were divorced and we kept her in the family. I have an extended family.

JH: Oh, that's great.

EM: It is great. It means a great deal to me. Let's see I wanted to show you a picture. Did you know the Bailey's at all?

JH: It's Ed Bailey, right?

EM: Right, Ed and Elsie.

JH: I think Elsie might have already passed on when we moved in, but we did know Ed.

EM: He was a character.

JH: He was. I always have a picture of him standing over watering his plants in a bikini. [laughter]

EM: He used to pretend...he'd get so cross with those kids. And they all tagged him around. Elsie was one of my son's very favorites because - Tom was pretty, I don't think I'm bragging, he was pretty intellectual - and... She was a mystic. She...um...I remember her describing once some kind of experience she had where she saw a light at the very far end of something. I can't remember. But she wrote poetry...She really was pretty special. And she was a very close friend of Audrey Purcell, who had come from England. And Elsie being a Canadian...but they just...And Audrey was really just great. Audrey has died, and Jerry has died, Audrey's husband, and their son, Jason, has just had a very severe stroke in England.

JH: Oh, that's too bad.

EM: Penny and Alf were here. They were talking about it. Penny is the daughter. His daughter. And is the one [picture] I have of Isabel and Frank.

JH: Ohhhh, (sigh) isn't that precious.

EM: Isn't that special?

JH: Oh my gosh.

EM: She and I traveled together a lot after we were both widowed. (Laughs). Went to the east part of the state and where Kay's [Isabel's daughter] family was. And we'd have coffee at 4 o'clock in the morning – she was a getter upper. And we'd get as far as Madras and have breakfast. And then go on over to John Day or someplace in the east part of the state. We had some very nice trips. She'd visit here or I'd visit there. That's about all for now, I think.

JH: OK

EM: do you have some questions?

JH: Let's see...well... I was wondering...it sounds like you did get together a lot with the neighbors. Were there any special traditions that all of you had together?

EM: Somehow, I think of our parties, which were dancing to the 78's, (laughs) and breakfast before we all went home.

JH: Oh, wow.

EM: We were all working very hard, so we played very hard. That's my main memory.

JH: OK

EM: And we were available to each other.

JH: Yes.

EM: We were available to each other. It's a kind of something... We were all working hard to get our lives together, and were young couples really, and trying to make a living and get our kids established and all. You know when we bought the lot, I don't think we checked on the schools. We didn't realize that we were in an area – 'cause they didn't have kids at the time – where we would have Edison and Roosevelt and South. So our kids attended all of those schools. And that really is an advantage.

JH: It is.

EM: I can't remember the one superintendent we had, the guy who upset everybody and changed the principals at all the high schools.

JH: Oh, I don't remember his name.

EM: I bumped into him once and I said, "Did you have to do it that way?" and he said, "I couldn't get it done any other way." (laughs) And that's when we began to have alternative schools.

JH: Right

EM: He said this could be a discrimination area, the difference between different parts of the district. We could be in trouble. Those laws were beginning to take effect, (unintelligible) with disabilities and that sort of thing.

JH: Right

EM: We were lucky to have the schools that we did. Tom got a scholarship to Dartmouth and he played with, he knew other kids surely in high school. He gave the principal kind of a bad time (laughs). They rewrote the school constitution...

JH: Oh, good for them.

EM: (laughs) They stayed out of major trouble. (laughs)

JH: Some intellectual challenges.

EM: Right, I think so.

JH: So how did they get to school?

EM: They walked.

JH: They did. Even to South?

EM: Yeah. You know, they never rode bikes. And we were too darn busy to take them most of the time. So I think they walked. Jan could tell you. I'll have to ask her. I don't even remember.

JH: Ok. When you moved in, in '46, was the streetcar still going? Or could you drive all the way up here?

EM: No. I don't know when it stopped.

JH: It seemed to me Isabel said it was still going when they moved here, because they would get off at the end of the line and then walk up here. So that the path that comes around to their lot was started when...

EM: (unintelligible) You know Isabel way a pupil of Maude Kerns.

JH: Oh, no, I didn't know that! Amazing!

EM: And she met Art I think at the university, I think. I wouldn't guarantee it, but I think they met there. And he, I think, was a landscape architect. And I know during the war he was in the South Pacific. I don't know what service he was in. But I think he was building lodgings for some of the military operations there.

