

Gertrude Glutsch Jensen

SR 9452, Oral History, by Roberta Watts

1977 December 7 - 1978 January 17



JENSEN: Gertrude Glutsch Jensen

RW: Roberta Watts

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Tape 1, Side 1

1977 December 7

RW: [This is an interview with] Gertrude Glutsch Jensen, at her home in Portland. The interviewer is Roberta Watts.

So you were born at First and Lincoln Street.

JENSEN: Yes, in South Portland.

RW: And that's the house you just moved from.

JENSEN: No, no. We moved from there in 1918. The house I just moved from, we lived in for about 50 years, on [Northeast] 39th and the corner of Ankeny.¹ On the northeast corner.

RW: Is that first house still there?

¹ 30 SE 39th Ave., now (2015) César Chávez Blvd.

JENSEN: Over at First and Lincoln? No, the I.B.M. [International Business Machines] building now stands on the property, but there is a tree there that my grandfather planted in the parking on the Lincoln Street side between Front and First.

RW: It's pretty charming. I seem to remember hearing something about that.

JENSEN: About the locust tree? Well, someday I want a historical marker put on that tree, because that's the one — I think there were two trees that were left up in the Urban Renewal, and one of them was Getty's tree. My grandparents called me Getty. I was raised by my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Druck. I told you about them. That was their beautiful home there on that quarter block on First and Lincoln,² on the northeast corner. That's where the I.B.M. building is now.

Two blocks north on the west side of the street on a full block was the Reed mansion. It stood in the middle of the block with the caretaker's house in the back on the Second Street side. There was an ornate iron fence around that block. It had beautiful shrubbery. This was the Reeds of Reed College, Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Reed.³ There was a beautiful magnolia tree, which I will always remember, because when I walked by there on First and Harrison, on Harrison Street, going up to Shattuck School, that magnolia tree was in bloom in the spring, and the fragrance of those flowers is something I shall remember all of my life.

RW: So the tree's gone, too.

JENSEN: Oh yes, it was two, two, two, two, on Harrison. Those two big high-rise apartments stands on it, on the property, on one of the blocks on First and Harrison.

RW: You — when you were you...

² The Portland City Directory for 1903 has 554 1st; The address numbering system was subsequently revised.

³ Simeon G. Reed, Jacob Kamm and John C. Ainsworth were the founding partners of the Oregon Steam Navigation Company in 1860, where William Druck was employed.

JENSEN: I was born May 27th, 1903, in Portland, at First and Lincoln. My mother was born in Portland. Her maiden name was Nellie Druck. She was born on 10th and C, which is 10th and Couch, where the Armory now stands.⁴ All the people on that block pulled their water from a common well in the middle of the block. My grandfather walked home from his shop, his machine shop and ironworks shop, down at the foot of Oak Street, every day for his dinner, because they always had dinner at noon. After dinner all the old-timers lay down for an hour on the sofa. Then they'd go back to work. That is something they don't do nowadays.

RW: That's too bad. Your father was...

JENSEN: Yes, but my mother and father were separated. They divorced when I was a baby. And my mother, my beloved mother, and I lived with my grandparents, and they were wonderful to us. My mother's gone now, too.

RW: Where did you go to school?

JENSEN: I went to Shattuck School and Lincoln, Washington and Franklin. I didn't go to Washington the next term, [Laughs] because there was a teacher there who embarrassed me terribly. She made me stand up before the class and recite to try to make me overcome my shyness. I was so shy. When I grew up I was determined that I was going to overcome that. I always imagined I was talking to somebody in the other end of the room that wasn't there, [Laughs] and that was how I overcame my shyness.

I went out to Franklin and graduated in three years and then I went to Reed College. Our class at Reed College celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. Judge

⁴ The Portland Armory was built in 1893 at (now, 2015) 128 NW 11 Ave. Nellie was born in 1874; the Portland City Directory for 1873 has her parents' address at "C(ouch Street) bet. NW Ninth and Tenth".

Solomon⁵ was there, and I asked Gus, Judge Gus Solomon, I said “I know you lived on Fourth and Lincoln, but where were you born?”

He said, “I was born down on First and Lincoln.”

I said, “Well, that’s where I was born!” Here we’d been friends all these years, I am now 74, and we were born across the street from each other!

RW: But you didn't know each other as children?

JENSEN: No. They moved to Fourth and Lincoln. But he went to Shattuck, too.

RW: Did you have ideas about what you wanted to do when you got your degree?

JENSEN: Well, I wanted to be a writer. I wrote a number of feature stories for the *Oregonian* and the *Journal*, and magazine stories, mostly marine stories and an Alaska story, which was an interview of Al Eckelman, the first president of the International Alaska-Yukon Society. I was past president of Alaska–Yukon Society. Al Eckelman was the first international president of the Sourdough reunions, which we did in different cities, here. He formerly owned the Riverview Dairy, which is now Carnation.⁶ I called him Uncle Al, and I interviewed him for this story, his life story when he was a young man up in the Yukon. It was the longest story that ever ran in the *Oregonian*. It was in the *Sunday Oregonian* and ran five Sundays, a page and a half every Sunday. That was in the *Northwest Magazine*.⁷

One day I met Palmer Hoyt,⁸ who later became the editor of the *Denver Post*, and he stopped me on the street. He says, “Gertrude,” he says, “I want to tell you that that was a wonderful story that you wrote in the *Oregonian*. We didn't have any bad comments at all.” This is a big compliment, because usually there’s people calling in

⁵ Gus Solomon, 1906-1987; U.S. Federal Judge, for whom the Federal Courthouse in downtown Portland is named.

⁶ Dairy, acquired by Nestlé in 1985.

⁷ A supplement in the *Sunday Oregonian* newspaper, and edited by Gertrude's friend Joe Bianco.

⁸ Edwin Palmer Hoyt, Sr., 1897-1979.

saying, "This didn't happen this way, this didn't happen that way." He said the story was just actually factual.

The other good story that ran in the *Oregonian* before that was Paul Hosmer's story on Klondike Kate,⁹ who was one of my very, very dearest friends.

RW: You knew her?

JENSEN: [Yes]. She had violet blue eyes, and she was the girl who danced up there in Dawson [Alaska]. Everybody loved her.

RW: How did you meet her?

JENSEN: Through the Alaska-Yukoners. She was a member of the Vancouver, B.C. [British Columbia] Alaska Society. She wasn't a member of this Portland Society. She was very dear to me through the years. She's now drifting dust out on the desert. Her remains were scattered to the breeze up there in Brothers up on the high desert, this side of Bend.

RW: Did you ever write a story on her?

JENSEN: Well, I have a big file on her. She wanted me to write her life story, but I didn't feel like I could do it justice. My friend, Ellis Lucia, wrote a book, *Klondike Kate*. I gave him a lot of my material and helped him with it. It's really a fine book.

RW: What year did you write this story? On Al Eckleman.

JENSEN: It was about 1928. If you don't have it, I'll send it to you. I'll get my compass here, and anything else.

⁹ Kathleen "Kitty" Rockwell, 1873-1957, a vaudeville entertainer.

So I took the \$40,000. It was the story of Al Eckelman and his adventures. He went over there as a young man, over the Chilkoot Pass. He made his \$40,000 in trading and taking scows down the river, and bringing in supplies for the miners. He didn't make it in mining, but he saw that there'd be profit in doing that. They were very nice people. I liked them very much.

RW: What's the Alaska Society?

JENSEN: The Alaska-Yukon Society? There's not anybody left now of the Yukoners or the Sourdoughs of 1898. It is made up of descendants and friends of the people of Alaska and pioneers of Alaska.

My uncle, my mother's brother, oldest in the family, was lost up there. He went to Kotzebue, which is above Nome, on a sealing vessel. And he came back. He went back the second time, and the boat that he was on must have gone down, because they never even found a piece of the wreckage from it. His name was William Druck. He was a seaman. I never knew him. That was in about 1896.

RW: Odd, they never found him

JENSEN: And then my Uncle Charlie, who married my Aunt Lou,¹⁰ Charlie Jennings,¹¹ he was a great engineer on the Stikine, a swift-water man. He worked on the Stikine, they lived in Wrangell [Alaska], at that time. That was the happiest year that she said she ever spent, up there in Wrangell. He went up to the Cassiar Mines and he ran on the Yukon. He also was the engineer aboard the [Steamboat] *Norma*, which was brought down about 1895 from up at Huntington [Idaho], down through Hells Canyon to Lewiston. That was a great engineering feat. The captain was Captain Will [P.] Gray [1845-1929], who was the founder of the town of Pasco [Washington]. They named a hotel there after my uncle, Jennings Hotel. They lived in Coronado, California.

¹⁰ Louise, d. 1942 age 78.

¹¹ Charles H. Jennings, son of Oregon pioneer Berryman Jennings.

RW: How did they end up down there?

JENSEN: Well, they moved from the Yukon down here to Portland, then they went to San Francisco. Then they bought a round-trip ticket to San Diego, and it was so beautiful down there, they never used the other end of the ticket. They went into the hotel business there. They operated two hotels, the main hotels in those days. And then they came back to — they were just putting Coronado out on the market.

My aunt and uncle invested in property over in Coronado and they built several houses. My aunt, after my uncle died, built a beautiful home for me and my mother to live in, in Coronado, just a couple of blocks from the hotel. I decided to get married, and I got married and I didn't go down there to live, but she rented it. I inherited it. I sold it many years ago, 25 or 30 years ago. I have many, many happy memories of Coronado, where I spent my summers with my aunt and uncle. My mother and I went down.

She was very fond of my mother. She was supposed to be one of the most beautiful women in Portland, my mother, even though she couldn't hear and couldn't talk. She talked on her hands. She had such a beautiful smile. She was a lovely person. Her name was Nellie, and my aunt's name was Louise. My other aunt was Agnes. She lived in Sacramento. She was the “Queen of the Nile”¹² down in Sacramento.

RW: Did you spend a lot of time in Alaska?

JENSEN: I been up there twice. I was married to a man who was the son of Jack Dalton. I married a second time after my husband and I divorced when my son was a baby; my only child.¹³ His name is Frederic [Charles] Jensen [Jr.]. He lives down about a block. He's in industrial real estate here. He's just had heart surgery a few months ago.

¹² i.e., socially prominent.

¹³ Gertrude's first marriage (1929-1933) was to Frederic Charles Jensen, Sr., Deputy City Attorney for Portland, 1924-1933, and First Municipal Judge in Wilsonville, OR, 1969-1973; he died in 1987, age 94.

He had five bypasses to his heart last March. Dr. [Albert] Starr and his great team up at University Hospital, they performed this great operation.

RW: So, [Inaudible].

JENSEN: They're just stories.

RW: And did you have to do any other work?

JENSEN: No, I was in real estate for a while.

RW: Was it after the wedding?

JENSEN: After our separation. This marriage with Jack Dalton didn't turn out. It just lasted about two weeks, because then I found out that he was very much in love with my half-sister, who he married six months after our marriage was finished. He made her very happy. They live down in California.

