

# Helen F. Althaus

SR 1252, Oral History, by Mary Ellen Farr  
United States District Court Oral History Project

1999 March 13 - 2000 February 19

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THE OREGON  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
FOUNDED 1898

ALTHAUS: Helen F. Althaus

MF: Mary Ellen Farr

Transcribed by: Barbara Jo Ivey, 2005

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## Tape 1, Side 1

1999 March 13

MF: It is March 13 at 3:05. Now you want to say your full name and the date and place of your birth please.

ALTHAUS: Helen Florence Althaus, March 26, 1910, Bluffton, Ohio.

MF: You were born in Ohio? I thought you were born here.

ALTHAUS: No, just my – is it alright?

MF: [Yes].

ALTHAUS: Okay. Yes, my grandfather on my mother's side was born in Oregon in 1853. My mother was born in Colorado in 1883. I was born in Ohio. The family seemed to be a bit peripatetic.

MF: Okay. When did you come to Oregon?

ALTHAUS: In 1911.

MF: So just a year after you were born.

ALTHAUS: [Yes], between 1911 and 1912.

MF: Okay. We were actually talking a little while ago about your family and your family background, and I think if we could get through that today we would have done a very great amount of work.

I'm going to move, I think I've got my microphone too close to my tape recorder and I think I'm getting some feedback, so I'm going to move the tape recorder over here.

ALTHAUS: It's all like magic to me.

MF: [Laughs] You know it may not be magic that works, quite frankly, but it seems to be okay. I don't want to get that little whistling I was getting. So I thought we'd maybe just for a little while today talk about your family. Which, actually, you seem to know about your family history, more than a lot of people I know. Have you spent a lot of time studying your family history?

ALTHAUS: Well, lately. Since I've moved to Ashland I've gotten sort of interested. There were some things in my family history that I was always interested in, but these two, the genealogies of the Foote family and the Bigelow family that go back to New England in the 1600s. When I was young I didn't think they meant very much. I thought what difference does it make? You are you, what's this matter about. But I've gotten more interested.

MF: When did you move to Ashland?

ALTHAUS: 1985, and I uncovered something. Of course they always had the genealogies, but I uncovered this old scrapbook that has some interesting information. If I hadn't moved I probably wouldn't have.

MF: You wouldn't have found it?

ALTHAUS: No. [Laughs] It was buried somewhere but...

MF: I think you said your family was from Wales?

ALTHAUS: Well, the Williams.

MF: The Williams. Okay.

ALTHAUS: They were from Wales and in about the 1700s migrated to New Jersey. From there, and this was before the Revolution, some of them went to Pennsylvania. That was about the time of the Yankee-Pennamite Wars, which were some kind of remote wars, but really the Canadians, the British, and the Indians were coming down to the – this was near Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and my great-grandfather had recollections of that when he was a boy and how the men were hiding in the hills, and his mother or grandmother, I think it was the Susquehanna River, anyway, he swam it on a horse to take provisions to them because the Indians and the British were about to kill the men.

MF: How old was he? Your great-grandfather, now who was this?

ALTHAUS: Elijah Williams.

MF: Did you know him?

ALTHAUS: No.

MF: So he told somebody the story who told you?

ALTHAUS: He wrote it for my grandfather when he was quite elderly. As my grandfather said, "Do write something about yourself," so he wrote something, said he was going to write more, but he didn't write anymore. But he wrote about six pages of recollections.

MF: And then you have those?

ALTHAUS: Yes. I have those. I keep it in my safety deposit box.

MF: Probably very wise. And Elijah Williams was a lawyer.

ALTHAUS: Yes, he was a lawyer.

MF: And where was he a lawyer?

ALTHAUS: In Ohio, where he went. He was a widower and then he married my great-grandmother in Ohio. Her people had come from Vermont in the early 1600s, two branches of her family.

MF: Are these the Bigelows and the Footes?

ALTHAUS: Bigelows and the Footes. They had come from England and arrived sometimes in the 1600s. Not the Mayflower but...

MF: Well I was looking...

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: The books are very early.

ALTHAUS: Her branch had gone from Connecticut – Massachusetts to Connecticut and then to Vermont, and then some of them went further west to Ohio. Findlay, Ohio, in northern Ohio.

MF: Is that when she met Elijah?

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: What was her name?

ALTHAUS: Her name was Lucia Lorain Bigelow Williams.

MF: And then she came with Elijah to Oregon?

ALTHAUS: Yes. Elijah to...

MF: You wanted to read...

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: Your great-grandfather Elijah's resolution or resolution about him that you found in this amazing book. What is this book?

ALTHAUS: It is just a scrapbook and clippings - newspaper clippings. Sometimes they're handwritten. Those are usually poetry. I don't know who, but it is a book about – they're

pasted over the pages. I can't figure out what they are. A specific source of revenue. Anyway, recapitulation of collections, manufacturers and productions, amount collected. It says Maine, New Hampshire, and goes clear down to Washington.

MF: It's like tax tables or something.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, but most of them are covered up - but didn't finish - that show what the original book was.

MF: Oh, I see. It's a book that was a book of something, and they just took it and used the paper to put scrapbook paste-up in.

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: Oh, that is interesting. I hadn't picked that up.

ALTHAUS: Well, you remarked a while ago that they were short of paper. I think that maybe that was...

MF: A way of reusing.

ALTHAUS: Or else it was very expensive or something.

MF: [Yes.] It's a nice book.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. Now the resolution, "Meeting of the Findlay Bar. At a meeting of the members of the bar of Findlay, Ohio, held at this office of Messrs. [James M.] Coffinberry and [John E.] Rosette on the evening of the twelfth instant. Pursuant to previous notice, Charles W. O'Neal was chosen chairman and Henry Brown, secretary. The object of the

meeting, having been briefly stated by J.M. Coffinberry, [Abel] F. Parker moved the appointment of a committee to draft resolutions expressive of the object and sense of the meeting whereupon the chairman appointed A.F. Parker, J.M. Coffinberry, and [Machias] C.W. Whiteley said committee. The committee upon resolutions offered the following preamble and resolutions, all of which were unanimously and harmoniously adopted.”  
[Both Laugh]

MF: Harmoniously. [Both laugh]

ALTHAUS: Isn't that lovely.

“Whereas we have learned with regret that our esteemed brother, friend, and fellow citizen, Elijah Williams, Esquire, has determined to emigrate to Oregon, therefore resolved that during an intimate acquaintance of eight years last past with Elijah Williams, Esquire, we have ever found him an efficient, honorable, high-minded, courteous, and responsible member of the legal profession. A public-spirited and exemplary citizen, a reliable and faithful friend. Resolved, that we regret the determination he has formed to leave this country, thereby depriving us in our professional character of the council and example of an upright lawyer and society of a good citizen, a kind neighbor, and a generous friend. Resolved, that we recommend Elijah Williams, Esquire, to the confidence and respect of the brethren of the Bar wherever destiny or his own choice may cast his lot.”

And there follows a resolution of similar about, “Whereas we're informed that our young friend and professional brother, Thomas McF. Patton, Esquire, purpose soon to emigrate to Oregon territory and having intimately known him...” And it follows in the same fashion.

MF: And what was the date on that?

ALTHAUS: Well, it's got to be – they started for Oregon in May of 1851.

MF: 1851?

ALTHAUS: Yes. So this had to be sometime...

MF: Before that.

ALTHAUS: Before that, yeah. [Laughs] Then, after the passage of these resolutions, “Mr. Williams responded to them and the remarks accompanying them in a pertinent and feeling speech of 15 minutes reciting something of his own history, the endearing relations which had ever subsisted between the members of the Bar and himself, and the deep regret, which he now felt in anticipation of parting with them and the strong probability that the proposed parting would be the last upon earth with some of them. During these remarks Mr. W’s voice was choked with the emotions, which he could not suppress. Mr. Whiteley responded to a call of the meeting and in a short speech of deep feeling and touching pathos, said that he was glad that he could not express the feelings which animated his heart upon this occasion, spoke of the good feelings and gentlemanly deportment of the Findlay Bar, one toward another.” And so forth is the symbol right after that.

MF: Do you know why he left Ohio to come to Oregon?

ALTHAUS: I think just wanderlust. Now wait a minute, I just saw a meeting in a – well this is kind of delightful.

“A.F. Parker answered to a call of the meeting in an elegant and instructive speech reciting many instances of the harmony and good feeling prevailing at the Bar of Findlay and especially noticing the friendly relations which had always existed between himself and Mr. Williams.

“Edson Goit, being called upon, addressed the meeting in a speech of half an hour in which he spoke of the dignity, usefulness, and integrity of the profession, exhorted the



younger members to live with an eye single to their legitimate business as Lawyers.” Lawyers is capitalized. “Spoke of the endearing and gentlemanly intercourse of the brethren with each other when not excited to anger by competition and by that interest which they ought to feel for their clients.

“Mr. O’Neal, the chairman, responded to a call in an able and interesting speech in which he commented upon the duty of Lawyers—” (capitalized) “—to their clients, to community and to each other, congratulated the meeting upon the harmony and good feelings subsisting at the Findlay Bar, deplored seeming necessity which sometimes exists for bitter retort and angry competition - [Laughs] -and angry contention, but rejoiced that instances of this kind were being less frequent and that the feeling is always discarded as soon as the legal battle has been fought.

“Messrs. Brown, Rosette and Gribben. Each addressed the meeting in a speech evincing much feeling, regretted the circumstances, which were about to deprive the Findlay Bar of the examples, talents and society of Messers. Williams and Patton, expressed a cordial friendship for them and strong faith in their future usefulness and happiness in the new and growing territory, to which they intend to journey.

“A.F. Parker, Esquire, moved that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Findlay papers, which most of us unanimously carried. On motion, M.C. Whiteley, Esquire, the meeting adjourned. C.W. O’Neal, Chairman, H. Brown, Secretary.”

MF: Can you imagine such a thing being written about the meeting of the present bar?  
[ALTHAUS laughs] The harmonious and...

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah.

MF: It’s really amazing.

ALTHAUS: It really is. Now what’s pasted on the next page in the scrapbook is a social thing, which is interesting because my great-grandmother is mentioned. It’s also about two

others emigrating to Oregon, Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Apparently Smith was not a lawyer because he wasn't at that meeting. I think he was a very successful businessman.

Now, Mrs. Smith – dropping down to her after the praise of Mr. Smith—“She possesses a cultivated mind and a kind and benevolent heart. Mr. Smith and Lady will adorn the best society, and in their absence Findlay meets with a loss not easily regained. The business transactions of Mr. Smith will be finished by Messrs. B. Herd [Hurd?] and W.K. Pray. All persons with whom he has unfinished business can arrange it with them. Mr. Smith, E. Williams and Lady, and Thomas McF. Patton, will meet at Council Bluffs and pursue their journey together.

“In speaking of the worthy character of Mrs. Smith we would do our own feelings injustice were we not to speak also of Mrs. Williams. She stands preeminently high in the estimation of all who know her. We shall do injustice to no one when we say that she possesses a highly cultivated mind and has not an intellectual superior in this place. If these additions to Oregon are samples of her citizens we may soon expect to hear that Oregon is unexampled in all that pertains to the progress of a highly cultivated and enlightened people. We wish them success and unbounded prosperity in all things except their political principles or prejudices. They are too whiggish for Democratic atmosphere.” Whigs, you know.

MF: Yeah. How amazing.

ALTHAUS: The Whigs. [Laughs] Isn't it extraordinary?

MF: It is extraordinary, just sort of dropped in there. [Both laugh]

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: Is this from the newspaper?

ALTHAUS: That's from the newspaper because you know it does say here that "published in the Findlay papers." So Findlay, I don't know its size now but it's not a – I've been there but...

MF: Where is it?

ALTHAUS: Northern Ohio. I can't think of the county.

MF: North of Cleveland? I mean around the lake.

ALTHAUS: Oh, I'd have to look at a map.

MF: Very interesting. Do you know what the politics of your great-grandfather were?

ALTHAUS: Oh, well I guess at that time they were Whigs. They were very much for abolition of slavery, and so then they were Republicans, voting for Lincoln. But I think in 185-?. See the Republican Party was just formed when Lincoln was nominated wasn't it?

MF: I don't know.

ALTHAUS: See this was the decade before the Civil War.

MF: This is the 1850s.

ALTHAUS: I think Lincoln was nominated in about 1859. But it's interesting also in this one on the political comment, extraordinary one which ends it. "They are too whiggish." Whiggish is with a lower case, "for," capitalized "Democratic, atmosphere."

MF: This is odd. Okay, so what were they in Ohio? Apparently they were, oh, they were Whigs. They were "too whiggish."

ALTHAUS: Those were the – "too whiggish."

MF: Oh, I see.

ALTHAUS: In little case. [Laughs]

MF: How funny. How about Lucia Lorain?

ALTHAUS: Well, I'm sure she was whiggish too.

MF: Because you said she was very much involved in abolition.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes.

MF: Did I understand that right?

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: When she came to Oregon?

ALTHAUS: Yes. That's right.

MF: Is she the one that was involved in the church?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. Now the first thing she did, because they arrived in September of 1851, in 1852 she and three others were the four founders of the Congregational Church in Salem, Oregon.

MF: So they were Congregationalists back there?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. That was a New England denomination, and her father was the, what do you call it, pastor, minister, the Reverend Henry Bigelow of the Congregational Church in Middletown. I've been back to Middletown Springs, not Middletown. There is a Middlebury, there are all these names, but this was Middletown Springs, very tiny town with huge Victorian houses...

MF: In?

ALTHAUS: In Vermont.

And a town square and a monument to the Union soldiers lost in the War Between the States, the Civil War.

MF: I'm trying to remember Ohio, what Ohio's position was in that. I mean, it is North.

ALTHAUS: It was a border state.

MF: It was a border state?

ALTHAUS: In a way it was but I think it probably – well, that first election of Lincoln's there were the Democrats, were a bit divided, weren't they?

MF: I'm trying to remember.

ALTHAUS: The Northern Democrats, I don't think they were for the abolition of slavery, but they were for keeping the Union. And then the Southern Democrats there were – I'd have to look it up.

MF: Me too. [Both laugh]

ALTHAUS: Yeah. But there was a lot of turmoil at that time, but it isn't mentioned in this resolution at all as if it were an issue. But the other interesting thing, and that genealogy...

MF: The Bigelow or the Foote?

ALTHAUS: Foote. A Bigelow because they intermarried, but since I moved to Ashland, the Bigelows were publishing a new genealogy and two volumes, very expensive. But I gave them information from the old Foote genealogy that they put in their new one.

Now this one is about, the Reverend Henry Bigelow married Margaret Foote and there's – no, I'm sorry. I have a hard time reading these genealogies. Margaret Foote married a Bigelow, Azariah Bigelow in Colchester, Connecticut. He was born in 1741.

They had several children and the fifth one he listed here was the Reverend Henry Bigelow of Middletown, Vermont. It was really Middletown Springs. We had quite a hard time finding it, but we found it. And they had a town history printed and it didn't go right up to the present but it had all about Henry Bigelow.

That's where – remember the story I told you about the Reverend Henry Bigelow? It said that he was such a good minister that when he was in the pulpit you thought he should never come out. But when he was out of the pulpit you thought he should never go in. [MF laughs] But he saw that his daughters, he taught them himself, had as much education as his sons.

Anyway, Reverend Henry Bigelow, who was Lucia Lorain's father, took the degree of Bachelor of Arts at Yale College in 1802. And the degree of Master of Arts in 1805. Middlebury College granted him an honorary degree of Master of Arts in 1811. Then he

studied theology with Dr. Charles Backus of Somers, Connecticut. Became pastor of the Congregational Church in Middletown, Vermont, in September 1805 where he remained until his death, June 25, 1832, in the 55th year of his age, a man loved and respected by all. In 1803 he married Abigail Clark, a niece by marriage of his theological instructor and whose family she had lived for many years.

MF: Now, this was Lucia's father?

ALTHAUS: Henry. Reverend Henry.

MF: And he died in 1832?

ALTHAUS: [Yes.]

MF: He must have died when she was quite young.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, because he was only 55, you see.

Now, the most interesting part to me is this about – oh I'm sorry. There's all these marriages. Even about Helen Paul, who married "Emmett Bigelow Williams, Portland, Oregon, where she died February 20, 1899. Children - Lenore Lorain Williams was graduated at Leland Stanford University (that's my mother) with an A.B. degree in 1905."

MF: What was your mother's name?

ALTHAUS: Lenore Lorain. So that is my own immediate genealogy.

MF: So she was Lenore Lorain Bigelow.

ALTHAUS: No, Williams.

MF: [Laughs] Oh, I'm sorry.

ALTHAUS: Elijah married...

MF: Lucia Lorain Bigelow Williams.

ALTHAUS: Yes. Right.

MF: Okay. Got it.

ALTHAUS: Okay, is that alright?

MF: Yes, got it. [Both laugh]

ALTHAUS: Okay. This is so hard. Now...

MF: And where was Lenore Lorain born? In Portland?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. No, Colorado.

MF: Oh, she was born in Colorado, okay.

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: Do you know how she ended up being born in Colorado?

ALTHAUS: Yes, I do. It's a story, sort of. My grandfather, Emmett Bigelow Williams, fought all his life against asthma. They didn't have too much in the way of – however, with



the kind of asthma he had, he was best at a high altitude. So he loved Colorado. When he was first married, they went to Colorado and lived a year or so, and she was born in Denver. In fact we even practically located the house. We knew the address. She was born at home.

Then they went further along the Rockies. I can't think of the name of the town, but he was a great horseman, loved to ride horseback, and there were other young men his age. And this place, I think Pueblo, Colorado? I think there is but it was not as metropolitan a place as Denver. And they lived there for some months. And he would go out riding with these young friends and finally a couple of them came to my grandmother and said, "Mrs. Williams, we're really worried because, you know, Emmett takes the little baby—" (And she was not more than two years old when they went back to Oregon, so she was pretty young.) "—on the horse with him. She stands up on the pommel of the saddle and waves her arms and we're afraid..." [Laughs]

MF: That's your mother?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. [Laughs] "Afraid something might happen." But nothing did, and I don't know if he kept — anyway she, all her life, she loved horses and was a very good horsewoman herself.

MF: So she was the daughter of, Lenore Lorain was the daughter of...

ALTHAUS: Emmett Bigelow.

MF: Emmett and...

ALTHAUS: Helen Paul. Helen Paul Williams. Actually my family has a habit of naming children out of books, but Helen Paul, whom I was named for, her name was Helen because the Pauls were Scot. Paul is a Scotch name. You can't find any book about clans and so forth, but you find that Paul was a sept of the Cameron clan. When they came to

this country, the Pauls, I don't know. I always wanted to find more about them because they were the most romantic of my ancestors, I thought.

MF: Why romantic?

ALTHAUS: Well, because of the connection with the Scot and Scotland. Of course, I love bagpipes. And the connection with the wars with England and the fact that she was named Helen, for the daughter of the Earl of Mar, Helen Mar. And they were allies of William Wallace and all the others, and Robert the Bruce, which have lately come to Hollywood fame. The Oscar-winning picture, *Braveheart*, William Wallace. There was a novel written by Jane Porter, called *Scottish Chiefs*, which goes over all these things, which I read as a child. And then, of course, Helen Mar. I was named for Helen.

MF: We skipped over. We went right from Elijah to your mother.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah.

MF: Which is how I got confused.

ALTHAUS: Oh, now we must...

MF: Now you told me that your great-grandfather Elijah, although he was a lawyer in Ohio, did not practice law when he came to Oregon.

ALTHAUS: I can't find any evidence, though he had two lawyer sons.

MF: So his two sons, and that's Emmett Bigelow Williams and Richard Williams?

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: Were both lawyers here in Oregon. And Emmett also, you said, practiced law in Virginia?

ALTHAUS: Well, he went there as a young man, and it was right after the Civil War. I think he was quite adventurous, and that's probably the trip when he found out he was best in Colorado. But, anyway, he did go to Virginia and lived there, probably a couple of years, was admitted to the Virginia bar and which I have printed evidence of in the scrapbook.

MF: Do you know where they studied law? Emmett and Richard?

ALTHAUS: Well, yeah. Now, I do believe that my grandfather went to Willamette University but I don't even – because they're right there in Salem. But his really serious study of law was reading law with Judge [Andrew J.] Thayer, who was an Oregon Supreme Court Justice, but I think he was living at that time in Corvallis. Where Richard got the law I'm not sure, but he was older. He was 12 years older.

MF: Richard was?

ALTHAUS: Yeah, and they were very close. It was a very close family.

MF: You said that one or the other of them was a great trial lawyer. You heard he was a real trial lawyer.

ALTHAUS: Richard. Yeah.

MF: And he was also a congressman.

ALTHAUS: Yes, and we'll have to check in the Blue Book to find out when it was. Yeah, but it was one term. He didn't run again. There was only one congressman for Oregon at that time and they had to stump the whole state with their horse-drawn vehicles [Laughs] or riding horseback.

MF: Do you know who he ran against?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. Timothy Davenport, who was the brother of the famous author in cartoons, Homer Davenport, one of the most famous citizens of Oregon. There have been biographies written about him, but he came from Silverton, Oregon, which is near Salem. He wrote some books. One is called *The Country Boy*, about his growing up in Silverton. It's a very funny, clever book. He also, Homer Davenport, wrote a book called *[My] Quest of the [Arabian] Horse*, which is out of print now, but I had one, read it from the library copy in Portland. Very interesting because he was very fond of horses. He went to Arabia, and he became a blood brother of a tribe there, you know, where they took a drop of blood from, somehow, some ceremony they have. And he brought one of the first full-blood Arabian mares to the United States. And at the Lewis and Clark Exposition of 1905 he had that horse there in Portland.

MF: Homer Davenport?

ALTHAUS: This is Homer Davenport. Now whether Timothy was his brother or his father, I don't know, but I think it was probably his brother who was the political one.

MF: You also said Richard was on the school board.

ALTHAUS: He was on the Portland School Board for 12 years. That was the thing he was proudest of.

MF: Did they practice law in Portland or in Salem?

ALTHAUS: In Portland. Always in Portland, right on the...

MF: First and Stark.

ALTHAUS: First and Stark.

MF: Yeah, you actually have some letterhead, which is amazing.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, that was before...

MF: Richard Williams and...

ALTHAUS: My grandfather, yeah. Williams and Williams.

But they were very close, and I heard my grandfather say there was nothing like practicing with his brother. He could really – by the way, since we're talking about lawyers, that chair in back of you. That leather chair was a gift to my grandfather. Someone they called Judge [Charles H.] Carey, whom I think is the founder of Carey Hart [Carey & Kerr; Carey, Hart, Spencer & McCulloch] which now is Stoel Rives, isn't it.

MF: Oh, really.

ALTHAUS: Carey Hart. Then it was Hart's. It was one of the old Portland firms. Why he gave him that chair – but I noticed the style and now I see them on television all the time.

[Laughs]

MF: Kind of a typical side chair.

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: Yeah. Okay. I think we're coming to the end of the tape.

ALTHAUS: Oh. Oh, dear. I talked too much.

MF: No, no. I'm going to stop it before it gets into the...

**[End of Tape 1, Side 1]**

**Tape 1, Side 2**  
**1999 March 14**

MF: Okay, let me check the...

ALTHAUS: I don't know where I was, but we got diverted to the Scotch branch.

MF: Yes. Let me put the date on first. This is March 14 at 10:50 a.m. I'm here, Mary Ellen Farr, with Helen Althaus.

Okay. Go ahead. You said you got diverted, so let's go back, if you would.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, in talking about Lucia Lorain Bigelow Williams I was diverted to the Scotch branch, but I did want to mention her brother. And I'm reading from the genealogy. Her brother stayed in Ohio. His name was Phillip Doddridge Bigelow. And he moved to Findlay, Ohio, on July 4, 1841. Of course, originally he had come from Vermont to another county in Ohio.

MF: Where did he go to Ohio from?

ALTHAUS: Vermont. He was her brother.

MF: Oh, right. Okay.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. And the entry in the Foote genealogy, about Phillip Doddridge Bigelow, states "He was a merchant" – oh, wait a minute, that's one - I missed it. I'm sorry. First it says, "He was a major in the Ohio Militia in 1839 and was a link in the Underground Railway. He was a merchant in the early 1840s and later resided on Bigelow Hill where he died August 18, 1868."

MF: That's actually a big theme in your family, isn't it? Sort of...

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: Race relations.

ALTHAUS: Yes, it is. That's right. That was her brother in Ohio and out here in Oregon, I may have mentioned before, but she and her family arrived in 1851. In 1852 she was one of the four founders of the Congregational Church in Salem, Oregon. In 18...

MF: There's a piece of paper there.

ALTHAUS: [Yes.] You can keep this.

MF: Oh, okay.

ALTHAUS: "In January 1861, three free blacks applied for church membership. By vote of the congregation their applications were accepted. For many years, this biracial situation brought the church very serious problems, ridicule in the local newspaper calling it the Nigger church. Financial difficulty and fundraising, decrease in membership and attendance, and popular and editorial criticism of what were deemed political sermons given by an idealistic young minister, Obed Dickinson, advocating equality of the races and other unpopular topics."

Well, now I think I put that put that in before, didn't I?

MF: You told me about it.

ALTHAUS: Oh, did I? Well, then I better go on. "She was an outgoing, generous woman, admired by many. When she left Findlay, Ohio, the local newspaper printed an article which described the several local people emigrating to Oregon. Of Lucia Lorain, it states, "She



stands permanently high in the estimation of all who know her. She possesses a highly cultivated mind and has no intellectual superior in this place.” I don’t know how much else to put in here.

MF: You’re reading from an article that you wrote in the ACLU...

ALTHAUS: It was when I accepted an ACLU award, and I dedicated it to my great-grandmother.

MF: Why was that?

ALTHAUS: Well, it just seemed appropriate because she was, long before ACLU was ever formed, she was sort of promoting their causes of civil rights, civil liberties for all. So then, after the meeting, the editor of a little French Ashland newspaper, Peace House, given by the organization Peace House, which has been going in Ashland for quite a while. When I moved here 13 years ago, Peace House had managed to have the citizens of Ashland vote that Ashland is a non-nuclear zone. No nuclear weapons can be manufactured here or are welcomed here. [Laughs]

MF: Is that still the case?