JH: Oh. So he might not actually have been in combat?

EM: I don't think so, but I'm not sure. He was in a combat area.

JH: Sure.

EM: And I know it was very hard on her. She was very wrapped up in him. Yeah, we all were [worried], of course. And you'd hate, I'd see those statistics – how many B-17s went down. Isabel would say what happened in the Pacific. They were interesting years. Something we just never have had [since]. And the major depression, I think. Between the Depression...I had... Some guy we met sometime – I think he was a psychiatrist or something – he wanted to interview Bill and me because we'd been through a major depression and a major war (laughs). We were so busy, we didn't even think about it.

JH: OK

EM: But, I'm not tooting my horn or anything. It was just a matter of fact.

If you're interested, what we have now breaks my heart.

JH: In what way? I mean, I can imagine several...

EM: I've never seen us so bitterly anti. The Tea Partiers and those people, who are crude and cruel and frightened. And nobody seems able to call enough shots to get things done. And of course we've got a baulky congress that will not help the President at all. And I'm not sure he's done everything right, but he's got so much on his plate. And how can he do everything right? There's a feeling abroad that... You know I lived through the McCarthy era, but it still wasn't like this. Something is just tearing us apart. And of course so many people are hurting because of the economic situation and endless wars. What happens if we let the Taliban take over in that part of the world? And all of these things – and I'm 89 years old and I've never seen it like this.

JH: That's interesting to hear that perspective.

EM: That's my feeling anyway. My daughter and I get on the phone and curse things out (laughs). I tell her she's prejudiced. (Both laugh). At least we can talk.

JH: Right, right. Yeah, it's definitely a difficult time. Very divisive time.

EM: Very divisive. And you know we're a country of immigrants and yet we can't stand having (unintelligible). We're selfish. We don't know what we've got. I think we need to think about that. All of these far-Righters with all of the Christianity and that stuff – I think they should read their Bibles. I think somebody's reading they parts they want to hear.

JH: Um-hmm, um-hmm, um-hmm.

EM: I don't think they are thinking for themselves. If they were really...you know, do unto others and all that sort of stuff, it would make a different world.

JH: That's true, that's true.

EM: Well maybe we'll survive it, but you know a lot of great civilizations have fallen down.

JH: I know. Well let me check here, do you think that this neighborhood is unique? And if so, in what way?

EM: I've always thought it was, at least in my early years. Because of the closeness, and because they're interesting people. We have wonderful conversations. And I was active in the League of Women Voters and we got things going to have our meetings before the elections and talk over the ballot measures, and that sort of thing, and people were well informed, well read. And maybe I'm being, I don't know what I'm being, they were just great people to be around. Fun to be with, and they were not snobs. I'm a country girl; I grew up in the Salem area, and I don't feel put down in this community. (Unintelligible) Now – those guys down there, I don't even know them.

JH: Oh, interesting.

EM: They're new people, on your side of the street. I know who Howie is, of course. Kay was a friend of his, Isabel's daughter. I think she knew about him. I think she had him here when Isabel died and we had the...

JH: Yes, we did come to the gathering here.

EM: And Paul Nicholson came too, I think. But I've never really known him. (Unintelligible), but those were the only ones I knew on the other side of Central. Who's the girl who lives across the street from Joan?

JH: Oh, uh, Molly.

EM: Molly. Was her father in the irrigation business?

JH: I'm not sure if her father was. Her ex-husband was, Chuck Rear.

EM: Rear, Rear. We used to do printing for Rears.

JH: Oh, OK. So maybe that was a family business and so Chick's dad perhaps started it?

EM: I don't know. Jim was the one we knew.

JH: Oh, OK – likely that's the case.

EM: Jim was the founder. He had a tremendous sense of humor. I wish I could remember some of the things he told...He had some kind of thing for pulling out caskets. He had some name for that. But anyway, I thought it was his family that owned the property. Was Molly his daughter?

JH: No. Well, Jim was probably the father and Chuck was the son and Molly was Chuck's wife. But then they got a divorce and Molly kept the house. I don't really know, I think Chuck is still in town, but I don't know.

EM: She has not remarried?

JH: She has not, no. But her oldest daughter, Anna-Meika is about to get married in October.

EWM: Oh, really.