But Jack Dalton was the son of the famous Jack Dalton [Sr.; 1856-1944], after whom the Dalton Trail was named. It went in from Haines [Alaska] way, way into Dawson [Yukon Territory, Canada]. Jack Dalton was famous for this trading post there above Haines. He took a whole herd of cattle into Dawson. I think that was the basis for the book that that great writer wrote. It was about the cattle drive.

There's a lot of history about Alaska that's very, very interesting, and I have enjoyed my association with the Alaska–Yukon Society. Hazel Lindberg is now president. We only meet about every three months, you know, usually out at her home in Eastmoreland.

RW: What did you do, when you worked in real estate?

JENSEN: I mostly worked in residential properties in real estate. I worked with Frank [F.] Watkins' company. Frank was my grandfather's real estate agent; they didn't call them brokers in those days. The rents were paid down at Mr. Watkins' office when I was a little child, and the interest on his mortgages.

Did I tell you that my grandfather's place of business is where the Battleship Oregon's mast [now] stands? Did I tell you that?

RW: Yeah. What was that?

JENSEN: He had his desk there, and did the repair work for the Oregon Steam Navigation Company. He made the rudders and all the chains in his shop. He was famous for the wedges and sledges he made in the ironworks, which were tempered with [cod liver] oil. Some of those wedges are still in use in the forests of the Northwest.

RW: When did that business stop?

JENSEN: Oh, about 1900, I guess, 1903. He retired and put his money out on mortgages. He loaned the money to Francis of Francis Motor Car Company to get him started in business as a young man. Also Finley's Mortuary, to build the building up there on the Fifth Street side. Then the Fourth Street building was built later. Also, Povey Glass Works.¹⁴ He had a \$30,000 mortgage on their place. They were the ones that made these beautiful stained glass windows for the churches. He was a wonderful, wonderful man.

RW: How long did you work in real estate?

JENSEN: About a year. In the morning I would get my little boy off to school. He was about 12; he's now 46. He has a family of three fine boys. I would get my mother's lunch

¹⁴ Active 1888–1928.

ready for her. Then I'd go down to the office, which was between Fifth and Sixth on Stark, on the street level. I always kept beautiful windows there with pictures, enlarged pictures on a white mat, of lovely homes that I had for sale.¹⁵

Then I had an apartment rental business on the side and kept a list of about 100 apartments. I kept a list of their vacancies, and had an ad in the paper every other day: "Apartment Rentals: \$25 to \$150." Now you couldn't get an apartment for \$25, but in those days it was different.

So, I had quite a nice business. Then my mother was taken very ill, and I had to stay home and look after her.

RW: When did you start getting involved with the Columbia Gorge?

JENSEN: Oh, about 25 years ago. I belong the Portland Women's Forum, and I took my mother — you want to know the real story of how I started in the Gorge?

RW: Yes!

JENSEN: Would you? I told this to the Roadside Council when they gave me an honorary life membership not very long ago. In my response to giving me this honor, I told the true story of how the Gorge was saved. At one time [1947] I owned [the] Battle Axe Inn for about six months up at Government Camp. I lost a great deal of money. My mother was in a sanitarium. She was ill; the blood didn't circulate as it should with this low blood pressure. She was just in such a state that it was pitiful. Well, anyway, I told the Portland Women's Forum about this logging up in the Gorge.

I had just bought a car, and I took my mother. I brought her home from the sanitarium. I took her up — no, it wasn't in the car; it was on a bus. I had sold my car in order to pay the help at Battle Axe Inn. I got in quite a financial mess there, but I paid everybody 100 cents on the dollar from the legacy I had from my Aunt [Lou] in Coronado.

¹⁵ Gertrude told me that, during the Depression, many clients could not afford to buy, and so rented.

I got out of that [Battle Axe Inn]. Fortunately, I had another legacy that came to me on the death of my mother from my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Druck.

Well, my mother didn't smile any more, and she just wasn't herself. It was a Labor Day weekend and it was a very hot day and I decided I was going to take her up the Columbia Gorge, which she always loved. We always used to go there with my grandfather in his big car and his chauffeur, and my grandmother, and she always loved it. At Shepperd's Dell, I always thought there were fairies there. My grandfather would always stop his car there at Shepperd's Dell so I could run down the little path to see if I couldn't see some fairies, because it was a dell, or some frogs sitting on a toadstool or dwarves or something – you know how children are. Well, I never could see them, but I could imagine I saw them.

Well, coming back to how I got interested in the Gorge conservation, I called up the bus company to see if I could go on the bus up there. They said, yes, they had some tours, one of them was this Columbia Gorge Tour. I took my mother down to the Multnomah Hotel, which was the pickup place for the Gray Line. The driver helped me to put her on the bus. We took a taxi down from our home here in Laurelhurst. She was kind of unresponsive and didn't smile. She knew she was on the bus and so forth, and I tried to get her interested in things.

When we got up there to Multnomah Falls Lodge, everybody got out of the bus, and the driver came back to me and helped me with my mother to get her out of the bus. When she got down off the bus, she looked up at the Falls and she smiled, the first time in all this long time. She smiled and she threw a kiss and she spelled out b-e-a-u-t-i-f-u-l. The tears came to my eyes. I couldn't hardly believe it that she'd smiled, and that there was something in life that she loved that she saw again. From then on she improved and she got well. For many years she was herself again. Not many years, but it was two or three years.

When we got home, I decided I was going to buy a car and take her out. I took her out every day, rain or shine, until she died, for a drive I bought this car, and the first place I went was up to the [Columbia River] Highway. Just below Mist Falls, which, by the way,

is twice as high as Multnomah Falls. It's about 1,200 feet high. It was named by Lewis and Clark. Mist Falls. I noticed a logging operation there. I didn't know that they were logging. I thought that maybe they were relocating the road. Then I got to thinking about it, I better go up there again and see what they were doing.

I started the car, I had my mother with me, and drove a little way. My mother, she sat in the car and I walked up to where this little shack was, where the logging operations were. I said, "Hello? Hello? Anybody here?"

This man came out of this place and he said, "Yes? I'm here. What do you want?"

I said, "I just want to know what is going on here. Are they building another road? Another Columbia Highway?"

He said, "No!" He said, "We're logging." And he said, "This man bought all of this land here, and we're going to log the whole thing. Up above, all that land has been bought for delinquent taxes and that's all going to be logged."

That was the watershed for Wahkeena Falls. To think of all that beautiful blue-green fir! You know, the hardwoods come up quickly in the gorge. They're all fir trees, they're broken off by the ice storms and things, and then also the [black root?] firs come up quickly in the gorge, and they don't get the sunlight. They had a hard time getting there in the winter storms down the Gorge. So, the fir trees, that beautiful blue-green in the Gorge, was rapidly being logged, I found out.

So, I went to the Forum, of which I'm a member. I'm a life member, by the way; I was given a life membership. I reported to the Board what I had seen. Right away Mrs. Howard Arnest, president, appointed me chairman of the Save-The-Gorge Committee. I called a meeting right away, and then we met with the Natural Resources Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. And the Chamber of Commerce boardroom – that was one of those upstairs, not down. They couldn't believe that that land was being sold for delinquent taxes, and that these loggers were using those trees for — although they weren't good trees, they could be used for chips, for wood chips.

So, come to find out — I looked up in the records there and spent days and days with Gertrude Dunn, another member of the committee, looking in the records, and found

out thousands of acres had been sold up there in the Gorge for delinquent taxes. The county didn't keep that land. And on that land, a good part of it from the Sandy River up to the forest boundary at Wahkeena Falls, and the remaining parcels of land up in the Columbia Basin at the Multnomah Falls Basin, were sold for three and four dollars and acre with timber growing on, for \$7 and \$8 an acre down along the highway.

RW: The county sold it?

JENSEN: They sold it to private individuals. Our committee was just a fact-finding committee. It came out in the paper, and I had a hearing before the County Commissioners.

Marshall [Newport] Dana¹⁶ advised me. He wouldn't take the leadership of the Gorge Conservation because he was so much involved in many other conservation projects, but he said, "Gertrude." Or Mrs. Jensen. He always called me Mrs. Jensen. "You take the leadership and I promise you I'll never let you down." He says, "I'll always be in the background. When you need advice, you come to me and I'll help you."

So, anyway, I tried to help the Indians to save Celilo Falls. I got them a re-hearing when I was back in New York and Washington with Senator Wayne Morse.¹⁷ Then I had them in the pulpit up in New York City at the Madison Avenue Baptist Church. The minister there [Dr. Ralph Walker] was the former pastor of the White Temple here, Mr. Dana's pastor, here. Mr. Dana had taught Sunday School there for 40 years. This wonderful minister went with me to the Rockefeller Foundation when I was back there to see what to do. And this great man, Mr. Horace Marden Albright [1890-1987]. My son was with me, too. He was going to Columbia University at the time. By the way, he went to Reed, too. Here was a conference, Mr. Albright was past chief of the National Park Service. He arranged with the chief of the Park Service a meeting for me down in Washington, where I'd never been before.

[End of Tape 1, Side 1]

¹⁶ 1885-1966; editor of the Editorial Page at the *Oregon Journal*, 1938-1951.

¹⁷ 1900-1974; D-Oregon, 1945-1969.

Tape 1, Side 2
1977 December 7

JENSEN: I went down to Washington, and on the way over to Representative Angell's¹⁸ office, I noticed these Indians sitting in the office of the congressman from Washington. I went in and I asked them, and I said, "Are you from Celilo?"

They said, "Yes, we're back here to be in the Inaugural Parade for Eisenhower." So I told them I thought it was terrible that this dam was going to cover up Celilo Falls¹⁹ and I wanted to help. We became great friends. Chief [Alex] Saluskin,²⁰ Chief Watson Totus. There was about four or five of them.

I had them come up to New York and they were in the pulpit there with this minister from the White Temple. Afterwards they had a reception for them in the parlors there. Madison Avenue Baptist Church was in a building on the first floor. I think it's where one of the big buildings stand now.²¹ I don't think that it's the Empire State Building, but I think it was right across from the Empire State Building. It must be.

I couldn't do anything for the Indians. They couldn't do anything for the Indians because it was already passed by Congress to build that dam up there.²² Although it was supposed to be up above the Falls, the engineers decided to build it down further near the Falls, and that inundated the Falls. The people in New York at that church service wanted so much to help. They were so good to the Indian Chiefs. I got a car, a limousine with a chauffeur, to come to their hotel and pick them up and come to my hotel, and I took them all over New York City on a sightseeing trip.

Years later when I was up at some salmon feast, I think it was a salmon feast, one of the Indian Chiefs happened to be there from Yakima and he recognized me. Oh my, the reception I got from all those Indian people up there!

¹⁸ Homer D. Angell, R-Oregon, 1938-1954.

¹⁹ Celilo Falls was located on the Columbia River, just east of The Dalles, OR; the oldest continuously inhabited site (15,000 years) in North America, submerged by The Dalles Dam in 1957.

