

## FAIRMOUNT NEIGHBORS HISTORY PROJECT

Marjory Ramey, Consultant

Nancy Reckord, Interviewer

October 20, 2010

### **1020\_142245**

N: So it is October 20, I believe, 2010. I'm Nancy Reckord and I'm interviewing:

M: Marjory Ramey.

N: OK. And your address?

M: 1740 Fairmount in Eugene.

N: And, why don't you first talk about what this house and your immediate neighborhood was like when you moved here and when that was.

M: Oh. All right. Well, I first came to Eugene in the fall of 1943 as a student at the University and lived at the corner of 20<sup>th</sup> and University in the Tri Delta House and things were quite different in this neighborhood then. We had a sleeping porch and I could lie in my top bunk and, unheated sleeping porch, and look out toward Judkins Point and it was totally without trees and you could see the wild grasses turn in the fall to silvers and grays and browns but...

N: A sleeping porch at the Tri Delta House?

M: At the Tri Delta House, yes, at 20<sup>th</sup> and University. So the advent of all the houses up here, and the trees, has been since then. So that was one very interesting development that I watched. The house, which we're living in now, in which we're having this interview, was built in 1946 by some people called Nichols and they were the only owners of it before we bought it in 1974. Prior to that, my husband and I had lived, we came back to Eugene after three years on the east coast, we came back in 1951 in the fall when Howard joined the University and then we lived at 1660 Moss St. So for 60 years I've lived within a 6 blocks radius of Fairmount neighborhood. And I've been in the neighborhood all that time. Then we moved to 2305 E. 15<sup>th</sup> in 1957 in the winter.

N: And you moved over here because it was a little bigger house?

M: Well no, it was smaller and the boys were growing up and we had only one at home by the time we moved here. So that's why we moved over here.

N: Where did your boys go to school?

M: All three of them went to Condon, which is now Agate Hall that the University bought, and then they all went to Roosevelt and they all went to South. And the oldest one went to Whitman, graduated from there,

N: Oh, my daughter went to Whitman.

M: Oh, is that right! Wonderful school!

N: Yeah.

M: Great. And then the other two went here to the University of Oregon. The younger two.

N: So if your children went to Condon but you lived on Moss and...

M: 16<sup>th</sup>

N: So you must have been close to the dividing line for Edison.

M: Not in those days. No, it was clearly Condon. Because you see Condon was west of Moss and so we were on this side and we clearly fit into there.

N: Oh, OK. So Agate was kind of the dividing line.

M: I don't know. The line kept moving according to what the needs were. But all three of them went there and in those days there was not the mandatory kindergarten and so you went half day and paid extra for it and we had Bob Clark's wife, Opal, as kindergarten teacher for one of the boys. He was President of the University and she was an excellent teacher and Lois King for the other two. And they both taught there for years. And they each took a half a day. And it was very interesting.

N: So your kids just went in the morning, or afternoon?

M: All of them went in the morning as I remember. Then there was one dreadful year when the numbers didn't come out right in the public school and so we were assigned half days for school. And I don't remember what grade the boys were in, maybe 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> or something like that, but they had two days of school in the school and

N: Two sessions?

M: Two sessions. Because the numbers didn't come out right between Condon and Edison somehow. And so I remember we had at least a year of that.

N: So the kids had to be either early and get out at 12:00 or something...

M: Right. The others went in the afternoon.

N: Oh, wow. I have heard of that in high schools. So were there two sets of teachers?

M: You know, I don't remember that. I don't know.

N: That would be interesting. Well, were your children still at Condon when the school was about to close? Or they had already graduated?

M: No, they had already gone. Right. And there was always a rumor and a threat that the city and the state were going to extend east 18<sup>th</sup> which, as you know, dead ends into Condon and were going to extend it right through our neighborhood through Condon School and out to I 5, out to the bridge. And every once in awhile there would be a neighborhood meeting. Somebody would have heard this rumor and there would be great...and we would get petitions out for the school board and the transportation committee but nothing ever came of it. And I don't know that anybody was ever serious. But the neighbors took great delight in talking about that. It was really interesting.

N: One of the things I've found in other interviews is that people talk with great affection, reminiscing about how their children were so safe.