ALTHAUS: Well, it’s never been repealed.

MF: Has it ever been challenged?

ALTHAUS: I don’t think so.

MF: What was the award for? It was the Jackson County ACLU.

ALTHAUS: Well, “Jackson County Annual Awards Dinner presented to Helen Althaus for her” it says here, “her whole life to service in the struggles for civil rights in Oregon.” This was the Ashland Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, but the state organization sent down one of their people to present the award and this was...

MF: 1997 it looks like.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, it was 1997. There were many people from Medford and around the area, and many people came that didn't belong to the American Civil Liberties Union, my friends among the women lawyers in Jackson County and others.

MF: Have you been a member of the ACLU for a long time?

ALTHAUS: Well, yes. In Portland, when the first Portland Chapter was organized, I can't remember the year, but it was after 1953 because Paul [R.] Meyer, a lawyer in Portland, was an associate at King Miller at that time, and so was I, and he was instrumental in the formation of the Portland Chapter. Later on he was on the National Board, but that was when I joined. Well, maybe I should put in this story, with which I closed my acceptance.

“This was a story my grandfather recounted many times, a true incident which occurred in 1874 when he was a 21-year-old law student. His mother, Lucia Lorain, lay dying of cancer in an upstairs bedroom in the family home in Salem. An Indian named [Quinabee?], learning of Lucia Lorain's desperately fatal illness, came to the house asking to see Mrs. Williams. Lucia's husband, Elijah, told [Quinabee?] that he would not be allowed to see her and gruffly ordered him to leave. Overhearing, Lucia Lorain called down that she would be pleased to see [Quinabee?], so [Quinabee?] triumphantly climbed the stairs. Grandfather recalled standing in the kitchen alone when [Quinabee?] descended from his visit. There were tears streaming down [Quinabee's?] cheeks. Solemnly, [Quinabee?] pointed upward proclaiming, ‘Mrs. Williams, she good woman. She die, she go up. Mr.

Williams die, he go down.’ Lucia Lorain Williams’ legacy has been her devotion to civil liberties for all.”

MF: Why was Mr. Williams going down?

ALTHAUS: Well, because he didn’t want him to go up to see her.

MF: Oh, I see.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. He’s not impressed with - Elijah apparently didn’t have the friendly relations with Indians that Lucia Lorain had. There were many Indians in old Salem, and they helped with household chores, and [Quinabee?] did the same. As a matter of fact, he was a chief in his own right, in his tribe, and the reservations had been established then. And there was one Indian, Indian Lucy, I think, that they also say she came and took refuge and slept on the sofa on the back porch of Lucia Lorain’s home. What she was fleeing, I guess perhaps it was her husband, I’m not sure. But there were many Indians around.

MF: You talked a lot about C.E.S. Wood and that family. Was your family also involved in working with the Native Americans, other than what you’ve said in terms of them being around, with the church?

ALTHAUS: Well, I haven’t found any particular reference with the church, or whether they were trying to convert the Indians, or whether these Indians had been converted to Christianity.

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: That was the Methodists. It’s a very interesting period in Salem. At that time, there were five Methodist ministers and only one Congregational Church was formed, and

I don't know about the other denominations, but what I just discovered recently, or just recognized, was the fact that most of the Methodists in Salem were Southern Methodists who justified slavery by the Bible, and they were very much on the Confederacy side.

MF: That's interesting.

ALTHAUS: And there was a lot of blacks – and you know you've mentioned before, I think, about this in the Oregon Territorial Legislature. Did we mention that?

MF: Not on the tape. We talked about it.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes. Where is the – this was passed also after Statehood, in which it was declared that slavery would not exist in Oregon, but blacks and mulattos would not be allowed to live in Oregon. Nonetheless, there were some that did and that stayed. There's a whole history of that.

MF: Was Lucia Lorain, your grandmother, was she involved in that at all? Except for the church, I know, integrated. I'm trying to remember if you told me something about that.

ALTHAUS: Involved in the...

MF: Overturning the ban against blacks.

ALTHAUS: Not that I know of.

MF: Okay.

ALTHAUS: It persisted. It was repealed, and then it persisted for a long time. There's quite a history about it in the Portland area, too, in which blacks did – migrated to - or some

were brought here as slaves and then were freed or managed – there is a very interesting case [*Holmes v. Ford* (1853)] in the Territorial Legislature. Not the legislature, in the courts. And two years before the Dred Scott decision in which...

MF: That's what you told me about.

ALTHAUS: Yes. And it started with a master from Missouri bringing his slaves to Oregon. He freed the father and mother, but he kept the children. So in 1857, I think, around that time, or 1856 or 1857, they brought, I can't think of the name of the lawyer either. I do have the details but, anyway, they brought habeas corpus for the children in the county court in the territorial days. There were three territorial judges, one including George Williams, no relation to mine, but it's a common Welsh name. When he arrived he found this case pending for two years, and the other judges didn't want to touch it. So he did, and he held that slaves were considered property, like a horse or a cow, could not remain slaves in Oregon. And so he released the children to the parents, and this was two years before the Dred Scott decision.

MF: Do you know if that was appealed?

ALTHAUS: No. Apparently he didn't cite the case, but it does remind me of the famous British case, in re Somerset [*Somerset v. Stewart* (1772) 98 ER 499]. Are you familiar with...

MF: No, I'm not.

ALTHAUS: Okay, [James] Somerset was an American Negro slave who was taken to London by his master [Charles Stewart]. Now this was before our Declaration of Independence. It was in the 1770s and, of course, we were a British colony. That attorney - London barrister - brought habeas corpus. What had happened, he'd left his master. Master had someone apprehend him and put him, Somerset, on a ship that was bound for

Jamaica, which was a slave colony, where he was going to sell him because he felt he was not a very good piece of property to keep. [Laughs]

MF: Running away.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. However, the British barrister brought habeas corpus, and so it came up before the House of Lords, and Lord Mansfield held that slavery was in violation of the common law. Absent what he called positive law. Positive law is a statute according to the law dictionaries. So this to me is very interesting because common law is court made law, and with its own principles, but that did not apply, of course, to British colonies.

MF: Have you done research in this area?

ALTHAUS: Well, I have copies of the Somerset case.

MF: But did you just go back and do a research project on it, or just over the years you've collected them, or?

ALTHAUS: Over the years, I don't know how I heard about it, but anyway I loved to read that case. It's a famous case.

MF: How did your family get involved in race relations?

ALTHAUS: I don't know. They were way up in Vermont.

MF: Yeah.

ALTHAUS: But, that's an interesting question.

MF: It's just something that's kind of been there forever.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, right. They took the Declaration of Independence, apparently, literally.

MF: Freethinkers?

ALTHAUS: Yes, [Laughs] that's right. It wasn't just religion because later on they became freethinkers, as you mentioned, and didn't even go to church, let alone found a church.

MF: You mean in the next generation?

ALTHAUS: The next generation. No, they espoused the scientific theories of Darwin and the philosophical principles of Thomas Paine and Robert Ingersoll, who were considered not only freethinkers, but many considered them atheists or agnostics, at the kindest.

MF: And that was your family?

ALTHAUS: [Yes.]

MF: That was like in one generation. They moved from founding churches to being freethinkers.

ALTHAUS: Well, it was. [Laughs] But they still believed in civil liberties.

MF: [Yes.] It's amazing. Should we move on to your own personal family?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes.

MF: Because I think we're kind of there anyway.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah. Well ask me...

MF: Where were you born?

ALTHAUS: Oh, I was born in Bluffton, Ohio.

MF: I think I asked you yesterday, but I'm not sure I got an answer or I don't remember it. [Laughs] How did your family happen to be in Bluffton, Ohio?

ALTHAUS: Bluffton, Ohio. Well that is very small, in northern Ohio. It was a Mennonite town, a Swiss Mennonite town, Mennonites being similar to Quakers. And at that time, when my mother got her degree in English and Education from Stanford University, she and her father, who was then a widower, made a trip. Well, they made many trips east - to the Jamestown Exposition in 1904 and the St. Louis Exposition, I don't know when that was, I guess celebrating the Louisiana Purchase. Anyway, they had many relatives and all the people who stayed in Ohio, so they visited the relatives and one, a first cousin, had married my father's sister. So that's how she met my father.

MF: Your mother's first cousin had married your father's sister.

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: Okay. So he was living in Ohio.

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: Okay. I think we should go back and talk about your mother, because I don't think we have. Your mother was the daughter of Lucia, right?



ALTHAUS: No, granddaughter.

MF: Granddaughter.

ALTHAUS: Because I'm the great-granddaughter.

MF: Yeah. Okay. So who was Lucia's child? Your mother's...

ALTHAUS: Father. The lawyer.

MF: Father, the lawyer, right. Okay.

ALTHAUS: Emmett Bigelow Williams.

MF: Okay, now I'm back on track. [Laughs] And Emmett Bigelow Williams and his brother, who we talked about yesterday, Richard, were lawyers here in Oregon.

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: And when did your parents get married?

ALTHAUS: In 1909.

MF: And your mother was born when?

ALTHAUS: She was born in 1883. She graduated from Stanford in 1905.

MF: How did she come to go to Stanford?

ALTHAUS: Oh, well that was easy. When she was, well, quite young. I can't figure out the mathematics, but Stanford was opened in 1890, I guess, around 1890, but there was a lot about – do you know the background of Stanford?

MF: I really don't.

ALTHAUS: Well Senator Stanford, Governor Stanford, Leland Stanford, was a very potent political person in California, which was a pretty well booming state. He had one son. He and his wife [Jane Lathrop Stanford] went to Italy. The son was, I guess, in his low teens, maybe 16, not even that. Leland Stanford, Jr., contracted a fatal disease, some sort of a fever in Italy. He was their only child. He died, and Stanford had from the – oh, there are a lot of interesting books about the Big Four in California – he was one of those. And, of course, there was, besides the gold in the beginning, the railroads. You know, they were very powerful, the Union Pacific that goes through, and he was very wealthy for then. He wouldn't be counted wealthy now, I guess, but dollars were worth more then. [Laughs] So he decided he wanted to use his wealth, since he had no child now, to help the children of California, and he was going to establish a university that would rival Harvard and Yale and Princeton. So when my mother was a little girl, her father said, "Senator Stanford established a university, and you're going there." So she knew she was going to Stanford.

MF: Why Stanford?

ALTHAUS: Well, I don't know. I guess he thought a good deal of Stanford because it was a new university, it was a Western one that was going to be so great. And he and his wife, though they differed on a number of things like women's suffrage...

MF: Stanford and his wife?

ALTHAUS: No, my grandfather and his wife.

MF: Ah, okay.

ALTHAUS: They differed on many things like women voting, which she was very much for, an early suffragist, and he felt it was really sort of premature. He didn't believe women were qualified to vote, but they both believed in education. They wanted their daughter to have a university education. So she went to Portland High School. There was one high school in Portland then. It was not a very big city. In fact, it became a bigger city after the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition. That's what brought people to Portland.

MF: And so Emmett and his wife – who's his wife?

ALTHAUS: Helen Paul Williams. That was the Scotch branch we got diverted to, the Pauls.

MF: Okay. So Helen Paul Williams and Emmett Bigelow Williams...

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: Had your mother. And what was your mother's name?

ALTHAUS: Lenore Lorain Williams.

MF: Okay. Did they have other children?

ALTHAUS: One that died, a little boy that died in infancy.

MF: Okay. And so Helen Paul Williams, you said was an early suffragette?

ALTHAUS: Yes, she was a friend of Susan B. Anthony, and when Susan B. Anthony, who was busy before the turn of the century and after the turn of the century, came to Oregon, and when she came in the 1890s, Helen Paul Williams, my grandmother, arranged for her little daughter to meet Susan B. Anthony. And I have, in my safety deposit box, her autograph book with Susan B. Anthony's autograph.

MF: Oh, my gosh.

ALTHAUS: So she remembered it was arranged in the afternoon because she was too young to go to an evening meeting. So they went to some Portland house where Susan B. Anthony was staying and mother often mentioned, when she came down the stairs to the living room, she had on black taffeta and it rustled. [Laughs] And so she talked to her. So that was – there also was a very -

Could I divert to a story?

MF: [Yes].

ALTHAUS: There was an election in Portland about something that my grandparents differed on, but of course my grandmother couldn't vote. Grandfather was on the Election Board, and so he was there until eight o'clock, you know the polls take.

In the meantime, when Helen Paul Williams was home, a man came wanting to earn money for a meal by chopping wood. This was common, you know, at that time. And so she said, "Well, fine. I do have wood to be chopped, but do you live here in Portland or are you a transient?"

"Well, yes, I live here." And mentioned the street. This was in the old area, the Park Blocks, where it was the center of it. And he named the place he was.

And she said, "Are you registered to vote?"

He said, "Well, yes."

“Are you going to vote?”

“Oh, I don’t know if I’ll vote or not.”

Well, she said, “I have a sample ballot here, and I’ve marked it. And this is very important. If you chop the wood, will you vote my ballot?” [Laughs]

And he said, “Well, of course.” He said, “That’s fine.” He chopped wood, so he took the sample ballot. He went to the Election Board.

And later on when Emmett Bigelow came home, and she said, “How was the election?”

“Well, there was” he said, “It was kind interesting. There was this most disreputable looking man that came in, and of course we challenged his vote, and it turned out he was registered to vote.”

She said, “Emmett, that was my vote. [Laughs] You won’t let women vote, but you let any man register.” “So,” she said, “I canceled your vote on this issue.”

MF: [Laughs] Who did you hear this story from? From your grandmother?

ALTHAUS: [Laughs] Not my grandmother – from my mother.

MF: Oh, from your mother.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. She was a...

MF: Ah, your grandmother died actually before you were born. Is that right?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes. I only knew one grandparent. My Swiss grandparent. Oh, we got back to Ohio and they were married.

Oh, Stanford. I’ve got to finish that.

MF: Okay.

ALTHAUS: Because there was one high school in Portland, and they had some very good teachers, some interesting teachers. And, of course, my mother had four years of Latin in high school and all the other subjects, and she was a good student. And by that time Stanford, let's see, was she the – there were a lot of students that transferred to Stanford in the 1890s that already had credits from other colleges. I'm trying to think, which was the first class. It could have been hers in 1905, but I'm not sure. Then they went all four years to Stanford. Anyways, when she went to Stanford there were eight students from Portland High School that went down on the train to start their first year at Stanford, seven boys and my mother. They had to pay tuition because they were from Oregon. The tuition was \$10.00 a quarter. California students did not have to pay tuition at Stanford.

MF: Were there other schools available for women to go to college?

ALTHAUS: Oh, it was a big controversy whether Stanford would be coeducational. By this time Senator Stanford had died, and so his widow had to carry this whole thing through on her shoulders. There was litigation pending. It went up to the United States Supreme Court. It had something to do with the federal financing of the railroads, and it would have wiped out his fortune if he'd lost, if the estate had lost. So in those early days at Stanford, which I guess was before my mother went, in 1901 she started. But she did have a first cousin who went to Stanford in the 1890s.

There were times when they didn't have any money, times when Mrs. Stanford sold her jewels or hocked them in order to have money, and the professors who had been gathered by Dr. [David Starr] Jordan, who came from Cornell, and a very distinguished array of professors that had to go without their salaries. The grocery stores in Palo Alto had to give credit to that. So there was some difficult times. And one of the issues was would it be coeducational or not. You know, Yale and Harvard were not. Coeducation was an issue of the day. [Laughs]

But there were also issues of whether it would be a denominational school or not. The Catholic Church would have loved to have had it Catholic, and other religions, too, but it remains - So they built this beautiful chapel, which is still there despite the two earthquakes. When mother went there they compromised by having a minister or pastor of a different denomination, or faith of some type, every Sunday. So it was not a religious school. And it did have, although it was limited, I think, to 500 women. So it was harder for women to get in. That was the original, so as the years went on, and it was obvious there should be more women, they had to get another trust fund in order to finance having more because it was all tied up with only 500 women. As the men students increased and increased into the thousands, why...

MF: Do you know how big this first class was your mother went down to join?

ALTHAUS: Oh, let's see. I think there were 500 women. I think it was filled. I mean not only her class, but for four years. Well, wait a minute.

MF: That would be 125 women per class.

ALTHAUS: Gee, that's an interesting question. Nobody ever raised it. [Laughs] So I'm not sure. I'm not sure. It would be 500 in all of the student body. I think it would mean it was 500 in all but how they managed with the classes, I'm not sure. Anyway, there was a limit on women and I think there were probably two or three thousand men. It was already in the thousands, at least that many. I don't know how Cal was either, Berkeley, the only University of California branch then.

MF: Do you know how your mother came to be accepted as one of the women going down there?

ALTHAUS: I don't know. I guess they had to apply and pay the Oregon tuition of \$10. Of course, they have tuition now at Stanford, but it went on for a number of years in the early part of the century, I guess, that California students didn't have to pay tuition.

MF: But she never talked about someone who kind of championed her or really helped her to go there other than her family?

ALTHAUS: I don't know. I think she was probably the top in her class in high school. She was a good student, so I don't think there was – I don't know what kind of application they made.

MF: Because it's a big move for a young girl in Portland to go to college in California.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, especially when nobody... [Laughs]

MF: Nobody else was doing it. Amazing. Did she ever tell you how she felt about that? Was she frightened or...

ALTHAUS: No, she wasn't frightened at all. I mean she did have some stories about down at Stanford. For instance, the women students – Mrs. Stanford lived on the campus, I guess, in this big house. And she was very friendly with the students but she really knew more, and there lots more, men students. And at some occasion, where they had a fraternity, she always called it a fraternity, for women's – it was something about the Greek really meaning both sexes by fraternal and then somebody invented the sorority thing, and the one she belonged to was Kappa Alpha Theta, and there were three others. Somehow it was some big celebration, maybe after the big game or something, that a group of the girls decided they would go and visit Mrs. Stanford, and they were very much welcomed, but it was quite a big step to do that.



MF: And she studied English?

ALTHAUS: Yeah, took another year of Latin, her favorite one, Latin Comedy. [Laughs] Then, if you were an English major you had to take Anglo Saxon. She said it was one of the most difficult subjects. And then she also studied education. She was going to be a teacher.

MF: So she went to school to be a teacher?

ALTHAUS: That's what she thought she would do. What she would have liked to have done, and in that interview you have in *The Oregonian* – and you can read it, she would have liked to have been a journalist, but women journalists weren't really welcomed at that time. There probably were some pioneer ones, but I don't know if they even had a journalism study there - major. At that time in education, the head of the department at Stanford was quite noted, [Ellwood Patterson] Cubberley. And so, in effect – I think maybe it was not actually – but in effect, sort of a double major.

MF: You also talked about your great-uncle Richard being on the school board and women being allowed to teach. Was that at the same time that your mother going to school?

ALTHAUS: Well, it wasn't about women being so much allowed to teach, as certain women, like Catholic women, because there was a great bias against Catholics in Oregon at that time.

MF: But you also said married women?

ALTHAUS: Well, I know that issue came up but I'm not sure, because this was, you know, just hearsay [Inaudible].

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: But most teachers to begin with were not married. But I'm sure that was an issue. Well, actually, there was another aspect. Married women had husbands to support them, so they shouldn't take jobs away from married men. [Laughs]

MF: Okay. I think we're coming to the end of the tape.

ALTHAUS: [Laughs] Yeah.

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

**Tape 2, Side 1**  
**1999 March 14**

MF: This is March 14, and it's approximately 11:45.

ALTHAUS: When she was a student at Stanford, Mrs. Stanford died. And she wrote an article about Mrs. Stanford and her life, sent it to *The Oregonian*, and it was accepted. It filled a half of a newspaper page. And they sent her \$25 for the article.

MF: Two years tuition.

ALTHAUS: [Laughs] Yeah, but she bought a hat. [Phone ringing] Oh, dear me.

[Tape stops]

MF: Okay, we had a little break there. Go ahead.

ALTHAUS: She had the \$25, which you noted would have been two years tuition. However, she spent it all on a hat. It was near Easter time and they all went to San Francisco for Easter, the Stanford students, I mean, a lot of them. And in front of the cathedral, I think, some newspaper photographer took her picture in her new hat, but I don't have that. I don't know whether it was the [*San Francisco*] *Chronicle* or what it was. But much later, a friend of mine, Frank [Anthony] Bauman, [Jr.], you might know him. He's a retired lawyer now.

MF: The name.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. Well, he was even a great friend of my mother's because he went to Stanford, too. There's something about Stanford graduates. They are so devoted to their

school, most of them, and so she had the autobiography of David Starr Jordan, the first president, in several volumes and he borrowed that. And many years later, after my mother had died, I had found a copy in our attic – copies of *The Oregonian* with the article about Mrs. Stanford. I had them so I told Frank about it and he said, “Oh I want to send that to the Stanford Historical Society.” And he had to have it copied particularly, you know the old newspapers, the print and all that. So it is lodged in the Stanford Historical Society now.

MF: What kind of a woman was your mother? What was she like as a person?

ALTHAUS: Well, she was a very outgoing person. And she was a lot like her father in the sense that she would make friends in all types of people. My grandfather, her father, had many – well I told you something about his clients, some of the most interesting. One of the most interesting of his clients was the Chinese in Portland’s Chinatown. But there’s one – speaking about the race relations and all that – I guess there’s one story I should tell you.

My grandfather, although he was a great horseman, when the cars came in he got cars, and the first car he had was a Velie and then he had a Packard, and he loved to drive cars as well as horses. So he said, “I’m going to take you for a drive.”

How old was I? Somewhere in the early part of high school, perhaps even in grade school. And he said, “We’re going to see a friend of mine in Vancouver, Washington.” And so we went over and stopped at this little tiny house and we went in and this friend was black, we called them Negroes then instead of black, though I noticed in a lot of the 19th century they used the word black. So, it wasn’t just a recent invention. An elderly black man, and we talked to him, maybe an hour or two, and laughed and had jokes. And we came out and got into the car and said good-bye. And he said, “Helen, I want you to never forget that this man that has been such a good companion and we’ve had such a nice afternoon with, he was born in the United States of America a slave.”

MF: It’s amazing. What kind of work did he do for people?

ALTHAUS: My grandfather?

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: Well, it was mostly sort of business law, and I mentioned those commercial fishermen, you know.

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: Now, I'm not sure really. Well, he represented some railroads, and they did have a lot of property. I mean they did their own title opinions before title insurance. Abstracts, you know, so I think it was mostly business work.

MF: You also said he represented the Catholic Church, with the Archdiocese.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes. That was a lot of business. My mother said he went to Notre Dame, this was Jesuits, and they were establishing Portland University - University of Portland, long before Portland State. And as you may have noticed, they usually chose very scenic locations. So he went to Notre Dame because of something there, and then he got ill, but he came back. He said they really took good care of him because they had a hospital and all sorts of attendants, and that was in connection with buying the property for University of Portland of the Jesuits. But he represented the, I may have mentioned that, the home for the aged they called it. That was, what is it, the nuns, the Holy Names, the Order of the Holy Names, who's been in education also because they established St. Mary's Academy in Portland. They had a number of projects so that was in his...

MF: Did your mother ever talk about being a lawyer?

ALTHAUS: Herself?

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: No, she did say there was, at that time, when she was growing up, the law schools had been established in Oregon. There was a lot of reading law, and she said there always would be several students in her father's office, young law students.

MF: By reading law you mean...

ALTHAUS: Studying law with a lawyer.

MF: Practical, as opposed to law school?

ALTHAUS: Yeah, and they could do that and take the bar, and if they passed the bar they didn't have to have a law school degree. I don't know when they required – well, even when I was in, I think there was some way when I was admitted they could – I'm not sure. At that time I don't know how far it carried from but if you'd look around – well, you'd have to get up and look in the corner. There's a bookcase, a revolving bookcase.

MF: Oh, yeah.

ALTHAUS: You saw that?

MF: I saw that. That's really a classic.

ALTHAUS: That was from my grandfather's office. I don't really buy a lot of furniture, I just don't throw things away. But it was still carried forward, that revolving bookcase, when I was Judge [James Alger] Fee's law clerk. He had a smaller version, a government issue

about this high, that he always kept by his desk. He had the whole United States Code in it. It was very convenient.

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: I don't know if they use them now at all. They certainly didn't at Miller Nash. Well, when she was young she would go in and visit her father's office, and the young students would put her on top of that revolving bookcase and whirl it around. [Laughs]

MF: Was she small, your mother?

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: I mean in stature.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, yeah.

MF: Did she ever teach?

ALTHAUS: Well, that's a good question. She did teach in Portland, perhaps as a substitute teacher, when she got back and before they went on the trip when she met my father.

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: She did some substitute teaching and one of them was, I don't know now where this one you were telling me about. In the old days there's one called the St. Helen's Hall that was Episcopal. Is that the predecessor? Oh, that's right.

MF: St. Helen's Hall and then Bishop Dagwell Hall was started in the 1950s as a boy's school and then they combined them into Oregon Episcopal School.

ALTHAUS: Oh, so that's the history of it.

MF: Yeah.

ALTHAUS: I never remembered that.

MF: So your mother taught at St. Helen's Hall?

ALTHAUS: Yeah, as a substitute teacher and she enjoyed it, but her father wasn't very interested in her teaching. You know, he didn't believe women should get men's jobs. And they went on these trips to these expositions in the East and visited relatives so he was always taking her.

Actually, her junior year at Stanford she became great friends with Edith Jordan Gardner. Her husband, Nathaniel Gardner, was a botany professor at Berkeley, but they were great friends and they, the Jordans, were going to Europe, and they asked mother to come with them, but it was her junior year and she was afraid. She wanted to get her degree. I don't know why it couldn't be interrupted but for some reason, or maybe her father, he said, "I'll take you to Europe." He never did, but he said, "There's just the two of us." You know, she was the only child, and he took her on these Eastern trips and he never went to Europe.

She had two stepmothers. Well, that sort of interfered. One died and was a very literary person, and then the only one I knew was the second stepmother, who when I was a child was my step-grandmother. Somehow this interfered with the relationship, and he never went to Europe. He took her second stepmother to Hawaii. So – she missed - her whole life might have been different if she had taken that European trip with the Jordans.