²⁰ He was among the Yakama delegation to Congress in 1951.

²¹ Current address (2015) 30 E 31st St., not far from the Empire State Building (350 Fifth Ave., between 33rd and 34 Streets.)

²² 1950.

When the dam was built, I was asked to ride in the parade when it was dedicated. After the parade, I came back on the train. But before I came back on the train, I took a taxi up to Celilo Village. It cost me about \$10 for taxi fare. I went in to see Chief Tommy Thompson,²³ who grieved. They all grieved so on losing their ancestral fishing grounds, which was part of their religion and was theirs by treaty forever, by the treaty of [1855], I think. A long time ago. It was always to be theirs.

My son at Columbia, he tried very hard, too, to save Celilo Falls. He went to Mrs. Roosevelt²⁴ in New York, and she put it in her column.²⁵ It went all over the nation in all of the papers to fight to save Celilo and the fight save the beauty of the Columbia River Gorge. She said that her husband and she had been through that Gorge and they always remembered how beautiful it was.

When I was in Washington [District of Columbia], the National Park authorities felt that the answer to the whole problem was to have a Columbia Gorge Commission. Just prior to that, there was a State [Oregon] Columbia Gorge Committee appointed. Mr. Dana was chairman of that. I was chairman of the subcommittee on exchanging land in the Gorge for land outside the Gorge, Bureau of Land Management from the Sandy River up to Wahkeena Falls, and then the Forest Service from Wahkeena Falls, east. Now practically all the land up there is safeguarded, and the Oregon side of the Gorge is safe forever. The acquisitions up there in cooperation with the State Parks Department have been done.

It's cost me a fortune, because there was no salary to this appointment. I had wonderful help and wonderful people to help me on the different commissions. I served under Governor Patterson and Governor Holmes, twice under Governor [and later Senator, Mark] Hatfield. For a total of 16 years [1953-1969] I was a member [and Chair] of the [Oregon] Columbia Gorge Commission. I've had a very interesting life. Although it's cost me a great deal of my fortune, I'm thankful that I have the strength and the courage and God's help, because He was always with me.

²³ Ca. 1855-1959, Chief of the Wyam at Celilo Village from 1906.

²⁴ Eleanor Roosevelt, 1884-1962, widow of Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd President of the U.S.

²⁵ Called "My Day"; January 2, 1953.

He was my friend, and He walked beside me when I went to these people in high places in New York and Washington. I was scared. Oh, I was scared! But I knew He was walking right beside me and it gave me great courage. Then I found these people were just as plain as you or I. The greater the people the plainer they are. And the nicer they are. So, anyway, the Gorge is safe. Saved for all time.

RW: Did you have a lot of trouble with the land transfers?

JENSEN: No, I didn't, but I did have a lot of trouble with the Highway Commission in the beginning. I asked them to acquire lands of important value. Thornton [T.] Munger²⁶ was one of the great men who helped me. Marshall Dana always stood by, and all these wonderful, wonderful people, which — it's all in the Congressional Record, which you have before you and is on file down there at the Historical Society. All the stories of the different transfers, that is on that Congressional Record too. Senator Neuberger²⁷ wanted that to be a part of the Congressional Record, and I was so surprised when they sent me a copy of it.

There are — talk about the Highway Commission. There's a little incident I think that should be recorded here. The Highway Commission was dominated by a very famous engineer by the name of Baldock. He was a great engineer, Sam Baldock,²⁸ after whom the Baldock Highway to Salem is named after. He was a tyrant. Sam Boardman²⁹ was head of the Parks Department. He was the first head of the Parks Department. They didn't get along at all, because Sam Baldock wanted all of the money that was allocated for roads. It got to the point that at the meetings that there had to be an intermediary in the middle of the room to talk between Baldock and Boardman.

There was a meeting up in the U.S. [United States] National Bank boardroom, attended by a lot of prominent people here, as to what to do there, with the Gorge. I was flying blind all this way, but as I say, God was with me and showed me the way, and

²⁶ 1883-1975, a pioneering research scientist for the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest.

²⁷ Richard Neuberger, D-Oregon, 1954-1960.

²⁸ Robert Hugh ("Sam") Baldock; born 1889.

²⁹ Samuel H. Boardman; 1874-1953.

Marshall Dana, who knew the ropes of conservation, was the greatest conservationist that, I think, this state has ever had.

The Highway Department said, well, they couldn't acquire any lands up there, and so forth and so on. They had money for roads and so forth; just as coldblooded as could be. The Park's head at that time, he was dominated by Baldock; he was afraid of Baldock, for sure, because he was such a powerful man. That's the biggest industry in the whole State of Oregon, is and was the State Highway Department. Millions and millions of dollars they spent for roads. I mean state industry. So, at this meeting, no, the Highway Department, they weren't going to do anything.

Afterwards I was talking to the Park's superintendent and – this was in the boardroom at the U.S. National Bank. I said, "Can't you do anything?"

He said, "No, I can't."

I said, "Well, whose jurisdiction is this under, anyway? Don't you have any say about acquiring these lands there that are in jeopardy and going to be logged now?"

He said, "No," he says, "It's all under the Highway Department, and Mr. Baldock is in charge of the Highway Department."

I said, "Well, who is Mr. Baldock? Who decides the policies? And who is the head of them?" I said, "Isn't it the Oregon State Highway Commission?" He said that's right. I said, "Well, aren't they appointed? Or are they elected?" I said, "Aren't they appointed?"

He said, "Yes," he says, "They're appointed by the Governor."

And I said, "They get a salary, don't they." He said yes, they get mileage and so much a day. I said, "They dominate all that which should be kept here, that should be down here at the Parks Department, and they're dominated by Mr. Baldock?"

"That's right."

"Well," I says, "If the Governor appoints the Highway Department, if he can hire them," I said, "He can fire them."

There was a reporter standing there, and that got in the paper, in the *Oregonian*. There was a whole, full column, "If he can hire them, he can fire them." After that I never had any trouble with the Highway Commission at all.

But, Mr. Baldock – this is one little incident I want to tell you, how the logging was actually stopped. Of course, lands were acquired through all these exchanges. I was back in Washington [D.C.], as I told you, to see what should be done. The Rockefeller Foundation would do nothing toward acquisition up there, because they had been censured so much for taking the land off the tax rolls in the Grand Tetons. You know, up there by Yellowstone Park. They had done so much up there. The ranchers and all of them were so mad because their taxes went up and all this land went off the tax rolls and went into Grand Teton National Park.

Well, I was back there in Washington [D.C.], after I was in New York in conference with the Rockefeller Foundation, and at the hotel, where my mother and I were staying, was a convention. All these fine looking men were around there talking and slapping each other on the back. Here I saw one familiar face, and who was it but Sam Baldock. You know, when you're away from home, thousands of miles from home, and you see somebody you know just by, not know personally but just know who he is, you feel like you've known them, that they're a long lost friend. I went over to him, and he looked at me and said, "Mrs. Jensen."

I said, "Mr. Baldock! To meet way back here in Washington!" I told him what my mission was back there. He was so jovial and kind and nice, and I invited him up to our room, which was just like a living room in the day, and then they made it up into a bedroom at night. So I told him what the problem was.

He said, "Well, we'll fix that." I couldn't hardly believe it. Sam Baldock, the tyrant of the state! He's dead now. He went to Arabia after he retired, and he was a great engineer over there. He did a lot of work. He said, "When you get home, Mrs. Jensen," he said, "You go up the highway, and you'll see that the logging has been stopped." He said, "I've got an idea." And sure enough, this is how the logging was stopped.

When I got home, right away I went up the highway. I didn't know what he had in his mind. Just as you turn to go down to Crown Point, [there was a sign,] "No logging trucks beyond this point by order of the State Highway Engineer." [RW laughs] Right

there, on the interchange there on the old highway. The signs are on both sides of the highway going both directions. “No logging trucks beyond this point.”

Although the highways of Oregon are places of public use, he’s determined that it was too dangerous on that narrow highway with trucks coming from Eastern Oregon, where there was an expressway, and for logging trucks to bring logs on and for people driving cars. It was too dangerous because it was a narrow road. So he felt he was within his rights, and his word held good. “No logging trucks beyond this point.” [Laughs] Those signs are still up there, and I always say, “God bless Mr. Baldock.”³⁰

RW: So he did it for that safety, then? I guess he wasn’t so bad after all. What about – something happened with the restoration of the Vista House at Crown Point.

JENSEN: Mr. Dana was the one who suggested having a crown on Crown Point, the Vista House. That Vista House was built by the pennies and nickels and dimes of the school children of Portland. I was one of them that put my fortune – which at that point I didn’t – when I put money in my bank, my Punch and Judy Bank, my grandfather would always match it. I had five cents, and I put it in that fund for the Vista House. The Vista House cost \$100,000. The children raised \$25,000. It wasn’t enough, so the county commissioners put in the rest of the money, and that was how it was built.

The history of the building of the Vista House is on file. Mr. Dana had it done for me by Frank Shull, head of the county commissioners. Frank Shull assigned a man to write up the whole history of the Vista House so I would have it. I have it in my files, and it’s also on file up at the State Parks office, and I think you³¹ have a copy of it in your files about the building of the Vista House. It was never built for the commercialism it’s been used for. It’s been a great moneymaker for the state because it’s on a percentage lease, but the state has been under an awful expense up there, because it leaks at times and they had a terrible time with the leakage.

³⁰ On drives up the Gorge when I was a child, Gertrude would point these signs out.

³¹ The Oregon Historical Society.

That Vista House was built as a memorial to the pioneers and never forget that. That's what it was built for. It was built by the school children and by the county. It was never built for a store. So, my suggestion to the State Parks Advisory Board a few years ago was to build another building on the back of all that property. See, all of that land up there was acquired, that old tavern there, that was acquired. And on the other side, that was all — that's all state park now. Also, that is a National Natural Landmark, given that designation by the National Park Service. I worked for that for years to give it national recognition. Right on the railing, just as you come to the Vista House, you will see a bronze marker there, saying it's a National Natural Landmark.

I was up there at the dedication. I was asked to give the benediction, which was a prayer that Mr. Dana had written for me many years ago to give at the beginning of the Columbia Gorge Day luncheon, which was an annual event of the Portland Women's Forum at Multnomah Falls Lodge. That wonderful prayer, that he had written for me to open the luncheon there, I gave as his benediction at the end of the dedication of the beautiful memorial put up by the Lewis and Clark Trail Commission right there at Crown Point.

And then, also, [Sam] Lancaster, the great engineer who engineered the building of the [Columbia River Scenic] Highway. I never let up 'til there was a memorial to him. That memorial is a bas-relief from a picture. It's about so [Indicates size]. It's right to the right of the entrance. His daughter, who lives out in Forest Grove, helped the man, the sculptor, on that to be sure it was just right. The wording on it was just exactly what I wanted. It was a composite of what Mr. Dana had suggested, and what a very dear friend of the family had suggested. The Highway Commission was adamant they were going to have their own wording on there, but I won out, so it's a beautiful wording on there.

