

Earl Newbry

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NEWBRY: Earl T. Newbry

CH: Clark Hansen

Transcribed by: Unknown

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Tape 1, Side 1

1990 July 23

CH: This is an interview with Earl T. Newbry in his home in Ashland, Oregon. The date is July 23, 1990. The interviewer for the Oregon Historical Society is Clark Hansen, and this is Tape 1, Side A. Well, maybe we could just begin by your giving me some background on your family and where you originally came from and where they originally came from, and as far back as you can remember or know.

NEWBRY: Well, I might say that my grandfather was born in Ohio and he, coincidentally, was a member of the Second Ohio Cavalry. And during the Civil War he went in service and he was in there for about, I would say, almost two years. But he was captured when he was on a mission to get supplies for their regiment. He was captured and went to Andersonville prison and he was there for nine months. I thought that he was there longer than that but my grandson traced his record and traced him on this trip that he took from place to place to take those supplies, but that's where he was captured. And he was there, as I say, for my grandson tells me that he was there for nine months. He went in weighing about 210 pounds, he came out weighing less than a hundred. But he lived. He got through that Andersonville prison, thank God, because if it wasn't for that I wouldn't be here.

So that's my grandfather, and he was born in Ohio. My father was born in Ohio, and my grandfather decided to come west. And fact of the matter is, he was a wagon maker. He worked for one of the big companies there, and fact of the matter is, he on one occasion he built a complete carriage, buggy carriage, and had it displayed at the Ohio State Fair. And but then he decided he wanted to come west, and I don't know whether he was a nomad or not, but it seemed like they kept on drifting west and he brought his family, which was composed of four boys and two daughters. And my Uncle Charlie was the youngest of the two boys and he seemed to be under my father's care to a certain degree.

CH: What year would this have been? Do you know about when he would have come West?

NEWBRY: Well, it would be about 1895. That's a poor guess. But in any event they came on west and my father married there and he married my mother from Iowa. But I don't know where he met her. But they were married in either I think maybe Colorado, and I believe that she was there visiting some people, and this may be not exactly accurate, but that's what I think. And my father worked there for an uncle of his, and this fellow was a very successful farmer. And my father was a young man and worked there, and he got nine dollars a month, by gosh, and his board, on this big ranch.

Well, in the meantime, I might say, that my grandmother passed away and my Uncle Charlie was the youngest child there and he was only about three years old at that time. So he was kind of nurtured by the family. Well, then, my father worked as a logger in some of those places. They did logging with teams, and all that, and he worked at that for a while. But after he married my mother, he started farming. And as far as I know they were up in Mosca, Colorado, I believe, or Centerville, that's at a higher elevation, but after that he decided to go down to the Rocky Ford country and he had a pretty good ranch there in Rocky Ford and was a farmer. Now, that's what he was. He decided he was going to be a farmer. And he had I don't know how many crops there he had.

CH: That was in Washington?

NEWBRY: That was in Colorado.

CH: In Colorado.

NEWBRY: That was in Colorado. That was near Rocky Ford, Colorado. It was in the cantaloupe country. And he had quite a crop growing there after the — in 1900, why, he had a — his first crop was harvested in the stack. He had about forty acres of cantaloupes about ready to harvest. A hail storm came along and wiped out everything that he had, everything. And my Uncle Charlie was then working with my father, so they decided, well, by golly, I'm going to get out of here. I can't take this. So he sold everything and he had his hay that he could sell, he had everything he had he sold. And then, for some reason or other, I don't know why he wanted to go west, and I think they went on train from there to Kennewick, Washington. And that was the fall of 1900, and I think it was the first of November. At that time I was only a baby.

CH: So you born in Rocky Ford?

NEWBRY: I was born in Rocky Ford.

CH: On what date?

NEWBRY: April 15, 1900. So I just reached my 90th birthday. So they went to Kennewick. And I don't know why they went there, but then he was anxious to get west because of one reason, and it wasn't exactly the reason, my mother's family was — father, mother, had come to Eugene, Oregon, and I thought that maybe he kind of wanted to come West. But in any event, after he got to Kennewick, he, I think, rented a stable, a well it was

a stable where they rented out horses and did dray work for the city and for the town of Kennewick. I remember that after I could remember things.