M: Yes.

N: And I wonder if you...

M: We felt the same way. Even in kindergarten the boys, by then we lived on east 15<sup>th</sup>, at the end of east 15<sup>th</sup>, and they walked to kindergarten. It never occurred to us to worry about that.

N: And the park?

M: The park was a wonderful part of their lives. And in those days the city maintained a park director in the summer for probably 2 or 2 ½ months of the summer daily from 9-5. He or she would be there with a little wading pool and have games and activities all day long. And one year Ann Christianson, Ralph and Madeline's daughter, friends of ours, was the park person and Christopher, our youngest, was only about 5 or so and so he called her Ann Park. And so she became the rest of her life Ann Park in our family! (laughter) But it was a wonderful opportunity!

N: And they used to have a wading pool.

M: And they had a wading pool and they'd fill it every morning, the attendant would, and be there of course, and it was so shallow it wasn't dangerous, and they had little inner tubes and

they'd float around in the inner tubes ...and then they'd have games and activities, art activities, that sort of thing. It was just a perfect place for the children to be in the summer.

N: Now did your children use Washburn Park much?

M: No. We went to Fairmount. There was no program at Washburn. There was a program at University but that seemed a long ways away from here. At the University Park. That's 23<sup>rd</sup> and...

N: Did you or your children use the corner of 19<sup>th</sup> and Agate much with Gantsys and Tom's Market?

M: Well, Tom's Market was there and there was a filling station, which is now a car repair. And I don't think there was anything on the other corner where McMenamain's is now. And Prince Puckler was much later.

N: But before that it was Gantsys and perhaps before that it was something else.

M: I don't think it was anything. Back when I first came to school here in the '40s. Tom's Market has been there since I was here in '43 because our housemother bought the meat for the House there and so I knew that's been there since at least '43. The others are not...they're more recent.

N: Do you know what was in the house before Book and Tea and Beppes?

M: Yes. It's funny you'd ask that. There were two families lived in it and the lady who lived upstairs was Mrs. Drury. And she was our children's babysitter. And she was very good and the children weren't terribly fond of her which...

N: Was a good sign! (laughter)

M: Yes. And they called her, of course, Mrs. Dreary but she was a perfectly wonderful person and she and at least one of her sons lived on the second floor and then another family lived on the first floor. So it was in effect, a residence. And then it went to Book and Tea and then it went to something ...or Beppe and Gianni's.

N: What about the other commercial establishments down here on Franklin? I understand that Market of Choice has been a number of different...

M: Yes. It was, let's see, Irish and Swartz, Swartz and McBroom, and then at one point there was Safeway down there which is now...I guess where Hirons is now. Does that sound right?

N: Well, Hirons is in the same building.

M: Yes, right. And the Safeway was on Franklin and I guess it must have been...isn't that funny, I don't remember...and they've torn it down since then.

N: On the same side of the street?

M: Uh huh. So maybe down further perhaps.

N: Maybe more towards where the Arena is.

M: But it's long since gone. But Irish and Swartz had a bakery which was quite unusual for grocery stores, for us anyway at that point, and they were big on leftover bakery, and we quite poor and in those days, well always, and so I would go down and buy a box load of day old leftovers and the boys always called it the "used bread". We would have "used bread" for breakfast, they had sweet rolls. They had a lovely bakery. And so that was always fun.

N: That reminds me of Tommy Williams' Florist. I keep forgetting it was there since ...

M: Yes, that was there, in fact, that was there when I was here in school because you would occasionally go there if you needed flowers for something. And his youngest son, he had a couple of families but his youngest son was the age of our middle son and they were great friends. So we got to know them somewhat and ...it was great fun to walk through the green houses in the spring.

N: They had green houses right down here?

M: Yes. They had several greenhouses. Big ones. Since torn down. They went parallel to Walnut. Back behind the store. And they had the house and the shop in one building. And then a separate building and I think three houses.

N: Can you think of any other businesses around here that are now gone?

M: Of course, Romania. And Silva was there before that.

N: What is Silva?

M: That was Silva Chevrolet was a car dealership. Julius Silva and Beth. And they had a very successful business.