RW: So has anything been done about the second building being done for the store at Vista?

JENSEN: No. They never went on with it.

RW: It's been dropped, then?

JENSEN: They just dropped it.

RW: Too much money?

JENSEN: Yeah.

RW: That's too bad.

JENSEN: And, the year that – see, the policy of the State was anybody who had served two terms on a Commission were not to be reappointed. That's why I wasn't reappointed by Governor McCall. This wonderful woman, Mrs. Robert Warren, her name is Nani Warren, is head of the [Oregon Columbia Gorge] Commission since then. You could only serve two terms according to the policy of the State. So, I had served, I think, four four-year terms. But the Forum honored me with a memorial at Chanticleer Point, which is called Portland Women's Forum State Park. It's 100 feet higher than Crown Point and it's where you get the first view of the Gorge about a mile this side of Crown Point on the old Highway.

The first money that was raised toward the purchase of that point for \$5,000 from Julius Meier's son, Jack Meier, was raised at my house at a Christmas party. We raised \$400 at that party, and that was the down payment on that point. Miss Evangeline Philbin, founder of the Forum, was the head of the committee to raise the rest of it. She did, and did lots more, too. She started lowering the ground and making it — it was really a garbage dump behind those bushes there, and trees. Anyway, she had it leveled, and then when it was turned over to the state, the State Parks Department spent a lot of time making a plan for a beautiful viewpoint there. And it is a beautiful viewpoint. There's benches there and a there's big direction-finder there of red Scotch granite.

A few years later, when the women decided they were going to honor me with this bronze plaque and this drinking fountain. They turned over \$1,000 to the State Parks Department, and they designed this fountain of rock and they dedicated this plaque. Would you like to know what's on that plaque?

RW: Yes, I would. Let's see what's in here. [Pages through book]

JENSEN: The plaque. The inscription on the bronze plaque on the drinking fountain at Chanticleer Point. That's Portland Women's Forum State Park. Dedicated May 21st, 1970, about one and a half miles west of Crown Point overlooking the Gorge.

By the way, they honored me. I was Woman of the Year twice, and I have received the highest award for conservation in the United States by the Department of the Interior, and also the Gold Beaver of the Isaac Walton League. Oh, so many great things of appreciation have been given to me in awards. It says "Gertrude Glutsch Jensen," this is on the plaque.

"Chairman, Columbia River Gorge [Commission], 1953-1969.
Mrs. Jensen's dedicated efforts to safeguard the grandeur of the great Gorge of the Columbia River helped to preserve, develop and protect the recreation, scenic and historic areas of God's handiwork. Also, her 20 years as a leader of the Portland Women's Forum activities in this field is living testimony of her great contribution, and is hereby honored.
The Portland Women's Forum, 1970."

Now, the real story of the Gorge is not only in the Congressional Record but it's in a book called *The Resources for the Future*. That is about an inch and a half thick, about eight by 10. It was from a grant from Resources for the Future to Dr. McKinley of Reed College, who was my political science professor. He spent three or four months, once a

week, coming to my home to go through the files. He got the real story of the Gorge, and how it was saved.

And of course, in this book, which I'm asking you to take down to have that part pertaining to the Gorge put on file with the Historical Society. I think it should be copied and put, too, down at the University of Oregon. I wouldn't impose on you to make a copy for them, but I would like very much for you to send it down to the University of Oregon those four pages, if you could, to Mr. Kemp's attention, Mr. Al Kemp.

RW: What department is he?

JENSEN: He's in the reference library of the University of Oregon. To put in the Gertrude Jensen file. I've given them about 100 boxes of books and manuscripts and different things which were of great importance to them.

But I would like a copy of that account put in the Historical Society and also the University of Oregon. And also at Reed College and a copy for myself. So that's why that book I'm giving you, that report, is so important. Because after we're drifting dust, all that's left is what's on the printed pages of history. And I'm hopeful that it will give information on how it was done, and it will be helpful – especially students.

RW: You worked with John Yeon, didn't you?

JENSEN: Oh yes.

RW: Could you tell me something about him?

JENSEN: John Yeon was one of the greatest minds of the state and he was on Mr. Davis' committee in 1937, making this 1937 report. He was chairman of the subcommittee of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Davis headed that. And that was all about the natural resources of this part of the country, and so forth. And Mr. Dana, who

appointed John Yeon to the committee to work on studying the preservation of the Gorge at the time the Bonneville Dam was built. So, that was just 40 years ago, 1937. That'd be about 40 years ago?

RW: Just about.

JENSEN: So, Mr. Yeon, this report, this 1937 report, which is in a green colored paperback book, about eight by 10, has been my bible in the Gorge conservation.

At the time when this first started, I wrote to the head of the Region Four of the National Park Service in San Francisco, to ask them what could be done. And Mr. [Merriam?], who was chief of this area, area number four – there are four areas in the United States. Mr. [Merriam?] said if I could get a copy of this study, this Columbia Gorge study of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, that they made this study of what was to be done, but it was never carried out. And it's probably still gathering dust up in the archives of the state house.

It was never carried out because the plan was to have been carried out by the State Planning Board, and Orman Bean the chairman of that. Well, the following...

[End of Tape 1, Side 2]

Tape 2, Side 1
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JENSEN: [The State Planning Board was abolished by the legislature] a year or two later, so that this plan for preserving the Gorge and zoning the Gorge and its changes and all was never carried out, because there's no planning board to do it. It had been abolished by the legislature. So I got ahold of that plan and I carried through on that. That was my bible, and that was my guide. Now isn't that wonderful?

RW: Yes, it is.

JENSEN: But John Yeon³² is a wonderful person. John Yeon came to my house one day. He called me and he said, you know, "I'd like to meet you." He's a very shy individual, and a very fine person. He said, "Maybe I could give you some pointers on the Gorge," and he told me about this study.

I said, "Well, I have it, and that's what I'm following through on." He was greatly pleased.

When he left, his parting words were, "Mrs. Jensen, I want to give you some advice." He said, "There's a man in the Highway Department, that rules the Highway Department. He's a wonderful man, and his name is Mr. Sam Baldock." The man I told you who was engineer for so many years, head of the Highway Department. He says, "He's a fine friend, but he's a bad enemy. I had the unfortunate circumstance of going against him one time and disagreeing with him, and we weren't friends anymore." So, he says, "If you can just get his friendship," he said, "It'll help you a lot, but don't have him as an enemy; he's a bad enemy. He's a good friend but a bad enemy."

But you see, God took hold there and showed me the way, and made the meeting possible for me to meet Mr. Baldock personally back there in Washington, D.C., and I made a friend out of him.

³² Noted Portland architect, 1910-1994.

RW: What happened? What was the incident where you were against him?

JENSEN: He was against me. I wasn't against him. He was fighting me. He wanted all the funds. He wanted nothing for acquisition up there in the Gorge. He wouldn't have any money allocated through the Parks Department at all toward saving the Gorge.

RW: Has your family been involved in this with you over the years?

JENSEN: My son has been helping me a great deal. His name is Frederic Charles Jensen [Jr.].

RW: What about your husband?

JENSEN: Well, my husband and I separated when my boy was a baby. And you know, I was married to Jack Dalton?

RW: I think so.

JENSEN: I married again, but the marriage lasted about two weeks, because – my husband from my second marriage was Jack Dalton of Alaska and he was in love with my half-sister and I divorced him. I had grounds. Complete and total divorce and he married my half-sister six months later. They were very happy. He's gone now. They lived down in Los Angeles.

RW: Are you still working? I remember you mentioned a book.

JENSEN: Yes, I'm working on a book that I've been urged to write, *The Great Gorge of the Columbia River*. I have everything ready to go. I've got my outline, and there have

been two or three publishers who'd like to see it, and I have some of it completed. That is my intention.

Last Christmas I was laid low with heart failure and taken to the hospital by ambulance, more dead than alive. I'm just getting back on my feet now, and here it's nearly Christmas a year later. So, after the first of the year I will get busy on that.

I sold my big home over in Laurelhurst, where I lived for 50 years, and I'm [now] in this lovely apartment over on [Northeast] 46th. I enjoy it very much; it's smaller, and I'm in a corner apartment on [Northeast] 46th and – what is this street here? Halsey. On the southwest corner.

I hope to get at my book in 1978 and have it finished. As I say, it'll be named, *The Great Gorge of the Columbia River*. Maybe it will be published by the Historical Society.

RW: Maybe. It should be, really.

JENSEN: It'd be a nice book, because it will be of historical interest to people to know just what we have here.

RW: Well, it's good we had you around [JENSEN laughs] to save the Gorge. It's beautiful, I like going up there and hiking. There's lots of good trails

JENSEN: To me it is a great temple built not with human hands. When you go up there and you come back, you're just so refreshed and alive in spirit.

RW: It's beautiful.

JENSEN: Is that [the tape recorder] still on?

RW: Yes. Want me to turn it off?

JENSEN: It's alright.

RW: I just had it on for a while. I think, that maybe that...

JENSEN: I just told you some things I thought you wanted to know.

RW: Yes, you have. Yes, you have quite a bit.

[Tape stops]

JENSEN: Is that on?

RW: Yeah, it's on.

JENSEN: Mr. Keyser,³³ who was head of the city parks system of Portland for 40 years, was a very dear friend of mine. He lived at the University Club, and often we'd have lunch together. He told me that the parks up in the Gorge at the time the county built the Columbia River Highway, those parks that were given, were given to the City of Portland. Those were all City parks up there in the Gorge. Shepperd's Dell, Crown Point, and up there at Benson Park, Multnomah Falls, Wahkeena Falls, and part of Oneonta Gorge were all a gift from Simon Benson.³⁴

Simon Benson heard that the water power from Wahkeena Falls, one of the most beautiful waterfalls, if not the most beautiful waterfall, in the Gorge, just this side of Multnomah Falls, was to be used for water power for a mill, a textile mill, to be built by Coopey.³⁵ I showed you the picture of it at Coopey Falls. Well, he couldn't think of that beautiful falls being destroyed. He bought Wahkeena Falls from Mr. Coopey and gave it to the city. Also Multnomah Falls he bought, and he bought Oneonta Gorge and gave

³³ Charles Paul Keyser, Portland Parks Superintendent, 1917-1950.

³⁴ 1851-1942; Oregon timber magnate.

³⁵ Charles Coopey was a well-known tailor in Portland.

that to the city. Just think, we don't realize, there's a lot of city parks up there. Then the city parks, at the time the county turned over the Columbia River Highway to the state, Mr. Keyser turned over these parks to the state also, but they were city parks.

It also should be recorded, Mr. Keyser was very anxious that this be put down in my book, that the Union Pacific, which was then the O.R.&N., Oregon Railway and Navigation Company. It used to be the O.W.R.&N. [Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation], then it became the O.R.&N., then it became the Union Pacific. The Union Pacific gave all the ground there as a gift, where Multnomah Falls Lodge is and where their station was. All of that land, and the Lower Multnomah Falls, was a gift of the railroad company. There should be a plaque up there, and he helped me with the wording on the plaque. That is another thing that I'm going have done this year. I've got the wording for a plaque there in appreciation of what Mr. Benson did with those wonderful gifts of the upper falls, and Wahkeena and Oneonta, and also the grounds there and the lower falls from the railroad company. I think that that should be down as a matter of record.

