Historic Oral History Interviews

The following oral history recordings were captured in the mid-1970s by library staff members and volunteers. They cover events that occurred in Lake Oswego between 1850 and 1960. These recordings were the basis for the book, *In Their Own Words*. Here you will find the interviews in the order they appear in the book.

1850s DONATION LAND CLAIM ERA

From the Beginning: The Durham and Bryant Families (WMA) -- Walter Albert Durham, Jr.

From the Beginning: The Durham and Bryant Families (MP3) -- Walter Albert Durham, Jr.

The Carman, Wilmot, and Meyer Families (WMA) -- Donald Meyer

The Carman, Wilmot, and Meyer Families (MP3) -- Donald Meyer

Early Days of the Methodist Church (WMA) -- Clarice Holmstrom, Loeta Moore Huntting, Vernie Wells Reed, and Opal Thornton

Early Days of the Methodist Church (MP3) -- Clarice Holmstrom, Loeta Moore Huntting, Vernie Wells Reed, and Opal Thornton

The Shipley Family, The Grange, and Other Organizations (WMA) -- Maude Grimm

The Shipley Family, The Grange, and Other Organizations (MP3) -- Maude Grimm

1860s IRON ERA

The Pioneer Davidson Family (WMA) -- Frances Meyer

The Pioneer Davidson Family (MP3) -- Frances Meyer

The Kruse Family of Farmers (WMA) -- Herber Kruse, Harold Kruse, and Pearl Kruse

The Kruse Family of Farmers (MP3) -- Herber Kruse, Harold Kruse, and Pearl Kruse

1870s IRON ERA

Albert Clinefelter, Sarah Worthington and Their Family (WMA) -- Herman Blanken and Arnold Farmer

Albert Clinefelter, Sarah Worthington and Their Family (MP3) -- Herman Blanken and Arnold Farmer

Early Days of the Oswego Grange (WMA) -- Delvia (Iva) Montgomery

Early Days of the Oswego Grange (MP3) -- Delvia (Iva) Montgomery

Grandfather and Grandmother Wagner and Their Farm (WMA) -- Donald Larson, Vera Larson, and Gladys Armstrong

Grandfather and Grandmother Wagner and Their Farm (MP3) -- Donald Larson, Vera Larson, and Gladys Armstrong

1880s IRON ERA

The Farmer and Blanken Families: Working for the Foundry (WMA) -- Herman Blanken and Arnold Farmer

The Farmer and Blanken Families: Working for the Foundry (MP3) -- Herman Blanken and Arnold Farmer

More About the Blankens and the Pipe Foundry (WMA) -- Herman and Minnie Blanken

More About the Blankens and the Pipe Foundry (MP3) -- Herman and Minnie Blanken

Catholic Church -- Our Lady of the Lake (no recorded interview)

Edna Farmer's Bus Tour (WMA) -- Edna Farmer

Edna Farmer's Bus Tour (MP3) -- Edna Farmer

James E. Headrick and Growing Up in the 90's (WMA) -- Dora Brandt

James E. Headrick and Growing Up in the 90's (MP3) -- Dora Brandt

The Nelson Clan: From England to St. Louis to Oswego (WMA) (Part 1) (Part 2) -- Herbert Nelson

The Nelson Clan: From England to St. Louis to Oswego (MP3) (Part 1) (Part 2) -- Herbert Nelson

The Nelson Clan and Early Days (WMA) -- Nellie Kyle

The Nelson Clan and Early Days (MP3) -- Nellie Kyle

Odd Fellows began in 1888 (WMA) -- Herman Blanken

Odd Fellows began in 1888 (MP3) -- Herman Blanken

Linus Pauling: A Famous Member of an Early Family (WMA) -- Frances Jenkins and Pauline Ney

Linus Pauling: A Famous Member of an Early Family (MP3) -- Frances Jenkins and Pauline Ney

Abbo and Mary Peters and the Generations Following (WMA) -- Agnes Heyser and Norma Peterson

Abbo and Mary Peters and the Generations Following (MP3) -- Agnes Heyser and Norma Peterson

The Puylaert Family from Belgium; the Pollard Family in Oswego (WMA) -- Lucy Puylaert

The Puylaert Family from Belgium; the Pollard Family in Oswego (MP3) -- Lucy Puylaert

The Worthington Family in Cook's Switch (Lake Grove) (WMA) -- Marian Weidman, Ethel Schaubel, Earl Worthington, and Mary Ann Worthington

The Worthington Family in Cook's Switch (Lake Grove) (MP3) -- Marian Weidman, Ethel Schaubel, Earl Worthington, and Mary Ann Worthington