MF: Well, it is interesting that he wanted her to go to college but he didn't want her to have a career.

ALTHAUS: No, he - I remember many arguments about women working. I was trying to think, one of my mother's points was about the - there was a lot of Japanese then, and they'd leased most of the farm to the Japanese. And the women worked in the fields, too. And she was countering some argument about women working, and I mentioned that it went way back, about the idea of married women taking men's jobs who should have priority on jobs because they were supporting their families.

MF: When you talk about the farm, is this the place in Troutdale?

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: Sweet Briar Farm?

ALTHAUS: [Yes.]

MF: So who first established that place?

ALTHAUS: Well, my grandfather.

MF: Emmett?

ALTHAUS: Okay, Emmett and Richard. For some reason, though they had grown up in Salem and not grown up in the country, they both liked the country. Their law offices were in Portland, and they had a Portland residence, but each bought a farm. Now Richard bought one west of Portland, somewhere near that Six Corners, in Washington County. Where they didn't have any east winds like they have in- and my grandfather bought the

farm right near the entrance to the Columbia Gorge. Of course, I never knew my great uncle, he had long since died. She said they would often have arguments about the merits of agriculture on the Westside of Portland and on the Eastside of Portland, a rivalry about these farms.

Well my grandfather never lived on the farm except for like a week at a time because he always had tenants, but he always leased it. That was before the automobile, his Packard and all that. When he had the horses he always reserved the right to keep horses there and breed horses, and it's the Standardbred which were the – do you know about horses, the Standardbred?

At the time the automobile came in, the American Standardbred was the top driving horse in the whole world. It was imported to Russia, all over, because it was fast. There was a sire, a thoroughbred which of course went way back. The English brought the Thoroughbreds. A Thoroughbred, you know, we think of running races and all that, but this sire, I think he was an American one. Messenger was his name. I know that for sure. He had a very, very fast trot, and so all his progeny had this. In breeding horses, apparently the sire has everything to say about his descendants. It's like, you've heard of the Morgan? The Morgan horse?

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: Okay, that was another trotting horse. Morgan was the name of his owner in Vermont. That stallion produced all these wonderful Morgan horses. The rival, the English Coach horse was bred to gallop and it was rough. The trotting, if they could prevent the trotter from breaking into a fast trot or a pace – pace is when the legs on each side go together like this. The other is where the alternate ones go, one front and one back. I mean they alternate one, the diagonal.

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: That's the regular trot. The pacing is in which the two on one side and then the other. That's the artificial gait. That one has to be trained you know, but it can be just as fast and so anyway, he wanted to breed. And he had some good stallions, and we always had horses on the farm, some riding stock and crossbreed. But when she was four years old he gave her a four-year-old mare.

MF: This is your mother?

ALTHAUS: Yes. Its name was Kitty, was half Morgan and half Thoroughbred. So she rode. He would go out and they had what they called, it's now called the carriage house, and it had rooms above the place where they kept the buggies and the vehicles and stabled the horses. So it had a stove in the upstairs rooms and enough accommodations. Well, if she was on vacation from school she wanted to stay out in the country, maybe for a week, but her father usually felt he had to go to the office. He had to get there at nine o'clock when he opened it. And so after a weekend on the farm, she would get up at six, because he always liked a hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs, and cook that for him on this little stove in the upper part of the carriage house. And then they'd go down and he had to start by seven o'clock. She would help him harness the horse to the buggy, and he would start out. It was exactly 15 miles from the courthouse, which was on the Westside. So by nine o'clock he was in his office with a fast trotter and his buggy and his brief case or whatever he carried in the buggy. He didn't ride with saddle bags. And in order to get there in these two hours commute, he would have to stop. You know where Mount Tabor is?

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: He'd go out Stark, what is now Stark Street. It was called Baseline Road, because it was on the baseline, and stop to let the horse drink a little bit at the top of that

Mount Tabor hill and then go on. Then you got to the Willamette River and of course everything in business was on the Westside and you had to get across the river.

Well there were three alternatives. He was on Front and Stark, his office, but on the Westside - First and Stark on the Westside. One was the Hawthorne Bridge. There you had to pay toll but you could trot your horses across that bridge. The other one was the Morrison Bridge, which you didn't have to pay toll but you'd have to walk the horses across the Bridge, and the other was the Stark Street Ferry. So he was able in those two hours to get there. [Laughs]

MF: It's amazing. 15 miles, yep, wow. So your mother actually didn't grow up at that farm?

ALTHAUS: No, except she would stay there in the summer and she rode her horse. Actually, she rode astride and most women rode sidesaddle. When she was out, there were country girls that lived in the country, and they would ride and she would sometimes ride with them. Of course they all rode sidesaddle [Laughs] being very ladylike. But her mother, who was the suffragist, felt that sidesaddle was ridiculous for women. It was unsafe, you know, and so women should ride astride, so her daughter would ride astride. So when my mother was, say, about 10, she started riding at four, I don't know when she just rode all over the city of Portland but she did. The only women riding a horse that she ever passed who was riding astride was, I think, reputed to be a voice teacher, some kind of music teacher, and she rode a black stallion and she rode astride. And my mother did and they'd sort of wave to each other when they'd pass. All the rest of the women – and little boys would taunt them, you know call them – what is it? Clothespin or something like that, you know about riding a horse. [Laughs]

MF: She wore dresses though?

ALTHAUS: Well, no, riding skirts.

MF: Like culottes?

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: Oh, with a break in the middle. I was going to say that would be...

ALTHAUS: [Laughs] I guess women in the horse shows – well, I'm not sure. The Queen of England still rides a sidesaddle. I don't know how it went for horse shows and all that.

MF: Where did you grow up? We got side tracked again. You were born in Ohio.

ALTHAUS: Well, yes, but we came back West, you know. Most people do come back West, not everybody. So I was probably about 18 months.

MF: Oh, a baby.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. So I really only knew Oregon.

MF: Did your mother go back to Ohio to find a husband?

ALTHAUS: Well, I just don't know.

MF: Oh. How did they meet?

ALTHAUS: Well, because of the marriage of her first cousin to-

MF: That's right.

ALTHAUS: As a matter of fact, just before she was married, and she was married in Ohio. That was a time, I don't know if it was her first or second stepmother, and actually her father was not at her wedding, which was a wedding in a relative's house, kind of a quiet wedding. And just before the marriage she got an offer of a job which would have been in the Kentucky Appalachians. You know you heard about the women that taught there?

MF: [No.]

ALTHAUS: There's the name of this book, I don't know if it's fiction or nonfiction, called *The Quair Women*, in which these Eastern college educated women who had gone to the Appalachians to teach these people that have been sort of isolated in the Appalachian Mountains for, you know, maybe a couple of centuries or since the...

MF: What was she doing in Ohio? You said she went back with her father.

ALTHAUS: Well, they were just visiting.

MF: And then he left her and she stayed?

ALTHAUS: I don't know. I haven't pieced that together. Well, he must have. He must have left her, but when they went I [Inaudible] if there was any stepmother attached. I never pieced that together, but until recently I never even really thought about it. I knew they were married in Ohio and at a cousin's home; he was a doctor. Which branch of the family? He was an M.D. He was probably related to the Pauls. A lot of them, the Scotch branch, they were doctors.

The one that sticks in my mind is they went on two kinds of time. His wife went on sun time, and he went on railroad time. Railroad time, you know, are time zones, which you've noticed how irregular they are. They were set by the railroads who wanted to run on time, or whatever, so they set the – there's no other country, maybe Russia when it was

all together. Most European countries have one time because they're not big enough to have to have three times. Well, a lot of them ignored the railroad time because they went by sun time. [Laughs] When we had all the controversy about Daylight Saving Time it was really sort of funny because it sort of harked back to that.

MF: You mean we in society or...

ALTHAUS: Well, up here, like in Portland when I was at the City Hall. I was a deputy city attorney and at that time cities were setting their own. Some had Daylight Saving Time and some didn't. Now are you too young to remember that? [Laughs] But I remember the City of Portland set its Daylight Saving Time and a group of businessmen, one were the outdoor movie theaters who didn't like the light evenings. Fred Meyer, I don't know why they came into it, and there was a third. I can't remember what it was. Anyway, they challenged the City of Portland's right to set Daylight Saving Time and they went up to the Oregon Supreme Court. And so there was a great rush. It was one of those things that were rushed through, and the City Attorney's Office had to look up all the history of the legal parts of time. The City won. I remember they were saying, about two lawyers went up and I was one of them. Justice [George] Rossman said to the City's opponents, "You mean I can't set my watch to any time I want?" All the City had done was set the city clocks, you know. [Laughs]

MF: Did you argue that case?

ALTHAUS: No, no. That was the Chief Deputy City Attorney, Marian [C.] Rushing and somebody else went up with her. I don't know. I hadn't been there very long, so I would know more about it if I had argued it.

MF: Marian Rushing is a name that I've seen.

ALTHAUS: Oh, she was a brilliant lawyer, just a brilliant lawyer. She came out of the Northwestern School of Law and never worried about saying Northwestern School of Law. [Laughs] Although she had an interstate thing, her people came from Texas to Oregon when she was a little girl. So she had a Southern background, which is pretty rigid. She was a brilliant student. She went on scholarships to Vassar and so she was in New England. But they had a fruit orchard in Vancouver, Washington – not fruit, nuts, filberts. Her father had made that investment, had died quite young, and she and her mother – so then they moved there. And she was the head of some department of [J.K.] Gill's when it was a great bookstore in Portland and had advanced there in their administration, and then she went to law school, and she was just about finishing law school when I started there.

MF: So she was somewhat older than you?

ALTHAUS: No, we were just the same. I think her year was 1911, 1910, but she started law school earlier and it took four years because it was the night school. Four years instead of three.

MF: I don't think I asked you. Your grandfather and great uncle, where did they go to school, to college?

ALTHAUS: Well, I know that my grandfather went to Willamette, but I don't know how much, and I don't know whether it was the law school. I also know that he also read law with Judge [William Wallace] Thayer, who was an Oregon Supreme Court justice but was then a distinguished Oregon lawyer. So I don't know how much he went to Willamette. And one time he said to me when I was quite young, he said, "I think we should give my law books to Willamette University." As you saw from that picture he really had a big legal library.

MF: [Yes.]



ALTHAUS: Then he said, "Oh," and I guess he had given them to the University of Oregon. I don't know. Anyway, he said, "I did take care of that. It just slipped my mind." I had not gone yet. He never knew that I was going to go to law school. He died just before I graduated from University of Oregon.

MF: What did he think about your going to college?

ALTHAUS: Oh, well, I just automatically go to college because, you see, he was for education for women. It was only the working woman that bothered him, taking jobs away from men.

MF: You said your mother did some substitute teaching at St. Helen's Hall.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, it was at St. Helen's Hall.

MF: Oh. After you were born, or while you were a child, did she work at all? Do you remember?

ALTHAUS: Well, the farm. The farm.

MF: Did you all live on that farm with them?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes.

MF: So your mother didn't grow up there, but your family moved there?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. I was nine years old and – Well, when we came from Ohio. I see you want to fill in. My father, who had not been to college and had grown up in this Mennonite

– where they still spoke Swiss dialect. In fact, my mother’s mother in-law, my father’s mother, only spoke the Swiss dialect. It was a very closed community. Well, my mother was not about to forego communication so she learned the Swiss dialect. [Laughs]

But it was a very closed community, and of course some of them were breaking out. They said that my grandmother did like pretty hats and she’d forego the garb sometimes, because they were supposed to wear this like, Quaker garb. They were linguists, I mean they spoke Swiss dialect, or was it the generation before? Let’s see, which generation came – of course my mother’s side went way back to the 1600s on most all branches we knew about, but on my father’s side I was the third generation. So I don’t know just what that means. Does that mean third generation born in the United States? But no they carried, so maybe it counts the generation that immigrated. But they did live on the French border in Switzerland, so they had not only the Swiss dialect, but I think most of the grandparents or great-grandparents spoke French and German, as well as Swiss dialect.

But this is one thing I heard. I don’t know a lot about that – was the fact, they didn’t teach the children French so they can communicate with themselves and the children wouldn’t understand what they were saying in French. [Laughs] But when my father went to school he didn’t speak English, but he had no accent. I guess children at that age can learn language.

MF: He was a Mennonite?

ALTHAUS: Well, I don’t know – I do know that I heard - I really didn’t know my father very well.

MF: Why’s that?

ALTHAUS: I don’t know. I just don’t know. Well, it’s very strange, and I’ve never gotten into psychology too much. I’m interested in it. I do know I always felt it was because he didn’t communicate with children very well. However, many years later a family in Prineville,

where my mother had business interests and we got to know the district attorney and his family very well there, and we did a lot of things together. One of his children, Joyce, when she came back to Portland from California, she was showing me snapshots. We were looking at them, recognizing the people and she said, "Oh, there's your father. We always called him Jim." His name was Amos, Amos C. Althaus, but his nickname from way back was Jim. She said, "We used to enjoy him so much. He was so good with children." And here I was his daughter. [Laughs] So this happened only about 10 years ago when Joyce came back to Portland, and it just really puzzled me.

MF: Did he die when you were young?

ALTHAUS: Well, relatively. He died just a few years after my grandfather died. He was in his 60s. My mother lived to be 90, so she had 31 years more than he did. It was very sudden, you know, a sudden heart attack and rushed to the hospital, lived about two or three days.

MF: What did he do for a living?

ALTHAUS: Well, to begin with, his background, he drafted very well and some of my best friends at college were in architecture and he related to them. What he should have been, if he had gone to college, he should have been an architect. I mean he really loved that. He had a whole set of Ruskin and got into English architecture and apparently he read quite a bit. So he was a good draftsman. But he was in the lumber business that he got into as a young man.

Now there is a story. I guess it's true, that he and some other young men from Bluffton, Ohio, went to Mexico for a trip and someone brought back a parrot. So apparently he was rather adventurous, with these young men that left this little closed Mennonite community and made a trip to Mexico. But that was before he met my mother, and he was just about five years older than she. But he never told me any stories about Mexico.

MF: Did he share your mother's interest in women's rights?

ALTHAUS: Well, I don't know that he did. I think he would probably go along with her on that. I do know one story, getting back to this racial thread that seems to go through all this.

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: He was in the lumberyard business, managing lumberyards when she met him and he was – what was the name of that? Shortly after they were married, after I was born, I guess, because I think I was sort of a babe in arms at the time, he was offered a position to manage a lumberyard in this place in Ohio. It's an industrial city, sort of the central – Middletown or something. I think there were a lot of surveys made about this area once. It was somewhere in Ohio. So they moved there. Well, the lumberyard was burned about the time they got there, so they stayed on and there she was without any help with this little babe in arms and all that, and so she tried to get someone to help her.

She wasn't too strong. As a matter of fact, she almost died when I was born. She had a temperature of over a hundred degrees, and people didn't think she was going to live but she did. The fact was she had blonde hair, and all her hair came out with that fever and it came in brown instead of blonde. [Laughs] It may have been sort of an ash blonde before. I don't know, but she was considered a blonde, although when her portrait was painted the man said, "You have a brunette's skin color."

So anyway, they got to this place in the middle of Ohio. She was calling and trying to find just some household help. So she was given a number, maybe somebody connected with the lumberyard, I guess. She called it and this rather Southern voice came on the phone and she said, "Oh, well, I'm sorry. It was a mistake because we don't do that kind of work." But somehow they fell into conversation on the phone and the voice said, "I think my daughter may be able to help you, so let me introduce you to my daughter." The

daughter came on the phone and they talked and told her where she lived and she said, "Yes, I'll come."

So this was a black family that lived outside, not in the segregated area of the town. They lived out in the country because they didn't care to live in the segregated area. Their name was Goode. And originally, I guess they come from the South. Anyways, this charming young woman came, the daughter, the one she talked to. And somehow in that conversation they just sort of clicked. You know, because they didn't do housework. I mean they had a farm, and maybe a nursery. One of the family was an artist who had to go to Chicago to sell her paintings [Laughs] so mother often...

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

**[Tape 2, Side 2 BLANK]**

**Tape 3, Side 1**  
**1999 July 24**

MF: It's July 24, 1999, and it is just a little after eleven o'clock, 11:06, and we're at Mrs. Althaus' house and I am present, Mary Ellen Farr, with Mrs. Helen – Ms. Helen Althaus?

ALTHAUS: Ms.

MF: Ms. Helen Althaus. We were talking about, kind of following up on some issues of your family that you wanted to talk about.

ALTHAUS: Yes. The part of the Bigelows that stayed in Ohio, the brother of Lucia Lorain Bigelow Williams, I think she had more than one brother, but anyway this is the one I wanted to talk about. Phillip Doddridge Bigelow, born at Middletown Springs, Vermont, December 1, 1812. In the genealogy it used the word "removed" to Findlay, Ohio, [Laughs] which was the style of writing in the days, "removed to Findlay, Ohio, July 4, 1841. He was a major in the Ohio militia in 1839 and was a link in the Underground Railway. He was a merchant in the early 1840s and later resided on Bigelow Hill."

The Bigelows and the Footes, all of the branches of my family, were involved in the fight against slavery, which was a very interesting political issue. So I am very proud of their involvement to the extent of the Underground Railway. My family was always for civil rights and always – this is my mother's family I'm talking about – and always did their best against prejudice.

My grandfather, Emmett Bigelow Williams, had many clients in the Chinese community, in early Portland, and I remember very well when I was probably still in grade school, he said, "We're going to take a drive." He was sort of a die-hard on horses but then he finally got a Velie. But I believe it was when he had the Packard, that we drove over to Vancouver, Washington. And he said, "I want you to meet a friend of mine."

This is when there were very few blacks in Oregon, long before World War II. So we went into this little house and talked to this elderly Negro, who was very affable, and my grandfather said, a great friend, and we spent a couple of hours enjoying a conversation and laughing. We came out and got in the car again, and I always remember my grandfather saying, "Helen, I want you to remember that this friend of ours that we spent such a pleasant afternoon with, he was born, in the United States, a slave.

MF: What do you think it was about, or who was it in your family, that started that strain of civil rights belief? How did that happen?

ALTHAUS: Well, the Reverend Henry Bigelow, the father of Lucia Lorain and Phillip Doddridge – there is a bound, printed volume of the town history, of Middletown Springs, Vermont, which is where this part of the family had moved from Massachusetts and Connecticut, and he was very outspoken. He was a graduate of two degrees from Yale, and I think he was far ahead of his times in that New England tradition.

The one thing I remember from this town history about him was, in this vein, it said the Reverend Henry Bigelow was a very fine pastor. When he was in the pulpit he was so good that you thought he should never come out, and when he was out of the pulpit you thought he should never go in. [Both laugh] But another thing that I heard about him was that he felt his daughters should have as good an education as his sons and if he had to do it himself.

MF: That's something else we talked about last time. And I think we had really gotten up to where your family and your relationship with your father and your mother and going on to school. You actually said your family was always for civil rights, and that's your mother's family. Were you not close to you father's family?

ALTHAUS: Well, they lived in Ohio.

MF: Okay. So he didn't have family here?

ALTHAUS: No. We did go back to Ohio twice and visited relatives. My mother had relatives in Ohio, too, and the Bigelows have stayed there. So they were sort of scattered over the United States, the ones who stayed behind.

MF: Did your father support your mother's interest in civil rights?

ALTHAUS: Well, yes. But his heritage was quite different. His family were Mennonites. Swiss from Switzerland, Swiss Mennonites.

When they were first married he managed lumberyards and I remembered my mother saying, and this - when she was in this little town and I was yet an infant child, where they had to move, and then the lumberyard was burned that he was to manage, and it was a difficult time. And so she needed help, and she called - all I can remember about it is that she had somehow - was told to call a black woman. They didn't call them blacks then, but anyway, so she did. And the one who answered, with a very charming voice, she said, "You must be mistaken because we do not do that kind of work. We're not seeking that kind of work."

And mother said, "Well I'm very sorry. I was just told to call you."

So they talked a little further and she explained how she needed help. So the one she was talking to said, "I think I will let you talk to my daughter. I think we don't ordinarily do it, but I see you really need help in this strange place where you've just arrived." So she introduced them over the phone and their last name was Goode. Anyway she said, "I will come, and I'll help you." And so she did, and they became great friends.

It was a very interesting family. They did not live in the town. I think it was Middletown, which has been written up. In the middle of Ohio, it was an industrial town. So she came. I always remember this because these Mennonites in north Ohio would live kind of secluded type life and she, my mother, fixed lunch for her husband, who came home, and for Mrs. Goode and herself, and fixed the table for them to sit down. She mentioned



that her husband seemed startled, sitting down, you know, with that. So I don't know. He didn't have a background, despite the Mennonite's political positions, like war. He didn't have a background of being easy with it, although he went along with his wife, and he did sit down, [Laughs] and they did have lunch together.

MF: Did he remain a Mennonite even after they came out here.

ALTHAUS: No, he didn't. All I know is that he was apparently fairly adventurous. With some other young men from Ohio he had gone to Mexico before he met my mother, which was, you know, quite a trip, so I guess, he had sort of an adventurous strain in him to have gone to Mexico. Later on, but I never heard him talk, you know, feel emotionally about civil rights. So he wasn't opposed to them, but it wasn't a big issue in his life.

MF: It sounds like your mother was rather a strong person.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes, she definitely was, and so was my [grand]father, who had a lot of very interesting clients that became friends like the Chinese in the Chinatown in Portland, and the fishermen, commercial fisherman on the Columbia. Let's see. I'm sorry to be so slow this morning.

MF: It's all right. We're both a little slow this morning. [Both laugh]

MF: You're doing just fine. Was he a lawyer when he was in Ohio or did he become a lawyer here? Your father.

ALTHAUS: My father was not a lawyer.

MF: Your – okay, that's alright, your – I think one of us misspoke. What did your father do? He managed lumberyards.

ALTHAUS: Well, yes. He was also, what should have happened for his life, he should have been an architect. He was very good at drafting. He was a very good draftsman, how he had learned it, I'm not sure. But the house that my mother's father, my grandfather, built for our family on the farm, my father designed it. And it was in the Colonial style, which my mother approved. Neither one, my father or mother, cared for Victorian architecture, although my grandfather had built a house in Portland. It was a beautiful example of Victorian architecture, you know with the little tower and my mother's bedroom was in that round tower. It was on the Park Blocks in Portland.

MF: It no longer exists?

ALTHAUS: No, it was moved. They used to move houses a lot. It was moved, and when my grandfather married my mother's second stepmother they each had a big house, one on the Eastside and one on the West. Hers was kind of a historic house because her grandfather was a sea captain on the Columbia River, I guess, and on the ocean, too. It had been written up in *The Oregonian*, that house, which was a square house with a cupola at the top so they could watch the ships on the river. It had been moved from the riverside by the Portland General Electric, who had bought that, and it had been moved out on the Eastside to Twelfth and Stevens. And that's the house that I knew.

MF: Tollus and Stevens?

ALTHAUS: Twelfth and Stevens.

MF: Twelfth and Stevens, okay. Is it still there?

ALTHAUS: Yes, I guess it is. They each had a child when they were married, my mother, my grandfather's child, and my step-grandmother's son, Harry Wallace. And my

grandfather did not draw her will. I'm saying that particularly because it was broken by her son.

MF: Your grandfather did not draw his wife's will?

ALTHAUS: Will.

MF: His first wife's will? No, the second wife's will.

ALTHAUS: Third. [Laughs]

MF: Third wife's – oh, boy. [Laughs] Third wife's will.

ALTHAUS: Third wife's will. He'd not, and one of the provisions was to establish, I guess you could call it an old ladies home, for women who had worked. I really didn't pay enough attention to it. It's really kind of interesting that she would have picked out women who had worked and needed help.

MF: And who was this? The second stepmother?

ALTHAUS: The second stepmother was a...

MF: The second step-grandmother.

ALTHAUS: Step-grandmother, yeah.

My mother – yeah, second stepmother. Her name was Rose was her first name - I can't think of her -, well Wallace. I think she was married twice before.

MF: Is it Wallace?

ALTHAUS: Her son's name was Harry Wallace.

MF: Bigelow.

ALTHAUS: What? No Bigelow.

MF: She was married to your grandfather.

ALTHAUS: To my grandfather, his third wife. He was a widower twice.

MF: So she was Rose Wallace?

ALTHAUS: Well, I think...

MF: Bigelow?

ALTHAUS: No, not Bigelow, because she married Williams, see.

MF: I'm sorry [Laughs], yes. Now I've got it.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. So Wallace must have been, probably, her first married name because I think she was – and of course, then she was Rose Williams.

MF: And then Henry Wallace was her son.

ALTHAUS: Harry. Harry. Probably Henry but anyway, everyone called him Harry. And my grandfather gave him, and her, I guess, and then he inherited that 20 acres of the farm

on the Baseline Road, which is the main road, away. Our house was on Troutdale Road. It was a large farm for that area, 210 acres.

MF: I saw that in the obituary, a big farm. Did you ever actually live there?

ALTHAUS: That's where I lived. That's the only place I've ever really lived, except Ashland. I grew up on the farm.

MF: But it was, from what you've told me before, it was quite a ways from Portland in those days.

ALTHAUS: Well, in those days - well, it wasn't a bad commute with cars. Did I tell you about the commuting my grandfather did from it?

MF: I think you told me, but I'm not sure that we taped it.

ALTHAUS: Oh.

MF: About the horse.

ALTHAUS: It's kind of interesting. Yes, because he never lived there.

MF: The grandfather?

ALTHAUS: Yeah, but he kept, when my mother was – see her mother died in 1899 when my mother was, well, she entered Stanford in 1901, so she was still in high school. My mother just absolutely adored her mother. She was of the Scotch branch of the family and that's where we had the Scotch traditions. It may have been cancer. Nobody ever told me just what it was except that my mother said that she knew she was going to die soon.