JH: And Anna-Meika is a physician, or at least studying to be a physician, and I believe her husband to be is also in the medical profession. [Editor's note: incorrect, professional mountain climber].

EM: Well, that's interesting. That house has been there quite a long time.

JH: OK, so it came in after the Bailey's, right, and after Joan's house?

EM: Before Joan's house.

JH: OH, before Joan's house. OK, so the little house here was built and then...

EM: Yes, and then Joan's house.

I think Isabel helped the Bailey's get that property. I wish I could remember that architect's name. But the Bailey's were there when we moved here. As I said, they were all helpful. (Unintelligible) and the kids got along, and we watched out for everybody's kids. And it was just a community. You know that thing that, who was it, Hillary [Clinton] talks about? It takes a community.

JH: Right, it takes a village...

EM: It takes a village to raise a child. Well I think we kind of did. And the Wegelins were a little later; I don't remember when they came. Tina [Wegelin] and Kay were good friends. And Jan too, but I think Tina and Kay were a little closer. At any rate, Tina is a sweetie pie. She's in Salt Lake City. She's remarried now and happy. And her brother Jake... Jake's different. He has too many brains. (Laughter) He's a statistician. He was at UV Davis for a while. He's working for another outfit, I don't know, he got a grant of some sort. He's now in Virginia working in a similar situation. And he was here just a couple of weeks ago. He kept that property. I think when they were dividing up the estate; he wound up with the property and Tina with the money. I don't know for sure. But I know that Jake feels responsible. He also owns that lot above the house, that empty lot. And as I say, next door to the Palanuks.

And Ethel [Palanuk], she must be almost as old as I am. I'm not sure. She goes every Friday... she had a mastectomy not too long ago. She goes every Friday to a luncheon at the Olive Plaza, I think it is, there's a group of people there that apparently she enjoys a lot. And the [LTD] Rider thing comes by and picks her up and brings her back. What do they call that? I don't have to use it yet.

JH: Good for you, good for you.

EM: My insurance company a year or so ago had me query my doctor to see if I was safe. But whenever Jan comes or whenever I'm with her, she checks me out to make sure I'm safe. A safe driver. And I have no trouble renewing my license.

JH: Perfect. You're very lucky.

EM: Very lucky. I should be figuring out what to do when it happens. It's bound to happen eventually. Anyway that's pretty much the story.

JH: OK, is there anything interesting or amusing or unusual that you can think of that has happened to you in the neighborhood or to any of the neighbors?

EM: You know, I can't connect with anything at the moment. I was thinking of Audrey...Purcell, she came from England. She'd been presented to court. And here she was living in a 16 ft trailer with a little boy and two huge dogs. She said it's not worthwhile washing the sheets; they just get dirty (laughter). She didn't complain, but she had a hard time. Pooh was a wanderer, the little boy – his name was Jason. He was called Pooh.

JH: Oh, I thought it might be Christopher. Sorry. Anyway go ahead. (Laughter)

EM: No. Well in a way he was. In a way he was. But he would wander and sometimes he'd get kind of lost. I remember one time Glee found him in her yard over there. She brought him over. She wasn't sure which house to come to, because they didn't have any little ones. But he just was pretty independent. But that's the one who's now in bed with a severe stroke.

And I don't know about their daughter. Penny's daughter, or rather Penny's sister. Penny's sister. Also, she lives in England now, I think. Penny lives in Scotland with her Scottish husband. This is Audrey's daughter, who was born here. And it's nice when she can go through the check out lines at airports because she's got her American citizenship so she can get right through. It's worked well for her. But they love Oregon. They're just so fond of this part of the world and they traveled all over the west coast.

JH: It sounds like you've really kept up the contact with a lot of the families that were in the neighborhood.

EM: Kay and Jan are in Squim, Washington and you know we keep in touch. And Jake keeps in touch, and Tina always at Christmas time or shortly after. And those are the ones that I really do. I've lost touch with Dana, I'm sorry to say, over the years and we might have made a difference. I don't know. But of course my own kids tell me about Jan. Jan knows about the family through me and we're all pretty close. That kind of closeness has gone [on] through the years. We've not made a big deal about it, but we're just there.

I feel very lucky, because I live here alone. I have a very wonderful tenant. You know this is what we call a grandmother apartment. After we moved upstairs, we rented it to several different people. And my mother lived there for two years before she died. And Frank Prescott. Isabel wanted to know if she could have the apartment and she fixed it up quite a little and made it, and she would. And then Frank died there. That's seen a lot of history.