N: And they sold it to the Romanias?

M: I think there was somebody in between. And I don't remember who it was. And all of this went on while we lived at the end of east 15<sup>th</sup> and there were also again a lot of... neighborhood rumors are wonderful...in fact I believe they went to the city and asked for permission to take over the vacant lots next to our house to turn them into used car lots and then they were going to open up east 15<sup>th</sup>... which was then and still is a dead end street down there and there was - we had a great deal of fun going into the fact that ours was R1 and you couldn't have commercial next to R1 and so there was a big deal of education that went on in our neighborhood and down our street trying to prevent this. And I've forgotten the name of the people that had the car

dealership, isn't that funny, it was before Romania and after Silva. It was in-between there sometime.

N: What about the Hiron. Has that been there...

M: That's been there quite awhile.

N: Was that there when you were in school?

M: No.

N: So that maybe arrived in the '50s or '60s?

M: Yeah.

N: You said your children walked to Condon, and then you started to say something about bikes.

M: They biked to Roosevelt and then biked to South. Because we were just at the edge of where you were allowed to use the bus. And the two younger boys, well, all the boys in high school swam on the high school swim team and they had to be up in the Y's pool by 5:30 or 5:15 and then Martha Scharf, a wonderful woman who had a son who swam, a little older than ours, she had them for breakfast after they'd worked out in high school, for several years. She lived at 21<sup>st</sup> and Kincaid perhaps. So that they could come from the Y, walk over there, have breakfast with Martha, and then walk to high school. But getting them there with their bathing suit and a towel and their school clothes and their homework was a wonderful challenge. (laughter) Because I would drive them over in the morning at 5:15 because they had to be in the pool at 5:30 and we had...Martha and I had great fun over that. She was a simply wonderful person to do that. And once a week or so I'd take over a dozen eggs and some bacon and a little orange juice to help out. But she had a kitchen full of boys, swimmers. And you can imagine what they ate.

N: Yes. I can, having had two children who were swimmers.

M: Yes, you know what that's like!

N: And, also getting them there at 5:30 ...that's a challenge. I don't know if you worked outside your home.

M: I did, the year that Christopher our youngest, went to kindergarten, I was going to sit down and somebody said are you going to cry when he goes and I said yes, in sheer relief, I'm going to sit down for the first time...

N: In ten years! (laughter)

M: Right! In years and take a deep breath. But about that time Mr. Barnhart, who was the Director of Dormitories then, had a critical opening on his staff and so he asked if I'd come down to work and I said, "No, I'm certainly not going to go to work, I'm going to sit down".

And so he really prevailed upon me and I said, “ Well, all right, I’ll come Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday from 9:00 to 2:00,” and it never entered my mind that he’d accept that because that’s such a ridiculous kind of proposition. And he said instantly, “Fine, I’ll see you Tuesday morning at 9:00”. (Laughter) So I said I’d do it for a month while you find somebody to permanently do this job and he said all right. There was a job working in the program part of the residence halls and I worked with the Scholarship Program and the faculty sponsor and he said he wanted me to establish some kind of a faculty relationship. Well, I knew how to do that because Howard had done his graduate work at Yale and I had worked there and I knew how to do that. So at the end of the first month I went in and I said, “Now this is the end of the month and I’m all done. Have you found somebody”?

“Oh”, he said, “I’ve been so busy that I have not looked. Oh, would you stay another month”?  
“Well”, I said, “there are a couple of things I wanted to finish so at the end of the second month, at the end of November, I went in and I said, “You haven’t found anybody have you”? And he said, “Oh no, no I haven’t found anybody” and I never asked again. I worked there for 29 years.

N: On my goodness, did you work full time?

M: No, much of it was part time. Though as you know, there’s only part time pay, there’s not part time work.

N: Yes, I do know that. (laughter)

M: But it was the kind of thing where we could get the boys off in the morning and I’d go down to work and they never knew if I was going to be home in the afternoon. I usually finished at 3:00 but they never knew. And I had to go back often for meetings at night and that sort of thing and my husband was very supportive of that so it was just a wonderful part of our lives to have that dormitory job. And I was there for 29 years. And retired as Director of University Housing. Can you imagine that?