And so she talked to her daughter about it and she said, “Lenore, one thing after I die, I want you never to do is to go to my grave. I want you to remember me as I am now and as we’re talking. I don’t want you to go to my grave.” And my mother never did, which was, I thought, interesting in the last century, but they were pretty advanced white, you know, intellectuals, in the sense that they were very interested in Darwin’s theories and all those things that sort of exploded. [Laughs]

MF: You said that your grandmother was of the Scottish branch, and we talked about the Scottish.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, Paul.

MF: The Pauls.

ALTHAUS: P-A-U-L. It’s a sept of the Cameron clan, and it’s in all the Scotch books you know. I have quite a few of them. You know, about clans and tartans and all that.

MF: But you said that she...

ALTHAUS: But her father, now that was the medical side of the family. They were doctors.

MF: Your mother’s, mother’s family?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. Yeah.

MF: That’s interesting.

ALTHAUS: He was a doctor in southern Ohio, right on the Ohio River and I think that's the Kentucky border. Kentucky actually stayed with the Union. It's not a Confederate state.

MF: I hadn't remembered that actually. That's interesting.

ALTHAUS: Well it is.

MF: Because it's really Southern.

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: You said your mother's mother's family was responsible for the Scottish traditions in your family.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes.

MF: What do you mean by that?

ALTHAUS: Alvah Paul – now I don't know, I don't have the genealogy. I don't know whether he had come from Scotland or his father. I think they had been very close because he was just devoted to Scottish history and there's a novel by Jane Porter called *Scottish Chiefs*, and that was one of the first books I read. It's all about William Wallace and the Scotch fighting against the British, so I was a great partisan of Scotland.

MF: Did your family actually continue any of the Scottish traditions?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes. You know Robert Burns? I have two or three books of his poetry. "My love is like a red, red rose." His love poetry as well as his other poetry, and went to everything that was Scottish, and I still do. In Ashland, near Robert Burn's birthday, which

is about the end of January, so on a weekend near that they have a great Robert Burns celebration in Ashland. They usually have it at the Ashland Hills Inn in the last couple of years, in one of their huge banquet rooms and they have bagpipes. And as a matter of fact, Ashland has a bagpipe band, and they have teachers of bagpipes and it ties in with the festival, too, a great deal. And Barry Kraft, one of the dramaturges of the festival and also an actor, he's always a leader in these celebrations. They have music, dancing and Highland traditions, and actors reading Robert Burn's poetry.

MF: They do that in Portland, too. Did you ever go when they had the Highland Games in Portland?

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: They're still doing that.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, I still get the Gresham Outlook and I noticed they're having them out there now. But I went with a friend. We'd go into David Douglas High School, the grounds there.

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: They had the games, but I'm sure they've expanded.

MF: They must have. I haven't been for a long time.

ALTHAUS: Have you got Scotch blood, too?

MR: Oh, yes.



ALTHAUS: Oh, you do?

MR: [McCords?]. We're [McCords?].

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes.

MF: But we're the bad guys. We're actually the Scots that went to Ireland.

ALTHAUS: Oh.

MF: We're Scots-Irish. [Both laugh]

MF: We caused all that trouble. We started out in Scotland. Yes.

ALTHAUS: Yes, the Scotch-Irish. Well also one of our greatest family friends, two of them were, they taught. One became a principal, which in the last century is unusual for a woman, to be principal of a high school.

They were just fascinating, and their mother was born in Scotland and one of these two teachers was born in Scotland, too. It was a long time before – they were in the north of Scotland. It was a long time before I realize that County Sligo was not in the north of Scotland. I mean north of Ireland. I mean they were Scotch-Irish but they were in Ireland. Well, maybe they knew some of yours.

MF: Yeah, probably. And were they Pauls?

ALTHAUS: What?

MF: Were they also Pauls?

ALTHAUS: No. They were Young. Their name was Young and they were great, you know, partisans of Great Britain.

None of the Irish Free State but they were very interesting. I got mixed up, too, because they were mainly Irish, I guess. And their mother would have a high tea and just very formally, you know, so I used to love to go their house.

MF: What was it like growing up on Sweet Briar Farm? It must have been pretty rural.

ALTHAUS: Oh, definitely. Definitely. You have all those questions about high school.

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: And we had Gresham Union High School.

MF: Is that where you went?

ALTHAUS: [Yes.] Oh. You have this about schools. You want to know about my school?

MF: I want to know about – yeah, I want to know, kind of generally what – maybe a little chronology and then we’ll go back and fill it in.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah. It’s kind of interesting. Well, I went to a one room school. When we first moved, I was nine years old, to the farm. After a family conference, in which we decided. Now my father was interested in some farm things, though he’d never lived on a farm. My mother had not lived on one but she had gone. The farm was always leased, but with the provision that my grandfather could keep horses there and breed horses there.

MF: Your family leased from your grandfather?

ALTHAUS: What?

MF: You said it was always leased? Oh, it was leased to other people?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah. It was leased to other people, always. He always had tenants, on our lease, you know, long term, operating the farm. Oh, there's so much to tell about it, I shouldn't waste all the time. Actually it had been logged when my grandfather had it. It had not been cleared of the stumps. You know the kind of stumps they had in those days about this high? [Laughs] They weren't safe. And so in order to really farm it, they have to be dynamited.

So he had a Chinese – what was his name – who lived in a little cabin among these and was an expert in dynamiting stumps, which was kind of a dangerous thing to do. So they had what they called a carriage house but, I'm sure it wasn't like the elegant ones in Portland. Now they've even made one into a loft.

But it had two stories and after my grandmother had died, of course mother and her father spent a lot of time together, and one thing was to go out on weekends to the farm in the summer. And on the second story they had rooms and even a stove. So grandfather would drive a buggy with, usually, one horse and so if he had to get back to the office in the summer mother would often stay over. But she'd describe – he always had to have a big breakfast, bacon and eggs. And he had to get to the office at nine, so they'd get up about six, and she would cook this big breakfast, and they would eat that and then go down and help him harness the horse. He was an expert at that, too. And he would start at seven o'clock. I don't know how they did this in an hour, maybe they got up at five-thirty, but she always said six. Then at seven he had 15 miles to go, to Portland, to the office on the Westside (nobody had an office on the Eastside) at First and Stark. So he would start out, carrying his books and stuff in the buggy, and you know where – let's see. This is right off Stark Street - used to Baseline Road out in the country.

MF: Way out.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, it is on the other side, too. You know Montavilla? Baseline Road, or Stark Street, goes into Montavilla.

MF: Yeah, very sketchy.

ALTHAUS: Then there is a hill. And then there's that old crater there. Well at the top of the hill was a watering trough so he'd stop and rest the horse and give it a little water. You'd have to be very careful, not too much, you know, when they're hot. And they were fast-trotting horses. And then he would go on to the river and he had three options. One was to take the Morrison Bridge - was free. And there was only one other bridge, the Hawthorne Bridge. You had to pay toll on it. And then the third option was the Stark Street Ferry. [Laughs]

MF: Imagine that.

ALTHAUS: And I don't know which one he usually chose, but anyway he would get to his office at nine o'clock. Two hours to do that.

MF: Well, it actually takes about that now with the traffic. [Laughs]

ALTHAUS: Well, I took that route driving and then, of course, the freeway.

MF: When you...

ALTHAUS: So I always commuted.

MF: Yeah. Did you ever have a practice out of downtown Portland?

ALTHAUS: Yes, but on the other side. I had a 25 mile commute then.

MF: This was when you were with Virginia Renwick?

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: And you were where? In Beaverton?

ALTHAUS: No, we were first in Tigard - on the highway and then we bought a house and converted it to the – it was in - trees – it was quite – and then converted it to an office in Raleigh Hills.

MF: And where is that?

ALTHAUS: Well, it's not incorporated.

MF: No, I know where Raleigh Hills is. Which house are you talking about?

ALTHAUS: Well, we converted it to a business use and it was on a highway in an area that has – but I don't remember just the actual address, but it turned out to be a fairly valuable property. But we owned it. The other we were renting, in Tigard.

Now where have I wandered?

MF: Oh, you haven't wandered at all. You said you were nine years old when you moved to the farm, after family conference. What was your father doing before they decided to go move to the farm?

ALTHAUS: Well, it began when they moved to Oregon and World War I was pending. Let's see, when did it start in Europe? Anyway, he worked in the shipyards during World

War I and after. And before, I guess there was a – you know what it was like during World War II. The shipyards were the big thing at that time.

MF: Yeah.

ALTHAUS: Oh, what you were asking about him, he was an excellent draftsman and he was interested in lumberyards and stuff, and I think he would have made a good architect if he had the education. In fact, well, two of my best friends in college were architect majors and so he always spoke their language, you know. They were both...

MF: Did he make a living as a draftsman?

ALTHAUS: Well, oh dear me. I'm getting into all these details. I'd almost forgotten. Well, I think mostly in lumberyards, but he always did do drafting, too. We lived in Woodburn when I was a child. When we first came out we lived in Woodburn and Lebanon where he worked in mills and also managed lumberyards. I thought about that later because when I worked for Miller Nash on the Georgia Pacific, Willamette Industries, all those were major clients and so I really got into...

MF: Lumber.

ALTHAUS: Lumber. Yeah. [Laughs] I mean really in a kind of big way.

MF: What kind of a woman was your mother? Were you close to her?

ALTHAUS: Yes, very close.

MF: What kind of a person was she, I mean just in terms of as a mother, as a friend?

ALTHAUS: Oh, we became closer as the years went by. I guess we always were close. Well she was just as interested in horses as my grandfather was, and I was always most interested in horses, so that was one of the big bonds. When we first moved into the country I was so excited because I was going to have a horse, a pony. She was very outgoing. You know she'd make friends instantly with people. And she was a lot like, I suppose, my grandmother was, too, but my grandfather was, I mean he had this – I told you about his black friend and his Chinese ones and he had clients of fishermen. He made friends very easily, too.

MF: And how about your father?

ALTHAUS: Well, he was more reserved in a way. It may have been the Mennonite tradition, but I don't know. I always thought he didn't, because I didn't have a close relationship with him. I always thought he didn't know how to relate to children, but I guess that's not true because we had, in Prineville, Oregon – in my grandfather's estate – well, this tells you about my mother, too. She became an excellent business woman, not just the farm. And I think she was more interested in the farm than my father, although he purported to have always wanted to live on a farm, but she just loved the farm. She loved it and operated it because, see, he passed away in 1939.

MF: Your father?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. A heart attack. Very, very suddenly. And my mother lived to 90, which was 1973, so you see their span of life was quite different. She was always involved with the farm but, of course, she had the whole responsibility in the farm. At first we only operated 25 acres, which I think my grandfather finally deeded to my mother and father.

We had berries, which is intensive farming. Loganberries, oh, they were very popular then. So that was a small farm. Then, my mother always wanted livestock. And we always did have some registered Jersey cows. And in the obituary of my grandfather it's

mentioned. I had forgotten about that, too, because he and some other prominent people then in Portland were very interested in the last century in improving the livestock in Oregon. Horses were very important up until about the turn of the century. That was one but the other was cattle, having registered cattle, especially registered Jerseys, registered Guernseys.

MF: And Jerseys are milk cows?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. Those are dairy cows. Jerseys, Guernseys, then of course there's the other kind of milk cow, which was scorned a bit then, at least by the Jersey breeders because at that time – it's very interesting. You were paid, whether you were selling wholesale milk or cream, you were paid on the butterfat content. You know now they scorn the milk fat. [Laughs]

MF: [Laughs] That's right.

ALTHAUS: And the Jerseys have this wonderful – the butter is always yellow. The Holstein, I'll have you know, ran around two or three percent and the Jersey can go up to six percent or seven percent butterfat. So there were jokes. My favorite one was about the Jersey breeder and the Holstein, the Holstein Friesians. The breeders were talking about their cattle and they said, well the Jersey breeder said, he can milk a Holstein into a bucket, have a bucket full of milk and have a silver dollar at the bottom of the bucket and you could still see the silver dollar. [Laughs] The milk's so thin. So then the Holstein breeder would counter and say, you milk the Jersey cow into that same bucket and the silver dollar at the bottom. You'll hardly get enough milk to cover the dollar. [Both laugh] I'm really not good at remembering jokes, but I never forget that one. [Laughs]

MF: I always thought it was a gentleman farm. You actually grew up on an operating farm.



ALTHAUS: Oh, yes, I did.

MF: Once your parents took it over? You had it leased to people.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, but then, actually, I don't think my parents took it over until my grandfather died. We just had this 25 acres. So it was a berry farm. Although there were some bigger berry farms in the area but berries, you know, loganberries and berries like that, the cane berries, grew very well in the Willamette valley. There aren't too many places that grow that.

MF: Did you work on the farm? Was that part of your job?

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: What did you do?

ALTHAUS: Picked berries, yes, every summer. We never had a vacation until years – a summer vacation. We took a long one to drive east once. It took us a day. Oh, we had the most interesting, my cousins, I have three...

**[End of Tape 3, Side 1]**

**Tape 3, Side 2****1999 July 24**

MF: We're now back on side 2, July 24, 1999, and we were talking about Helen Althaus's cousins and her childhood friends.

ALTHAUS: Yes, well. He actually was a member of the bar. I don't know when, but he never practiced law. He had an insurance...

MF: What was his name again just in case...

ALTHAUS: Fred Williams, my mother's first cousin. In fact, I didn't know he was a member of the bar until much later because he had this very profitable insurance business in Portland and we often went to his office. They lived in Irvington, one of those beautiful old large bungalows in Irvington.

He had three daughters, all about my age. We were all in college, or two of them and I were in college together. The youngest one came later. We all went to University of Oregon together. Well they would come out, and their mother, and they would camp in a tent. Now we did have some walk-in pickers that were local and some brought their children and were very fast pickers. Others were schoolmates of mine in grade school or high school. When I went to college I remember one of the students at the University of Oregon came out. Also, very interesting, there were two Reed College students, who wanted to experience, a brother and a sister, who came seeking us out saying, "We'd like to pick berries. We want to get the experience." They were from the East, you know, a lot of Reed College were. So we had kind of an interesting group. And some of them would camp, as well as my cousins, so in our little English Walnut grove we'd have two or three tents and they would cook on a camp fire and they loved it. And the book wagon, Multnomah County Book Wagon...

MF: Book Mobile, right.

ALTHAUS: Yes. Everybody would rush to the Book Mobile when it came. [Laughs]

MF: So it went all the way out there?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes. Well, that's what it was supposed to be for, I thought. You know, for the rural.

MF: I grew up in the Wilson Park area, and it also came around there when I was a kid.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. It was always so exciting so everybody left the berry patch with a book when the Book Mobile came. I don't know how often it came. I don't remember.

MF: When you were younger, who did you play with? Well, first of all, when you were nine you said you went to a one room school.

ALTHAUS: Oh, that's a story in itself. It's really interesting. See, my mother majored in education at Stanford, and literature, and so at that time in education she felt he was the best in the country, at Stanford, Professor Cubberley. I think he had published a lot of books about education. However, she did substitute teaching when she came out – at St. Helen's Hall and places. But her father didn't want her to get a full-time job. You know he was a widower. And so she didn't ever teach full-time. Because then they went East and she met my father, they were married, and her father remarried and married her first step-mother, so everything changed, though she did have an offer she said. Just about the week before she was married, from some place in the Appalachian Mountains. They were interested in getting college women who were—.

Okay, so we went out – one room school. Now to me this is quite interesting. To begin with, of course, she had a daughter in that school and so she visited the school.

There was an eighteen-year-old teacher. At that time, you know, there was a time when you didn't even have to have a high school education to teach in Oregon.

MF: When was this?

ALTHAUS: It was about 1919. So she visited the school. I even remember her name, Carolyn [Tallman?] was the teacher that handled all eight grades. There must have been at least 30 in there. My mother was absolutely delighted. This was a very brilliant young woman, apparently, but she just had a high school education.

MF: Untrained.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, but she had all sorts of ideas about teaching and mother couldn't have been pleased more than with this 18-year-old, Carolyn Tallman. Well then, the next year she went away to the East. Now, I found out many, many years later where they had a Cedar School reunion, she, this teacher, had gone to Columbia in New York and had had a great career in education.

MF: How amazing.

ALTHAUS: She was very interesting.

Okay, the one that came with the school board – oh, you wanted to know the setting.

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: Those farmers could care less about education. They hadn't gone to high school, so why furnish transportation or even furnish a high school education to anybody in their district. They were the most conservative...

MF: These are the farmers in the area around you?

ALTHAUS: Yeah, and at this time, only landowners could vote in a school election.

MF: That lasted for a long time?

ALTHAUS: I think it did.

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: Oh, it did. My mother found a way around it though. We were talking about my mother, so she found a way around it. If you owned a share of stock in the electric utility, the PGE, you had an interest in land so you could vote. How she found it out, I don't know.

MF: What did she do with that information?

ALTHAUS: Oh, she had a meeting of the parents. Many of them were tenants so that was before my grandfather gave her that, I think he did convey, that 25 acres but that wasn't when we were first there, no. We were just tenants. So she had a meeting. They all bought a share [Laughs] or two of PGE so they could vote in the school elections. Even then they didn't have a school board that was all that great, but the teacher, the next hire, had been grandfathered in.

MF: The teacher what?

ALTHAUS: That they hired...

MF: Oh, after Tallman?

ALTHAUS: She was to handle the ones – I can't remember her name, Mrs. [Hayden?]. She had taught for years, but she hadn't gone beyond grade school herself. Well, mother went to observe and she was very disappointed. She thought it was very inferior, besides, she had the older children teaching the younger children, you know, and all that. Anyway, I was not a participant. [Laughs] I was just moved around.

Well, she thought, there's got to be a better school in this area. So she went down to Troutdale where they had a three-room school and found that they had a man. There weren't many men teaching then. Mr. [Bradley?], but he had gone to West Point, not finished. He'd been a miner. He was a very interesting man. And he let the girls play baseball, you know, you could have a whole lot of play without teams. He'd let the girls play with the boys, and he had two teachers under him. Anyway, she felt he was very superior, but how to get me in the Troutdale school? Somehow she did it, I think she got the money from that one school district transferred. I'm not sure, but I think she did. I can't remember just how...

MF: What school district were you in? Where was the first school?

ALTHAUS: The first school was Cedar District Number 10 in Multnomah County. That was one of the earliest ones. Troutdale was Number 20.

MF: Also in Multnomah County?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah. So anyway, the other was walking distance so she drove me down two miles to Troutdale, so that's where I finished grade school. And he was an extraordinary teacher.

MF: Did you have him or did you have the other teachers?

ALTHAUS: No, I had him because he had, let's see – three, three. By the time that happened he had the seventh and eighth grades and I was in the seventh grade.

MF: Did you feel you got a good education in that school?

ALTHAUS: Yeah, excellent, because Carolyn Tallman was good and Mr. Bradley was excellent.

MF: What kinds of books and things were available in those schools?

ALTHAUS: Well, we had to buy our own. They didn't furnish books but he gave me a great background in math and stuff. I didn't feel that I had anything...

MF: How about the other students? You said a lot of the landowners didn't have any great value of education.

ALTHAUS: The what?

MF: The other landowners. You said a lot of them didn't have any great value of education.

ALTHAUS: Oh, no. They certainly didn't.

MF: So what were the kids like? Their children?

ALTHAUS: Well, they were sort of a mixture. Some were very bright and one of them, the most opposed, didn't have any children. He had, not an adopted one, the ones the state sort of places out, you know.

MF: Oh, foster.

ALTHAUS: Foster. And I think he found him helpful on the farm, you know.

MF: Were these the people, these children, people that you played with and associated with?

ALTHAUS: Well, yes, some. Mr. Bradley's daughter was also a student about my age and we became quite good friends, though it didn't continue beyond grade school, and I don't know where she went to high school. But I don't remember her in high school.

MF: What did you like studying in school as a kid?

ALTHAUS: Oh, just about everything.

MF: How about PE? Did you like sports?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah. I was crazy about sports. Sort of small, you know, for sports. In high school we didn't really have much athletics for girls, except in the gymnasium.

MF: [Yes.]

ALTHAUS: But we had basketball - girls basketball - in the gymnasium, and no class teams even, just the teams the gym teacher would figure out.

MF: Oh, so no intramurals?

ALTHAUS: No.



MF: How many girls in the grade schools? You said about 30 kids in the first one.

ALTHAUS: It was about half and half, I think, in grade school.

MF: Interesting. And how about the other one, the second school you went to?

ALTHAUS: Well, it had probably way over a hundred because it had eight grades. You know it had seventh and eighth grades together so there'd be about 20, 30, in the seventh and eighth grade class. And then they had the first, second, and third, and the fourth, fifth, and sixth. And they had even more, you know.

MF: Girls and boys?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. So it was a fairly big school. I've got to tell you about the sports and basketball. From friends who...

MF: That was in high school?

ALTHAUS: High school, yeah. We didn't have much except playing baseball outside. Run up, you know, where you didn't have to have teams. I don't remember just how you did it. And sledding, if we had winter snow. In the winter, was a very dangerous place for the school, to go down in a sled because you ended up on a road. Troutdale is fairly hilly. See I'm back...

MF: We were talking about basketball in high school.

ALTHAUS: Oh, in high school, basketball. Okay. High school was a very large area. Of course you...

MF: Where did you go to high school?

ALTHAUS: Gresham Union High School. It was a union high school because there was just one man and it...

MF: Well, I'm going to express my ignorance and tell you, I don't know what that - union high school - means.

ALTHAUS: Well, because it included a lot of grade school districts out in the country.

MF: Oh, okay.

ALTHAUS: That's why the union came.

MF: I never knew why they used that expression.

ALTHAUS: Well, the way they had girls basketball in our high school was divide the floor into threes and then you had six on each team. So in the middle third there was a running center and jumping center. The running center, usually, it didn't matter about your height because you had that real tall jumping center, then two forwards and two guards in each of the other, the end third.

So there was, I even remember her name, Olivia [Beeler?]. She was about my height. Neither of us were very tall. She was quite stocky, and I was fairly slender, but I lived on a farm and I could lift a 50 pound gunny sack with no problem, so I was fairly muscled in my youth. So we enjoyed playing against each other as running centers. You know, we each had the idea that if the ball could never get to the other end, they could never make any scores. [Laughs]

MF: Defensive play.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, but we enjoyed playing against each other somehow. You know we'd just wrestle over the ball and then we speculated, "What if center made a basket?" But, it was quite a distance because it was a third, you see.

MF: [Yes.] Did you play the rules where you couldn't go out of your...

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah.

MF: Girls could only run so far. [Laughs]

ALTHAUS: Yeah. Oh, no, we couldn't move out of that. However, we did practice in our spare time shooting baskets from...

MF: From half court. [Laughs]

ALTHAUS: To the center, yeah. [Laughs] But we never had the courage enough, or the time maybe, to try shooting in the game, [Laughs] but it was fun practicing. For a while, we could make two out of three. Of course, they were set shots, you know. There wasn't anybody trying to take the ball away from you so we couldn't be too proud of that, but it was fun. So we liked it.

MF: What were your hobbies?

ALTHAUS: Riding horseback.

MF: Did you just ride in the farm or did you compete?

ALTHAUS: Oh, later on, when I was practicing law, I rode once an evening and I did some, but no, it was just on the farm. Of course, the roads were all gravel or dirt and they're real country roads, you know, out there. And you're never alone because you'd have the horse. Nobody else was interested in horses, of my age.

MF: Is that right?

ALTHAUS: Well, because, you know, cars. Think of the 1920s, automobiles were the big thing.

MF: Of course, I'm younger, but girls always liked horses in my generation.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah, I know. I know they are. Yeah. Even in my mother's generation, she would ride, but there were only two women of any age that rode astride in Portland. And the other one, she said, rode a black stallion. But my mother's mother said her daughter was never going to ride sidesaddle. It was dangerous. It was absolutely ridiculous, and so her daughter always rode with a saddle despite the jeers of little boys, you know, who would say, "Clothespin, a clothespin, riding like a clothespin." [Laughs] Things like that. But when she stayed over in the summer at the farm above the carriage house, the country girls seemed miffed. She knew a lot of them and she was always very outgoing and they would ride together – I guess they all rode sidesaddle.

MF: The country girls rode sidesaddle?

ALTHAUS: Yes, they were much more proper. Well, and in Portland there were only two. This is a mature woman and my mother, around the turn of the century.

MF: Did you ever try riding sidesaddle?

ALTHAUS: Oh, someone had a side – oh, yeah, not very good. It was out at, what is that lake? They had horses in the mountains. It's right near Eugene, there's a resort on the Willamette Pass where they had horses to rent. It was quite a large lake and you could rent boats and things, and we were there. I rode with the owner of this string of mountain horses that would go along the trail along the Cascade Mountains. This lake, that trail...

MF: Detroit Lake? No, that's a dammed lake.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, it is. It's south of there. Willamette Pass. Detroit Lake, I don't think it's on the Willamette Pass.

MF: I'd have to look at a map.

ALTHAUS: But anyway the Willamette Pass, which was first the Natron Cutoff discovered by the railroad, and that was one of the economic crises right here in the Rogue Valley. Caused it because you see Ashland and Medford didn't even exist until the railroad went through, and Ashland is a very important railroad town, all the way to California, Southern Pacific or its predecessor. But the railroad engineers discovered the Willamette Pass, which angles through the Cascades, saves mileage. And also, then you get over to where Highway 97 is for automobiles. It's much quicker that way. So that was a great economic crisis because first they took the freight traffic away. Finally, they took the passenger traffic away.

MF: From Ashland?

ALTHAUS: Through Ashland. Well, from Eugene. Eugene to the Willamette Pass you see. So the railroad wasn't much use from Eugene on, because it went east into the Cascades.

MF: And when did that happen?

ALTHAUS: In the 1920s. Let's see. There were two crises. This was the second one. The first one was Jacksonville. Of course, Jacksonville, for us as it was, was the center of everything. It was the county seat, you know. It was a gold town. Ashland was there, too. Medford was created by the railroad because, as I understand, the Jacksonville city council was negotiating with the railroad because the stage line had gone there, the pack trains before that had gone there, and the railroad engineers decided they were too difficult, so they put it three miles east and that destroyed Jacksonville as the center. And by the 1920s, that was back in the last century, they lost the county seat. They'd just built a new courthouse, which is a museum now. You have been there?