But he had that, and fact of the matter is, I was sitting on my mother's lap, and the first thing I knew I was somebody was I was there, and I guess I must have had a cold, or something, and I can remember just as well as anything I was sitting on her lap and she was visiting with some ladies and we had a net carpet floor, one of those old style things, and it was a very comfortable place for being so far west. But in any event, I think at that time my father had built a little building and I think we lived in the second floor of it, just a little structure, and he had a meat market below. And Uncle Bill came out, which was the third son of that family. He was just older than Charlie. He came out and he was a pretty good meat cutter. So he was handling the meat market. And I think we lived upstairs, a little small room up there.

But in any event, I came down and I can remember that very well. And my uncle had some of these Olympia oysters and he thought he'd try me out on those. So he said, "Well, here, Early, " he called me Early he says, "try this." And I can remember it just swell, and he gave me about a half a cup, small cup, of those Olympia oysters. And, boy, I gobbled them down and I thought they were great, and he said he thought that probably that I wouldn't like them. And I remember that incident. And from then I could kind of remember a few things. My brother was two and a half years older than I and I was old enough that I could play with him. And I remember going down to that — the stable was right on the Columbia River, I remember that, and they would haul things for the stores and for people that had things coming in, and I remember that. So that's about all I [tape cuts out] [Inaudible]

CH: So, just going back a little ways here, you said that your grandfather had been a wagon builder?

NEWBRY: Yes.

CH: And you...

NEWBRY: He was a very fine blacksmith.

CH: Did your father...

NEWBRY: My father was good too. He was I'll tell you about that later on, here, in my story if you want me to.

CH: Sure. Did your grandfather come out west with you?

NEWBRY: My grandfather, he – yes.

CH: To Kennewick?

NEWBRY: He came out west. He didn't go to Kennewick, but then he followed later.

CH: I see. And did you hear anything about the trip? You said you thought it was by train?

NEWBRY: I'm quite sure it was by train. I don't at that time – are you recording this?

CH: Yes.

NEWBRY: Well, at that time, many people came west in boxcars they put their horses and their family and they all ride in a boxcar coming west. I don't think they came that way. I think they came on a passenger train from Colorado. And the reason I say that is because later on I will tell you that when they come back to Idaho, why, they had to sell what they had there and buy horses, and so and I remember — we're leaving Kennewick, and I

remember coming up there, we came on the train, and I can remember that very well. And I could see the Columbia River, this train coming up the Columbia River and we come to Minidoka, Idaho. And that was kind of a train stop. In fact it was where the people went from there to Twin Falls.

So my father and my uncle with him, Charlie, and my brother and I and my mother, he bought a wagon there, a covered wagon. He bought one or two teams of horses, and they started for Milner, Idaho, where this Twin Falls Irrigation Company started. This was Twin Falls. And I think that was in the spring of 1904, I believe, and I'm not sure of that. It could have been in the fall of 1903, and that's probably it. But I remember that covered wagon. We went from Minidoka clear to Milner, which was about 20 miles north of what is now Twin Falls — later became Twin Falls because there was no Twin Falls there at all when we went there. And my father went to Milner to get work and he heard about this irrigation district that was opening up. It was a private enterprise by a man by the name of Murtaugh from New York. And, as I say, it was a private enterprise, and developed that Twin Falls Irrigation Canal Company.

Well, my father went to work there putting the first rock in Milner Dam, and he worked there for, I think, only a short time. And we lived in this doggone covered wagon, and I remember coming over from Minidoka. We stopped there and I guess it was overnight, we couldn't make it in one trip, but I know that morning my uncle went out and shot a couple of cottontail rabbits and they brought them in and they butchered them out and we had that and I thought it was the best thing I ever ate. I was just about three and a half years old then, and I remember that very distinctly.

Then at Milner Dam, he went to work on that as a hand laborer. And he had a good team of horses, and all, and a man by the name of Mr. [Bickel?] was an engineer in charge of the construction of this canal, and he needed somebody to drive engineers over the whole project when there was engineering for the canal areas and where the canal lines would go. So my father — he asked him if he'd like that job, and he said he sure would. Well shortly after that we moved to a little community called out from Minidoka.