N: Good for you! What department was Howard in?

M: He started in the Speech Department. He was a technical director of the University Theatre.

N: So was he a friend of Glenn’s? [Starlin]

M: Yes. They were in the Speech Department. And he was technical director and then he went into educational television, he went into that for a number of years, and then he became the University’s first Director of Financial Aid. And as a financial aid and the whole business of grants and scholarships and what have you became so complicated that they had to have a person, you know they created the job. So he did that and then he retired after 25 y ears and established a used theatre books business which he ran out of a post office box and had the books here in our house. So we had great fun doing that because I was still working and it was a nice, sort of a hobby business, and it was great fun for both of us, although he did the whole thing.

N: Well did you feel like the neighborhood itself was really important to you?

M: Yes, when we lived on Moss St. there were 23 children on two sides of the block there, if you can imagine that.

N: Oh my goodness.

M: And I still have lunch almost every week with one of the women that lived there. And then down on east 15<sup>th</sup> street, the Marquis lived across the street and Josh, who was the age of the children, is now the District Attorney at Astoria. His father was at the University and then of course, the Hultings lived around the corner on Fairmount, and he was the Dean of the Journalism School and she was a wonderful person who had more energy than all of the rest of the neighborhood put together. And it was always well directed.

N: I've heard a few stories about...is it Mary Jean?

M: Uh, Betty Jean, BJ Hulting. And that was the beginning of The Grasshopper.

N: So tell us about The Grasshopper.

M: Well, the Hultings owned property on Hayden Lake through her family, and they would spend the summer up there. And when they came home, they had 3 children as did we, and there would be this wonderful reunion, you know, and oh boy, the kids were so excited about seeing each other and they were sitting out in our front yard on east 15<sup>th</sup> and they came to the front door in a few minutes and they said, "We're going to do a newspaper!" And I said, "Well, that's a wonderful idea. Now just a minute." So I got them two lead pencils and a couple of pieces of 8 x 11 typing paper and I said, "Here you are. You just sit right down there and make your newspaper." Well, in a few minutes they disappeared. And it can't be more than an hour after that that BJ called and she said, "Marge, we're going to do a newspaper in the neighborhood and she said I've talked to Johnny Lacey and she has an old mimeograph machine that hasn't been used for years and she'll loan that to us and I wonder if you'll type the, what do you call it, the mimeograph..."

N: Dittos?

M: No, it wasn't ditto...it was the stencils. The mimeographed stencils. We weren't as sophisticated as dittos. And I was absolutely stunned! And it never was the difference between a simple English major, which was I, and a time and motion from Radcliffe major which was BJ, (laughter), more apparent because she had those children, and me, organized and we did it weekly for many, many years. And we went...the older children, our oldest boy and their oldest child were the same age and I think they must have been about 10. And they went through high school; once they got out of junior high she decided they couldn't have a role any longer. But the people in junior high could be the Editor and the Managing Editor and the Sports Editor and all that sort of thing. They had quite a subscription list and after we had run it on the ditto,

mimeograph, which we often did in our kitchen...I can hardly believe we did all that! (laughter)  
And I'd type them...

AN: And had you started work?

M: Oh yes, and I'd come home and do that at night but anyway...and they'd assemble them and the little kids...they hand colored many of them. And when we started Ann Marquis, the younger of the Marquis children and Christopher were about the same age, and I can remember them sitting in the playroom with a TV tray in front of them. They were so young, they must have been about 4, with their feet stuck out straight...and we had put this over their feet...and they hand colored them. And the children would go out and BJ had organized them and they had a Business Manager among the children and she organized the routes, the hand delivered routes, and they'd go around and hand deliver to people. It was absolutely a remarkable business. And at the end of the year she always had money and we had a mailing list, she had a mailing list, and we mailed it to relatives and what have you, around the world!

N: So where did the money come from?

M: Subscriptions! I think it was a dollar a year or something like that.

N: And so you just pooled the money ...