1890s HARD TIMES

Cornelius DeBauw: An Early Hero (WMA) -- Arsenius DeBauw

Cornelius DeBauw: An Early Hero (MP3) -- Arsenius DeBauw

The Bethke Family and Lucia Bethke Bliss: The Library and the History -- Beth Ryan, Grace Sebastian, and Dorothy Kruger

An Eyewitness Account of the Drowning (WMA) -- Herman Blanken

An Eyewitness Account of the Drowning (MP3) -- Herman Blanken

Charlie Didzun and the First Garage (WMA) (Part 1) (Part 2) -- Charlie "Peanuts" Didzun

Charlie Didzun and the First Garage (MP3) (Part 1) (Part 2) -- Charlie "Peanuts" Didzun

The Hall Family and School at St. Mary's Academy (WMA) (Part 1) (Part 2) -- Lillian Webster

The Hall Family and School at St. Mary's Academy (MP3) (Part 1) (Part 2) -- Lillian Webster

The Meyers Family and the Foundry -- Robert Meyers

P. F. Morey and His Dream: The Glenmorrie Ranch (WMA) -- Herbert Edward Yates

P. F. Morey and His Dream: The Glenmorrie Ranch (MP3) -- Herbert Edward Yates

Early Histories of Oswego, Especially Mrs. Pettinger's (WMA) -- Elizabeth (Beth) Ryan

Early Histories of Oswego, Especially Mrs. Pettinger's (MP3) -- Elizabeth (Beth) Ryan

Mrs. Howard Pettinger Answers Questions Asked by Mrs. Robert Arneson (WMA) -- Elizabeth Evans Pettinger (The first portion of this interview is read in the previous recording.)

Mrs. Howard Pettinger Answers Questions Asked by Mrs. Robert Arneson (MP3) -- Elizabeth Evans Pettinger

Sallie Shannon Pettinger and More About the Pettinger Family (WMA) -- Sallie Pettinger

Sallie Shannon Pettinger and More About the Pettinger Family (MP3) -- Sallie Pettinger

The Schawper Family: Beginning with the Oregon Trail (WMA) -- Amy Wheeler

The Schawper Family: Beginning with the Oregon Trail (MP3) -- Amy Wheeler

The Kruse and Stone Families (WMA) -- John Stone

The Kruse and Stone Families (MP3) -- John Stone

1900s HARD TIMES

The Baker Family and Early Logging (WMA) -- Lyle Arthur Baker

The Baker Family and Early Logging (MP3) -- Lyle Arthur Baker

Arrival in 1903 and Working in the Foundry (WMA) -- Karl Schurz Faucette

Arrival in 1903 and Working in the Foundry (MP3) -- Karl Schurz Faucette

An Early City Employee (WMA) -- Earl Hughes

An Early City Employee (MP3) -- Earl Hughes

Arthur Jones: Growing Up to Be a Doctor (WMA) -- Dr. Arthur Jones and Dr. Freeda Jones

Arthur Jones: Growing Up to Be a Doctor (MP3) -- Dr. Arthur Jones and Dr. Freeda Jones

The Development of Marylhurst -- Sister Miriam Barbara Rendeau (Interview not published.)

Oswego Women's Club (WMA) -- Angie Trueblood and Elsie Sadilek

Oswego Women's Club (MP3) -- Angie Trueblood and Elsie Sadilek

1910s THE CHANGING LAKE

From the First in Lake Grove -- Herbert Nelson

Billy Banks: An Early Businessman (WMA) -- William and Claire Banks

Billy Banks: An Early Businessman (MP3) -- William and Claire Banks

Logging on the River (WMA) -- Roy and Marjory Headrick

Logging on the River (MP3) -- Roy and Marjory Headrick

George Rogers, Who Wanted a Park (WMA) -- Lottie Ann Smoke Rogers

George Rogers, Who Wanted a Park (MP3) -- Lottie Ann Smoke Rogers

The Twining Family in Glenmorrie (WMA) -- Ed and Clarence Twining

The Twining Family in Glenmorrie (MP3) -- Ed and Clarence Twining

Frances Twining and Her Book (WMA) -- Jane Erickson and Angie Trueblood

Frances Twining and Her Book (MP3) -- Jane Erickson and Angie Trueblood

Ben Vose: About His Family of Teachers (WMA) -- Ben Vose

Ben Vose: About His Family of Teachers (MP3) -- Ben Vose

The Vose Sisters Remember (WMA) -- Hazel DeChaine and Emily Wittauer

The Vose Sisters Remember (MP3) -- Hazel DeChaine and Emily Wittauer

The Weidman Family and the Congregational Church in the 20's (WMA) -- Marian Weidman and Margaret Bruce