JH: Yes, it has. Right.

EM: And Tom and his first wife, Sue, whom I adore, lived in the basement for a while when Tom was recovering from one of those various surgeries. Maybe it was the original. I think Aaron was three years old at the time they lived in the basement. I can't remember who did what when.

I've had various very, very nice tenants, Margo, and Cheqia [sp.?] and her little boy, and now I've got Katharine, who's an artist. Katharine Emlen, Katharine with an "A".

JH: Now how do you find these tenants?

EM: Well each one has told the next one, really.

JH: Oh, word of mouth. Great.

EM: I've never had...yes, word of mouth. In fact, they don't move until they've got somebody to come in. (laughter). They give me that feeling anyway. Every time.

JH: Good. They want to be sure well situated before they leave. That's good.

EM: There've been one or two who didn't, but I can't think though. They only one who didn't was the one who didn't pay all his rent before he left. But somebody else moved right in. I

can't remember who it was. That was the only one. Otherwise they've been wonderful people. Very helpful.

You know Katharine had mice down there. I don't like mice. So my grandson, who's been helping me some, and she and he took care of the mice. I didn't have to do it. That's why I'm Grandma (laughter). Katharine's well read, an artist, and she has a lovely family. I've met her mother and stepfather (came from Tennessee), and her father and stepmother came. He's emeritus, I think, at Colgate. I'm not sure what discipline. But they're all nice family.

And they could see where they're daughter was, and all that stuff. She's very self-sufficient. And when she's gone I take care of the cat. And anything I need, I'm sure, all I have to do is holler. As with Stephen over there, Steve Ramey and Kelly. She's a sweetie pie, his wife. They lived together for quite a long time. Finally decided to get married. And did. And they watch to see if my paper is out there in the morning. If it hasn't been picked up, they'll worry.

JH: Well that's good.

EM: Isn't that nice? But Steve made sure that both Jan, my daughter and Sue have his telephone number, in case they need help. So I'm watched out for. I'm luckier than most. I really am.

JH: Well both with your health and your mental faculties and also that you've got family relatively close and neighbors who are watching out for you.

EM: How many people have that nowadays?

JH: Not many.

EM: And friends who really care. I mean if I called Sue, it would spread through the network. And they're all here for Christmas or Thanksgiving.

JH: Oh, good.

EM: And when the Scots were here this summer, we had her birthday party with the neighbors and some other friends of theirs out in the back yard. So the house has seen a lot of living.

Every Christmas when we were in business, we had our whole crew up here with their families. And they still remember that. I've been in touch with some of the people who are left, with families, you know. Our shop foreman, he was our cameraman (unintelligible). His daughter has stayed in touch. Our pressman's wife has stayed in touch. Vanda who worked for us, Vanda Bachman, is still in touch. But things were like that then. And our crew were the best people in the world.

We were traveling all over Mexico writing our book and flying as personal pilots in Mexico, small plane pilots. And the crew ran the shop while we were gone.

JH: Tell me more about your book, because I don't think I know anything about this.

EM: (Laughs) This is another story. Aren't you getting tired?

JH: Well no. Shall we just do this and that will be enough? I mean, it's more if you are tired. I don't want to wear you out.

EM: How much time. Tell me more about this project. Just a minute, I'll get a copy of the book.

JH: So the book is called "The Guide to Pleasure Flying in Vacation Air Mexico". And you say you did it in the 60's?

EM: I think it was the 60's. Didn't they put a publishing date in there?

JH: there probably is. Yeah. Copyright 1960.

EM: They were just on the cusp of the tourism. And we had all sorts of cooperation, because they wanted to attract tourists. These were the private pilots, most of whom had money. That was the kind of trade they were trying to attract. So all of the officials down there...we went to the central...in Mexico City, to the, what would compare to our FAA here. And they served us little cocktails as we waited and they wanted to know how the borders had treated us, and they gave us all that information that we needed.

JH: So, did you have a pilot's license?

EM: Bill was a pilot.

JH: Well of course. If he flew in World War II, of course he had a pilot's license. I'm assuming you have to keep it up as a civilian?

EM: Yes. But he had his instrument rating of course, so we flew all over Mexico.

JH: Wow, what an adventure.