Now, Minidoka was pretty close to — well, it was not close to Twin Falls area at all, but it was a little kind of a Mormon town there. But we lived in a tent house there for at least one year. And the tent houses then was they had a board floor, and I think that the kitchen had a dirt floor. But the thing I remember about that so distinctly was the fact that my father had this team of horses and they had just been sharp shod and my brother and I were out there and the horses were in a pole corral and they were frisking around and we had a little black collie cocker spaniel dog, and this dog was kind of running around among the horses, and, by golly, the last thing I saw, the dog running in front of me and I got kicked right in the face by this horse. And I didn't remember anything until the next day.

The doctor was about 10 miles away from this town of Murtaugh, as I recall, and the name of the doctor was [Clauchek?]. I can remember that. Well, my mother doctored me up and I lost all my teeth up and I had a heavy billed cap on, because it was winter, and I had a heavy billed cap and one of the shoes of the horse was sharp and I got a cut in my forehead, and I think the cap saved me from getting a very bad gash in my head. And the next thing I remember is...

CH: You lived in that tent house...

NEWBRY: We lived in that little tent house.

CH: Through the winter?

NEWBRY: Oh, yes.

CH: It must have been cold.

NEWBRY: Oh, well, it was comfortable. Fact of the matter is, my Uncle Bill he came over with us from Kennewick, too, he came over, so I know we had to come on the train. He

came there and he had a — he had been working for the canal company and I know we had a Christmas in his tent. He had his tent right near us. We had one Christmas there. Then after that, my father was driving all over the doggone area taking these engineers and doing the survey crews. We moved from then to what was a rock creek out of Twin Falls. And we lived down in the canyon out from Twin Falls and we had a tent there and my father fixed that very comfortably. It was a he put a tent over a tent and had about a two foot air space, and then he had on one side was room enough for, say, a wardrobe, I remember that very well, and this had a board floor, and what we had was a we had what you called a sagebrush stove, those round stoves, and that's what we burned was sagebrush, mostly. And we were right there on the creek bottom and it was a very, very attractive place.

There was a grade that originally graded, and I think it was part of the Oregon Trail that went up out of this canyon to where Twin Falls became, and I think we were there about three years and my grandfather came there, of course he was there, and he had his own little tent back of us. And this tent we had, as I say, it had a dirt floor. My mother, she took care of us and she had this and she was a good cook, and all, and another thing she liked to do, we fished in that little creek and we did some fishing. We'd catch a trout once in a while, and that was a very interesting place. And my brother and I, we climbed around over the rock canyons and I only saw one rattlesnake. There were quite a few rattlesnakes there, but my brother saw one rattlesnake. I don't know whether he killed it or not because he was only about seven years old, and at that time I was pretty close to five. They were interesting experiences.

And I remember going after Twin Falls kind of got started when we went there was only one surveyor shack, is all there was in Twin Falls, and then after a couple of years, why, people started coming in and I know there was finally a dentist came in, and that was just before we left there. But I went up to this dentist's place to have a tooth fixed, or something, and it was the old-fashioned dental equipment, they run it through I think they run their drills and their tools with a foot driven big wheel that turned these on. I remember that very distinctly.

And we had a cow or two, and we had some we did, we had our own milk, and all that, and I know we delivered milk to somebody up in Twin Falls, and then I was just about five years old, or six, maybe. I wasn't quite six. I know we went up there and it started raining and I thought, well, what do we do with our — we had a five-pound bucket of milk, and, by golly, we thought we'd better go home. We threw the milk in the sagebrush and beat it for home. We were going up this trail well, it was a road. People could travel it, teams of horses could go. But we lived there and it was a rather pleasant experience. My father, of course, had to be gone quite a lot. Some days he would be gone a week throughout the whole area. Well, that's about as much as I can say about that. So in 1906...

CH: You had mentioned that your brother was a few years older than you.

NEWBRY: My brother was two and a half years older.

CH: Did you have any other siblings besides...

NEWBRY: Later on I had two sisters.

CH: Two sisters.

NEWBRY: Yeah.

CH: Your brother was born where? Colorado?

NEWBRY: He was born in Colorado.