M: We pooled the money and BJ took care of it and at the end of the year she always had a little money left and we would have lunch. In those days the Mandarin Chinese Restaurant was down on 13<sup>th</sup> and Alder and we'd go down there and we'd make reservations with the children on a Saturday and they'd all go for lunch and we'd take them to the Chinese Restaurant. And that was great fun. And that was the end of their year in the spring. And then we'd say, I just don't believe I can do this again, "Well, I'll be back, she'd say, "at the end of August and we'll talk." And we did it for years.

N: Well did you write about just neighborhood happenings?

M: And we almost got sued one time because one of the children's families was having some painting and he wrote about the painting and said that my daddy says he's doing a terrible job and named the painter! And BJ and I didn't know any better so we typed it up, you know, in the child's language, and when her husband, the Dean of the Journalism School saw that he said, "Oh my heavens, BJ, you can be sued! Do you have any idea what you've done?" Well, we'd already distributed it to the neighborhood, you know, (laughter). Luckily, the painter didn't see it I guess so we didn't have to retrieve it. And we didn't say any more about the painter at all! Then there was one, and I think it may have been the same thing about the used car dealership expanding down 15<sup>th</sup>. There was a big city council issue, I think that was it, and we arranged for 3 or 4 of the older children, they were probably 12 or 13 to go with us and we went, took them to

the city council meeting and they wrote up the city council meeting in *The Grasshopper* about what was happening. And we always thought that was a good experience for them.

N: And did they do little drawings?

M: They did little drawings and they would often...I've forgotten what afternoon they came...they'd go to BJ's and she would interview them, the ones who couldn't write yet, she would ask them, they would have an assignment. They would talk about the grass, maybe. And she would ask them leading questions and then she'd write down exactly what they said in their language and I'd type it just as they'd said it, which was often very interesting. And those who could write, we did it just the way they wrote it, the spelling as it was, and the sentence fragments...

N: Well you were ahead of your time! You were in the Whole Language Field of reading if you'd only known it!

M: If we'd only known it. But it was BJ Hulting that did it. She was absolutely wonderful. And toward the end I think Anita Johnson took over the typing. I think I finally graduated from that and she did a few years of typing. But it went on for a number of years.

N: What happened to the Hultings?

M: They ...He went to Stanford. To their Journalism Department. Then retired and they ...he had since died...and she lives in Spokane.

N: And who bought their house? Do you know?

M: The Johnsons have it now. Derek and Lynnette. [Son and daughter in law of Anita and Art Johnson] And I'm trying to think who had it before. There was somebody in-between. I think Roscoe Devine lived there for a while. In fact, I'm sure that was one of the buyers. But I don't remember who bought it from the Hultings. It's had a few people in it since then. But anyway, that was the story of *The Grasshopper*.

N: Well, that really is...

M: And BJ really gets the credit for it. The rest of us were the support services.

N: But I bet your kids remember that.

M: Oh, they do! It was great fun.

N: I'm thinking about what you said early on about sleeping out on the porch of the Tri Delta House ...I've heard stories about that before...what do you think has changed now? I mean, I don't think people do that.

M: I don't remember...the fraternity houses may have sleeping porches but I don't think any of the women's do any more...the new house, the Tri Delts have this year, everybody has their beautiful big rooms and everybody has a desk...quite an upscale living arrangement where we had a room, one of the so-called owner room had the desk and the two pledges who lived with her, or the younger classmen, either went to Study Table Sunday through Thursday nights or went to the library to study because there was just one desk.

N: What did that mean, "go to Study Table"?

M: Well, you went down to the dining room when you were a pledge. You had to go to Study Table 7:00-10:00 Sunday through Thursday. It was monitored by one of the older girls and you were silent. You brought your books down there and it was study, from 7 to 10. And if there was some reason, and it was a rare reason, that you didn't go, you had to be specifically excused.

N: Interesting! That's certainly changed. I would be shocked if they have a silent study mandatory...

M: Right. There was no question about it. That was just the way it was.

N: Well, when you think about changes like that, maybe in the neighborhood, do other things come to mind? You mentioned that there weren't many houses or trees around...

M: Right. All of these houses along here [Fairmount] were built in 1945, '46, '47... there were a couple, the one in which, Evelyn McConnaughey [lives]. That was one of the original farmhouses. And the Onthinks, he was the Dean of Administration while I was in college, they lived there and I knew his brother in Portland and so we went there and visited one time and it was one of the original houses.