EM: We made several trips and our artist went with us on one and went with Bill on another. That's a tragedy, because that's Will Martin and he was, originally I think, from the Springfield area. But he designed the Pioneer Plaza in Portland. He was an architect as well as an artist. He and his son flew over the Grand Canyon and cracked up.

JH: Oh, no.

EM: And it was a real loss. He did the original design for the Portland zoo. If you ever saw that.

JH: Oh, yes.

EM: That was Will Martin's work. We had done some printing for him here and he got acquainted with Bill and he would take his various girlfriends wherever he went.

We went through the canyons and the Tarahumara Indians and the Chihuahua area. We had a little old burro and a tired horse. We had a lot of living.

JH: What an adventure.

EM: We were in Korea at one time. We used to do the newsletter for the Holt adoption people. I would write it and of course we printed it. They wanted us to see their operations in Korea. So they sent us over. And Bill managed to get away. We both got away. We were there, I think, three weeks – I can't remember just how long. We did quite a lot of reporting from there. They were doing a great job. We were really impressed with their respect for the native people, I mean the indigenous people. I'm careful about language anymore.

JH: What's politically correct.

EM: There's some of the Korean women, they used to take care of the children while they were waiting. And those women were very brave because they were treating mixed race children. And in Korea those were at the bottom of the bottom. They had rag pickers out there and these kids were even below the rag pickers.

JH: So this was after the Korean War then? So these were American GI...

EM: These were the products of the American GIs. The only country, we were told, that does not take care of the children of its troops. That's what we were told at the time. I never checked up on that - that's what Tugman would have had me do. But that's what Jack said, the head of the outfit at that time. And it was very sad, because these children had no future at all. That's why Holt was adopting them.

JH: So is that why Holt was started, in response to this problem.

EM: Yes. And the Korean kids were the first ones that they brought over. We were taken almost to the border with North Korea, where they had their treatment for children with special needs. Those kids, it would just break your heart. This one little boy was in a body cast and he lived in a little cottage. They were taking awfully good care of these kids. But he'd go over for his treatments in his body cast. He crawled all the way over. And they let him do that, it was part of his... When he got there, he'd take off that thing, he'd have his treatment, put it back on. That kind of guts. You couldn't help but to respect every one of them. And respect us. We were taken by the whole staff, some of whom were Korean and were very helpful and accepted us. We went to two or three of the homes. They couldn't do enough and they wanted to give us this or to treat us with that. Almost embarrassing, not sure how to respond to it, but you'd try.

When we came back, I think we were on... was the 747 around then? It was one heck of a big airplane. We flew from Korea to Japan. There was one other couple with us, who were

supervising the children, as Bill and I were. I think we had five little ones, one in arms and this little 4-year old, who was just closed in, she wouldn't talk to anybody. I remember walking up and down the aisle with this little one, singing "Jesus loves me", because that was one thing they all knew, because the Holts were a religious outfit. So "Jesus loves me" was very soothing. The ground crew were on strike, at the Tokyo airport, where we landed, so we had to unload. I don't know how long we waited before we could get loaded up and get back on. We went from there to Seattle. I don't know how long. Bill and I had one little girl who had to go to Chicago. So we had to take off from Seattle and go to Chicago. And then flew back to Seattle and then go from Seattle to Portland where Tom and Sue picked us up. We had been flying I think 48 hours and Sue said they'd never seen anybody as gray as Bill and I were.

JH: I can imagine. You must have been exhausted.

EM: We were. But it was quite an experience. And you know the people who adopted those children had almost 100% success rate. And I used to get all of this stuff about high school graduates were doing this and that in the newsletter. They were really doing a fine job. I've no idea what its like over the years now. I got to know some of the staff. I knew how much I respected them. They never tried to push their religion on me. They could have seen it was kind of hopeless (laughter). I'm not a very good person that way.

But it was very interesting. So I've seen Korea and I've seen Mexico, but I've never been to Europe. And Alaska – we've flown up to Alaska. And we flew back [east] when Tom graduated from Dartmouth. So I've seen quite a lot of the United States. And then I followed Bill around the country when he was in his transition training. So, never been to Europe.

JH: I'm surprised in a way that you didn't go visit Audrey, but maybe that was at a time you couldn't really afford to do that.

EM: No, we were getting started.