CH: And...

NEWBRY: He was born December 13th, 1897. See, he was two and a half years older. So what else did you ask me?

CH: When you think about your childhood and the way that you were growing up, well first of all, did you feel that there was much difference between the way you were growing up and other kids around you, or were they all growing up pretty much the same way?

NEWBRY: We didn't have many kids around us. By golly, I'll tell you, all I had was the only ones I can remember is my cousins, I had a — I had two cousins, Uncle Bill's daughters. One of them lives in San Diego now, the youngest one. But there was just the two girls. We didn't have any kids to play with. There just wasn't anybody down there on Rock Creek. We had the only home down there. And I say home, it was our tent house. So then my father decided he took up 80 acres of ground and the ground at that time cost 25 dollars an acre and he picked out 80 acres, and I don't know exactly why they picked that area. It turned out to be a good location because he had a view of the whole area. He knew where Twin Falls was going to be, the town we had was Kimberly, which is there yet. Another town above us was Hansen, then came Murtaugh, I think it was, and then on up to well, on up the river to Idaho Falls, and all that. But that was a new country, arid country.

Well, in any event, he decided to build a home. Of course, we just had a dirt road out there, no communications at all, we had a dirt road. And he built this house, and I was out there we pitched a tent by the house while we was building it. And I know we had quite a lot of wind there. But in 1906 here's an interesting incident. My Uncle Joe, he'd come out there after we got started, and he was the oldest one of the Newbrys. He came out there and he was helping my father build this house, and, by golly, he was up on the roof putting on the sheathing and he says, "Tom, what's going on down there?" Tom said, "Well, I don't know. Nothing." He said, "By golly, this house is shaking." Well, that was the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and we felt it up there, and I was out by the house. I was out there then. So then we didn't know anything about the earthquake for three or four days later, because we had no telephone, and we got a newspaper. So I thought that was quite

coincidental. Well, it took about a year to build that house, or several months, and after that we moved there, but we had to have a – our water had to be supplied. We had to get water out of Rock Creek.

CH: Out of where?

NEWBRY: Rock Creek. The place we lived out of Twin Falls. And they built a water tank, a wagon water tank, about two feet deep and about the width of a wagon bed, and that was a tank that would probably hold three or 400 gallons of water, and that's where we'd haul our water up there for our horses, for our own use, and all. And that's where we hauled it, and that was five miles away from Rock Creek. And we stayed there until the house was built and then we finally we had to use that water for quite a while, though.

My father dug a well and that was a little later too. He dug a well and we had our own cistern I say cistern, not a well and he built a double cistern and put a brick wall between them and the water would seep through that and that's when they started getting irrigation water out of that canal. In the meantime, while this was being built, I went with my father on a few trips. He'd take me on trips where they had these big camps going. And building this big canal, which was 90 feet on the bottom, 110 feet on top and 10 feet deep, as I recall. That's how big that main canal is. And I know he had camp crews because he was in charge of supervising this operation.

He wasn't an engineer, but, by golly, he knew what he was doing and he knew how to handle men and handle people. And I'd go to the — they had of course, this was all tent homes where these people stayed and had their horses and wheel scrapers, and all that, to move this rock out. They used dynamite, of course, black powder, to help excavate. And I know I remember very distinctly when I'd come out they'd say, well, what'll you have today? And I always liked a piece of pie. Well those fellows were very good cooks and they had a big cook house, and I always enjoyed that, and I liked to go. Every time my father said, "Well, Earl, do you want to go with me?" I'd say, "Sure, Dad." Pa, I called him. And so I enjoyed that very much. And I watched those canals being built like that.

Well, a little later on — I'll go to where we got the where he got his house built and moved there and we got our facilities started, and then Kimberly, the town, we was only a mile and a half from Kimberly. That started to develop. My father built a livery stable there in Kimberly, and my Uncle Charlie ran that for him. We had a delivery wagon he had two wagons, I think, to deliver groceries. This happened to be about 19 it had to be about 1910. The railroad came through there in 1908.