The Weidman Family and the Congregational Church in the 20's (MP3) -- Marian Weidman and Margaret Bruce

The Wilson Family (WMA) -- Mary Strachan and Jean Smith

The Wilson Family (MP3) -- Mary Strachan and Jean Smith

The Zimmermans and the Cody Kids (WMA) -- Edith Zimmerman

The Zimmermans and the Cody Kids (MP3) -- Edith Zimmerman

1920s THE GROWING TOWN

The Allens and Their Drug Store (WMA) (Part 1) (Part 2) -- Kathleen Allen

The Allens and Their Drug Store (MP3) (Part 1) (Part 2) -- Kathleen Allen

The Beginning of the American Legion -- Herbert Nelson

The Bickner Grocery Store (WMA) -- Cecelia Bickner

The Bickner Grocery Store (MP3) -- Cecelia Bickner

The Gear Place on Springbrook Road (WMA) -- Glee Alford Gear and Helen Smith

The Gear Place on Springbrook Road (MP3) -- Glee Alford Gear and Helen Smith

Dedicated Dr. MacDougall (WMA) -- Fern Forte Doff

Dedicated Dr. MacDougall (MP3) -- Fern Forte Doff

A Famous Author: Anne Shannon Monroe (WMA) -- Helen Erickson and Edna Jackson

A Famous Author: Anne Shannon Monroe (MP3) -- Helen Erickson and Edna Jackson

Thelma Thompson Randall and the First Girl Scout Troop of Oswego: Trillium Troop #15 (WMA) -- Roma Smith, Marjorie Parker, Vera Batchelder, and Margaret Bruce

Thelma Thompson Randall and the First Girl Scout Troop of Oswego: Trillium Troop #15 (MP3) -- Roma Smith, Marjorie Parker, Vera Batchelder, and Margaret Bruce

Charlie Sadilek and the Bank (WMA) -- Olga Burdick

Charlie Sadilek and the Bank (MP3) -- Olga Burdick

The Smiths and Life in the 1920's (WMA) -- Ward Smith and Gretchen Barber

The Smiths and Life in the 1920's (MP3) -- Ward Smith and Gretchen Barber

Theresa Truchot: Reminiscing in Her Turn (MP3) (Part 1) (Part 2) -- Theresa Truchot

The Water Skiing Champion: Willa Worthington (WMA) -- Darlene Nixon and Pauline Perkins

The Water Skiing Champion: Willa Worthington (MP3) -- Darlene Nixon and Pauline Perkins

The Volunteer Fire Department (WMA)-- William Banks, Roy Headrick, and Neal Cooper

The Volunteer Fire Department (MP3)-- William Banks, Roy Headrick, and Neal Cooper

1930s THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Neal Cooper and Logging Tryon Creek (WMA) (Part 1) (Part 2) -- Neal Cooper

Neal Cooper and Logging Tryon Creek (MP3) (Part 1) (Part 2) -- Neal Cooper

Jane Erickson's Plays (WMA) -- Jane Erickson

Jane Erickson's Plays (MP3) -- Jane Erickson

A Geology Study (WMA) -- Jane Erickson

A Geology Study (MP3) -- Jane Erickson

Beginning with the Oregon Trail (WMA) -- Rachel Gifford

Beginning with the Oregon Trail (MP3) -- Rachel Gifford

Lewis and Clark College (WMA) -- Dr. Freeda Jones and Dr. Arthur Jones

Lewis and Clark College (MP3) -- Dr. Freeda Jones and Dr. Arthur Jones

Horty Gore Slocum and Gallantry in World War II (WMA) (Part 1) (Part 2) -- Hortense (Horty) Slocum

Horty Gore Slocum and Gallantry in World War II (MP3) (Part 1) (Part 2) -- Hortense (Horty) Slocum

1940s-1960s LIVE WHERE YOU PLAY

Chief Bill Knowles and the Robbers (WMA) -- William (Bill) Knowles

Chief Bill Knowles and the Robbers (MP3) -- William (Bill) Knowles

Genevieve McKenzie and River View Manor (WMA) -- Genevieve McKenzie

Genevieve McKenzie and River View Manor (MP3) -- Genevieve McKenzie

The Junior Historical Society (WMA) -- Gertrude Thacker and Phyllis Miska

The Junior Historical Society (MP3) -- Gertrude Thacker and Phyllis Miska

The Lake Oswego Community Theater (WMA) -- Emma Schiffer, Janice Gibbs, Jane Erickson, and Hap Young

The Lake Oswego Community Theater (MP3) -- Emma Schiffer, Janice Gibbs, Jane Erickson, and Hap Young

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