JH: I do remember one other thing I was wondering about. You said that when you came there was a dairy. My understanding was that the dairy was where the golf course is now, at least part of it. So do you remember when the golf course started up?

EM: All I remember is that originally it was owned by a group of physicians, I think. And I think it was originally 18 holes.

JH: I think that's true. I've read that.

EM: At some point, and that might have been, maybe the dairy was expanded over in that part. But I understood that it was at the foot of 28th where the puddle was.

JH: That might have been a watering hole for the cattle, do you think?

EM: You know, it could have been. But all of this about a dairy – I have nothing that verifies that.

JH: We have seen a picture of, I think it might be where the clubhouse is, with a sign that said dairy, but I don't remember what year that was.

EM: Well I heard it enough that I'm sure it was there, but as I say, I can't swear (unintelligible).

I can remember the snow when Bill took the kids and sledded down the hill. Took out his skis, actually.

JH: From here down?

EM: No. Somewhere over there. I didn't do that. (Laughs). I remember once he had Jan in a knapsack on his back and went down the hill. And when it was 8 holes, when Gary Dutell... Rosa [Dutell] still owns that house.

JH: Oh she does. I didn't realize that.

EM: I think there are 2 apartments in it, upstairs and downstairs, I think. Yeah, Rosa still owns that. Because I've talked with her a time or two about doing something about the road. She claimed poverty... which we all claim. (Laughter). But I think eventually we'll get something done. Steve's been working on it. He has a friend who may chop it up for us or do something. But he's done quite a lot too, he has other concerns. But he can't get any cooperation from the Haydens.

The Haydens were here when we moved on the hill, in the old house up there. That's where they've built on quite a lot.

JH: Right, it's been changed a lot.

EM: Yeah, I think there are two apartments there now. Originally Mrs. Hayden, I can't think, he was Jess Hayden, a potter (unintelligible). Bill knew him quite well, they got along fine; He [Bill] got along with everybody pretty much. She, I can't think of her first name, wrote children's books.

JH: Oh. Okay.

EM: Gwendolyn, I think her name was Gwendolyn. Now where did that come from? (Laughter)

JH: Your brain is still working!

EM: I'm not sure. But she named that the "Scribble Shack".

JH: Okay, because I had seen the sign, it used to be up on Spring and I'd be walking down there. I was going to ask you why it was called the Scribble Shack.

EM: That's why (Laughs). And the other thing is, remember when Dutell wanted to enlarge the airport [golf course] to 18 holes, which would have involved cutting trees? And the neighbors weren't very happy about that. And I think, you know I can't remember when the Arline of Arline Way lived on the hill, but she was on committees that tried to keep that in City's ownership. As a park-like area anyway, so that it couldn't be developed. And she went to town on that. You know they lived in the house at the end of Arline. I don't remember the doctor's name.

JH: Okay. There was, I'm not going to come up with that now, the cement, sort of mausoleum-looking house was owned by, I don't know, sand and gravel.

EM: Oh, yes. Alltuckers.

JH: Right, but Arline was not an Alltucker?

EM: No. I think her husband was a doctor, (unintelligible). She was moneyed anyway. And I think they lived almost at the end, where the circle is. Anyway, she was hot on not developing it, as was everyone else, leaving it as it is.

JH: I've often wondered how that street got its name.

EM: It was named after her. She was pretty instrumental in keeping the hillside pretty much as it is. I wish I could think of her last name. I can't remember.

Anyway, Frohnmayer once lived down at the foot of the hill.

JH: Oh did he. I didn't know that.

EM: I think I'm right that's where he was, because Bill worked for him on one campaign and went to talk to him about something.

JH: Oh, are you sure? Because...

EM: Am I confusing something?

JH: Well, I think you might be, because I know the Frohnmayer's for a long time lived on the other side of the golf course. But Norm Pott used to live at the end of 28th...

EM: Yes, the minister...

JH: And he ran City Council...

EM: That's right. I am mixing that up. But also Frohnmayer, Bill has something to do with him at some time, but obviously it was something else. But I think he knew Norm Pott and worked for him maybe; respected him. Was he a democrat? I can't even remember.

JH: Well I think for City Council, or whatever, Council or Mayor, you don't have... But I think he was progressive for sure.

EM: Okay. We're fierce [democrats] (laughter). Along with, did you know the Skeltons at all?