After four years later the railroad came through in 1908. And we went down to the big opening in Twin Falls when they had the railroad day. So it was about 1910 that my father built that building and then he also got into the real estate business and they had a little office right there in Kimberly. I went to school there. I stayed I had my first grade there, I think in 1907. They said they'd build a little school house, and there was only a few stores in town. It developed really quite rapidly, when you reminisce and look back, because it got to be quite an active little community. So...

CH: You said that the railroad came through there. Were there — was that a main route that people were traveling on from east and west, or...

NEWBRY: No, no. The only thing people came in there many times I mentioned a while ago that I saw several people come into that area in boxcars bringing their equipment, and all. And they'd stop maybe at Kimberly. There was a little town above us called Hanson, but it seemed like Kimberly was a kind of a main stop. And I saw several unload their horses and their equipment, and all, by gosh, and maybe a cow and the family out of a boxcar. And they got quite a rate coming west from the railroad companies, as I recall.

CH: Were there still people coming through on covered wagons?

NEWBRY: Well, I didn't see very much of that. I'll have to retract that because we had one fellow come and live on the ranch in about 1914. He come west in a covered wagon and stayed all winter in his covered wagon, he and his — and that was about 1914. So, I

won't say that I knew too many people coming that way west. But, occasionally, I think there were.

CH: How was the health in your family during these early years?

NEWBRY: Well, it's surprising. I had — I got sick once. I had typhoid fever, by gosh. That was down on the creek. And my mother took care of me. We didn't have a doctor there. My gosh, there was no doctor. I guess we used — well, I suppose, home remedies. I don't know. But as far as sickness was concerned, we stayed very healthy, which was — and we had cold weather there too. I want to say this. Out there at the ranch, or the farm, where we were, how we kept our milk cold, and things like that. We'd dig a hole in the ground and put burlap sack over it and hang our milk and what food we had we wanted to keep. We had no refrigeration, of course, and, by golly, that worked pretty good. We had an outside privy. The first one we used to cover in burlap sacks, the hole in the ground, and then a little later on, why, in this house we did get we never had inside plumbing, ever. We did have as I say, we had water and my father put a pitcher pump from the well into our kitchen so we had water in the kitchen. We'd take baths in a bathtub by the stove. So that was quite an experience as a really, a pioneer.

CH: What was your religious affiliations...

NEWBRY: Well, my folks were Methodist. My father — my mother was a Methodist. My father, I don't think he didn't join a church until about 1912, I think, in Kimberly, but they were Methodists. They were very devout, my mother. And she would read stories for my brother and I, my golly, she'd read stories, and we just insisted on her reading every night until they made us go to bed, and that was when we had this new house, that little house there. A little later on my father made an addition to that house, a second story on it, and it made it a very comfortable home.

At that time we finally got a telephone, and the interesting thing about our telephone there, they had the little station there in Kimberly, and we used the fence, top fence, barbed wire fence for our line, and we had the telephone at the house, of course, and that telephone worked pretty good. There was one road we had to cross getting into Kimberly, so of course we put up a high two by four on each side and put the wire across and that served us until, by golly, they got the telephone line in, which was about seven or eight years later. And if anybody would throw baling wire over the fence, that would ground it out. So we had to walk the fence once in a while.

CH: When you look back at your childhood, do you look at as being — how do you look at it? Do you look at as being rough, or was it...

NEWBRY: No, gosh. We were very happy, we were very comfortable. We were very happy. And we always had good clothes. And fact of the matter is, we got our clothes from Sears Roebuck. And we get a big box every fall, and that was after we I guess we got them while we lived in Rock Creek but they had to be — there was a stage coach and a stage dray that come through that oh, every so often. There would be at least four horses on this wagon, and that's the way we got our merchandise. You could order from either well, mostly Sears Roebuck. There was Montgomery Ward, but mostly Sears. But that came on these dray wagons that came through there. Sometimes they would have two wagons, and they'd have six horses on a team then. And that old Oregon Trail went right across our 80 acres; I remember that. It went right across our 80 acres, so it went right through Kimberly and on east.

CH: Were there people still using it?

NEWBRY: Pardon?

CH: Were there people still using it, the Oregon Trail?