MF: I've not been to Jacksonville, oh, for 10, 12 years. I've been several times, but not for a long time.

ALTHAUS: You've been there. But the museum was open then?

MF: I think the museum was open the last time I was there.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, it was the old courthouse. When I first saw Jacksonville, I was with the court. I was Judge Fee's law clerk and the old courthouse, the old federal courthouse, which they've just renovated now in Medford. There had been something in the Portland papers about Jacksonville, the historical – this was in 1947 or 1948, and so I had driven his secretary down. After five o'clock I said, "We've got to go to Jacksonville, if we can find it, because it supposed to be interesting."

She said, "Well, fine."

So we started right out, following the signs from Medford to Jacksonville. She had just been on a trip East and just loved the old colonial houses and all this stuff, you know,

in New England. And she was looking around and she said, "Helen, it looks as if, there must have been a lot of money in these expensive Victorian houses I see."

I said, "Well you know, there was gold."

She said, "There was gold?"

I said, "Yeah."

So we got to Jacksonville. The courthouse was boarded up on the windows so it couldn't be broken because everything was in Medford. And there was a little sign, "Museum", where the Jacksonville Inn is but it was never opened. There wasn't any place to eat. [Laughs] Now it has all these gourmet places. That was in 1948. Finally we got hungry and we said, "We've got to find something to eat." But we hated just to go back to Medford so – it's at Stage Road, old Stage Road. It was the section that goes the other way, north toward Gold Hill. So we said, "We'll take that." And still no place – no food, just country and all that. Finally we saw some lights on a little cement block building. We thought it said "Chicken and Biscuits." Sounds good. So we went in and there was this charming woman and a blazing fireplace. We said, "Well we're leaving the history behind now. We want chicken and biscuits, sounds good."

She said, "Oh, you've been to Jacksonville."

And we said, "Yes."

And she said, "But there's no place more historical than this. Of course not this building, the old building has burnt." She said, "This is Dardanelles."

We said, "Dardanelles?"

She said, "The second post office in Oregon. Astoria was the first post office in Oregon." [Laughs] So the chicken and biscuits were just wonderful. Anyway, the original Dardanelles, which her grandfather or great-grandfather built, had burned and so she had this little chicken and biscuit place. We said, "We've got to get back to Medford."

She said, "Oh, that's alright. Highway 99, because there was no freeway, is right there in Gold Hill, just, you know, a hop, skip and a jump." And so we got back.

MF: What were you doing? You were down here with Judge Fee?

ALTHAUS: Yes. Because I was his law clerk.

MF: For how long?

ALTHAUS: Well, I don't know if they have this now, but in the U.S.C.A. [United States Code Annotated] there was a provision for a term of court, a term of federal court...

MF: The Court of Appeals?

ALTHAUS: That had to be held. No. Of federal district court, trial court.

MF: Okay.

ALTHAUS: The state of Oregon. It was held in Medford.

MF: Yeah, I think, actually, they still do hold court in Medford and Pendleton and so forth.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, it was mandated, but somehow I've never heard any of my attorney friends mention that they had the regular term. Of course, they have other cases now. They have a judge here all the time, a federal judge.

MF: A federal judge all the time now?

ALTHAUS: [John Patrick] Cooney. Yeah, it just happened about a year ago and they had a big ceremony in – well, he may be in Eugene part of the time, but his name's Cooney. So everything is a little different.



MF: So, actually, while you were Judge Fee's clerk you were actually kind of riding circuit?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah, and then he, it wasn't mandatory, but he never had a case involving real property that he didn't have it right near, near that property in the county. For instance, he'd have a lot of special terms, besides these regular terms, which were very short. You know, a big one was the condemnation cases for the Malheur Bird Refuge.

MF: Oh, really. Were you involved in those?

ALTHAUS: Yeah, they were going on. They took quite a long while, but they were still going on. The condemnation cases were.

Another one where there was water. Floods and withdrawal of water. There were two issues, and then he held court in Vale in Malheur County. It was about the same time as the Vanport flood. So that was an example. Others were condemnation cases, a whole series of them in Eugene. I don't know what purpose, or whether they were for a while but, anyway, that's when he held court in the Moose Lodge. [Laughs]

MF: In Eugene?

ALTHAUS: Yes. [MF laughs] Usually the state court would lend a courtroom, you know, that's – I think they have a federal courthouse now in Eugene. But everything was busy, so the marshal arranged for the Moose Lodge. I remember him holding court in the basement of the Harney County Courthouse because the top part was being used. Where they had little things like birds, collections of bird's nests and things, but all he needed was a bench to sit on and a table and he could make it a courtroom.

MF: How long were you his clerk?

ALTHAUS: Two years. One year, and then I was asked back. Then during my second year, though, I had an opportunity that was – well it's kind of sad to think why did all these opportunities happen? Because the men were off fighting the war.

MF: So, when were you clerk?

ALTHAUS: I was clerk in 1947 and 1948. But...

MF: That's a little after the war.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, but it still had an effect. There was a shortage of lawyers because they didn't exempt from service, you know, law students. So it had an effect.

MF: That's what you would say, because that's, of course, one of the questions that I have. How did it happen that you got to be the first woman to be a federal judicial clerk in Oregon?

ALTHAUS: Well, I don't know. I think the federal law clerk, I don't know in the state. I'm not sure, but some have said I was the first one.

MF: So you don't know that for sure? That's what I've heard.

ALTHAUS: You have? Yeah. Well, it may be, but I've never counted up or whatever, and there are all the, if you count Circuit Court judges.

MF: Now I'm talking about federal court. Yeah.

ALTHAUS: Oh, I think federal – yes, I’m sure I was the first woman to be a federal court clerk. Then I think I knew the first two who were clerks for the Oregon Supreme Court, women clerks.

MF: Who were they?

ALTHAUS: Jean Lowman, and she was clerk to Justice [John L.] Rand and Justice [William Menzies] McAllister, I mean, later Justice McAllister when he was – the two justices.

MF: But sometime later, yeah.

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: And then Jean Lowman?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. Now the other one was a great friend of Jean’s. There’s a story about her. I can’t think of her name, but she was from the University of Michigan Law School. They took the bar together. They must have been clerks before they took the bar, while they were taking the bar, because Jean passed and the other one was told that she failed the bar. Well her judge that she was law clerk to, I don’t remember which one it was, he was quite upset about it. Apparently, it took a long time because there they were in Salem, and everything was very secret about the bar then. Maybe it still is. But anyway, I think she had taken it again, and it took about a year, that they found out – you know how they, I don’t know if they still do, they copy the handwritten or even the typewritten exam. But it’s copied by a typist.

MF: No, I didn’t know that.

ALTHAUS: You don't think it's done that way.

MF: Well, I think it's probably Xeroxed.

ALTHAUS: No, no, they didn't want any possibility of handwriting being recognized...

MF: Oh, I see what you're saying.

ALTHAUS: Or a typewriter being recognized.

MF: That could well be, particularly now with word processors. They may just scan it in or something and just fix it up so nobody can tell whose it is.

ALTHAUS: They probably can.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, but that's the way they did.

MF: That's interesting.

ALTHAUS: I thought it was interesting. Also, they found that she'd omitted copying several questions, the one who copied. It might have been a man, but I don't know who did it. But anyway, by that time she'd taken it the second time and passed it the second time so they didn't go any further, I guess. Anyway, she was a member of the bar.

MF: So, then again, how did it happen that you got to be Judge Fee's clerk?

ALTHAUS: Oh. Oh, well, yes.

MF: We're jumping ahead of ourselves but that's all right.

ALTHAUS: But that's all right. I got that far in looking at these questions. I think this was very interesting, and that's why I always advise every lawyer to go to bar association meetings and get involved. It may have very favorable – it happened to me.

Now, my friend, who was one of the most brilliant lawyers ever in Oregon, when I went to law school she was two years ahead of me, Marian [C.] Rushing, who became the City Attorney of Portland. Well, we were great friends from law school. I got a notice that the Multnomah Bar Association - Well, when I was first admitted to the Bar, my mother was in the middle of a lot of things and I – Well this was right after I got the news, practically simultaneously – it was VJ Day, you know, the war was over. And I didn't feel comfortable about ringing doorbells with all these men that had risked their lives coming back, you know. And I know women had a couple of strikes against you. Anyway, my mother was quite busy with this Ochoco Inn and things of that, and also with the farm, so I didn't attempt anything in the way of trying to get a legal job for a couple of years. Even office space was short in Portland after the war. They were building buildings. They were building the Equitable Building. You couldn't very easily rent office space in the city of Portland.

Now, it never occurred to me. I once sat next to a lawyer from East County at some bar meeting and he said when he was in law school he just dreamed of setting up a law office in Gresham, in East County, that was his dream. [Laughs] But it had never occurred to me. I thought if I practiced law it had to be where my grandfather practiced, in Portland. It never even occurred to me. Okay, office space was very hard to find. They were building new buildings like mad, so the Equitable Building was being built, the first one. They built another one, you know, later.

MF: So you intended to just open an office?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. I rented a suite. It had two offices and a reception room, but it wasn't built yet. [Laughs]

MF: A theoretical office.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, right. So I still had some time, but I never thought about – I did want to go to this Multnomah Bar Association meeting, and I said to Marian, “Do you go to them? Now we’re here and I could go.”

“Well,” she said, “If you want to go we might as well go.” But she hadn’t gone to one, although she’d been a member for several years. So we went. I think it was at the Multnomah Hotel. And there, Lowell Mundorff, who was at that time, he had been in private practice, but he was one of the teachers at the law school, and I had taken Trust from him, and he was there. At that time, he was the clerk of the federal court. So he greeted us, and we met a lot of people. But he said, “Helen, what are you doing?”

And I said, “Well, I just rented this office. I’m going to sublet one, you know, but the building isn’t built yet.”

He said, “You know, Judge Fee is interviewing now for a law clerk.” Of course, he was clerk in federal court so he knew. He said, “Why don’t you apply? I’ll make an appointment for you.”

So that’s how I got that.

MF: Well, it must have been more complicated than that. There must have been other people applying.

ALTHAUS: Well, the last I heard, was Lowell telling me the other prospects had vanished. [Laughs] I don’t know just how they vanished but – so I had an interview.

MF: [Yes.] With the judge?

ALTHAUS: [Yes.]

MF: How’d the interview go?

ALTHAUS: Very well, yeah.

MF: What did you think of the judge?

ALTHAUS: Oh, well, you kind of, when you're in law school you sort think about what a ideal judge would be. He just fitted the bill, just every way. I thought he was wonderful. Just what I expect a judge to be.

MF: Did it ever come up that there hadn't been any women?

ALTHAUS: No. Well, he said he had no sons. He had three daughters. He said none of them studied law. And he said, "So you can go from chemical research to legal research?"

And I said, "Well, actually, in chemistry I didn't have a graduate degree. I just was an analytical chemist, you know, working for the aluminum company."

So that didn't bother him. You know, that's funny. He really had no biases. And he knew one of the old stories of the women – I think I used it in that one I wrote about the early women lawyers, about when California –.

Because he was from Eastern Oregon. And he loved Eastern Oregon. And this happened in The Dalles, in Eastern Oregon, this story about the women and he knew, maybe from that story, that women were admitted to practice law in California long before they were in Oregon.

So, the judges would admit a woman for the purposes of the case, who was admitted in California, for a case in Oregon, even though she wouldn't be a member of the Oregon Bar, she would just be associated with someone.

**[End of Tape 3, Side 2]**

**Tape 4, Side 1**  
**1999 July 24**

MF: It is approximately 12:45, and it is July 24, 1999. Okay.

ALTHAUS: The California woman lawyer, whose name escapes me now, was having a case involving some business transactions. The jury, of course, was all men. It was probably well before the turn of the century. And her opponent, who was a man, emphasized the fact in his argument to the jury that his opponent was a woman lawyer. He said how inappropriate it was for a woman to be a lawyer in a courtroom before a male judge, before a male jury, representing a male client, and he was rather floored by the situation, and this was his argument to the jury.

When she got up to argue she said – oh, also, and I think the climax of his argument, when he said, “She should be at home taking care of her husband and raising children.”

So when she came to argue, she said, “Since my opponent has done nothing but argue the fact that I am a woman in this courtroom with all men” – the clerks were all men, everyone except her. But, she said, “So I think I will just respond to the way he’s argued the case and say that I believe it is far better that I’m, as a woman, and a lawyer, arguing this case before a man whose a judge, and the staff of the court, and the jury who are all men, it’s far better that I am doing this than staying at home raising sons that could well turn out to be men like my opponent.” [MF laughs]

So, I first heard this story from Judge Fee who was...

MF: Turn of the century? That was a long time ago.

ALTHAUS: It was before the turn of the century.

MF: Oh, my gosh.



ALTHAUS: I wrote an article about the first women lawyers before the turn of the century.

MF: [Yes.] I have that.

ALTHAUS: You have it. Somewhere it gave the name of the lawyer I believe this one was. She was a very prominent lawyer in California, and she was instrumental in getting the statute changed so women could practice law in California. She was very educated, you know, with a college degree. Her brother was a newspaper man, and he finally found a law firm that would accept her as a student of law, reading law. This law firm, somewhere in the Sacramento area.

And when she came to take the bar, there's a story about that because she was very knowledgeable, very politically oriented, and she was there in the governor's office so he would sign the statute that had passed, perhaps by just one vote, to allow women to take the bar and become lawyers. Then she decided she wanted, after passing the bar and practicing law, she decided she wanted to go to a formal law school, which is now part of the California system, the Hastings College of Law.

And there were some other young women who were not lawyers. She already was a lawyer. They wouldn't admit any of them. They had to go to court in order to be admitted to Hastings Law School. But they did win in court.

Well anyway, this story about this Californian woman lawyer was told to me by Judge Fee. I guess not in the first interview, but later on when he was giving a speech up in Seattle during the American Bar Association Convention, I think.

MF: He was a very much, and still is, a very much respected Oregon jurist.

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: And it sounds like all the experiences that you had with him were very good ones.

ALTHAUS: Well they certainly were.

MF: That's nice. That's good to hear.

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: You were there with him for two years and what all did you do? What kind of work did you do?

ALTHAUS: Well, of course, he was the kind of judge I respect. I did research. It was very interesting. I learned most of what I know about research. He was a wonderful researcher himself, and I learned a lot of things from him. And he was a great knowledge of the common law and the history of law, the history of English law.

MF: Where did he come from? What kind of a practice?

ALTHAUS: He was a state judge, a circuit judge, a trial judge for the state of Oregon. That's where he came from when he was appointed. His father was a lawyer. They came from Pendleton and so they went way back.

MF: Was he a criminal lawyer or contract?

ALTHAUS: Well, I think in Eastern Oregon, at that time, they didn't really specialize.

MF: They probably did whatever came in the door. [Laughs]

ALTHAUS: Yeah, right. [Laughs]

MF: How did you do research back in 1948?

ALTHAUS: Oh, well, of course our great standby was Shepard.

MF: They still had Shepard's? And the West Digest?

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: So then it really didn't change very much...

ALTHAUS: Except for computers.

MF: I mean up till now, and now everything is computerized. But between the time you started practicing law and I started practicing law it sounds like it was basically the same.

ALTHAUS: Well, probably. I know that computers have made a lot of difference. But I'm sort of glad I didn't have to learn computers. [Laughs] I guess they're very convenient, but one reason I delighted in being a lawyer was that I didn't have to type. I hate to type and when you do a computer it looks like you're using a keyboard of typing and so [Laughs] that would not have pleased me. It was such luxury to have a secretary.

MF: So you wrote everything out by hand or you dictated?

ALTHAUS: Both. Briefs - a lot of the great brief writers at Miller Nash preferred to write by hand and having rough drafts from that. But correspondence dictate, and sometimes some of us would write it out by hand and notes and then dictate from that.

MF: So that was when you were at King Miller or Miller Nash?

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: So you did research with the court.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah. We were on the court. Of course one thing, I think this is something he felt he would tell anyone. I mean, he felt a judge's job was, he could be assisted in research but he would have to overdo it. He was very helpful in research, I can tell you, but he felt a judge's job was to write opinions and the idea of a law clerk writing an opinion was something that was very abhorrent to him and certainly would have been to me, if I had worked for a judge who said write the opinion.

MF: So he would ask you legal questions, you would research those, give them to him, and he would write up the opinion?

ALTHAUS: Yeah, we'd work them out. We worked a lot. He was the kind of judge that when he was – well, later on he was a member of the Court of Appeals, but while I was his law clerk he was often assigned to the Court of Appeals in San Francisco. Another thing about Judge Fee, he kept his court up to date.

MF: What do you mean by that?

ALTHAUS: Well, he could be assigned to other districts because he didn't have a whole lot of cases backlogged. So he would go to places where they were backlogged, like...

MF: Clean them out.

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: You told me, not on tape but I think last time, a story about going into a very historic building in San Francisco.

ALTHAUS: Oh, it was a beautiful building. I don't know how it is now but then most people just called it the post office. It was on Jones Street and Mission. Jones and Mission. Huge great building. It was built at the turn of the century, the 1890s, and I was told it was so gorgeous because there was a great depression in the 1890s and they had this appropriation of money to build it, so it went a lot further and they were supposed to use up their appropriations. They could hire, import from Italy, these wonderful artists and it was done in the Italian Renaissance style, not the outside but the inside. And in the trial court for the chief judge of that district, it had Italian Renaissance décor on the ceiling. And then on the bench they were all just absolutely beautiful. Now the chief judge's chambers, which Judge Fee had because this was a case that had been sent back by the Supreme Court in about seven different concurring and specially concurring [Laughs] and they sent back on jury instructions.

MF: It was the railroad or something.

ALTHAUS: No, it wasn't the railroad. The defendants in the first case, when it first tried, were all of the cabinet shops and all the planing mills in the Bay Area, plus all the labor unions, including the national labor unions and the - they had a lawyer sent out from the East because the planing mills and the cabinet shops had given up and plead nolo contendere, but the labor unions were still fighting it out. Even then it took about a month. It was about six weeks. We had the whole transcript of the original trial and the chief judge then had tried it. It was a criminal -.

So the only thing these defendants, there weren't any individual defendants, would be fines, they wouldn't go to prison. It was a conspiracy. That's why we had 14, two alternate jurors. It was a very interesting trial, too, because of the counsel from New York City and from Ohio that came out to San Francisco.

ALTHAUS: And also the fact that in the original trial, the prosecutor was Clark [Thomas Campbell Clark]. Tom Clark.

MF: I don't know who that is.

ALTHAUS: Well, he was later Attorney General of the United States. I think he was, I don't know if he went higher than judges but he was quite...

MF: What was your job? You were doing research. Did you also get to sit in the courtroom?

ALTHAUS: Well, only when we were out of the state.

MF: Oh. So he had a court clerk, or a court deputy...

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah. No, a law clerk is purely research. A law clerk had nothing to do with the staff of the clerk's office. Law clerks, it's just – the judge just has a law clerk, secretary, you know, his own staff.

MF: And the person, the deputy who sits in the courtroom, marks the exhibits and so forth.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, but I think he's a part of the clerk's office, not of the judge's...

MF: Staff, okay. But when you went away you got to sit in the courtroom?

ALTHAUS: [Yes].

MF: Did you like to do that?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah, it was very interesting. He was anxious for me to observe once but he felt it was not – anyway that was just his custom.

MF: You said it was interesting because of the New York and Ohio lawyers that tried it. Why was that?

ALTHAUS: Oh, there were some entertaining incidents, too, with them, but you got to see their approach and think of it contrasted with the...

MF: Did you...

ALTHAUS: Especially on jury instructions too.

MF: Did you ever want to be a judge yourself?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes, I guess I would. I would have liked to have been a judge. Yeah. I think law school generally prepares you to be a judge. It doesn't prepare you to be a lawyer. [Laughs]

MF: [Laughs] It doesn't teach you anything like [Laughs] writing.

ALTHAUS: I know. [Laughs]

MF: It's all that legal research. Although I think things are changing. You went to Lewis and Clark, right?

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: Did we get through high school? What did you study in high school? You went to Gresham Union High School.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah, I sort of sidetracked.

MF: Oh, that's okay.

ALTHAUS: Okay.

MF: You were going to be scientist.

ALTHAUS: Well, I'm just sort of the original jack-of-all-trades. I get interested in a lot of different things.

MF: This is one of the nice things about law.

ALTHAUS: That's right. That's what I've told young people. I say, "If you're a jack-of-all-trades type, law brings into – you can't be at the mercy of your opponent so you have to learn what a professional would know." One of the first cases I had at the City Attorney's Office, I learned all about the outdoor advertising profession because the city was condemning a piece of property that had no use except for outdoor advertising, on the approach to a bridge in Portland.

MF: You were involved actually in several appeals from the City Attorney's Office involving early condemnation.



ALTHAUS: Yeah, that was condemnation. Actually, that one, we settled it. We settled it after neither side was really satisfied with the verdict. We settled it on appeal for about half the verdict, but it was an interesting case.

MF: Those cases, actually, if I'm correct, they were pretty early in the whole notion of the city condemning to try to make the city look the way they wanted.

ALTHAUS: Well, now the reason the city was condemning, they were – well, they really were early because Highway 99 went through the city of Portland. They got some federal funds for it, Highway 99W. And by a quirk of the legislature, there's a lot of quirks, if the city did the condemning instead of the state, we wouldn't have to pay attorney's fees [MF laughs] to the condemnee. The statute that...

MF: Is that still the case?

ALTHAUS: I [Laughs] doubt it. [Both laugh] I doubt it.

MF: But, it was a glitch.

ALTHAUS: [Laughs] Yeah.

MF: That's interesting. Because I noticed that several cases that you handled on appeal was the City of Portland condemning property.

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: Really basically for public need.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. Some of the Foeller [*Foeller v. Housing Authority of Portland*, 198 Ore. 205, 214, 256 P. (2d) 752, 757 (1953)] case, of course, that was really a test case to test the constitutionality.

MF: Right.

ALTHAUS: But that was interesting.

MF: Foeller and Terry [*Terry v. City of Portland*, 204 Or. 478, 269 P.2d 544 (1955) ] is the next one, also a constitutional one.

ALTHAUS: And Terry, yeah.

MF: Did you like those? Did you like that area of law, condemnation?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes. I thought it was pretty fascinating.

MF: If you were going to say the things that you've enjoyed the most about practicing law, what would you say?

ALTHAUS: You mean particular cases?

MF: Or whatever, if you have cases or just things about it.

ALTHAUS: Well, of course, in my own private practice the lifelong friends that it brought me. Well, this will be interesting because I guess the fact – and your husband may have known her at Portland State. She was Elizabeth Drews.

MF: You mentioned her last time, I think.

ALTHAUS: But it was quite a while ago. She was a professor in the Graduate School of Education at Portland State. I think I had only had two divorce cases. The first one was just when I was first admitted and I just sort of filed it, and then when I became a law clerk, I had to turn it over to someone else. It wasn't a contested one. And then this one. She was a great advocator of women's rights. She'd been for a long time. She had, I think, a couple, two or three graduate degrees in psychology. That's what got her into education I guess, the tie-in between psychology and education. Then the other was art. Her husband, who was, I don't know, an archeologist, he taught at Lewis and Clark when they ended up in Portland. They were in Michigan for quite a while. She taught at Michigan State.

But her first husband, and the one that the divorce case involved was, let's see – Okay, he had a lawyer who was a neighbor of theirs. They had this beautiful house on Portland Heights with the lower part – well, you know how the hillside homes are – fixed up so she could have seminars there. She was always very close to students. She related to young people very well. And she realized that she was going to have to bring a divorce suit against her husband, she wanted a woman lawyer. Now that was when there weren't very many women lawyers, I guess. And so she went to the University of Oregon Law School to ask for advice about a lawyer.

It made me think of my own mother. If ever she wanted a lawyer, first off she'd go to the Stanford Law School. [Laughs] There were two or three occasions where she needed a California lawyer.

So Elizabeth went there. Well, there weren't very many women in Portland, so they apparently looked at Martindale-Hubbell and apparently didn't find any of their own graduates. There weren't too many in the 1950s. No, 1953. No, it was in the 1970s. Anyway, they came up with my name, perhaps because I had been 17 years with...

MF: King Miller.

ALTHAUS: King Miller. And because I was in Martindale-Hubble. I guess that might have been why. I don't know. [Laughs] I never really thought figuring it out. But by that time I was 17 years there and both Jean Lowman, the one I mentioned who'd been the law clerk.

MF: [Yes].

ALTHAUS: Yeah. Well you were asking why...

MF: What it was you liked about law.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah, but a question going back further. I'll tell you about that, but back further, why - how I got that job as a law clerk for Judge Fee, you were asking.

MF: [Yes].

ALTHAUS: And I did go to that meeting. Well, I guess that's it. That was it. Well because it's the next- the City Attorney's Office and then King Miller. So we can go into that. How I got those. When there still was a lot of competition, I mean a lot of bias, against women.

MF: And that occurred around the 1970s?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. The 1970s. Anyway, she came up with my name. But both Jean Lowman and I had left King Miller then. I'd been there 17 years.

MF: So Jean Lowman was one of the other woman who was at Miller Nash?

ALTHAUS: That's right. [Yes]. Yeah. That's how I got to know her. She'd been in Salem with the Supreme Court. Well, if you do want to know, Miller Nash was receptive to women

who had been law clerks, I guess. They hired her because she had been a law clerk. Oh, I have some amusing things to tell you about that, but I'd better keep on one track.

MF: Amusing things to tell me about what and I'll make a note?

ALTHAUS: About Miller Nash and Jean Lowman, and how she happened to get her job with them and how I did with them. That would be right on things I think you're interested in.

MF: [Yes].

ALTHAUS: So, she is a very persistent person.

MF: This is Elizabeth Drews?

ALTHAUS: Yes. She was. And she was bound to find me and she didn't give up. So she found me out on the Westside of Portland when we were in Raleigh Hills. So my partner, Virginia Renwick, was really a very fine family law lawyer, but she wanted me to do the whole thing. That's one of the first [Inaudible] - so it was a pretty complicated case. I drew a postnuptial agreement. [Laughs] Not prenuptial agreement about which there is loads of those. [Laughs]

MF: Why postnuptial?