N: Do you know any of the other original houses right around here?

M: I don't.

N: I know Ingrid Carmichael was born in the house [on Orchard]. I saw today that it was for sale. But she was born in that in something like 1902 and it's been there a very long time.

M: Agate used to have a parking strip down the middle. Not parking, but grass strip and trees down the middle of it, and there were some quite old houses along there. And many of the houses the University owns are quite old or built in the '30s and '40s.

N: Do you remember when Villard was barren and then did you know the story about a group of architecture students taking it on and planting the trees along the median there? I heard that from Maggie. [Gontrum]

M: You see Agate, when I was here, had the grass and trees in the median strip.

N: What kind of differences do you notice in people's yards? Is there anything that stands out now in 2010 as opposed to 1950 or 1960? Does the neighborhood look essentially the same?

M: Essentially the same, really. It's been pretty steady, stable, I think.

N: How about cars?

M: Well, now, most of the houses the University bought along Columbia and the far side of Villard did not have driveways because perhaps there weren't cars...and so one of the things that I was happy to make happen when I was the Director down there...we put driveways on each of them to get the cars off the street. We were sensitive to the parking, even then. Most of the houses had at least one car, sometimes two, and they simply had no place to put them.

N: An ongoing problem!

M: An ongoing problem. (laughter) We have not solved that problem, have we? That's one of the interesting things that's gone on. And of course, all the roads up here, Sunset, Kona, Rose are more recent because there were no houses up there at all.

N: Did your kids play up there?

M: Yes. When we lived on east 15<sup>th</sup> the boys would play up above on the edges of Judkins Point. It was tree/brush filled, even then, and they had a "giant's cave" up in there. It was a wonderful place for children to play. But in those days you could see the house that the boys thought was the witch's castle up there, which has now been covered ...

N: The big white one, way up...

M: Well no, the one with the cone in front. The one with the round...and the boys thought it was a witch's house. And you could see it from down below. But it's all been grown over; you know the trees have grown up.

N: What about people in the neighborhood, either on Fairmount or over on the Moss St. area or 15<sup>th</sup> area where you lived?

M: It's always been pretty much faculty and professional people. I don't...I've heard tell that the people on our block here, between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> prided themselves on the fact that no University people lived on this side! (laughter) And the Piersons apparently broke the pattern there as they moved in before we did...Must have been in the late '60s perhaps...but there was some pride in the fact that no University people lived on this block. Now, that's what I've heard.

N: Was it a pride in being a businessperson?

M: Yes, they were business people. Or big landowners, that sort of thing. The Christoffersons lived next door. Built the house. Probably 1744...but they owned the property where Autzen

Stadium is now. And where the Masonic Temple was. And the hop yards? Her name was Rita and his name was Laurence. And their daughter's name was Lorita.

N: So this was a relatively wealthy ...

M: Wealthy...right And the Baxters...Baxter Henning...lived in the next house up...and Dr. Hoffmann, Syd Hoffman, the surgeon, and his wife and family lived next door the other way. So they were professional business people or big landowners. And Lucille Collins, whose husband was a CPA; they lived two houses down there across the street for years and years and next to them were a doctor whose name I've now forgotten. But that's the house that's been widely remodeled.

N: Do you remember stories about people who lived around here or on other streets who were kind of characters or infamous or famous?

M: Oh, wonderful. Mr. Christofferson next door, when the children would deliver The Grasshopper, they called him Beanyard Christofferson. And they were afraid of him. And so they would try to get each other to go. It was your turn to go to Beanyard Christofferson's. Because he would tease them, and it frightened them a bit. He was rather gruff ...and very kind. It was all in good fun as far as he was concerned. He didn't mean...but they were a little afraid of him. And then there was a wonderful man and his wife that lived down here on the corner of Walnut and 17<sup>th</sup>...Cuthbert. Winslow and Sylvia Cuthbert. They were active in the Very Little Theatre. He was a lawyer and he retired from India being with Union Oil.

N: Are they related to the Cuthberts of the Cuthbert Theatre?