JH: No. Now where do, did they live?

EM: On up the hill. I can't, you know it wasn't on Spring, it was...

JH: Maybe it was Capital?

EM: I'm not sure it was as far as that. I can't remember. I went up to that house any number of times. I can't remember exactly where it was, but it was up the hill. I wrote her a poem about her once, cause she got very ill and I used to go up and visit. She asked me to do her eulogy, which I did. So I remember Ellen. Let's see, she died in... I noted these down. Ellen Skelton. She and Keith were divorced. He was in the legislature at one time. And I can't remember if he was House or Senate. But she had two daughters and Ellen was just a real sweetie pie, a lovely woman, originally from Ohio. Had a daughter who played the cello. I don't remember the kids' names. I know the rest of them. Lets see, where was I going?

JH: Was it something, well maybe, because it was the politics that he was in the...

EM: You know, there was another woman, and someone he was serving with, and I can't remember which one it was. I think I know, but I'm not going to say, because I'm not sure. He was a friend of ours and with Bill's, but Ellen, she was special. Some people are just special. She was a lovely lady. You know, she had to ask for help occasionally and she had more grace. How hard it is to ask for help. And I never saw anyone as graceful. Or she'd call, "What are you having for dinner? Bring it up and let's have potluck." And we'd do that. Or she'd ask us for coffee or something. And Bill would do things around the place for her. She was never demanding in any way. She was just special. So we knew some pretty wonderful people over the years.

JH: It sounds like it.

EM: Originally, I was a Republican, because the old Democrats in Oregon were Southern Democrats. Bill was always a Democrat. His mother from Redmond, she was a WCTU member [Women's Christian Temperance Union]. Bill never drank. He'd drink wine. He never really liked it, but he'd drink it, just to keep company. I'd get a kick out of it.

At any rate, it wasn't until really after the second World War that we began having others come in: the University, the Neubergers, Howard Morgan, people like that, who were Democrats. And Wayne Morse changed. Remember he changed from independent to Democrat? And so Ellen and I both changed to Democrat at the same time. When Bill was secretary for the local Democratic Party, or Treasurer it was, and he wanted the books. He

asked the outgoing Treasurer for the books. She sat, she was rather a large lady and she sat on the books and wouldn't give them to him. So when finally they got around to getting the books, there was nothing in them.

JH: I was afraid of that. Oh, dear.

EM: There was no record. So the party had just not done anything.

JH: So apparently at that time there were no laws, like there are now. I mean, they really have to submit detailed reports after each campaign.

EM: She couldn't ever have done that (laughs). It was pretty funny. But we got to working in the party, and I got to interview Wayne Morse. I got to interview Adlai Stevenson. Rather, yeah I did, as a Democrat, not as a Republican. I adored him. He was such a gentleman and so kind and just...we talked about Eleanor... Roosevelt. I didn't call her Eleanor. He was a close friend of hers. Some of us Democrats got to go up the hill interviewing. I asked him about his son, cause his son had just had some problem with his leg. He was so glad that I asked. My maiden name was Oglesby and he had Oglesbys on his staff. There was an Oglesby that was governor of Illinois at one time. So those were happy years. We were very busy. We thought we were saving the world.

JH: Well you were, to a certain...

EM: Well we thought we were. Because actually, I remember we, for the first time, elected all Lane County's delegation Democratic, every one. I can't remember how many there were, but we ladies were having a great time. (Laughter). And that was the first session that really contributed some money to higher ed., to the system.

JH: And do you remember approximately when that was? In the 60's do you think?

EM: I think it had to have been. 50's even. Because 50's were when we had the red baiter. That Edward R Morrow took on. (Unintelligible)

JH: I was going to say McCarthy. I wasn't sure if you were referring nationally or in the state.

EM: During those McCarthy years, I remember some leaders tried to get a book code passed in Eugene. [The leader] raised chickens out there. They used the Catholic book; I can't remember what they called it.

JH: The Catechism?

EM: No, the Catholic Book of, the banned books the Catholics said. There was a name for that. (Unintelligible). They made the mistake of using that as an example of what we might do, by way of cleaning up and having a decent code. So of course at that time I was chairman of the Committee on Un-American Activities. And it fell to me and one other to make some speeches. I think we appeared at a Council meeting or something. It hadn't a prayer

of getting through. But we lost a couple of business, small businesses, after that. But we weren't really hurt by it. We had a business neighbor out there who used to warn us about how we were dangerous, how we might find it dangerous to be as liberal as we were.