There were many gifts up there in the Gorge. George Shepperd, after whom Shepperd's Dell is named, used to have church services for his family there at the dell because he loved it so. He gave that dell to the city at the time the highway was built.

Also, up there at Crown Point – you asked about Crown Point and the Vista House. Crown Point was owned by a man by the name of Lund who had a farm up there. I interviewed Miss Lund, who died not very long ago, Thora Lund. Miss Lund gave me the story of her father's gift of Crown Point to the city. There should be a plaque up there, a bronze plaque, acknowledging that gift. She said that her father had a bench down there at the Point, and he'd often go down there and sit on the bench and watch the sunset.

That point where Crown Point is situated, that rock is between 40 and 50 million years old. The Cascade Mountains was an uplift. There were many volcanic vents, Crown Point being one of them, and Rooster Rock being another, where the lava came up. That is why there's all basalt up there. That was all an uplift from the great forces beneath the earth that made that mountain range, that trapped the ocean between that mountain

range and the Rocky Mountains. At one time the ocean extended to the Rocky Mountains. Then this uplift came and the Cascade Mountains came up, and the ocean was trapped in there. There were terrible disturbances and volcanic eruptions from all of these vents, and this great gorge was made.

I do want you to know that the Lund family gave that land up there. And also that they had their farm there, and their barn, just up toward the Larch Mountain road. During that terrible fire, I think it was the Yacolt Burn when everything just caught on fire; it was a terrible fire there. This fire came through the Gorge and destroyed Mount Hamilton's, all that timber at Mount Hamilton's that was second-growth fir, and didn't have any pinecones to reproduce the trees again. That never did grow back over there on Mt. Hamilton across from Cascade Locks. This burn, this Yacolt Burn — or one of these forest fires. Maybe it wasn't that, because there's been several terrible fires up there. That swept through the Gorge.

Her mother was home there with this little baby, and her father had gone to town. She saw this fire coming and she was terrified. She didn't know what to do. She couldn't run with the baby and she buried the baby in a pit; didn't bury it, but there was a pit there. But she put the baby in this pit, so if the fire came while she was gone, it would go over, you know, the baby wouldn't be burned. I'd say it was sort of like a grave. She went for help. It was very sparsely settled up there, and still is. She went for help.

When she got back, the barn and all their chickens and cows were all burned. Everything was burned, but the baby was safe. And the father, they moved to Portland after that, he worked in the Inman-Poulsen mill. But that is the Lund family. I am awful glad that we added this to it, of how Crown Point was acquired. They called it The Rock.

[Tape stops]

There's some things here, I've mixed them up. It doesn't matter.

RW: Oh, it doesn't matter. It's set up now. So Marquam Gulch Caruthers. Who's that?

JENSEN: Are you recording?

[Tape stops]

RW: Okay, go ahead.

JENSEN: Speaking of South Portland, there was really three parts of South Portland. There was the part up to Caruthers Street and Marquam Gulch. That was South Portland. Then the part from there south was the Lair Hill District. We didn't call it Lair Hill at that time, but that was on the other side of the gulch. Beyond that, south, was Fulton. I lived in the part called South Portland, which was this side of the gulch. Many people don't know that there was a gulch there and that that was called Marquam Gulch. There were two bridges across Marquam Gulch, which was on First Street. We lived on First and Lincoln. Then there was another bridge, I think on Second and Marquam Gulch.

There were many Jewish children lived up there, and many Italian children. The Jewish children were mostly children of the refugees from Russia who had fled to this country. My playmates were the Jewish children and the Italian children. They had been brought over by relatives in this country to escape the persecution in Russia. Every one of those playmates made good. It's a strange thing, but children of poor parents usually make the biggest names for themselves and really go places, I have found. Some of our best citizens in town came from South Portland in the Jewish children whose parents realized the value of an education and of liberty, which they found in this country.

My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Druck, with whom I lived since a child with my mother, Nellie Glutsch, who was a deaf mute. My grandparents lived on First and Lincoln on the northeast corner. It was a quarter-block. It was surrounded by a picket fence. My grandmother had a beautiful flower garden. There was a cherry tree, and there was a plum tree, and raspberry bushes, and loganberry bushes, and gooseberry bushes; just everything. And a big holly tree. On the back of the property facing Lincoln Street

was the stable where our old horse, Bird, which was a beautiful brown horse, and the buggy were housed.

Down at the beach at Seaview, at my grandparents' summer home, there was a buggy also and a stable. In the summer when we went down to Seaview near Long Beach, they took the horse with them, and they had a buggy down there to ride on the beach and ride around, which was great.

So, some of my happiest memories and the nicest part of my life has been my childhood, because I had a very happy childhood.

Perhaps you'd like to know a little about South Portland.

RW: When did they fill in that gulch?

JENSEN: That was filled in over the years. You know where Terwilliger Park is? Where you make the first turn on Terwilliger Boulevard, where the world famous lilac gardens are? Well, that was all the city garbage dump, and there was always garbage burning there and always a terrible smell. And that is all filled in. That was the garbage dump for the City of Portland. And also the gulch also was filled in. So now you'd never know that there was a gulch there at all and that there had been bridges over there.

RW: How deep was it?

JENSEN: It was pretty deep. It came from Marquam Hill. The creek came down under the two bridges there and went down to the river. That is part of the past.

RW: Who are some of those kids that you played with? The Jewish children that you played with. Do you remember their names?

JENSEN: Yes. At the Reed College reunion — I remember one incident. At the Reed College reunion last year, 50th reunion, there was several of my classmates that came

from different parts of the West, of the nation, to attend this 50th reunion. I was talking to Gus Solomon, who I've known all my life. He became a federal judge, you know Judge Solomon. So at the class dinner, which was held at a lovely home out by Troutdale, at Ruth [Richards'?] home, I was talking with Gus, and I said, "Gus, I know you lived in South Portland. Where did you live?" We went to Shattuck School together. Mr. Porter was the principal there, and Mrs. Porter was the principal of the Failing school. I said, "Where did you live in South Portland?"

"I lived on Fourth and Lincoln," he said.

I said, "Fourth and Lincoln?" I said, "Well, where were you born?"

He said, "I was born on First and Lincoln."

I said, "First and Lincoln? Well, where?" He said on the west side of the street. I said, "Well, I was born across the street on First and Lincoln." And here, we never knew that and we'd been friends all these years. We were born across the street from each other.

One of the nice memories of my childhood is the Neighborhood House up there. That was before there were community houses all over in a lot of parks. This was owned by the Council of Jewish Women. These well-to-do women gave so much of their time and their efforts to make life brighter for the children up there in South Portland. I was a member of the Neighborhood House, I mean as a child. There was swimming there and there was gymnasium and there was sewing classes and a library. That library was really something. I remember Miss Blumenthal and, oh, so many of the Jewish ladies. I can't recall their names now, but they were so kind and so dear to all of the little children who went there. I remember the sewing class there. The boys and the girls, they just couldn't hardly wait until their classes were held. They did a magnificent job. That is still standing, that old Neighborhood House.

RW: Where is it?

JENSEN: It is on Second, just block from where Failing School is. It's a brick building there. It's right across from the museum on Second Street in Lair Hill. That museum there used to be a fine home. Later it was the county hospital. Now I believe it's a community house. I just don't know.

RW: It was a museum then? It's not now?

JENSEN: Yes, I think it is.

RW: Where on Second Street?

JENSEN: It's about six blocks beyond Caruthers Street.

Failing School³⁶ was the school on the other side of the gulch, and Shattuck School was the school for South Portland on this side of the gulch.

RW: And where is Shattuck School?

JENSEN: It was on Fifth and Harrison. It used to be called Harrison Street School when my aunt went to school there. It was a big wooden building. Later they moved to Shattuck School about a block away, which was a brick building and which is [now] part of Portland State. That was the first school to have a swimming pool, and Millie Schloth was the swimming teacher for the girls. She was a wonderful woman.

RW: What did she teach there?

JENSEN: She taught swimming. She was a good teacher.

³⁶ Founded 1883; present (2015) building 049 SW Porter St., 1912; closed 1959; since 1996 the main campus of the National College of Natural Medicine.

Alfred Keller, who became a great violinist, was a schoolmate of mine, also Miriam Deaver and Frances Barbey. There were so many of the people that I've kept in touch with during the years. It's always such a treat to see them.

RW: So you still see them once in a while?

JENSEN: Yes. Frances Barbey was teacher out at Catlin School for many years. Her brother was Admiral Barbey. They were all genuine good people there in South Portland, just the salt of the earth.

RW: Who were some of your neighbors there? Right around your house.

JENSEN: Well, the Himes lived down on [Inaudible]. And Mr. Himes was the founder of the Historical Society down on [Southwest] Front and Sherman. I remember when the Historical Society was out on [Southwest] Second and Main, on the west side of the street. He had whiskers like my grandfather, except my grandfather had white whiskers and he had gray whiskers.

My grandfather, he worked at the Druck Ironworks machine shop on Oak Street. He had a shop there and he did the ironwork for the Oregon Steam Navigation Company, which was the steamboat company.

One of our neighbors was the Reeds of Reed College, Simeon [G.] Reed [1830-1895]. He was one of the owners of the steamboat company. After he died, his wife [Amanda, d. 1904] made her will and left her fortune for an institute of higher learning. Reed College started out in a building over town on the west side. It started out as Reed Institute. Later one of Reed's partners, Mr. [W. M.] Ladd,³⁷ gave this land out where Reed College is situated for a college, and then the fortune of Mrs. Reed was used to build these buildings. Dr. Foster was the first president. I'm a member of the Foster-Scholz

³⁷ Son of William S. Ladd.

Club, that's people who went to school there and graduated before 1930 and I was there in 1926.

RW: Where was the first building? The Reed Institute.

JENSEN: I don't know. It was over on 12th Street or someplace over there. It was in a building.

RW: How long was it there?

JENSEN: For a few years, until this building was built.

The interesting thing, when I was in Long Island on a visit, I was shown the residence of Diamond Jim Brady. It was really the same building as Eliot Hall, where the living quarters are. No it was close to that, where the classes are held. The other one was the dormitory. The building was just like Eliot Hall at Reed College. They were copied after one of the buildings at Oxford University in England, not after an Oxford building, but was copied after a castle in England. The only difference between the building out at Reed College and that building, it had a corkscrew chimney. It was a replica of it, so it was like seeing an old friend.

RW: When did your parents divorce? Your mother's parents were...

JENSEN: Yeah, my mother and father divorced when I was a little baby. And my mother and I lived with my grandparents. It was a quarter block. It was a beautiful home. It was surrounded by a picket fence. I had many...