NEWBRY: Oh, no. No, when we moved in there they weren't of course, these drays had to come and they had to bypass somebody because they started to be getting fences, and all. So they had to take the regular route. And on that road between well in front of our place, that was quite a sheep country, Idaho was, and I recall, even before we had a very good graded road at all there would be probably several thousand head of sheep moving on that street and just about as far as you could see would be sheep. They were moving them from place to place. So we'd see that not only one year, but quite often in the fall, or whenever it was they moved sheep.

CH: Were there the confrontations that happened elsewhere between the sheep ranchers and the cattle ranchers?

NEWBRY: Well, there was a lot of opposition between that over near what they call Magic Dam country. That was farther west of Twin Falls, there, quite a ways. But they used to have a battle over the sheep and the cattle people. In fact, there was one bridge across a river there that there was a suspension bridge across not too big a canyon, but I think that the sheepmen...

[End of Tape 1, Side 1]

Tape 1, Side 2**1990 July 23**

CH: This is an interview with Earl Newbry. This is Tape 1, Side B. So you were talking about the cattlemen and the...

NEWBRY: Well, yeah. You asked about that, and I say that I know, as I understand it, why the sheepmen, they decided, by gosh they were going cut that bridge, which they did. And there was always a rivalry between them. That was quite a sheep country, and eastern Oregon, too, it went over that far from Idaho.

But in any event, to bring back some of my experiences, while we were there, I had before we went there, the first child was born on the Twin Falls tract was my sister Esther. And she was born about 1906, and that was while we were living in tents. There was another child born to my uncle Bill, and her name is Violet and she lives now in Escondido, California. She's still alive. She was just about my age, no she was younger. But in any event, my sister was the first child born in the Twin Falls tract. And later on, when we lived out at the ranch, then I had two other sisters born, which was Elsie and Edna, and they're both living here, and I remember them. They were born on our place there out of Kimberly.

But I recall going to school when I was in first grade and moving through the snow and had to walk to school about a mile and a half and, I'll tell you, I didn't think I was ever going to get there. My brother was ahead of me and he'd kind of break the trail, but I'll never forget trying to get to school. Then later on, why well, later on, quite later on, why, they had school wagons, we called them, covered wagons with a bench on each side inside, for the school bus.

CH: They were pulled by horses?

NEWBRY: They were pulled by horses, yes. At that time there were very few automobiles. A little more about this Kimberly thing I was talking about, my father had that real estate business and he'd drive people around over the county and did quite a lot

selling property. In the meantime, why, he was a he became superintendent of Twin Falls Canal Company. He was superintendent of that for several years. In the meantime, of course, why he was doing these other things and keeping up on his own business. But I remember the first schoolhouse there, little schoolhouse, and I think they had all these grades, if they had that many, and I remember the teacher's name, Miss Budd was her name, and I guess I was fairly smart because she wanted to put me in the second grade right off. I was pretty good at arithmetic and spelling, but, of course, that was because my mother taught us and read to us, and all. We were — we knew those things pretty well in the home.

CH: Maybe you could describe this school for me a little bit?

NEWBRY: Well, it was just a one room schoolhouse. We had old styled seats. It had an entrance hall where we hung our cloaks, and that's about I can say. I would say it was a house about, oh, 28 by 50 [feet]. It had room for, I think, around 20 students, was all there was when they first started it. Then a little later on Kimberly started growing, as I say, and they built a brick schoolhouse. And another interesting thing in my experience was in high school. Well, I was a member of the baseball team and my brother was too. He and I were both on the baseball team at Kimberly, and that's when we got to playing Twin Falls and Buhl, a little bigger town than Kimberly, and we also went to Moscow and played some college team up there, and we were only beat once in three years, by golly, because we had a very active group in baseball. I mean, we had a lot of people supporting us.

CH: Did you take trips elsewhere in that...

NEWBRY: What?

CH: Did you take other trips when you were a child? Did you take trips to other parts of the region?

NEWBRY: No, I never took any trips at all. Oh, we went up to that Moscow, Idaho, where they had this little school. That's when I was in high school we drove up there. My father — I'll go back a little further. We used to take wagon trips, camping trips, and we'd go up towards this town, Oakley, and up in the mountains and we'd be gone maybe a week, and of course we had this wagon and we had a tent, we'd pitch our tents, and we'd go up there were some nice rather interesting places up east of town, there, in the mountains.