JH: Really?

EM: He was an ass. (Laughter). He really was. We worked next door to him. He was okay, he just didn't...

JH: It takes all kinds.

EM: It takes all kinds. (Laughs). Fortunately we never suffered in that way.

This is an interesting community. I've always enjoyed it. I've been angry at times and wish we could be a little more, work together, get something accomplished better.

JH: Well you know you had, you spoke earlier, although this is perhaps more on a national level, of the divisiveness. I'm wondering about, when I first moved to Eugene it seemed clear to me that there was the lumber industry and all of the mills and the workers, and then there seemed to be this faction that centered around the university. Is that an accurate perception? But yet you don't feel at that time that things were as divisive as they are now?

EM: No, because until later years when we began really trying to save the timber. At first the Hults and people like that were free. I had an uncle, my father's brother, who worked at the west Lane, what do you call that? He was a timber cruiser and fire fighter out there. He made pretty good money on the timber cruising working for Hult and people like that. And at that time we weren't worrying so much, weren't even thinking about, the degradation of the forests. Later years we became more divisive. Even then, the Republicans, as I say, ran the state for all those years. Of course we did have an occasional like Oswald West and a few Democrats, for which we owe our beaches. Along with people like Tom McCall and people like that. And McCall was a Republican, although I think he later changed. I'm not sure. They were very responsible, Oregon-loving people and they cared about the state and they were pretty honest and they did the job, there were good governors, it was not like so much of the party is now. And they lost some of their people, as you know. (Unintelligible) the guy who was our Secretary of State, who died recently.

JH: Oh, Ben...

EM: Not him, an earlier one. He was in, I can't remember. But anyway, he dropped out of the party, and Jean did. And I don't know, I follow Jean, I've met her but I'm not a friend, but you think of her someone you know because she's so respected and so well-known. But you know, she just couldn't take it anymore, what they were doing. I don't know where that party is going, but I don't like the look of it. And what they've done I think in the Congress is inexcusable. I just think it's darn near treason, personally. Just determined to be set against anything that the administration... Anything that will destroy our President.

Now to me that's getting darn close. You can recognize how prejudiced I am. (Laughter). But I admit it, I really am. I care about people.

I was on the board of the poverty program and we tried to work with people who needed help, that OREO program, under the good guys.

JH: Did you say OREO program?

EM: Poverty program. It began with O. I can't remember what the initials stood for, some kind of employment program. But there were several different programs. Children's education program, in their early years, what do they call that?

JH: I'm not sure.

EM: Oh well. It started under that poverty program. A lot of things did.

JH: Not Head Start?

EM: Yes, Head Start. It was when Johnson who was carrying out Kennedy's programs. (Unintelligible). We had quite a thing going. We chaired a couple of meetings on poverty in Lane County and we had various people under welfare and so talking about what it meant and what their lives were and so on. The community responded. The community was helpful. Although I really think Eugene is a pretty cliquey community. Frankly, I really do. If you're in, or have a job where you know other people through your job or through something else, you're in immediately. But it's a little cold out there, I think. Strangers. And I've had people talk to me about it. but they're pretty satisfied with themselves. Bill and I used to go to lots of parties and we'd paddle around. It's changed. (Unintelligible). Nancy Hayward and the rest of those people, and Wickes Beale and people, Katherine Lauris, I've worked with all of them. It's been a very interesting community.

But after I had to take care of Bill, I got out of that. And I never got back. And those years were very hard, as you know. Many people are experiencing that now. I'm uncomfortable about the research because they're so anxious to find something that helps. And you know I don't think Bill would have wanted to be stopped at a certain point and held there for awhile before he went on down. That's about where we are now, I think, in improvements. I think he wanted to get it over with. Of course at some point, he didn't know what was happening. But at any rate, I never got back. Never had to go to another meeting. (Laughter). I used to go to so many meetings.

JH: Oh, I'm sure, it sounds like it.

EM: But you know, I think I need to do another one of these.

JH: Okay, I'm just going to finish this up. But thank you very much. This is a fascinating interview.

EM: I enjoyed it and I hope you didn't get tired out.

JH: I certainly didn't.

End of interview with Edith Maddron

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