[End of Tape 2, Side 1]
[Tape 2, Side 2 BLANK]

Tape 3, Side 1
1978 January 17

JENSEN: We had many old-fashioned vegetables and fruits, and had a lovely lawn on the side with cabbage roses and clematis and hyacinths and all kinds of lovely flowers.

RW: Did they take care of it themselves, or did they have help?

JENSEN: No, my grandparents had a Chinese gardener. Then on Monday they had a washwoman come in. On Tuesday she came to do the ironing.

RW: Did they speak English?

JENSEN: My grandparents?

RW: No, the Chinese gardener and...

JENSEN: [Yes]. They understood English.

There were some peculiar characters that used to go by our house to preach downtown. One was Umbrella Jimmy. The kids'd run after him and make fun of him, and he would get awfully mad. There was an old lady that used to go down and preach whether there was anyone around or not. She'd preach down on First and Madison.

I must tell you about the First Street Show. That was one of the first nickelodeons in town. They were called nickelodeons because it only cost a nickel to go to the show. I was permitted to go the show on Friday night because that was always *The Perils of Pauline*, or a good serial or an Indian picture. If there was an Indian picture playing, I wanted to see that. So I would get my five cents from my grandfather to go to the nickelodeon. We didn't have popcorn machines. All that the nickelodeons —.

There was another nickelodeon down on First Street down between Madison and Main, on the other side of the street. But this one [was] owned by Weinstein and

Whittenburg. It was quite a show. They didn't have talkies in those days. Someone played the piano to make music while the show was going on. There was, oh, all kinds of different music for different scenes.

On Third Street there was a Catholic Church, the St. Lawrence Catholic Church. That's no more. The family of a friend of mine gave the land for that church. The Fahie family. She later became Mrs. Mark O'Neill, the wife of a prominent lawyer here.

Really, the one landmark up there was Dr. Cottel's Drugstore. Dr. Cottel owned this drugstore. I can see him just like he was right here, with his moustache and his kind ways. That was on First and Sherman, the northwest corner was Dr. Cottel's Drugstore. Across the street was Goldstein's Hardware Store. Dr. Cottel did many of the deliveries of babies in South Portland. In fact, I was one of his babies. He took care of my mother when I was born. There was a lifelong friendship, not only between Dr. Cottel and myself, but between his son and myself.

About three or four days ago I read in the paper that Charlie Cottel, the son, died. I think he died of leukemia. He lived out in Oswego. Many times during the last few years I thought of calling Charlie and going to see him, or making some arrangement to see him. He was in my thoughts a great many times, 'cause I liked Charlie. He had a brother whom I didn't know, but my mother often told me about this terrible thing that happened. This brother was out playing at First and Sherman in the street. In those days we had streetcars and a streetcar came along and some way or another he got hit by the streetcar, and he was run over by the streetcar. And my mother said that Dr. Cottel went out, picked him up in his arms, and carried him into the drugstore, and he was dead.

Another memory of Dr. Cottel's Drugstore that many will share with me is the little gold pig that was about two feet long which he had on the shelf. We thought that was very exciting, a little gold pig. Then he had an Indian with braids and a wrinkled face that stood there. That Indian and that little gold pig were really memories that one doesn't forget. And also the smell of those old drugstores.

There was a drugstore down on Third and Madison, too. My aunt was walking home from downtown one day, and she talked to Dr. Plummer, who owned this

drugstore. She said, "Those are awfully nice-looking cherry trees you have out in front for sale."

He said, "If you'll carry it home, I'll give you one." He gave her this cherry tree and she carried it home, and that grew to be a huge big Black Republican Cherry Tree. We had cherries, canned cherries, off that tree for many years.

RW: That's nice. How were the drugstores different from now? What were they like?

JENSEN: Well, they didn't have soda fountains in them. They didn't have anything very much else but drugs and patent medicines. I remember Swamp Root and Sarsparilla and some of those Castoria and some of those drug remedies, patent medicines.

RW: Did they work?

JENSEN: I guess they did. I guess they were alright, because my grandparents bought them. That was on the south side of the block on First Street, there.

On the corner where the streetcar turned, was Robison's Dry Goods Store. Robison was a rather large man. He was Jewish and had a very nice wife. He and his wife and his two sons had this dry goods store. In those days you didn't go out and buy a dress; you usually made it. My grandmother used to make my dresses for me. She had a sewing machine in the bay window, looked right out on Mt. Hood. That bay window, oh, it was so pretty to see sunset on Mt. Hood, the reflection of the sun. They call it the alpenglow.

The Robisons were awfully nice, and these two young fellows who helped in the store were so obliging. And for buttons and hooks and eyes and all those things that you needed, remnants especially. My grandmother was always the one who wanted to buy remnants. One time she bought some red flannel plaid stuff, they called it stuff in those days, and she made me a two-piece suit. It was so loud I was ashamed to go to school. I thought everybody'd be looking at me with that loud flannel dress on, this red plaid.

Well, to make a long story short about the Robisons, the Robison Home out here for the Jewish people, out on Capitol Hill and Mulberry, I believe. The money for that was given by the boys, the daughters of Mrs. Robison. Mrs. Robison, after her husband died, had a penthouse up on top of that big apartment across from Lincoln High School. I went to her 90th birthday party. These two men, whom I'd known as boys, flew out from New York. They had become immensely wealthy. I was so glad to see them, and they were so glad to see Gertrude. I'll probably never see them again. Mrs. Robison died soon afterwards.

So many of the old-timers from South Portland who were her Jewish friends were at that party, and I was invited to go. It's one of the things that I remember. So whenever I see the name of the Robison Home, I think of the Robisons and their tremendous wealth in the merchandising business in materials in New York, and dresses and clothing. They were big clothing wholesalers.

That is one of the nice memories that I have of the Robisons, the First Street Show, *The Perils of Pauline*, Charlie Cottel's drugstore and Goldstein's Hardware Store, where I bought a beautiful dish for my grandmother's birthday. They had pretty dishes in there. The one I bought had a gold background and roses underneath the pressed glass, just a round dish with a goldish cross. My grandmother loved that.

Going south from Sherman Street, there was a drugstore another block up with a fountain. Right across from that on the east side of the street was an Episcopal church called St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. I always had to go to Sunday School. I went to St. Matthew's Church to Sunday School, and that's where I was confirmed. Elsie Perry, who died not too long ago, and I were confirmed there in St. Matthew's Church.

I didn't know very much about this church until, not very long ago, Arthur Spencer of the Historical Society had a piece in the Trinity Church paper on the history of the Episcopal Church, and it told about this mission that they had down on First and Caruthers, I think it was. That's where St. Matthew's Episcopal Church was. That's where I was baptized and confirmed. Reverend Breck was the preacher there. I guess you would call him a priest. Oh, he was a fine man, with a goatee. He was so kind.

Going farther south toward the gulch on the same side of the street at Cottel's Drugstore, on the west side of First Street was the fish market. I've forgotten the lady's name that had it. She had these fish swimming around in the window. It was a kosher market. My grandfather always bought a kosher veal roast for Sunday dinner. That was quite a treat.

Then across the street, on the east side of the street, before you came to the bridge, was Koessel and Frey's Meat Market. I remember Koessel had red hair and a red moustache. In those days, the meat markets didn't have a whole lot of other things except meat. They had these big chopping blocks and they had sawdust on the floor. I always wondered that they still used sawdust on the floors in meat markets. They don't. Well, anyway, that was Koessel and Frey's Meat Market.

Then coming back down to our home, there is a tree that's standing, a great big locust tree. I think it's about two or three stories high. During the urban renewal they left that tree. They tenderly cared for it and had a tree surgeon come and trim it as it should be trimmed.

When I traveled to New York one time, my seat partner as far as Seattle was one of the heads of Urban Renewal. I says, "I hope they don't cut my tree down."

He said, "They won't, because any tree that's standing there will be left." So that tree is up there.

RW: It's a locust tree?

JENSEN: A locust tree. It's a big tree that's up there.

RW: On First and Lincoln?

JENSEN: Down on First and Lincoln. I am hoping that, during my lifetime, there'll be a bronze plaque put there in memory of my grandparents. My grandfather planted that little tree in the parking strip on First when I was a little girl. That, too, seems like yesterday.

You might say that this little broadcast, or visit, we're having today, they seem like yesterday. And those are all precious memories. That tree is part of the living South Portland. I'm 74 now, and that was planted when I was three or four years old. That was Getty's Tree.

RW: Did you go into other parts of town much when you were little?

JENSEN: No. My mother was born up [near to] where the Armory now stands. My people came from Germany to Australia, and then took three months to come over to San Francisco on a sailing vessel because they were becalmed. My grandfather worked in the Union Ironworks. They came up to Portland on the *Elder*, I think, on one of those big sailing ships. He started this machine shop, blacksmith shop and ironworks, down at the foot of Oak Street.³⁸ He also made the wedges and sledges, some are still in use, they were used to split the trees here in the Northwest before they had these chain saws and all of this electric machinery. These wedges were tempered with fish oil, with cod liver oil.

He worked very hard and he amassed a substantial fortune. He had three daughters and three sons. I guess I am the only one left. There's two cousins who live here in Portland. I am the senior member of the family, now, of the descendants of William Druck and his wife, Sophie.

My grandmother was a great Christian woman. She read her German Bible every night and also her prayer book, [also] in German. We prayed together. She taught me German prayers. Every night I had to say my prayers.

RW: Do you know German?

³⁸ Gertrude told me several times that when William Druck first settled in Portland, he set up his forge on the northeast corner of Second Ave. and Ankeny St., where Dan and Louis' Oyster Bar is now situated.

JENSEN: I know a little bit. Yeah, I took German in high school and college. I remember one of the things I had to do at Reed was to translate [Emma III?] by Heinrich Heine, and that was really something.

I got a lot out of Reed College. Dr. [Frank Loxley] Griffin was wonderful. He was a math teacher, and then there was “Biology” Griffin. He was the biology teacher [Dr. Lawrence Griffin.] Then there was Dr. Cerf and Dr. Scholz. I loved my professors out there. Dr. McKinley – you saw that book that Dr. McKinley made for me, *Resources for the Future*. I was very glad that you had copies of that made.

RW: I’ve got – there’s one here for you.

JENSEN: There is. There was one for the Historical Society, and is there any others?

RW: I think they sent one to Reed, but I’m not sure. I gave them the instructions.

JENSEN: You did?

RW: Yeah. But after that...

JENSEN: We can check with them. There’s one for University of Oregon and for Reed.

But, that was quite a task he took on. *Resource for the Future* was for a grant. He was my political science professor. The first president was Dr. Foster. The president when I went to school there was Dr. Scholz, a wonderful, wonderful man. Everybody loved him. Toward the end of the year he died of an acute appendix attack, and his wife was left with these three little children. Everyone grieved for her, and we felt a terrible loss in losing Dr. Scholz. I remember the funeral. It was a long funeral procession out to Riverview Cemetery. There isn't a time I go out there that I don't go by his grave. That was a great respect and love that the students had for him, and I was one of his students.