M: No. Not at all. And he simply loved it to have the children come. And he would have treats for them and entertainment and he was a real child oriented person. In his retirement he was a guard at the University Museum before the Museum was open. And in those days you couldn't ...

N: Do you mean the University Art Museum?

M: Yes. The Art Museum. And in those days it wasn't open to the public. They had a guard there and he was often the guard. And you could go there if you had permission from the Art School and you could go I think it was Wednesdays, from 3:00-5:00; you could go in and use the resources. But it wasn't until the early '50's that it was open, the deed was broken somehow. Meredith Wilson was instrumental in that, when he was President.

N: I assume one of the reasons you wanted to live in this neighborhood initially was because it was close...

M: Close to the university, yes.

N: So did you and your husband walk to the University?

M: Yes. I walked all of the time. Howard walked some of the time. (laughter)

N: You had one car? Or more?

M: We had one car for a long time. And he often had to go back at night for rehearsals and what have you. Performances. So he drove more than he walked. But I walked all of the time.

N: One of the Starlin boys talked to me about riding their bikes around the neighborhood and remembered that they had paper routes. Did your boys have paper routes?

M: They never did. Because of swimming. And we just never could work that in.

N: One of the things I've asked a couple of people about is neighborhood celebrations or events. Christmas Caroling or picnics or anything.

M: On Moss St. where all the children were...just before Christmas one or the other of us would have kind of an open house and all the children would come and we'd have punch and cookies and often my parents would come down and there would also be grandparents or aunts and uncles around that were there to visit so it was a very pleasant time.

N: Where did you parents come from?

M: Portland.

N: And is that where you grew up?

M: Yes.

N: So then you came down here to school.

M: I came down to school from Portland. And we spent three years in the east and then came back. So we were very lucky. Always felt it was a good thing.

N: What's been special about this neighborhood when you look back over...how many years ...

M: Well, we moved into the Moss St. in 1951 and so it's been almost 60 years. Our oldest was 2 months old then. And so all three...he was born in New York but the other two boys were born here. But the convenience of being close and just the fact that it just felt comfortable somehow. But we didn't have close neighbors when we lived on east 15<sup>th</sup>.

N: So you lived down at the dead end of...

M: At the dead end of east 15<sup>th</sup>. Uh huh. And there was nobody on either side of us most of the time.

N: So you moved from there to this house in 1978.

M: 1974. Right. So, there you are. It's been a lovely place to live and to raise boys. That was, I think, our goal. We had wonderful support through Scouting, a wonderful Scout troop through the church and

N: Which church did you go to?

M: St. Mary's Episcopal. And good influence from the church. And swimming was wonderful. And then the two younger boys both swam here at Oregon. Varsity. Because they still had a swim team then. And we always felt that was a tremendously fine influence and the Scouting as well.

N: Were there any divisions in the neighborhood? Thinking about the church, and as far as I know most people around here went to some kind of Protestant church. It sounds like there were a few Catholics maybe, or Jews .

M: Nobody seemed to pay any attention. You just sort of went your own way and did your own thing. The Hoffmanns next door were strong Catholics, they aren't there now but they were and the boys all went to the Catholic Schools and it was just, you know, you did what you, I think the Hultings went to the Congregational Church. You just sort of did your own thing and nobody ...it was not an issue. It did not appear to be an issue in the schools or in any of the activities.

N: Do you think politically this has been traditionally kind of a liberal area? Or ...

M: Yes. I think there is a high percentage of Democrats in the area. And you look at this as you see the signs along Fairmount. Lot of Kitzhaber and Barnhart signs along there. And Phil Barnhart lives right up here as you know.

N: Oh, no, I don't know that.

M: The Larson's old house. Where Deb and Chuck Larson lived for many, many years.

N: Right as you go up to Sunset?

M: Yes.

N: Anything else that comes to mind about how the neighborhood has changed over the years? Or anything else that you want to especially say?

M: Well, I think it's become quite politically active ...was pulled together early on when I was still working...there became an issue at 19<sup>th</sup> and Agate about land use and parking and traffic. So Dan Williams, who was then vice president, I guess he was still in Housing at that point, he assigned me to sit on a committee that drew up the first East Campus Plan. And the University working with the community as to what the long range plans would be. That has just been revised about 2 years ago through the Fairmount Neighbors.