ALTHAUS: Because they were already married.

MF: And they wanted to continue getting married or they wanted to get divorced?

ALTHAUS: She wanted to get divorced. I guess he - Well, this feud was over their property. We went to trial before a woman judge, Jean [Lagerquist] Lewis.

MF: Jean Lewis.

ALTHAUS: And, of course, two women attorneys because I had to be a witness – not two, because I was just a witness. So then she had to have another lawyer. Now we didn't even get to the question about whether, when I was a witness, my partner, who was an expert in family law, could have carried on because she'd again - She was also - I don't know if you've ever had a client who wanted to read all the briefs and all the cases you cited. [Laughs]

MF: Almost all the time, I have one. [Laughs]

ALTHAUS: But anyway, after the postnuptial agreement and several things happened, we were in court. I drew the complaint, which was fairly complicated.

Well, you see all along they differed about a lot of things. They both wrote books, so they had an income besides their salaries. So they had an agreement that they would manage their income and that, in addition, their salaries would be for their family and then they each would be free with the other part of their incomes. So that was one of the basic agreements. A lot of that had to go into the postnuptial agreement.

But then when it came that I had to be a witness, which was about the postnuptial agreement, she needed another lawyer to try the case. As I said, we didn't get to whether my partner could have. I have a doubt in it. When you have a witness, I don't know. I never do any research I don't have to do. [Laughs] So she went to the University of Oregon again and then – isn't that funny, I can't think of – she's a very noted lawyer. She was with a state agency. Was her name Noreen? I mean I know her very well, it's terrible that I can't think of her name.

MF: Saltveit. Noreen [Kelly] Saltveit [McGraw].

ALTHAUS: Yes. Yes. Kelly was her name to begin with.

MF: Oh.

ALTHAUS: I mean, she's from here, from the Rogue Valley.

MF: Oh, I didn't know that.

ALTHAUS: From a family of lawyers. My friend, Gladys Everett, they were close friends of hers. Her father was a lawyer, her brother was a lawyer, you know.

MF: I didn't realize she'd been a lawyer that long. Since the 1970s?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah, she went back quite a way, and she had formed a firm in Portland. There was something new about it, too. Anyway, she was noted as a trial lawyer and the University of Oregon by then realized how - so she got Noreen. The main dispute of the trial, it wasn't about whether they'd have the divorce. Obviously they were separated.

He remarried about as soon as she did, or maybe before. But she married another professor. A fascinating history professor at Cal Berkeley. They had been writing a book together. Before their separation, they differed about the Vietnam War and that's why they had their first problems about investment because she didn't want to invest in all these companies that were making money off the war and, of course, he did, and in fact he was quite involved in that sort of thing.

MF: Sounds like this went on for a long time.

ALTHAUS: Well, it did and we settled it, we felt, much to our advantage, after about three days of trial. That's long for a divorce case.

MF: Not so long these days, [Laughs] unfortunately.

ALTHAUS: Is that right?

MF: Okay, you know we're coming to the end of this tape.

ALTHAUS: Oh.

MF: I bet you're getting a little bit tired.

ALTHAUS: But I shouldn't. We've got to go on. Let's see.

**[End of Tape 4, Side 1]**



**Tape 4, Side 2**  
**1999 July 25**

MF: It's July 25, 1999, and I'm here with Helen Althaus. Mary Ellen Farr.

Okay. We were just talking about the fact that we had been discussing your case with Elizabeth Drews yesterday when we stopped. And I think we did finish on that, or did we?

ALTHAUS: Yes. I think that was apropos to the question you asked, what I liked about practicing law, and I said it was the friends. She moved to California, well actually, her second husband was a professor of history, Leslie Lipson, at Berkeley.

MF: Leslie Lipson?

ALTHAUS: That was his name, yeah.

MF: I just didn't hear it.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. Leslie Lipson. And he had a beautiful house on a hill in Berkeley. He taught there for a long time. So she was teaching six months at Portland State and then spending the other six months working on her books in Berkeley. So they'd commute back and forth to see each other. I really should show you a couple of her books since I'm talking about her because she was one of the most interesting clients.

MF: Let's pause then. [Tape shuts off then resumes] You said that Dr. Drews was one of your favorite clients because she was one of the most interesting clients you had.

ALTHAUS: Yes, she was.

MF: And you went and got some of her books and her second husband's books, you wanted to talk about.

ALTHAUS: Yes. This was a book she was writing. She did a lot of philosophical ones. Your husband would know what – there are several fields of psychology. Maslow, I think, was the one that she was...

MF: Was married to?

ALTHAUS: No, that she's interested in his books.

MF: Oh. Okay.

ALTHAUS: You know they're these [Inaudible], behaviorism and all. So that is quite a philosophical book that she and her second husband were writing.

MF: It's *Values and Humanity* by Drews and Lipson.

ALTHAUS: And then she died of brain cancer.

MF: Oh, my gosh.

ALTHAUS: Within about a year.

MF: About a year of what?

ALTHAUS: We were in Portland State in her apartment when she said she had a headache. And then she went back to Berkeley and then it developed so fast. She was writing this book.

MF: How old was she?

ALTHAUS: About 60.

MF: Oh. *The Higher Levels of Human Growth*. So this is her last book?

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: Did you know there's a letter in here from Dr. Lipson?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. I probably put in there.

MF: Okay.

ALTHAUS: It's the only way I can really save things. I've got one in here, too. This one is one she – Oh, this is one of Leslie's who was an expert in sort of...

MF: Is he still alive?

ALTHAUS: Oh yes.

MF: *The Great Issues of Politics*. So he's in political science?

ALTHAUS: Well he was history. I mean he taught history, but I think it ties in with European history. It's been awhile since I've looked at these. Then this is one of her educational books that she was writing when I met her.

MF: *Learning Together*.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. She worked very hard to find a title for it. [Laughs] Her theories about teaching children.

MF: It's actually a nice title. *Learning Together*.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, it is.

MF: We were just looking at your study. Did you grow up with a lot of books in your house?

ALTHAUS: [Yes]. That's a four generation collection. I have some of my great grandfather's there. I probably should weed out some, but anyway, I grew up, we always had books.

MF: Was your mother a great reader?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes. Well, she read Shakespeare, little poems. Before I could read, she read them to me. One like, "Where the bee sucks, there suck I. In the cowslips bell, I lie." Puck, you know, in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and you know there are a lot of those.

MF: And she read those to you. Did she read you nursery rhymes?

ALTHAUS: Well, I had a Mother Goose book, but I don't remember her reading me nursery rhymes. I did read them myself.

MF: She must have liked literature, as opposed to philosophy or education or history.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes. Yes, that's right.

MF: And is that where you got interested in Shakespeare, from your mother?

ALTHAUS: Well, I guess so. I always knew about Shakespeare and the fairies in *Midsummer Night's Dream* and all that.

MF: How about your father? Was he a great reader?

ALTHAUS: Well, he had a set of Dickens, because he was born 1870s. He had his own set of Dickens. And he also, this tied in with his interest in architecture, it was Ruskin who wrote a lot about – Do you know about Ruskin?

MF: I don't know.

ALTHAUS: He had a whole line of books. And Dickens, my grandfather also didn't care for novels, except for Dickens - Charles Dickens. So he had this, his prize possession.

MF: The four-sided bookshelf?

ALTHAUS: No. That was from his law office. When he died he had it at home and mother said, "What will we do with it?"

And I said, "Well, let's just put books in it. We've got too many books, and put it in the living room."

Everybody's amazed. Judge Fee had one but it was a smaller one. Government issue. And it was beside his desk. He had the whole United States code in it. It would swing around. It was very...

MF: Convenient.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. That use of it. Very few of the federal judges did. They've sort of gone out of style, when I've seen their chambers, that they had that. But this one, my mother said when she was a little girl going through her father's law office there were always two or three young fellows reading law. And so their great pastime was put her on top of that bookcase and twirl it around. [Laughs]

MF: That would be fun.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. [Laughs]

MF: It actually looks sturdy. Yeah. It's a big one.

ALTHAUS: And it's coming apart so I...

MF: Oh, dear.

ALTHAUS: In some places. So I have some special books there.

MF: What kinds of things do you read now?

ALTHAUS: Here's one. I read stuff about theater. Here's one, the newest one, Harold Bloom's on all the Shakespeare plays. He's a Yale law professor. And I take a lot of magazines. Now one that I have over there that I read, it's called the *Anti-Theatrical Prejudice*, written by a University of California, being that over the centuries there's always been a bias against theater. I don't know if you've noticed it or not.

MF: I haven't noticed it. Do you mean that people tend to look down at actors and actresses as maybe slightly...

ALTHAUS: Vagabonds.

MF: Yes, but that's okay. I see what you mean.

ALTHAUS: Well, that's a part of it. Yeah, also they're sort of intimidated by – well, that's a scholarly book that I've dipped into, but I haven't read it, it's over there, a friend gave me. If you want to see the book. It's really interesting.

MF: Okay. I'll look at it, I think on the way out. I would like to see it, actually. So you're reading mostly about theater. Do you read novels?

ALTHAUS: I do, especially when I was in a book club and read some interesting novels. They were mostly reading novels. Here's one. See that red covered one? One of my law clerks sent that to me with a nice letter .

MF: *Women Waging Law In Elizabethan England.*

ALTHAUS: And he said he read that title – it's published in England – and it reminded him of me and so he sent it to me. Oh, I got it two or three months ago. It's a scholarly book. It's quite fascinating because, see of course, women couldn't practice law in England until later than in the United States. It was in the 1920s. But they could bring cases and go into court as parties. And this researcher has gone into Elizabethan England, the many times women would go into court, you know, they had these kind of oddly named courts, a whole series of courts.

MF: Why did he say it reminded him of you?

ALTHAUS: Oh, I don't know. He wrote a letter. Because I had written about Mary Leonard, stuff like that. It's so interesting to follow. That was the project that I had. He's

doing very well. He married a lawyer and they are both doing very well, which is just a pleasure to watch them. They both went East from Portland. Well, see Carol went to Willamette and Jay went to Lewis and Clark.

MF: Jay who?

ALTHAUS: [Patrick] Jay Hines.

MF: You said he was one of your law clerks?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. I had two law clerks when I had this project for the Fish and Wildlife Service. The result of it is - I still have one copy - is down there.

MF: Remind me to put that letter back so we don't lose it. Down here?

ALTHAUS: [Yes].

MF: Here. Ah.

ALTHAUS: The government published it.

MF: *The Public Trust Rights*. Actually, I wanted to talk to you about that. Probably not until next time because we're running out of time, but my gosh, this is huge. 1979.

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: And I see Jean Lowman is also in the solicitor's office?



ALTHAUS: No, she was a regional solicitor, well, she went there when she left Miller Nash. In fact, Omar Halvorson was already working in that office. She was the first woman regional solicitor for the Department of Interior in the United States. There are seven or eight regions and each had a regional solicitor and in Washington, D.C. was the solicitor with all these regional solicitors under them. So she really...

MF: Moved up.

ALTHAUS: Definitely. Yeah.

MF: What happened to her?

ALTHAUS: She died a year or so ago of multiple sclerosis. Terrible, terrible.

MF: Yeah, it is.

ALTHAUS: [Yes].

MF: Can we go back, or I will forget.

ALTHAUS: Okay.

MF: And get through your growing up.

ALTHAUS: Oh. Oh. [Laughs]

MF: I think we got you into Gresham Union High School.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes.

MF: And you liked to play basketball. What else did you do? What other things did you do in high school?

ALTHAUS: Oh, and this was a - You didn't go to a small town high school. Wilson's a big one.

MF: I went to a very big one, and it was big at that time.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, I'm sure it was. I remember when it was built. Well, this had a vast rural community and Gresham was small then. It was a small-town high school. I say that in a derogatory way. I don't know if you know about small-town life.

MF: I know a little bit about it.

ALTHAUS: Did you ever read Sinclair Lewis's *Main Street*?

MF: [Yes].

ALTHAUS: Oh, you did?

MF: Oh, years ago. Many years ago.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. That was one of my mother's favorite books because she had grown up of course in the city of Portland, and when she was married she lived in a small town in Ohio and she experienced Main Street.

MF: And what are you thinking of when you're talking about that? The aspects of small town life that your mother didn't like or you didn't like?

ALTHAUS: Well, I'm thinking about the social atmosphere, the cliques, the even derogatory way of the book clubs, the narrowness, the prejudice. Although, of course, you find prejudice in other places, too, but it seems to be enhanced. I was from the country going to the small-town high school, so I was probably generally an outsider anyway.

MF: Well, I was going to say, it seems to me that to grow up in a place like Troutdale with the kind of background that you had, you must have been very unusual among your friends.

ALTHAUS: Well, yes. There were people that we knew in Troutdale. Of course, I always, with my own bias, feel that Troutdale is different from Gresham. [Laughs] More tolerant. It once had four saloons, at that time. Well, not when I was there, but I mean it had, it was a railroad town. Gresham was sort of insulated, and had a lot of interesting...

MF: Gresham was sort of what?

ALTHAUS: Self-contained, you know.

MF: Oh. Insulated

ALTHAUS: Very insulated. I had mentioned all the Lutherans. They didn't have dances at the high school. They wouldn't allow dancing at the high school. Now, you're asking about the school. We had some wonderful, I didn't realize how young there were, teachers, especially English literature teachers that were just out of college. And they were remarkable.

You were asking about the science. Now that was probably kindled by the wonderful woman, this Anckorn, who was a wonderful chemistry teacher.

MF: What was her name? Anckorn?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. A-N and there may be an extra C. A-N-C-K-O-R-N. Then there was Eve [Hutchenson?], who was a wonderful English teacher. And they were all young, although they seemed old to me, but they were very wonderful teachers.

MF: So how did you get interested in science, given your incredible background in literature?

ALTHAUS: I was interested in the theories. But I liked it all. I had a football coach -taught physics, and in our lab he would put me with one of the star football players who wasn't so sharp in physics [Laughs] in the lab, so I did my best.

But, as I say, I was always an outsider from the country in the city, though I made two impacts. One of the doctors in town established a junior cup, and I was the first one to win the junior cup.

MF: What is that?

ALTHAUS: Well, it's like one they have in some of the colleges and universities to recognize scholarship and also general activities like student government. I was never really in student government, but if I felt impelled to say something at a student body meeting I did it a couple of times. Perhaps I had to have that, I didn't know about the junior cup. But anyway, one of the teachers told my mother and it's supposed to recognize...

MF: Leadership.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. I guess so. Then the other was our junior play.

MF: What was that?

ALTHAUS: Well, it was called *The Charm School*, and it had several interesting parts. Later I found it and it was a Broadway play, but typical of the 1920s, you know. Not very sophisticated but funny, a comedy. And I played the assistant to the head of this private - called *The Charm School*. I don't why, I'd have to read it again. I don't have a copy of it, why it was really called *The Charm School* or if that was just put in. Then there was the romantic lead and the young girl, a student, but I was the assistant of the head of the school and it did have some funny lines. I didn't realize quite how funny they would be. And so I had one place where I'd be walking across the stage, because apparently, it seemed to me, that she was sort falling in love with the father of one of the - but she was sort of ridiculous when there was a timetable scene, when she was trying to find a timetable to get a train for him and all that.

Anyway, it was after that play, there were several of the younger ones - see I was a junior - freshmen and sophomores would come around and keep asking me to repeat some of the lines. And the big triumph, which was quite unexpected, was when I walking across the stage and the audience clapped. You know they were laughing and clapped. And the leading man and the leading lady sitting on one of the props when I came out of the wings and she was saying, "What a funny audience to clap in the middle of a scene." [Laughs] And she looked up and said, "They were clapping for you, weren't they Helen."

So that was fun, in the sense that when you realize you can just move your hand or do something ridiculous and people would laugh. [Laughs] And the janitor, who was always a great friend of mine, he was worried that I might go off and ruin my life by going to the theater. So he would try to give me fatherly advice and all.

MF: Did you study a lot of drama in high school?

ALTHAUS: We didn't have it. No.

MF: Oh.

ALTHAUS: They just had class plays, a junior play. No, I really wish - I'm so pleased with the development of drama in high school because we didn't have it. They perhaps wouldn't have even allowed it. Anyway, but we did have class plays.

MF: But no dances.

ALTHAUS: No.

MF: Did they have intramural sports?

ALTHAUS: Ah...

MF: When did you graduate from high school?

ALTHAUS: 1927.

MF: Okay.

ALTHAUS: I took a year off because my family wanted to leave the farm in good hands and then drive East to see relatives in Ohio, particularly.

MF: So you took a year off during high school?

ALTHAUS: No, after high school.

MF: Oh, after high school.

ALTHAUS: In between, before going to college.

MF: So did they have intramural sports?

ALTHAUS: Well, I don't know if they had it for men. There were a lot of those activities because – I guess I should tell you about the, I started to tell you about the attitude of the property owners about the school.

The first year we didn't have transportation. This was also interesting. He was in his 30s, seemed quite old. He had missed high school and he was running his mother's — who was a widow — her farm and it had prospered. So he felt that he should go to high school. His name was Bill Fritz. So he went to high school. And he had - It would hold only three people and had no back seat. It was sort of a coupe in the 1920s. And so there were just three of us going to high school then from our area, including Bill Fritz and myself and another girl, and so our parents paid for him to take us to school. And then he graduated. And then one of my classmates, her father, started a little bus. He bought a bus from a church and took, oh, seven or eight of us to high school, also paid by our parents because the district didn't furnish transportation.

MF: How far was it from your house to Gresham Union High School?

ALTHAUS: Oh, about three or four miles. It was pretty long for a walk. It would take a long...

MF: Probably about an hour each way.

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: How many kids that came out of Gresham Union High School went on to college?

ALTHAUS: Oh, I don't know really. None that I knew. They mostly went to Linfield and some other college. I didn't know anyone when I went to college.

MF: But they did go on to college?

ALTHAUS: Well, I don't know. Well, I know one did. Let's see, Kenneth [Harberg?]. But then he went up and when they had a class reunion he was in Seattle. Dorothy Cooper must have, but I don't know. We didn't go to the same colleges, so I didn't pay much attention. I did get to one reunion when they had a dinner in Portland and they came from afar, but I had no close friends in high school.

MF: You had no – what do you mean by that? You had no close friends that you continued on with, or you had no close friends at that time?

ALTHAUS: Well, sort of both. I had some from, two or three, but none that I continued on, that I knew very well. Went to college - my mother noticed this was odd, when I went to college, my closest friends were all - had gone to private schools. Isn't that sort of strange? I was thinking of it, you know, in Portland, now one was quite a noted private school way back. Mrs. Allen's. I don't know if you know. Well, my architect friend, Polly Thompson, whose father had been from England and he had this wonderful – the Povey [Brothers] glass is now the good stained-glass windows in Portland from England. But anyway, she'd gone to Miss Allen's school, which was quite noted. It isn't continuing, but the other one, let's see – Marjory, who was a French major, she went to – no, what is the other private school?

MF: Catlin Gabel?



ALTHAUS: Yeah. There was Miss Catlin's, which was just a girls' school and then Catlin Gabel came out of it. But that is odd, in a way, that it would just happen. Now my whole family always supported public education, you know, in a way.

MF: Back in 1927, didn't most of the girls that came out of high school just get married?

ALTHAUS: Well, I think that's true.

MF: Did you ever feel any pressure in high school to find yourself some nice young man and settle down?

ALTHAUS: No. No I didn't.

MF: What would your family have done?

ALTHAUS: Oh, I don't know. I wasn't interested. There were two very interesting men. One quite older, and one was older than I, but he did want to marry me. That's right, although we really had no [Inaudible] like going out with him or anything, but he came to my parents in the old fashioned way.

MF: In high school?

ALTHAUS: Well, he was finished. He was probably about close to 30. He was from a very prominent farming family and they also worked. His sister became a teacher. They were quite, they were very interested in education. He was interested in music and he was a hunter, too.

I don't think I've ever told anybody this, [Laughs] that he did come to my parents and wanted to marry me. He was a little boy with his pony. And when my mother was, say 17 or 18, he was about four years old. That's the only way I can figure what his age was. It

never occurred to me to find out when he was born. I admired him much because he knew so much about horses, but I didn't think of him romantically and wasn't thinking of anyone romantically.

In a way, though, maybe there was a senior student when I was in high school who, if had known him well, I could have fallen in love with him. He became a painter later. So I had some romantic ideas, but there wasn't anybody I knew well and I certainly didn't have them about him. And he had hounds. I loved dogs, anyway. We had Airedales, but he had hounds and they hunted.

MF: This is the older gentlemen?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. You can kind of get an idea. If my mother was 17 and he was about four with his pony and they would go riding, which you'd go in the country, you know. And he brought this very same pony because horses are often quite long lived. He had several of his little relatives that learned to ride on Snowdrop. She was an Indian pony and she had china-blue eyes. China-blue eyes. Now a lot of horses have dark blue eyes, the white ones, but this often happens with the Indian ponies, Cayuse they call them. Weighed about 600 pounds, you know. But really just a real little horse, not like a Shetland, which is really like a draft horse, they're heavy. They're not good for riding. They're good to draw carts. So she was a lovely.

And later on after I got – he actually, oh dear, he actually gave me my first, who was also white, Topsy. He gave me my first real-sized horse and took the pony for one of his other relatives, little children, to learn to ride on. So I was busy. You have to wash white horses to keep them. [Laughs]

MF: I didn't know that.

ALTHAUS: Well, to keep the white white. You know, most horses you can just groom and that keeps them clean. But at least I felt you had to take a hose and...

MF: So he came and asked your parents to marry you after high school? And what did they say?

ALTHAUS: Well, I wasn't interested so they weren't interested. It would have been a good combination of ownership of land, I think. [Laughs] Maybe that's what he was thinking. But anyway we lost our social relationship after that. He went – but he was apparently – one of my good friends who's about 10 years younger than I am. Now she is a wonderful friend, but we didn't go to school together because 10 years younger you don't overlap, but when she came down to see plays once we got to reminiscing about the area and apparently he had asked her to marry him. I don't know if he went by way of her parents or not, but it just occurred to me now that her parents were farmers too. That he might have liked to enlarge his ownership.

MF: Make an alliance.

ALTHAUS: I don't know. But, anyway, she's been married twice and is a very close friend.

When my mother died they wrote an article about her in *The Outlook*, which they said really was an article rather than an obituary because it was the front page with pictures and everything. Two reporters then were just very fond of my mother and they interviewed a lot of people who'd known her. And Bonnie said, "Mrs. Althaus brought culture to East County." And yet she wasn't involved at all with, you know, the social cliques in there, but she took Bonnie and others to concerts in Portland. When I was in college she was...

MF: Did you feel you had expectations from your parents while you were in high school that they expected you to do A or B?

ALTHAUS: No. No.

MF: So you could do whatever you wanted?

ALTHAUS: I could do whatever I wanted. I was just lucky. I was just lucky that I was pretty quick at different things and so was a good student, but there was no pressure. No. About getting grades, no.

MF: When did you decide to do science. We never did get an answer to that.

ALTHAUS: Oh, well this is kind of a psychological thing. Why I found chemistry so fascinating, the aspect of it, well the atom, the structure of the atom. By the time I got to college there were two atoms. I'm just kind of generalizing but physicists had an atom. I think it was called the Rowland-Rutherford atom, satisfied all the physical properties. And the chemists had another atom, the Lewis-Langmuir atom, which answered all the questions about the chemical properties. But I realized that there was a good deal of competition and not too friendliness among the scientific community in all their different competing theories, which I guess have all been solved now.

MF: I think so.

ALTHAUS: [Laughs] And you know, the atom itself being so small, but sort of airy in space, with all these little tiny electrons and so forth. And I had started out with a chemistry course.

MF: In high school?

ALTHAUS: Well, in high school, I had that. It was so good that I registered for freshman chemistry. The only one I could register for and it was not really, not even as good. The head of the department taught it, but it was not even as good as the one in...

MF: In high school.

ALTHAUS: In high school. So then I found students asking me to tutor them and so they paid me 50 cents an hour. And I thought, gee this was very good. And I later found out that the upper classmen, when they were tutoring, charged a dollar an hour. [Laughs]

Well, you want to know the transition. I also had some wonderful professors in English literature, in the survey I got, and so I took everything that he taught. So he taught a course in Browning. And a wonderful history professor who also taught a course on recent Russia. I took the European history. [Doorbell rings] So anyway, at this point I also found out I was experiencing something like writer's block. And I thought, science, this was simple, so my junior year I changed my major just because it was so much easier than this psychological [Doorbell rings], you've heard of writer's block?

MF: Yes.

ALTHAUS: Well [Laughs] anyways that's...

MF: I think that's my husband.

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: And we're at the end of the tape.

ALTHAUS: Oh, that's fine.

MF: And we got into...

**[End of Tape 4, Side 2]**

**Tape 5, Side 1**  
**1999 September 26**

MF: It's September 26 and it's 11:55, and I'm here with Helen Althaus. Okay. Go ahead. You were talking about the safety program at Alcoa [Reynolds Metals].

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes, it was very impressive. And then they had a full-time nurse and an M.D. that came in every day. Whatever bothered you, you could just go to the nurse and check something. It was very nice and it didn't cost anything.

I contrasted it to an experience with my mother, when an unmarried woman, [Inaudible] she was in a big Ohio industrial town, which I think I mentioned before, but I don't think I mentioned this aspect of it. She would hear sirens going at night and she'd ask people, "What was that? What terrible thing's happened?" because of the sirens and all. Now these were steel mills, most of the help was contracted from European countries, six months at a time, then get another lot for six months, then go back. A lot of them came from Central Europe, like Hungary. And this was the response she would get. "Oh it was just another hunky over the roller."

MF: Another hunky what?

ALTHAUS: Over the roller.

MF: Oh, it means he'd been killed?

ALTHAUS: Over the rollers in the steel mill. I'm not sure what a roller is.

MF: Doesn't sound good.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, a death, and that was the kind of response she would get about it.

I was doubly impressed by the safety program of educating the employees and everything at the aluminum plant. It seemed like and a very model industrial company and apparently attracted a good deal of loyalty from the employees.