Those students that went to school there before 1930 (I was 1926) are members of the Foster-Scholz Club. And I'm one of the members of the Foster-Scholz Club, which meets out there about four or five times a year for lunch. It is awfully nice to see the students, you know, of your childhood. So we always look forward to that. But that's what the Foster-Scholz Club is, it's...

RW: Students of Reed College?

JENSEN: Yes, it's alumni of Reed College. And then there's the different classes. But the Foster-Scholz Club is really something to belong to, because they're some of the early-timers.

RW: Are some of them [older?]?

JENSEN: I think there's a couple ladies there that are quite elderly, and they went there when Foster was president, but I was one of those that went to school when Scholz was president. It's a fine school, and, as I say, it's been patterned after one of the buildings either at Oxford or Cambridge and an Irish castle, but it doesn't have the [Laughs] corkscrew chimney.

RW: What did you and your mother do after your grandparents died?

JENSEN: My grandmother died, she was sick five days with pneumonia. She died in 1916. My grandfather died in 1918, down in Coronado, California. He and I went down there hoping that the climate would be better for him. One of my aunts lived down there. He died about a month later.

After my grandparents died, my mother and I sold our big home over there and moved into a small home over in Laurelhurst, between 39th and 41st on Ash. It was a two

bedroom house. That's where I spent my girlhood after my grandparents died. That was way back in 1918.³⁹ You know that's 60 years ago? 60 years ago!

Then, about nearly 50 years ago we bought a house a block over on [Southeast] 39th⁴⁰ and Ankeny on the northeast corner, and that's where I raised my boy. I had just one child, my son Frederic Charles Jensen Jr. He was in the industrial real estate business. My grandchildren, he and his wife lived there with me for several years. My three grandsons, who are now in their 20s, were raised there, and now I have two little great-granddaughters.⁴¹ I had lived over in Laurelhurst for 60 years until I sold my home a few months ago and moved into this lovely duplex over here on [Northeast] 46th and Halsey. It's on the southwest corner. I'm right on the bus line, two blocks from the store, and close to everything. I love it here.

My housekeeper for 20 years, Mildred Nelson, a lovely colored lady, who's a wonderful Christian, makes her home here with me. She has certain people that she works for during the week, and then she's away with friends over the weekend. It's wonderful to have somebody here that you have such high regard for and love for.

RW: So you go out still, to events, don't you.

JENSEN: Yes. I am past president of the Presidents Club; senior past president. 27 years ago I was president. Next month past presidents will be honored at the monthly luncheon of the Presidents Club. It is composed of hundred past presidents. It's one of the oldest clubs here. A person is voted in if there is a vacancy. And this will be at the King's Room, and this is the third year I have been senior past president. I never thought 25 years ago that one day I would be the oldest president. I mean the farthest back.

I'm a life member of the Portland Women's Forum, and that's always a wonderful affair to be honored twice each year as past Woman of the Year, both by the Forum and

³⁹ Although I do not recall her mentioning it, the record confirms this. An instrument recorded on 22 May 1918 (Book 757, page 97, Multnomah County) grants title to "N[ellie] Glutsch of Lot 18, Block 103 of Laurelhurst," which lot is indeed the site mentioned. Probably not long afterward, they moved down the street to a house at (then) 1203 SE Ash St.

⁴⁰ Now (2015) César Chávez Blvd.

⁴¹ As of 2015, three great-granddaughters and one great-grandson.

yesterday by the Chamber of Commerce, and the Forum when they announced the Woman of the Year for this year. And that's quite an affair. It's in the Mayfair room in the Benson.

RW: Who is the Woman of the Year for this year?

JENSEN: I've forgotten already. I did know it, and I forgot.

RW: I'll probably see it later in the paper.

JENSEN: Probably in tonight's paper. [Miles?] Mildred. But she has a very fine background and she's accomplished.

So, that is one of the big affairs of the year, the January meeting when they announce the Woman of the Year. I've been Woman of the Year for the original Portland Women's Forum, and also for the regular Portland Women's Forum. That's in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. I'm a member and past president of the Alaska-Yukon Society of Oregon. And, oh, several other things, too, that I have taken part in. I've always enjoyed doing things, constructively.

One of the things I received a lot of criticism for was taking part in that Peace Parade.⁴² Did you ever hear about that?

RW: I saw a newspaper clipping. That was all I saw.

JENSEN: Well, I'm a life member of the Oregon Roadside Council. I have been on their board for about 25 years. I had just come down from a meeting on the second floor of the Congress Hotel. I had seen all these people gathering outside, and I asked the bell captain what was going on. He says, "It's a protest march against the war in Vietnam, and also this terrible action of the Portland Police in beating up so many people up there at

⁴² See appendix.

Portland State,” because of a demonstration that a certain element had been causing up there. They camped in front of the Lincoln High School building and they wouldn’t move. And they tried to get them out and they couldn't.

Well, I had seen it on the television the night before in color. The bloodshed, oh, it was a terrible thing. They were just beat people up right and left with their clubs, even crippled people, people who were just curiosity lookers who didn't have any part in it. “Well,” I said, “You mean this is in protest of what happened yesterday up at Portland State?”

The bell captain said, “Yes.”

I said, “I want to take part in that.” I went up to these five young men. I went up to one of them and I said, “Is this a peace march?”

He said, “Yes, it is.” And, by the way, there were over 100 ministers in the parade of 5,000, that marched in that parade.

I said, “Can I march in this parade?”

“Oh, of course.”

I said, “May I take your arm?” (Mr. Arthur [Spencer] remembers this so well, because he thought that was wonderful, what I did.)

He said, “Yes, of course.” So, there was a man in the front there that played – he was a famous guitarist, and he played *We Shall Overcome*. They chanted that song as they went down 16th and then up Oak Street, and then up Broadway. They marched very slowly.

This young man was so very nice to me, and told me he was from Vietnam and what he had seen over there. If there was any way he could help to stop that holocaust, he was going to do it. I said, “I feel just like you do.”

At the end of the parade, I gave a little talk to all of these young people. They didn't know who I was. I remember I had on a turquoise knit suit from China, and a I had on a little turquoise hat. It was hard for me to walk very far, because I had this arthritis that was just coming on, not as bad as it was later. I'm getting over it now, gradually. But at the end of the...

[End of Tape 3, Side 1]

Tape 3, Side 2
1978 January 17

JENSEN: At the end of the parade, I gave a talk those young people. I said “Remember what your parents have taught you, to have great love and regard for the United States, and don't let any subversive element come in and turn your minds. Do your own thinking. You, yourself, will tell you what is right and what is wrong.” Oh, then they gave me a big hand, and several came over and kissed me.

One was a beautiful young girl, looked like Joe Bianco, whose the editor of the *Northwest Magazine* section of the *[Sunday] Oregonian*. And she said — there were tears streaming down her face. She said, “You don't know me, and I don't know you, but after what you said, just now, has been a great turning point in my life. After what I saw of those police tactics and of what happened up there in the Park Blocks,” she said, “I was ready to join the other side, but now nothing, ever, can turn me against my country.” There were tears coming down her face, and I thanked her. I never saw her again, but that is one of the touching things that I shall always remember.

This young man took me down to the bus stop on Fifth Street. And everybody disbanded, you know. He was so glad what I had done. I never saw him again either, but I learned that a couple of weeks after he was killed in a motorcycle accident.

That was an experience that I shall always remember, because some of the people I had known so well, especially in the [Portland Women's] Forum and the Presidents Club, looked down their noses at me, because — and said that I was a communist and I was a traitor to the country. Many letters came complimenting me what I had done, and many letters came saying that when the soldiers were working so hard to protect our country and our interests over there in Vietnam, that I should do a thing like that, should march at the head of a parade of protest, and that I should stand by them, the veterans and so forth. Well, that wasn't the idea at all. It was the police tactics that

were used up there and the needlessness for all of this war. It was something that I felt. It's a free country.⁴³

That made me very unhappy for weeks and weeks and weeks, because wherever I go people would say, "I see you marched in the parade," and, "What ever would make you do that?"⁴⁴

One distant relative, who is a prominent lawyer here,⁴⁵ had a – I was at their home, and they had a dinner party. He'd had a little too much to drink. He said, "I want to tell you something, Gertrude." He said, "There's something that has puzzled me. The Governor [Tom McCall] and I were just talking about it the other day. Here you are, the most prominent woman in the whole State of Oregon, and you've made a great name for yourself, and why you should ever do a thing like that, march in a parade with all that element and those kind of people?"

I told him just exactly what I thought and we had words. We had harsh words, and I went out to my car and I was going to leave. His wife came with tears in her eyes, and begged me not to leave. He came out and he apologized. And I have – but we're friends now. I said, "Tom, you and your friends wouldn't have the guts to do what I did, because you'd be afraid of losing face. But," I said, "I can't do anything different than what my conscience tells me."

Finally, it got so bad that I wrote a piece in the paper, a letter to the editor, quite a long letter, of why I marched. This was Hitler tactics they were using, and this was America. So, anyway, I received many nice letters in appreciation of my explanation. Even down in the First National Bank, a vice-president, whom I knew so well, came up to me in the bank one day and said, "Mrs. Jensen," he said, "Why did you ever do such a thing? Why did you ever do that?" And he said, "You had no business taking part in that."

I said, "I didn't?"

⁴³ I remember well the hate calls Gertrude received on the telephone during the week following that demonstration. They were from strangers as well as from acquaintances. She didn't discuss the content, but I recall that some were streams of vilification, while others simply hung up when she answered the telephone.

⁴⁴ I have been told by a member of Portland Women's Forum that Tom McCall (1913-1983), then Governor of Oregon, pointed at Gertrude in the chest and said, "You can't do that!"

⁴⁵ Tom White, cousin of Joan Jensen, Gertrude's daughter-in-law; Gertrude was an old friend of his mother.

He said, "No! You didn't!" He said, "You have gone down in the estimation of many, many thousands of people, because they've all admired what you've done and you spoiled it."

Well, to end this story, I went to the graduation exercises of Portland State. It was over at the Coliseum. Afterwards, I went to the reception for Mr. Art Buchwald, the national columnist. It got around that I was there. You see, this whole thing was up there at Portland State.

This fine-looking man came over to me and he says, "Are you Mrs. Jensen?" I said yes. He said, "I heard you were here." He says, "I want to shake your hand." He was the president of Portland State. He said, "You don't know what you have done for us, for the morale of the whole school. To think somebody of your prominence would march at the head of a parade and protest what was going on." He put his arms around me and he kissed me. He introduced me to this national columnist, Art Buchwald. He said, "This is the woman that I was telling you about, who went right to bat for the cause against this element that has been trying to cause so much trouble." And he says, "You don't know what she has done to bring around serenity at the school again, and bring it to a normal way."

So, what did Mr. Buchwald do? He put his arms around me, and he kissed me too.

RW: Oh, did he? [Laughs]

JENSEN: So I got bussed twice. If I had to do it over again, I'd do it a dozen times. You ask Arthur Spencer about it. He remembers it so.