N: How do you feel about the changes that are coming with the University coming a little bit further east?

M: Well, the boundary is still Villard. Although, you have to get permission to buy ...and they have bought outside that with Romania.

N: And the campus police and ODOT and...

M: Well, there was a wonderful Director of Planning when I worked down there, David Rowe. He and I used to go to various neighborhood meetings and take all of the slings and arrows of outrageousness from the neighbors and at one time he and I were walking back to the office and he said, "You know Marge, I wonder if those people didn't know there was a University there when they bought their house." And I thought Gosh, that kind of sums it up. Because when you live in the university neighborhood that's why you were here. And it's only going to grow. So, or you hope it is! Or you're not going to be very successful. So it's a constant conflict. And it is in every city. The Town and Gown melding or not is part of every city's history. And future.

N: Now, I think of the neighborhood as largely University, which may not be true. But there certainly are a lot of University people in this immediate neighborhood. I'm thinking about what you said earlier about the pride of not having University people, at least in this...

M: I don't know if there are more than there were but there are quite a lot.

N: I think with inflated prices now it's probably harder for young University families to move into this neighborhood even though it is close.

M: A new one just moved across the street here. They're brand new to us and have a young baby so that's great for us.

N: I'm glad to hear that.

M: But I've been entertained over the fact that the neighborhood identified 22 days that the Arena will be used apparently for basketball, 22 of the critical days...in order not to have anybody park in front of their house on those 22 days we are sacrificing 340 some days of the rest of the year of complete inconvenience. We can't have anybody park out here to come and play bridge or come to dinner and so I would much rather deal with those 22 days and say, "Oh Gosh, here they come again".

N: What I heard at the beginning of this was that there would actually be many more than 22 days. It's only 22 for the athletic events but that the intent is to have the Arena used many more days for musical events....

M: Any time that happens I'll be interested. Portland tried it and they went broke. Remember the Rose Garden went bankrupt. They thought that was what they were going to do. And they had the circus and all kinds of ...

N: Well, you've seen the whole...

M: The whole spectrum. Of course, we can remember when the Ringling Brothers came to McArthur Court and the boys, particularly Christopher, remembers that the elephants were housed under Hayward Field. And they would then be taken across up here in McArthur Court for the circus.

N: Did they visit annually?

M: No, maybe every 3 years. It wasn't annual. But it was great fun. Of course, the neighborhood loved it.

N: Do your boys have affectionate memories of growing up here? Did they maintain friendships?

M: Oh, I'm sure they do. Yes,

N: That's been another thing that's been of interest to me. That's how many people who grew up in the Fairmount neighborhood have maintained close friendships into their adulthood.

M: Yes. And I think Christopher and Laura, who lived across the street from us here, are such good examples of that. You can't go anywhere with them but they'll know half the people there. No matter what it is, and she was raised here in Eugene, so their network of friends and acquaintances is quite remarkable. And a great support group for them. So it's fun to watch.

N: Isn't that interesting. It's so neat. It's been a wonderful neighborhood.

M: It's been a wonderful experience for us. And I'm sure Howard made professional sacrifices in order to stay here but we both felt that it was well worth it.

N: How many years ago did Howard pass away?

M: Almost four. December of 2006.

N: Is there anything else you want to add about the neighborhood?

M: No, it's just a lovely place to be and of course, the fall colors now with the trees that have been planted and grown up and matured ...the ones across the street are full and beautiful in Christopher's front yard. And when Mr. Erdman planted them they were just little sticks and one of them blew over one year when he was off hunting and I went over and propped it up I remember and here, you know, 30 and some years they've just flourished.

N: There are so many beautiful trees on this street.

M: Yes, and the chestnuts are so lovely on, I think it's Walnut, down here in the spring when they bloom ...just wonderful. So we're very lucky. I feel very blessed to have been here for so many years. And enjoyed it. And we're glad that you're part of the neighborhood.

N: Well, thank you. We've certainly enjoyed living here. We were in Eugene for a long time...

End of October 20, 2010 Interview with Marjory Ramey

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