MF: Including you. When did you make the decision not to carry on with chemistry?

ALTHAUS: Well, I think I made it - really made it fast when I left California and started studying violin and practicing eight hours a day in Portland. That's when I made it. I didn't expect World War II. I didn't expect an opportunity.

Oh, I've got to tell you this about women chemists. Apparently, now mind you it's 1941, a little startling in Pittsburgh, there was the name of this feminine employee. Definitely a feminine name. I was in the personnel department and then, as a chemist, in the laboratory. So I was getting a modest salary, most things were a pretty modest salaries in 1941, my check - the same as I got as a personnel clerk.

MF: Even though you became a chemist?

ALTHAUS: Yeah, even though I was classified as a chemist. Anyway, I've never been, unlike the next generation, I've never been assertive of my own rights. I knew this wasn't right, and I didn't mention it. So this is what happened. The chief chemist, George Putnam, came to me, a couple weeks, he said, "This isn't right. You're just getting the salary of a personnel clerk. I'm going to contact Pittsburgh." "Don't worry," he said "I'll take care of it." It was his initiative, you see, not mine. I was impressed by this. And even later impressed in recollection, because you would think that lawyers, because of the nature of their profession, would be more aware of this kind of injustice. Because he was aware of it right away.

So he did fix it. They didn't fix it, and I never mentioned this, for retroactively. And he probably thought they did do it retroactively, and they financially could have done it. But, it was very nice at all. I got about double a personnel clerk salary.

MF: And at that time you were living in Troutdale with your mother?

ALTHAUS: I needed to because of the war, and because I bought a car. A 1942, there weren't many 1942s, a 1942 Pontiac convertible. Because of working at the aluminum plant, I could get enough gasoline to keep going to Portland. Not because I went to law school, but because I worked at the aluminum plant you could have a certain amount of gas. And my mother, because she operated the farm, could also get - we kept going on that. We had cars that didn't use a lot of gas.

MF: What was your mother doing on the farm at that time?

ALTHAUS: She had what was considered very important, dairy cows. She had these registered Jerseys. She had about 80 of those.

MF: 80?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. So the farm was centered around a dairy herd. She had electric milkers, but you have to hire people to strip after the electric - after the milk. I don't know just how it is now. But she had about four or five employees on the farm. Mostly itinerant ones.

The first inkling I had of about the nuclear – see the one up in – up near Pendleton. They're cleaning up that nuclear site now all the time. I can't think of the name of it.

MF: Not Hanford?

ALTHAUS: Yeah, I mean Hanford. In the East...

MF: In Washington.



ALTHAUS: Yeah, it's right across from Oregon. She received inquiries about one of her itinerant employees that they were clearing from the government. So I told George Putnam about that and he said, "Yes, there's some secret thing going on up in Eastern Washington at Hanford." I didn't know what was mentioned. Anyway, they wanted to know if this would be a suitable employee, just to do ordinary work. It needs to be highly secret to do the - anyway, that's about all I knew, but I guess he got a job there.

She really got to the bottom of the barrel as far as itinerant employees. Some of them had been in jail [Inaudible]. Anyways, after the war was over it was considered important to the war effort to keep the dairies going and the milk supply. They weren't so alarmed about eating butter at that time. [Laughs] And of course we were fortunate, the farmers were, because you had your own meat, so we would make gifts to Portland friends, because everything was rationed, especially meat and butter.

MF: Did you also grow beef cows?

ALTHAUS: Later, yeah, she had a big auction of the dairy cows and then got into raising registered beef cattle because you couldn't [Inaudible]. She also raised these draft horses. There was quite a market for the draft horses, especially the stallions in Eastern Oregon, because when they'd haul hay to the cattle in the winter, the mechanical equipment would often break down but the horses didn't. And then the horses would reproduce, you know, they can't raise baby tractors. [Laughs] And they like to get the registered, the fine lines, and improve their line of horses.

So she sold Belgians, stallions, and sometimes mares, all over the state. Like John Day and Jordan Valley [Inaudible].

MF: So this was throughout the war that she was providing these?

ALTHAUS: [Inaudible] Shortage of gasoline.

MF: [Inaudible] We didn't have so many of them. [Inaudible]

ALTHAUS: Yeah, well a horse doesn't really come to maturity for about four years.  
[Inaudible]

MF: Why did you say she got rid of the dairy cows and into beef cattle?

ALTHAUS: Well, because of the personnel, the employees. [Inaudible]

MF: She just couldn't manage?

ALTHAUS: Well, she just thought it was too much. Where you could just have one or two men to handle the beef cattle. But with the milking twice a day and all that.

MF: Should we end?

ALTHAUS: Maybe we should. I guess I got back about the war thing. I felt pretty strongly about the war effort because I did have an opportunity while I was in law school. One of the professors said he'd give me a clerkship job. Would be good for my future. But I said with the war industry, I don't think I can do this. [Inaudible] The men from the war effort.

MF: So you felt strongly in favor of the war effort? Did you support it?

ALTHAUS: Well, I thought that as long as we were in it – I might have been very hesitant about it. Of course, the way I felt it happened – I mean, I did not think we should get involved in this war, with the history of World War I. But the way it happened, with Pearl Harbor, we were just automatically involved. As long as we were in it, I thought we had to win it.

MF: But you also said you were really bothered by the carnage of war.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah. I don't think it's a way to settle disputes. I don't think it's the way at all, and I have made quite a study. Actually, Justice [James T.] Brand, Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, very interested in international law, well he'd been a Nuremberg judge. In fact it was his, the movie, was even based upon his trial at Nuremberg. The *Judgment at Nuremberg* movie? After he retired from the Oregon Supreme Court, he taught international law at some law school in Florida, I think it's Stetson. One year in Portland, you didn't get credit, but he gave a course in international law, which was very, very interesting. Only about a dozen of us took it. It was truly extracurricular, if you were interested in it.

MF: This was during the war or after?

ALTHAUS: After the war. Yes, because I was working at Miller Nash by that time. I don't think I was in the City Hall. So, yes, it was several years after. It was very interesting. So I've always tried to keep up on international law, and he had a good deal about the history of international law as it developed way back. Have you ever gotten into that? It's really fascinating.

MF: About what?

ALTHAUS: International law.

MF: [Yes].

ALTHAUS: So, I was on the first committee – Frank Bauman – I think I mentioned him before. And we had to form the United Nations Chapter of the United Nations Association

furthering the United Nations in Portland. Frank Bauman, who was a Harvard graduate and a fairly prominent lawyer in Portland, was deeply interested in it and we were in the same building. The old American Bank Building. We went to American Bar Association meetings in the - Do you know about Charles [Sylvanus] Rhyne? When I first heard of him he was the expert in municipal law.

MF: Here locally?

ALTHAUS: No, nationwide. You've heard of the League of Oregon Cities, it was the League of National Cities [National League of Cities]. He was the head of that. He was a very brilliant lawyer. And he was very noted in municipal law. He was the lawyer who argued for, I think it was probably the U.S. Supreme Court, the one-man, one-vote case [*Baker v. Carr*, 369 U.S. 186 (1962)]. Does that ring a bell? Anyway he argued a few cases like that before the Supreme Court. Finally he entered into international law and used it to settle disputes instead of war. He was president of the American Bar Association. They only have a president for a year. And his year, when he entered it at the Los Angeles Bar Convention, several of us met there, he called on all states to start a meeting of an ad hoc committee of World Peace Through Law. So he asked all the states to form similar committees.

So in Oregon, and Frank was the chairman. It probably was after Justice Brand gave his course. And the Oregon Bar did form it, and Frank was the chairman, and I was on that committee. We had monthly meetings and Frank would assign each member of the committees, regardless of which field they were in, a topic of international law to present at the next meeting. We met in different parts of the state. And my topic was international judicial systems, which started way back with the Greek city-states, they had their own system. It was really very interesting. And the Alabama case [Alabama claims of the United States of America against Great Britain], which was an international arbitration that the United States participated in. *United States v. Great Britain*. We were just about to go to war. Did you ever hear of that case?

MF: No.

ALTHAUS: There was whole fleet of them. That was the one of the ships that Great Britain, purportedly neutral, declaring itself to be neutral, had built for the Confederacy because they had no fleet. Then they were armed over in Spain, or some island, after they left these very sophisticated British shipbuilding companies. Our ambassador to England objected to it. After the war, the United States claimed damages because these ships preyed on the American Merchant Marine and did a lot of damage, so they demanded millions of dollars. But, there were those, especially the Hearst newspapers in New York, that were thinking we'd taken on Great Britain twice – the War of 1812 -Revolution – let's take them on again. It was very treacherous. There was no particularly friendly feeling at that time, which was really interesting from our perspective. But they didn't go to war. They had an international arbitration. Are you familiar with that?

MF: I'm familiar with international arbitration, but what happened?

ALTHAUS: What happened? We won. We had whole fleet of lawyers and briefs and it was held in Holland. In fact, in the library - I gave a talk focusing on this here in Ashland and it's here in the library. There's a whole shelf of books about this arbitration, [Demonstrates with hands] about that many. And the briefs they filed, and a lawyer from Brazil because the president or king appoints a noted legal [Inaudible]. Anyway, there were three major countries that furnished legal parties and then the United States and Britain had their own. We did win. We didn't win as much money as we asked for, but we won money that had to be paid in gold. Back in the 1870s.

MF: I've never heard of that, actually.

ALTHAUS: I think it's something interesting even in the law school. It was just accidentally, because of this committee. I kept up my membership in that international law committee, I still do. But then the focus is completely different. Now, it's all on international private law. It's very flourishing from all the communications I get. International private law is really...

MF: Because of globalization.

ALTHAUS: Yes. International public law does not seem to be flourishing so much. But that was the focus. They've even changed their name from World Peace Through Law.

MF: They're now?

ALTHAUS: International Law Committee, or I think they've got become a section now in Oregon. That's it. I wanted to get that in.

MF: It's amazing. It's really interesting.

**[End of Tape 5, Side 1]**

**Tape 5, Side 2**  
**2000 February 19**

MF: February 19, year 2000. It is 11:30 in the morning and I'm here in Ashland with Helen Althaus.

Helen, I think you wanted to talk a little bit more about Judge Fee and your clerkship with him, and then we're going to talk, I think, about your professional life today and the various jobs that you held, if that's okay?

ALTHAUS: That's fine.

MF: Okay. Was there something in particular you had in mind with Judge Fee?

ALTHAUS: Well, he was an extraordinary person and judge, and it was really a privilege to work for him and with him.

MF: Are there any particular cases that you remember handling with him or working on with him? He was involved in that one with the...

ALTHAUS: Portland General Electric.

MF: Oh. What about that one?

ALTHAUS: My clerkship just overlapped the very last part of it, but when he finally published his opinions, I think they filled up almost a federal supplement volume in that one. It was a case involving big New York financial firms and a lot of illegal-type transactions.

MF: It sounds like Judge Fee was also a very stern disciplinarian in court with lawyers and so on. Do you remember him that way?

ALTHAUS: Not particularly, because it seemed to me it was the way a court should be run.

MF: So you never thought he was unreasonable?

ALTHAUS: No.

MF: He was also the judge when the new federal rules came in. Do you remember that and the pretrial conference procedure?

ALTHAUS: Yes, there were a lot of interesting things. There was a federal rules decision in which he held Federal Criminal Rule 20, I think it was. It dealt with unconstitutional, but it didn't go up to the Supreme Court and I guess it's been - but he felt it was completely unfair for defendants to be tried in a district other than the one where they lived or the purported crime was committed.

MF: Were you involved in any of those trials?

ALTHAUS: No. That was a very interesting decision. I can't think of the name of it, but no. Probably the most interesting case was one in – he kept his docket very up to date. He called the lawyers in to report on the progress of the cases they filed and had a regimen that kept it so he was assigned to other districts, often, and on the Ninth Circuit. But there was one trial, it was a criminal antitrust trial. It was the United States versus a number of defendants who included all the planing mills and cabinet shops in the San Francisco Bay Area.

MF: You talked about that one.



ALTHAUS: Did I already talk about that?

MF: Either to me – I don't know if it's on tape but you did talk about that one.

ALTHAUS: And the labor unions, including the national organizations, as well as the local ones, in the Bay Area as collaborating in processing wood to, like moldings, around the wall. So they would run it through the - At that time they'd developed a way of having portable mills out in the woods that would shape. Then they weighed less to ship. So it was an economy savings, but then when they got down to the Bay Area they ran them through the same thing with the knives up and added to the profits.

MF: I don't know what knives up mean.

ALTHAUS: Well, the knives would be shaving the raw material down to probably about half the weight to make a molding along the walls, but it was much more complicated but that was just one example of the evidence set. It was complicated because it took, I think six weeks for the first trial and it had gone, the appellate group. There were about several concurring and dissenting opinions in the Supreme Court case. It was sent back for retrial. Judge [Adolphus Frederic] St. Sure, who had been the chief district judge in the District of Northern California, had tried it [*United States v. Lumber Products Ass'n*, 42 F. Supp. 910 (N.D. Cal. 1942)] and then he'd retired by that time and Judge Fee was assigned for the new trial. The new trial wasn't as long because the businesses who had plead, well, there were several of them. They plead nolo contendere and it just left with the labor unions. And their council came from New York and Ohio and so it was quite an interesting trial. A jury trial with two alternate jurors.

MF: What was your part with a case in trial. Did you get to observe the trial or were you just doing research in the courthouse?

ALTHAUS: When we were out of the District of Oregon I observed the trials, but not when we were in the home district. But he was assigned out quite often, especially to California, but also all over the country.

MF: You said you spent, was that with Judge Fee or with King Miller, some time down in the South?

ALTHAUS: Oh, that was with King Miller.

MF: Oh.

ALTHAUS: [Yes].

MF: Okay. That book on the U.S. District Court suggests that Judge Fee was rather critical of the new federal rules when they came in.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes.

MF: Can you talk about that a little bit?

ALTHAUS: Well, it's so long ago, but I think that one, that was especially – well, there were of course the civil and the criminal. And the criminal, this was the most interesting decision, about this one which was mostly ignored, in which he felt the defendant, there was such a variance in the federal courts, in the different districts, that it was really unfair to have a case transferred from one district to another.

On the civil rules, he had written several interesting law review articles, one for the Columbia Law Review and another for a southern state. I have copies of them, but I don't know where they are now.

MF: Oh, that's okay. I can probably find them. Was that something you worked with him on, or he had just done on his own?

ALTHAUS: Oh, well I probably worked with him somewhat on them.

MF: Where were the offices? Was the federal court then in the Gus Solomon Courthouse? I mean, what became the Gus Solomon Courthouse, when you were working with Judge Fee.

ALTHAUS: On Sixth and Main.

MF: Not the Pioneer Courthouse.

ALTHAUS: No, there's one in between.

MF: There's one in between the Gus Solomon and the Pioneer?

ALTHAUS: Well, I don't – It wasn't called the Gus Solomon then.

MF: Yeah, what I call the old one, not the brand new one.

ALTHAUS: Sixth and Main Street?

MF: Sixth and Main, right.

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: Right, the big one, the beautiful old one. Which courtroom did he have, Judge Fee?

ALTHAUS: Oh, I think it was on the sixth floor. And the seventh floor was the Court of Appeals.

MF: Oh.

ALTHAUS: I think Judge Fee and Judge [John Francis] Kilkenny maybe, mostly Judge Kilkenny, that managed to save the Pioneer Courthouse.

MF: Really. Good for them.

ALTHAUS: The government was about to sell it, but the title, there was a problem about the title that slowed things up.

MF: I read that they were going to tear it down, the old Pioneer Courthouse.

ALTHAUS: Yeah and sell. That's a very valuable corner, I think.

MF: Terrible.

ALTHAUS: Of course what they did tear down was the Portland Hotel, which was beautiful.

MF: Where was that?

ALTHAUS: Right across from the courthouse.

MF: Right across from the old courthouse?

ALTHAUS: Where that [Pioneer Courthouse] Square is now.

MF: Yes.

ALTHAUS: Did you ever see a picture of the old Portland Hotel? I have one in my hallway.

MF: When did they tear that down?

ALTHAUS: Somewhere, probably in the 1960s.

MF: Because I think I remember that. I have a vague recollection of when it was torn down.

ALTHAUS: [Yes].

MF: Then it was a parking lot for a while for Meier and Frank and then it became the Pioneer Square.

ALTHAUS: Yes. Meier and Frank sold it to the city. Right.

MF: Did you work with any of the other judges besides Judge Fee?

ALTHAUS: Oh, well, often if he was out of town and I wasn't with him, then Judge [Samuel Marion] Driver from one of the state of Washington districts, that's one I remember particularly.

MF: Why's that?

ALTHAUS: Well, he was very personable and - I shouldn't even reveal this, though.

MF: So were you his law clerk then?

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: Anybody else that you worked with?

[Long pause, tape shuts off and comes back on]

MF: You had said last time that there weren't as many applicants for federal clerkships because of all the men who were off at war.

ALTHAUS: Oh, you asked me how did I...

MF: Yeah, how did you get one?

ALTHAUS: Well, that was kind of an afterthought, I guess. I don't know about applicants. That's why I always advised young women lawyers to go to bar meetings because I think it brings good luck. I didn't really apply. I went to a Multnomah Bar meeting. I persuaded my friend, Marian Rushing, who had a brilliant career as a city attorney in Portland, to go to the Multnomah Bar meeting. She had been two years ahead of me in law school and had been a lawyer for two years longer. So we went to the Multnomah Bar meeting and I met – there were a lot of people there. Well, it was a special one because the president of the ABA was to be a guest speaker.

There I saw some of the law school - Lowell Mundorff who was later the clerk of the district court - maybe he was then – or the federal district court. So he asked what was I doing, and I said I just leased two offices and a reception room in a building that wasn't built yet, but I had signed the lease. I'd been two years a member of the bar, but my mother had a lot of business in Eastern Oregon and a lot of things that I could help her with, that I

thought I must start practicing. Portland was short of office buildings then, so this was in the first Equitable Building, which I had just done.

And he said, "Would you be interested in a clerkship for a federal judge?" And he said, "Judge Fee?"

And I said, "Well, yes, of course."

He said, "Come to the federal courthouse and I'll get you an interview."

So that's how.

MF: He must have been very impressed with you, however.

ALTHAUS: Well, I took Trusts under him. He taught Trusts at the law school. So that was how. So I interviewed Judge Fee – with him, and in a few days Lowell called me and said I had the job. The other applicants had vanished, so there was at least one other applicant.

MF: Were there other law clerks at the time in the federal court?

ALTHAUS: There were only two judges then, in the district court.

MF: And that was Judge Fee and Judge Kilkenny?

ALTHAUS: No, Claude [Charles] McColloch.

MF: Judge McColloch.

ALTHAUS: [Yes].

MF: And did he have a law clerk?

ALTHAUS: I'm not sure. There weren't so many. It was fairly new, I think, law clerks. I don't know.

MF: Oh, okay. So there wasn't a group of people to hang out with, federal clerks to hang out with?

ALTHAUS: Well, there was when he was assigned to the Ninth Circuit, but I didn't hang out with them. His secretary became a great friend of mine.

MF: Why didn't you hang out with the other clerks?

ALTHAUS: Well, I didn't really want to, and Judge Fee didn't care for his staff to be hanging out with the gossipy type.

MF: With what? I didn't hear what you said.

ALTHAUS: I mean the type of court gossip and all that.

MF: Oh. It sounds like he was a person of very rigorous personal standards.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah. You know you can imagine in law school what an ideal judge would be and to me he fulfilled that.

MF: What was your personal relationship with him?

ALTHAUS: Oh, it was very interesting and we would do research together. He was absolutely brilliant in research. That was like a close graduate law course just working for him. His background was very interesting because he was from Eastern Oregon. His father



was a judge before him in the state courts, circuit court. He was, when he was appointed, I'm sure he was a state judge.

MF: Yeah.

ALTHAUS: But he had gone to Columbia Law School in New York and so he had an interesting perspective because he always kept his ties to Eastern Oregon, east of the mountains, and yet he was very sophisticated in his relations with the other federal judges.

MF: Sophisticated?

ALTHAUS: Well, intellectually sophisticated, because I was looking for a word. [Laughs]

MF: Urbane.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. Mixed in with any society.

MF: He wasn't some kid from the sticks.

ALTHAUS: No. So it was a very stimulating background. Knew just so much about the sources of law, English law, the Inns of Court and all that, the background and the common law. One of his law review articles compares the oral pleading in the common law courts to the pretrial procedure of the new federal rules.

MF: Was that the extent of his education, Columbia University? Or had he done postgraduate studies? How did he learn all this and get involved in this?

ALTHAUS: I don't know. He read Holdsworth's History of English Law. I don't know how much of that they went into that at Columbia Law School.

MF: He does sound like a very stimulating person. That's probably why, although he wasn't actually on the Oregon bench all that long, he is very well remembered. It was about 10 years or so, wasn't he, in Oregon, before he went up to the Ninth Circuit, 10 or 12 years?

ALTHAUS: Oh, of course he was a state circuit judge, too.

MF: He certainly is remembered with great respect. I mean there have been a lot of judges and his is a name you see fairly regularly.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. Yes, let's see. I was trying to remember something, just a minute. We were in San Francisco when he was sitting, I'm trying to think whether it was the district court or the circuit, no, he was the only judge on the bench. It was a jury trial and he was always very considerate of juries. He made a contact with the jury right away in a case. You know, sort of a personal contact in a way. But he felt lawyers were there to work and so he set a motion for argument on Monday and there were lawyers there from – I think I remember the name, an odd name, [Rob Hahn?] – from some big Ohio city and he said, "Your honor must have overlooked the fact that Monday is a holiday."

And Judge Fee said, "A synthetic holiday, Washington's birthday is Sunday." [Laughs] So they came and I remember in the elevator some of the employees in this federal courthouse in San Francisco were saying, some judge from Oregon [Laughs] is holding court today.

MF: You said you became friends with his secretary.

ALTHAUS: [Yes].

MF: Who was that?

ALTHAUS: Her name was Marguerite Pendergrass. And they had applied, he had applicants for that, several that he was interviewing after I had become his law clerk. He was between secretaries. She was a sister of a prominent Portland lawyer, Victor [V.] Pendergrass, younger sister, quite a bit younger. I remember him commenting he thought he was going to choose her because she was a singer. She sang very well, and she had these interesting hobbies. She was interested in more than just working and drawing a paycheck.

MF: Good for him.

ALTHAUS: He liked people with broader interests.

MF: A lot of women lawyers, it strikes me, do not like to be associated with secretaries, so it's interesting to me that that was a friendship that you made. Or do you think I'm misperceiving? Do you think I'm not being fair about women lawyers?

ALTHAUS: Oh, no. I think you probably are being fair.

MF: What do you think about that? You didn't seem to have any of that.

ALTHAUS: No. It just isn't my nature.

MF: Is there anything else you can think about, about your clerkship? You were there two years, right?

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: Did that open up doors for employment for you?

ALTHAUS: Well, I guess so. It was when Dorothy [McCullough] Lee was mayor of the City of Portland and, of course, she was a lawyer. And then I had that friend, Marian Rushing, that was on the staff. There was another woman lawyer's name I can't remember that they said was very brilliant and died of cancer. That was a deputy city attorney back in the 1920s but I didn't know her. So when there was an opening for a deputy city attorney she suggested, I guess she was...

MF: Marian Rushing, you mean?

ALTHAUS: Well, yeah. She was on the staff then. She wasn't chief deputy, as she became later and then city attorney. So she's the one that suggested I apply, and I think, probably, Mayor Lee was interested in having some more women. But, of course, the city attorney was Alexander [G.] Brown and so he's the one to which I applied. I talked to Judge Fee about it, and he said that would be a very good career move.

MF: Did he help you get the job?

ALTHAUS: Well, he gave me a very good recommendation.

MF: How long were you at the [Portland] City Attorney's Office?

ALTHAUS: I think about four years and then, well, I was interested in the big firms because when I went to law school there were all these stories about one woman lawyer, one big firm, and she left and they had said they would never hire another woman, and there were all these rumors about what were then only three or four big firms...

MF: In Portland?

ALTHAUS: What's now Stoel Rives, King Wood and – I can't think of the names of them all now.

MF: What became Schwabe Williamson or Bullivant Houser?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. Any of them, there were several. Now there are lots of big firms, including yours.

MF: We're only 15. We're small. We're little.

ALTHAUS: That was a big firm then.

MF: Oh. [Both laugh] Yeah, I see what you mean. There are a lot more lawyers, and the big firms are really big now.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, I know. And then they didn't allow this crossing state boundaries with a firm in those days.

MF: So, do you want to talk about the City Attorney's Office or do you want to move on to King Miller?

ALTHAUS: Oh, King Miller, yeah. I still kept up my friendship with Judge Fee, and I was, well, I was interested in big firms just because of all these stories about how it was almost impossible.

MF: You wanted to see if it could be done?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. So I talked to Judge Fee about it and in a couple of weeks I had a letter from Ralph King saying he understood I was interested in work and come and see him on

a Saturday morning. So I did. I was hired. Not as a regular associate but as working with Mr. King. He always had some special projects, so that was kind of getting in the back door.

MF: What kind of special projects?

ALTHAUS: Let me think back. He had a very complicated – I'm trying to think of the subject. Isn't that funny? I wrote a memo for him on this particular subject. Isn't that ridiculous? A long memo, and then I found he had asked other lawyers and so he handed the whole thing to me. It was on the same subject, to work them all into this...

MF: Like an opinion letter?

ALTHAUS: Yeah, only more of a scholarly subject. Anyway, apparently he liked my work and then...

MF: So were you hired as an associate or by the hour?

ALTHAUS: Well, finally, I found out I was an associate when they put my name on the door.

MF: But not your whole name.

ALTHAUS: No. That's right. Oh, some Saturday afternoon I was working in the firm's library and one of the – I guess he was the managing partner, Fred Yerke came in. He said, "What's your middle name?"

I said, "Florence." [Laughs]

"Well" he said, "We were just wondering on the stationary and the door."

I'd been there about since February, working mainly at the main law library and then finally at the office. So this was a surprise to me. When I'd seen Mr. King he asked me what I was getting at the City Attorney's Office. I said, "Five hundred dollars a month."