RW: Yeah, we've talked about it.

JENSEN: You did?

RW: I was out of the state, when that was coming about. And he told me all about it. About the demonstrations and the police. Another one that participated in those demonstrations, Julia Ruuttila. You don't know her. She was involved in those demonstrations as well. She was about 50 or 55 – no, maybe about 60. And she was hurt during those demonstrations, and so she told me something about them, too. No one has been [Inaudible] about them.

JENSEN: Well, the next day I went up there. I thought, well, I had better take a look around and see what's going on up there. All I'd seen was in the newspapers. I went up there where all these fellows were camped and all kinds of ways of living. On all the streets were a bunch of papers tacked on the trees. I looked around. Every place I looked, why, these fellows looked the other way. So I said to one of them, "You don't know me." I said, "I was in the parade yesterday. The protest."

He says, "We all know who you are." Oh, and he looked so mean. That was the element that was causing all the trouble. Well, my point was that they should've been thrown in jail, that's what the police department is [for], if they were causing a disturbance up there, but the police couldn't get anything out of them. They were just squatting up there and causing all of this trouble and distributing their literature.

I took some of their literature home. I says, "Can I take some of this literature?"

They barely looked at me, said, "Yes, go ahead. Help yourself." But it was just as cold. I thought it was kind of queer, but you see, they didn't like it.

I heard afterwards that all of this stuff, these strikes and all of this terrible trouble is caused by these people down in Oakland that had an upper room there, and all the plans are made in that room toward these demonstrations. That was why I was so criticized. People thought that maybe I was part of that. I'm not.

RW: Where did you hear about the group being from Oakland?

JENSEN: Oh, it was a very dear friend of mine who called, who was assistant state highway engineer, and he had charge of building the freeway out through the Columbia Gorge. And he called me up, and I was so glad to see him. His name was Al Johnson. We were good friends, he and his wife. Their house is out in the [Inaudible]. I said, "Al, how are you?"

He says, "I've got something to talk to you about." He gave me holy hell for marching in that parade. He says, "Don't you know you were just being used?" He told me about that's where this thing all started from and all of these different demonstrations are planned right there in Oakland, in this upper room.

Well, coming from Al Johnson, who's an official of the State, I knew there must be something to it, and I said, "But I wasn't used, Al. I went into that on my own free will," I said, "In protest to what was done up there in the Park Blocks."

He said, "Well, they should've wiped that whole bunch out."

I said, "That's my point. They should have taken those fellows and put them in jail, but they hadn't done anything that they could be put in jail for." They were just sitting there and refused to move. But, oh, so many innocent people got hurt in that thing.

There's a lot of things in that envelope that...

RW: Peace parade. Church and government. Looks like we got everything.

JENSEN: I wanted to tell you that during my writing career, that I've interviewed some famous people. I've interviewed one billionaire, Axel Wenner-Gren, who was a munition magnate from Norway or Sweden.⁴⁶ I met him over in Hawaii at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. That is a story in itself. He and his wife, she was a Kansas City opera singer. They were in the parlors there. I was playing *Perfect Day* and some different pieces. She came over to me and she asked me if I could play a certain song, and I told her I could. I don't know if it was *Home, Sweet Home* or what. She sang, oh, the most beautiful voice. We became acquainted.

⁴⁶ He was from Sweden, 1881-1960; owner of Electrolux, friend of Herman Goering and Nazi sympathizer.

I had my car over there, I had my mother and there we stayed six months. I was doing feature writing for the *Oregonian*. I asked them their name. They didn't give me their true name, but I didn't know that. I asked them if they wouldn't like to come over to our apartment and have some coffee and cake. They looked at each other and said, "Why, we'd love to." I took them for a ride around Honolulu and we went to our apartment, there where the Reef Hotel now stands. It was the Edgewater Beach Apartments at that time. On the side of these apartments is where they built this Reef Hotel, right next to the Halekulani Hotel.

These people were so lovely and so nice. He was handsome, with white hair, this Axel Wenner-Gren. His wife was beautiful. They told me who they were. I didn't know who Axel Wenner-Gren was. She said she had married him when she was an opera singer in Kansas City. How it happened, when she was singing there, there were just my mother and myself and these two people in these parlors, there in the Royal Hawaiian. When she was singing her voice broke, and she cried and cried and cried. I didn't know what'd happened. Later on I found out they were banished from the United States, they couldn't live in the United States, because of his activities in munitions and so forth. He was one of the great men of the world moneywise and in what he did.⁴⁷

She wrote to me from their villa over in the Riviera in the south of France, and asked me if I would come over and visit them. We sort of kept in touch through the years. They could go to Mexico where they had a beautiful place, I guess. And then over in France they had this beautiful place, but we never met again. She died, and he died. That's the only billionaire that I interviewed.

I did interview Lon Chaney [Sr., 1883-1930], who made *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* [1923]. This wasn't this son; this was the father. It happened down in Hollywood. My mother and I were down there. He was making a picture, called *Mr. Wu* [1927]. It was about a Chinese madman. He had his eyes pinned back, you know, to look Chinese, and he had these gorgeous robes on. He was sitting in a director's chair there, resting, indifferent to anybody who was there. I went over to him and made myself known to him.

⁴⁷ Wenner-Gren invested in philanthropic causes as well.

I said, "And this is my mother, Mrs. Glutsch." I talked on my hands. Right away he brightened up and he began talking on his hands. I knew that his mother and father were deaf mutes, and that he had done so much for them. He was from Denver. We had a really nice visit.

The most cultured gentleman I think I ever met was Commander Sousa.⁴⁸ I interviewed him in the wings of the auditorium. Oh, he was elegant. You know, he had led the band here in the 1905 [Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition].

RW: That's what someone told me.

JENSEN: Yeah. This beautiful Chinese chair over here, this carved chair, was in the 1905 exhibit; it was part of the Chinese exhibit. After the fair was over, the things were sold to be given to some worthy charitable cause.

That big painting in back of me with the gold-leaf trim, that huge painting? That was from the 1905 [Lewis and Clark Centennial] Exposition art exhibit. That was painted by Mulvany, who made that famous painting of Custer's last stand. Here I am, just as cozy as a bug in a rug, because I am surrounded by things that have meant so much to me and to my family through the years.

One of the great influences on my life and writing was Fred Lockley [1871-1958] of the [*Oregon*] *Journal*.⁴⁹ He interviewed over 10,000 people. When I joined the First Presbyterian Church,⁵⁰ it was [broadcast] over the radio. When I got home from church, in the door was a little bible. Not a little bible, but a nice bible; oh, about four by six. It was from his mother. She had sent it to him when he was a war correspondent in France. With this bible was a beautiful dahlia. He was so pleased to know that I had joined the Presbyterian Church that he left that at my door. So, when I got back from church, I found these two gifts. This beautiful flower. That's something. It's one of the things that you remember, you know? He was a great friend.

⁴⁸ John Philip Sousa, American composer, 1854-1932.

⁴⁹ Newspaper 1902-1982.

⁵⁰ This is probably now (2015) Old Laurelhurst Church, at 3212 SE Ankeny St., near to where Gertrude lived; at that time it was Presbyterian, and active in community affairs.

I've met many, many interesting people. One of them was Captain Troup.⁵¹ He was a famous captain here. I interviewed him for a feature story. It was a rather unlikely feature story, too. He later became head of the Canadian Pacific over in Victoria. He and another man were the ones who had the idea of filling in all of this swampland where the Empress Hotel is. That was all a big swamp. There was a wooden bridge across there to get across. That was all filled in as a big dump for the refuse of the city. Then they put these pilings down a long, long ways and that building is built on pilings in that swamp. Not many people know that, but there was a...

RW: Was this a lake?

JENSEN: It was a swamp. It was a swamp with this inlet. You know, you've been to Victoria? You know where the Empress Hotel is? Well, that was all a big swamp there and that was all a great big fill, for years and years and years. And then this hotel was built there on these pilings.

I've written a lot of Alaska stories. I interviewed "Uncle" Al Eckelman, who was the first president of the International Sourdough reunions. And Klondike Kate was one of my very dearest friends. Everybody loved her up there. She had these beautiful violet blue eyes and twinkling toes. She was a dancer, and did these dances with veils that were on sticks, waving them around like a butterfly, all these different colors. She was a wonderful, wonderful friend. She lived up in Bend, and then later over in Sweet Home.

I was up to her funeral up in Salem. Then nobody would claim her ashes. Her husband at that time, a wonderful person, was going to do it. He went over to see his son in Everett [Washington]. While he was over there, he died. So her ashes were up there in the mortuary in Salem for about two years. I went up there with a very dear friend, Lillian Chesnut, to see if they would release the ashes to me so that they could be spread over the high desert, which was her wish. They said, "Yes, you can, but you'll have to sign this release, so if there's any lawsuit against us, the lawsuit will be referred to you, unless you

⁵¹ Captain James William Troup, born 1855 in Portland, died 1931.

want to wait the full five years.” So we didn't do it. I didn't wish to sign that, because I didn't know if this step-son, what trouble he might cause me. I decided to wait the five years.

There's a Unitarian minister up in Salem who was going out in the desert. He was the State Archivist. What's his name? Duniway, Dave Duniway.⁵² And he was going out on the desert. He's also a Unitarian Mister. He was a friend of this man who had the mortuary. Very quietly he took the ashes with him, and they were scattered on the high desert. That's what became of Klondike Kate's ashes.

RW: What an interesting story.

JENSEN: I've had a wonderful life. I met many wonderful people. I have interviewed many wonderful people. And, really, life has been awfully good to me. I've been blessed with a fine son, Frederic Charles Jensen [Jr.], and his sons, John, David, and Keffer and two beautiful great-grandchildren.⁵³ So I really have been blessed, and this was a wonderful Christmas because we were all together.

RW: That's great.

[End of Tape 3, Side 2]

[End of Interview]

⁵² David C. Duniway, 1912-1993.

⁵³ Seven great-grandchildren in 2015.

Appendix

Portland Monthly (Martin Patail), April 20 2010 May 1970:

Angered by the Ohio National Guard's killing of four student protesters at Kent State University (May 04 1970), Portland State students barricade the South Park Blocks and stage a massive weeklong antiwar demonstration. City Commissioner Frank Ivancie sends in a 125-man tactical police squad that storms a first aid tent and sends 28 students to the hospital. As one student recalls, "I looked up in time to see a cop come right down on me with a club, with a big grin on his face." Mayor Terry Schrunk regrets the violence but remains firm: "I hoped it would never come to this."

A day after the clash on the South Park Blocks, a crowd of more than 4,000 marches on City Hall, led not by a long-haired radical, but by civic leader Gertrude Glutsch Jensen. They demand to see Mayor Schrunk. He declines. But 2,800 miles away in Washington, D.C., Oregon Republican Senator Mark Hatfield hears the roar and adds to it by sending out 35,000 letters (under his free mailing privilege) signed by him and four other senators calling for a Senate amendment to cut off all funding for the war.