So he said, "I'll pay you six hundred." So that was the basis I was on and he said, "You'll do your work at the law library." And finally, it seemed more convenient to have me work at their law library. Then he asked me about this, "Well could we put your name on as H.F. Althaus?" So that's what they did.

MF: And there were no other women there except for the secretaries and the staff?

ALTHAUS: That's right.

MF: Was that a bit lonely?

ALTHAUS: Well, I didn't think much about it being particularly lonely or not. It was just work. It was very interesting work, very stimulating. But I was very pleased when they, five years later – I looked up, we had this old American Bank Building. It had those glass windows in front of your office and I saw someone on a ladder changing my name and changed it to Helen F. Althaus. That was when they had hired another woman lawyer, Jean Lowman, who had been law clerk to Judge Brand and to state court Judge McAllister in Salem, and wanted to move to Portland and had been applying at all big firms with negative results until she got to King Miller and they said, "Well, we have a woman lawyer associate but we like her." So they were receptive. So we became lifelong friends.

MF: What kind of work were you doing at King Miller?

ALTHAUS: Oh, let's see. Did I show you the – one of the most interesting of briefs, this red covered brief. Now where is it?

MF: It's right here. Is that it?

ALTHAUS: Oh, well aren't you good at finding things. [Laughs]

MF: Well, it's bright red.

ALTHAUS: [Laughs] Yeah.

MF: Oh my gosh, Norman [J.] Wiener and Helen Althaus, *United States of America v. Georgia Pacific Company* [421 F.2d 92 (9th Cir. 1970)].

ALTHAUS: [Yes].

MF: When was it? So you were doing appellate work?

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: I noticed you did some appellate work in the City Attorney's Office, or at least I found a couple of...

ALTHAUS: Yes, yes I did.

MF: I'm looking for the date here.

ALTHAUS: I liked appellate work very much.

MF: 1958.



ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah. I just wondered why I put this - oh, that's just that. You've probably seen that.

MF: Oh, in the book you put, somebody had sent you from Miller Nash, the little article about you in the U.S. District Court Historical Society.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, Norm. Norm Wiener sent that. Oh, yeah, with a letter.

MF: And they were in the American Bank Building?

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: Oh, I have seen that. It's a wonderful picture and a wonderful article. Did you do any trial work?

ALTHAUS: Well, some. Not as much as I would have liked to do.

MF: Did you argue the case before the Court of Appeals? The one you're looking at?

ALTHAUS: No, Norm argued it. It was not appealed but we were both in court on the district court trial.

MF: Oh, really.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, it was a fairly complicated case.

MF: What was it about? So you were involved in the trial and the appeal?

ALTHAUS: [Yes].

MF: What was the case about?

**[End of Tape 5, Side 2]**

**Tape 6, Side 1**  
**2000 February 19**

MF: February 19, and it is now about ten minutes to one in the afternoon and I'm back on with Ms. Helen Althaus.

ALTHAUS: Right.

MF: Sorry. And we were talking about the *United States v. Georgia Pacific* case and some of the facts in that, and the trial and appeal of that case, and generally your career at King Miller.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes. Now I wish I could find that copy of the opinion.

MF: It is going to be here with the other? Let's just pause for a second. Okay, so now we're back on.

ALTHAUS: Here is this one. Oh, I don't have the petition of Mundorff. That is what we talked about earlier. The rules, you were asking about the Rules of Federal Procedure. This is the eighth Federal Rule Decision, F.R.D. 7, Petition of Mundorff.

MF: Is that the same Mundorff?

ALTHAUS: Yes. The clerk of the court – that's the one about the criminal case, the Criminal Rule 20.

MF: What's the citation?

ALTHAUS: 8 F.R.D. 7.

MF: That had to do with the inter-transfer of criminal cases?

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: Were you involved in that petition, in doing any of the research for it?

ALTHAUS: No, no, that was just when I first was appointed clerk. Oh, it's the *University of Florida Law Review* in the article. This is "Justice In Search Of A Handmaiden," so this law review is about pretrial conferences.

MF: What's the citation?

ALTHAUS: That is *University of Florida Law Review*, Summer 1949, No. 2, page 175. It goes to page 218. The other one on the Federal Rules of Procedure...

MF: Columbia University?

ALTHAUS: *Columbia Law Review*, No. 4, page 492 of May 1948, entitled "The Lost Horizon in Pleading Under The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure." The case at King Miller, this is Georgia Pacific, that's the opinion of the Court of Appeals.

MF: Oh, it was tried by Judge [Robert Clinton] Belloni.

ALTHAUS: Yeah. We had a number of defenses and Judge Belloni held for Georgia Pacific on the ground of no consideration, but the Court of Appeals affirmed but on a different ground. I think it might even still be a leading case on estoppel of the government, estoppel of the United States.

MF: Usually you can't estop the government, but I see here that the government was not entitled to immunity from estoppel. That's pretty impressive.

ALTHAUS: It's a very interesting case. That was my favorite ground but nobody ever believed me, it was never appealed.

MF: To the Supreme Court.

ALTHAUS: No.

MF: What did the trial consist of? Oh, it's summary judgment. Does that say summary? Oh, no, not judgment – adverse to the government. There was actually a trial on it?

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah.

MF: How long did the trial last?

ALTHAUS: Oh, I don't think more than two or three days.

MF: Really? Because it was over a period of 30 years.

ALTHAUS: Well, yes, it had a lot of history in that case. It was an interesting one. Actually, Norm wouldn't cite a law review in the brief but the court did – cited a lot of law reviews that were on the subject.

MF: So, did you write the brief for the case?

ALTHAUS: Oh, that's this red one.

MF: That must have been a pretty substantial case.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, well, it involved a lot of timberlands and then with a history of opinions. It went way back to the Depression when cutover lands were not considered of much value, but they had to pay taxes on them. Georgia Pacific's predecessor, the Coos Bay Lumber Company, had signed a document purporting to agree to convey the timberlands as they were cutover to the government as donations, under a donation statute, but the government contended there was consideration and that's why the controversy over consideration.

MF: So Georgia Pacific didn't want to turn over the timberlands?

ALTHAUS: No, cutover lands were considered very valuable later.

MF: Well, that is interesting. That is an interesting case. How long did you work on this case?

ALTHAUS: Oh, it went through all kinds of procedures. It went through administrative procedures and negotiations with the Forest Service until the government finally sued Georgia Pacific, because we couldn't sue the government.

MF: Why couldn't you sue the government?

ALTHAUS: Sovereignty.

MF: Not even for a declaratory judgment? Did they have that then?

ALTHAUS: No. No, I don't think so. Well, I'm sure there was a declaratory judgment statute. So it came out of a trespass, I guess.

MF: Let's see. Well, the government brought its case for specific performance.

ALTHAUS: Oh, I guess they did.

MF: Demanding that they convey 19,000 acres of cutover land.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah, that's right.

MF: This was in 1970? The opinion is 1970. That was toward the end of your career with Miller Nash.

ALTHAUS: Yes it was. But we were on Judge Fee's cases. I should give these to you, but maybe I might want to review them.

MF: How about you loan them to me and I'll copy them and send them back.

ALTHAUS: Okay. I have here two law reviews. And I have another case, I was involved - to the City of Portland in Oregon Supreme Court.

MF: Is that the Foeller case [*Foeller v. Housing Authority of Portland*, 198 Ore. 205, 214, 256 P. (2d) 752, 757 (1953)]?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. I've got that.

MF: I wanted to talk to you about that.

ALTHAUS: Oh, okay.

MF: That seemed like an interesting case, and a rather important case as well.

ALTHAUS: Yes, it was. It was a test case.

MF: [Yes], for urban renewal.

ALTHAUS: Urban renewal. I argued that one, but I didn't write the brief.

MF: Oh, that's interesting. I think that more often you wrote the briefs and didn't argue.  
[Both chuckle] I was actually reading it. The brief is beautifully written.

ALTHAUS: Well, thank you.

MF: Did you write it actually?

ALTHAUS: Well, about everything in it. Yeah.

MF: Really. Very clear. Who taught you to write?

ALTHAUS: Oh, I don't know. It just seemed like it was part of being a lawyer.

MF: Well, I wondered if the judge was helpful or whether law school helped you or college.

ALTHAUS: No, well, I didn't do much writing when I worked for the judge, really any writing at all.

MF: Really? You just found cases for him and compiled information for him?



ALTHAUS: Yeah, I found cases and discussed. We did research together and he was wonderful. That's where I really learned how to do research. He was excellent at that. He had a wonderful memory and a very analytical mind and was very stimulating.

MF: I guess I had assumed that you would write memos on specific areas and that he would take those and read the cases. But there wasn't a lot of memo writing. You just sort of found cases and talked about it.

ALTHAUS: I never wrote a memo for him.

MF: That's interesting.

ALTHAUS: [Yes]. Maybe that's what most law clerks do.

MF: I think that is actually, or from what I know. And I think young lawyers in law firms, as well, they write memos on specific areas and then some other senior person takes those and kind of puts them together and expands it or contracts it or throws it out, or whatever.  
[Both laugh]

ALTHAUS: Well the first thing I did when I worked for Mr. King was draw pleadings and then one of the top secretaries – I was just brand new there – said, "Good luck," when I presented it to Mr. King, but he filed it just the way it was so I did have good luck.

MF: Or maybe good skill. [HA laughs] What was his practice area, Ralph King?

ALTHAUS: I guess I would generally say corporate law but he was a very interesting, brilliant lawyer. He was very good at research, too.

MF: Number one, he must have had a fair amount of power in the firm and he must have also been fairly open-minded to hire you. What kind of person was he?

ALTHAUS: Well, I guess he wouldn't have hired me if it hadn't been for Judge Fee.

MF: Okay. What was your relationship with the other lawyers there that you worked with? I assumed it developed over time.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah. Well, it was very good. Yes, except there was never any question about - There were three associates that came in the same year that I did, and I was there 17 years and I was never a partner. And they either left or became partners.

MF: Did you ever discuss partnership with anybody.

ALTHAUS: No.

MF: Why was that? It just wasn't an option?

ALTHAUS: Well, I liked the work, and I thought if there was any hope of my being a partner they would bring it up. Well, they didn't bring it up, so that's the way it just drifted along for 17 years.

MF: So, you were basically happy there with the work.

ALTHAUS: [Yes.]

MF: It sounds like very stimulating work actually. Now, I'm asking more sort of the development of the profession of law. Did they have like billable hour requirements? How

were associates reviewed? What was the whole process in a big firm back in the 1950s and 1960s.

ALTHAUS: You had to make out time slips and I think it was quite new, this billable hours.

MF: Oh, really.

ALTHAUS: Someone there commented. They had some quite big case and they had to keep track of this for the court and, of course, I'm in favor of the flat fee. I'm not very happy about the billable hours development in law. To me it's more of making law a business. It is a business in certain aspects, but it's emphasizing the business aspects of law over the professional aspects of law.

MF: I know we talked about this once before, when you were at King Miller, and I'm talking about a big firm, not necessarily just King Miller, were there cases that they'd handle on flat fees? Was that still going on?

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: So it's kind of a transitional period?

ALTHAUS: Yes, I think it was and there were some clients that they liked to know ahead.

MF: Which is always nice.

ALTHAUS: [Yes].

MF: And then some that they were doing just on an hourly basis?

ALTHAUS: Well, we always kept track of the hours.

MF: Were associates reviewed on billable hours or receipts or how did associates get ahead at King Miller in the 1950s and 1960s?

ALTHAUS: Well, I really don't know.

MF: Were you reviewed for hours or receipts?

ALTHAUS: No. I do know that the partner involved in a case that I worked, that they didn't always set the fee just on the hours. They would always consider other things too, or usually.

MF: Like results or complexity?

ALTHAUS: [Yes], that kind of thing.

MF: I think it has changed a lot. Although I think it may be going back now.

ALTHAUS: You do?

MF: I think so.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, I have a number of books where that's discussed. Over there, I see. I can't think of a title of a book, but I think there should be a marker in one on the billable hour.

MF: Well, let me see. Over here?

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: *Justice at War?*

ALTHAUS: Well.

MF: Let's see. *Justice At Will?* No, these are all about slavery, although there's something to be said for that. I mean, billable hours are like slavery.

ALTHAUS: No, that wouldn't.

MF: *The Stage Stars. Mutiny on the Amistad.* More on slavery. Boy, a lot of books on slavery.

ALTHAUS: Yes, I'm very interested in that subject.

MF: I don't see it.

ALTHAUS: No, okay. Maybe I loaned it somebody.

MF: It's not in *Rose City Justice?*

ALTHAUS: What?

MF: It's not in *Rose City Justice?*

ALTHAUS: No, it's not in that one.

MF: When did you decide to leave, I assume you decided to leave King Miller?

ALTHAUS: Well it was sort of a mutual thing. They were moving to another building and it just seemed the time we should part.

MF: Who was the other attorney, the other woman there? What was her name?

ALTHAUS: Jean Lowman.

MF: Did she go with you or did she stay?

ALTHAUS: We left within the same year, I think. She'd been there 10 years and I'd been there 17.

MF: Is she still alive?

ALTHAUS: No, she died of multiple sclerosis. But she became the regional head of the Department of Interior, the law department in this region. Every government department had different regions. I mean different groups of states. So she went to the Department of Interior and started her career there in about the same year. We both found out that we were getting identical salaries. They were hiring men associates for more entering the firm than we were getting, which was about \$800.00 a month.

MF: Oh, my goodness. That's not very much is it?

ALTHAUS: No.

MF: Did you bring that issue up to anybody?

ALTHAUS: No.

MF: And the American Bank Building, you know, it's funny that you talk about the American Bank Building because I recently spoke with Judge Jones, R.E. [Robert Edward Jones].

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah.

MF: They were in that building. Must have been at the same time. Jones Day or...

ALTHAUS: Oh, yeah, I think so. It was once quite a prestigious building.

MF: I think our firm was in the American Bank Building at some point in time. Or the Commonwealth Building, I can't remember.

ALTHAUS: Well, we had the 12th floor. And when I first started working there we were on the 9th floor and didn't have the whole floor.

MF: When you left King Miller how many lawyers were there?

ALTHAUS: Well, there were under 20 I'm sure.

MF: Was it a fairly collegial atmosphere?

ALTHAUS: Well, they were collegial enough, but they changed their firm dinner from the Arlington Club to the University Club because they would allow women there. At least at that time they were allowed after six, not for lunch, I guess. Most of those clubs, I think they're all pretty – well, the Arlington Club is probably not. It's still men, isn't it? Is it still there?

MF: I think you may be right. I'm not sure. [HA laughs] I'm not sure. But I know the University Club has changed.

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: So you mean they changed their firm dinner to the University Club so that the two women associates could come?

ALTHAUS: Yes, which is pretty handsome of them.

MF: Were you involved in political activities during the time that you were at King Miller?

ALTHAUS: No, I think it was after.

MF: Oh, okay.

ALTHAUS: Oh, I probably belonged to civil rights organizations, as a matter of fact. And there were a number that were very active, like Maurice [Ostrow] Georges ("Ossie" Georges), in the Civil Liberties Union when I first came to Portland. But there was an interesting time when – The City Club. That was the big controversy. I don't know if you've heard about that or not.

MF: I think we talked about it but I don't think it's on tape.

ALTHAUS: [Yes].

MF: I think you told me over dinner or something one time. And it is interesting.

ALTHAUS: Yeah.



MF: You want to talk about that?

ALTHAUS: Well, yes. It was one of the first things that young lawyers, when they came to town, Portland, they would join the City Club. But that was only for men, so I and my mother were asked by one of the associates at King Miller to apply at the City Club for membership so they could have a record. Of course, they denied it. Then they had to have a – there was some technical thing to change the rules in their constitution, which I can't recall right now whether it finally went to the board of directors, may have had the power to do it but then, anyway, they weren't willing to do it. Then it had to go to a vote of the membership. But anyway, it was for a long time. By that time, I was outside the city limits at Raleigh Hills. I was a witness in one of the hearings. Oh, he was Sid Lezak. You know Sid.

MF: Well, I certainly know who he, I mean yes. I know who he is.

ALTHAUS: Yeah, well he was United States District Attorney and he was president, and so he...

MF: President of the City Club?

ALTHAUS: [Yes]. And he had hearings different places over the city about this subject. I know I was asked to appear at one of those and I thought of a comparison. The City Club went back to about the teens of the twentieth century, and at that time there was a great bias against women.

MF: At which time?

ALTHAUS: In the teens, like I was thinking of the history of the woman's legal fraternity which is a student organization, and we had a chapter in Portland. There were so few women students at what's now Lewis and Clark Law School, but they kept up the chapter requirement of five in the local chapter, because there were usually not more than a couple of women students at the law school, by keeping the alumni members. So we actually had about 15 to 20 actively practicing law that belong to Phi Delta Delta, which was founded around 1910 or 1912, nationally, at the University of Southern California because the men's fraternities, of course, didn't admit women and so they founded their own. And there was another one founded in the East called Kappa Beta Pi and there never were enough women students to keep up both the women's fraternities alive at the same university, and the University of Oregon had Gladys Everett and "Red" McCroskey [Alys Sutton McCroskey].

MF: Brad McCroskey?

ALTHAUS: "Red," Alys. Everybody called her "Red." And Doris Rae Keeler are the ones that I can remember that belonged to Kappa Beta Pi. They were not as active because they were from the University of Oregon at Eugene, but they lived in Portland, so they didn't have an as active organization as the Phi Delta Delta, which was founded on the Pacific Coast. But they had their own restrictions.

MF: The women's fraternities?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. White.

MF: I suppose that's not surprising.

ALTHAUS: [Laughs] Yes. White. Now how did they exclude the Jews? Oh, it just said Christian, white Christian women.

MF: That's interesting.

ALTHAUS: I was appalled when I found out. They didn't explain through the admissions about that. They didn't give me a copy of the – when I found I'd joined something that had a religious and the racial. They said, well you're a member and you can't resign. So then I found that there were very active members, even in our own chapter, that were willing to change it. But this is very interesting to me because that was in the 1940s and 1950s that our local chapter which had – well, actually, they probably had about 25 or 30 that weren't all actively practicing law but they were lawyers, members of the bar. It first came up on the national basis. Well, the American Bar Association met in Seattle, and just before that they had a Phi Delta Delta national convention and I went to both. Phi Delta Delta, and a group from some of the other states had brought up an amendment which would cut the white Christian...

MF: When was this?

ALTHAUS: It was 1948.

MF: Oh.

ALTHAUS: And our chapter, I was appalled to find, when they voted on this constitutional amendment, voted against it. And there were two of us who didn't agree, and so I was president of it at that time and so I said, "I cannot present this because I want to make my own presentation on the opposite side, so have the vice president present our chapter's view point and then I want to speak as an individual." Jean Lewis also said the same thing. So we made our own presentations. I worked on that quite a bit and I thought about the – I remember that when they had this City Club controversy. And that Phi Delta

Delta was founded in the early teens and it had these restrictions. So that was a time of great prejudice that went on into the 1920s, maybe all through the 1960s.

MF: [Yes].

ALTHAUS: Most of the century, but it was very strong then. And well, I happened to belong to some other Greek letter organizations. The very first Greek letter one, do you know what that was?

MF: I have no idea.

ALTHAUS: Phi Beta Kappa.

MF: Oh. Good for you.

ALTHAUS: It was founded in Williamsburg, Virginia, at the University of Williamsburg in 1776, actually in 1776.

MF: Amazing.

ALTHAUS: And so then I built up an argument on that, that it expressed the real American principles.

MF: And it didn't have those restrictions?

ALTHAUS: It didn't. It didn't have them. Not Phi Beta Kappa.

MF: [Yes].

ALTHAUS: Now on the other hand it didn't specifically say, it just didn't have any restrictions and it came that they'd just began. They didn't have to have an amendment, the national constitution, just chapters could admit women and blacks, Orientals, because there wasn't any restrictions and so it developed that way.

MF: So you made this argument?

ALTHAUS: So, see, then they had this specific restriction, ones that were created about around the teens of this century.

MF: That is interesting actually.

ALTHAUS: [Yes], and luckily they had a history of Phi Beta Kappa published about that time so I could check back so I'd know the facts.

MF: And you made that argument to the City Club?

ALTHAUS: Well, then, at the City Club, I brought that up, too, but the City Club was in this time of great prejudice.

MF: So you said you and your mother applied to the City Club. I assumed that they turned you down.

ALTHAUS: Yes.

MF: And then what happened?

ALTHAUS: Well, Paul Meyer had an idea that you could interpret their constitution. It was ambiguous in one way and you could admit women, but it didn't work. That was just

all on paper, you know, correspondence. Then when Sid Lezak had these hearings, or small groups around the city about it, then eventually City Club changed.

**[End of Tape 6, Side 1]**

**Tape 6, Side 2**  
*2000 February 19*

MF: Alright, we're back again and [February 18?] 2000. It is now 1:40 with Helen Althaus and you were saying that eventually they sold the Ochoco Inn for the bond holders, or you mother asked as trustee did – then what happened?

ALTHAUS: Well then, you were asking about the Inn. She always thought it was because they didn't continue having a night watchman, but it burned.

MF: Ah. After the sale?

ALTHAUS: [Yes]. I don't know whether it was a year or what after. I don't remember that time period. But it varies. I've got a picture in the hallway, I may have shown them to you, of the Ochoco Inn, which had a courtyard in front, and also of the old Portland Hotel.

MF: [Yes].

ALTHAUS: Did you see those?

MF: No, I'm going to look when we're done here.

ALTHAUS: [Yes].

MF: What kind of place was the Ochoco Inn? Was it a nice place? I mean was it historic? Talk about it. Can you tell me about it?

ALTHAUS: Well, yes. Its predecessor had burned, the old Prineville Hotel. I never saw that. So I guess Prineville is susceptible to fires. It was in sort of a Spanish style, two stories.

The rooms were on the top floor, a nice dining room and lobby. It was built in the boom of the late 1920s and it was in trouble because of the Depression. And it was very attractive. I think of it like the Portland Hotel, which was hundreds of rooms, but they both had a lovely courtyard in front.

MF: You know, actually, talking about your family, we were going to get back to this trip to the South that I remember you had told me that you took with your mother when you were at King Miller.

ALTHAUS: Oh, yes.

MF: What was that about? I remember that was a very interesting story.

ALTHAUS: We had wealthy clients who were in the lumber business at King Miller and it was Mississippi, with the southern pine, was the lumber state. And these lumber families, they migrate around the United States. Started out in New England then they'd cut out and get out sort of, and to Mississippi and then through Oregon in the ponderosa pine. Mississippi was the southern pine. Well, there was a Middle West too. They were from New England to the Middle West, to Mississippi to Oregon.

MF: To the West Coast?

ALTHAUS: Buying timber when most people in Oregon didn't even know it was valuable. And they'd been holding it for maybe 30, 40 years.

MF: So how did you end up in Mississippi?

ALTHAUS: Well, on the personal business of one of these families, doing research. It was very interesting to be there at that time. It was 1950s.



MF: In what way was it interesting?

ALTHAUS: Well, to be in the Deep South before the 1960s.

MF: You said you and your mother went together?

ALTHAUS: Yeah. I paid for her, but I knew she'd be interested.

MF: I bet. How long were you down there?

ALTHAUS: About a month.

MF: What was your impression, ultimately?

ALTHAUS: You'd walk along the street and a black man would be approaching. He would step off the sidewalk to the side, that kind of thing. Well, we did, my mother used her time - got acquainted with a very interesting – oh, we were staying at a hotel and she made friends with the maids and they told her about an integrated college. I can't think of the name of it. It was not too far from Jacksonville so we went, spent one weekend driving there. Rented a car and then we went to New Orleans for another weekend, so it was very interesting. I remember when they took us on a tour of the college, he said there were parts of Mississippi where you could vote and he always voted on the Mississippi River where, you know, there was more traffic from people from other places and states on the river ports.

MF: I don't understand what you mean. There were places that you could vote?

ALTHAUS: If you were black.

MF: So parts of Mississippi, they allowed blacks to vote and parts they didn't?

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: Well, that's interesting.

ALTHAUS: [Yes.] In the river towns.

And we also had another interesting trip to Vancouver, B.C.

MF: Was that for work?

ALTHAUS: Yeah, for about a month.

MF: Oh, that would be nice.

ALTHAUS: [Yes].

MF: Here's what I suggest. We have got through, pretty much to when you left King Miller, except for the Foeller case.

ALTHAUS: Well, that was at the City of Portland.

MF: At the City, right. So should we talk about that? And then I think we'll be about done for today. Okay? You want to talk about that case a little bit? It will be two o'clock and you have made a valiant effort today. I know you're tired.

ALTHAUS: Well, I wish I were more fluent.

MF: You're doing terrific. I think it's hard to talk into these microphones.

ALTHAUS: Yeah.

MF: Particularly about things that happened 40 years ago. [Laughs]

ALTHAUS: Yeah and I should have prepared better for it, but I just haven't been feeling my best.

MF: You want to talk a little bit about – is it Feller or Foeller?

ALTHAUS: Well, Foeller we called it, but I was representing the City of Portland.

MF: And that was an urban renewal case?

ALTHAUS: [Yes], because I hadn't been at the case. It was just before I left that they asked me to do this and so I had to study the briefs and the research.

MF: So you weren't involved in the trial? You did the appeal only?

ALTHAUS: [Yes], it was on the appeal and it was interesting, though. It was before the Oregon Supreme Court. There were two of us, argued it, and divided the time, and I was the last one. I always had a soft spot in my heart for Judge Warner [Harold Johnson Warner] because he'd ask me some interesting questions that extended the time. [Laughs]

MF: It must have been a pretty important case to the city?

ALTHAUS: Well, it was designed as a test case, but I don't know that I agree with all that the urban renewal people did with all this power.

MF: Now why is that? What did you mean by that?

ALTHAUS: Well, I mean there had been a lot of destroying these old neighborhoods for new construction and a lot about that since.

MF: Should we be done?

ALTHAUS: Oh, I'm so—

**[End of Tape 6, Side 2]**

**[End of Interview]**