Another thing we did, or my father did, they'd go up there and haul poles down for building purposes. And later on when we built a barn, why, he went up and hauled poles down for rafters. And we built that barn. Of course, he had lumber on this — at this time there was a lumberyard developed there, but that was an interesting thing. And a lot of the other farmers would go up there and they'd haul down poles. They were bridge poles, is what I think they were. We have them all most over the country. But they had the privilege of getting — of just harvesting those, getting those poles that were down. And that was quite a chore going up there because there was quite a grade coming down. Sometimes, to come down, you'd tie a log on the back of the wagon to keep from to save your brakes, and, of course, to keep your horse from getting run over, too. So that was quite an experience I had. And that was about 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, around there.

CH: Were there other formative experiences that you had that shaped your outlook on life or...

NEWBRY: Well, I can't think of anything like that. I can't think of anything particularly. I know this, that now we furnish lunches for our children in the schools, but I recall there at Kimberly, that brick building, and we'd go out and we'd generally eat — we didn't eat in the schoolhouse, we'd eat in the hallway where our cloaks were, but I remember one little boy standing out to the side of the house eating, and you know what he was eating? He was eating potato peelings, by golly. And he was a nice-looking little child. He had good clothes on, but that's all they had, and he come into school there, and that's what he was eating.

So, I'll never forget that. It seemed pathetic to me. A little later on, my brother and I — my father got a deal for us to drive these school buses. He furnished the horses, and for three years after I was a sophomore in high school and my brother was a junior, but for three years we drove school buses, by gosh, and we got 50 dollars a month, so my brother and I got 25 dollars apiece, my father furnished the horses, of course, and we were rich kids because we had money to spend. We bought our own clothes and we did a good job. And sometimes you had to put four horses on that school wagon to get through the mud and through the snow.

And I know one occasion we just had to avoid the trip because the snow drifted so bad there one winter, and I know being in there, there was quite a herd of cattle right out of Kimberly a ways, and across one of the canals, which was not a big canal, one of the cattle had fallen in there and, out of a big herd, and just froze to death, and I recall that incident. And that was on the road from our place to Kimberly. So, as I say, there was one or two occasions where you just had to forgo the school bus, and so the kids stayed home. And at that time I think there were four working, and the last year there were seven school buses hauling into our schools there at Kimberly, which was quite an original thing among schools. There weren't very many schools throughout the country that furnished transportation for children. Of course, that was laid out on section lines, a mile section, a spur section, and our trip was eight miles a day, morning and night. So that was kind of interesting.

CH: How long would that take you?

NEWBRY: Well, about two and a half hours. We had to get up early in the morning. I'd be up with the cows one week and my brother would drive the school bus, and then the next week, why, we'd alternate. We had about four or five cows to milk, by gosh, before we went to school. Then I'd either catch the bus or walk to school.

CH: Now, this bus was drawn by horses?

NEWBRY: Oh, yes.

CH: How many horses?

NEWBRY: I said two. And there were some times we had to put four on...

CH: Four sometimes, right.

NEWBRY: When the roads were bad. I used to drive four horses. Then, while I was growing up, you wondered about my experiences. My father never paid me anything for working. I didn't want anything to work. My brother and I, we would run the mowing machine, I would even take the binder out and do commercial binding for some of the neighbors. And I'd take three horses to a binder, a grain binder, and that was just a common experience. And we'd get up in the morning early and do our chores and go out, and we'd get out in the field by, oh, 7:30 or 8:00. And during the thrashing season, that was an interesting time too. The neighbors would get together when the thrashing crews would come in, and we'd help out. I always liked to run a wagon, a bundle wagon, and of course, I shucked grain, my gosh I've shucked grain by hand, as I say, and I've raked hay, and I've done all that. Cultivated beets, we did that kind of work as kids. We just grew up that way. And our dad taught us how to work. We never wanted anything. If we needed anything, why, he didn't pay us wages. We'd never think of it. He'd give us four bits or a dollar, or whatever, and if we needed something, why, we'd get it. And we lived very happily.

My father became county commissioner there, and that's my first experience in politics. My father became county commissioner, and that's when they built the courthouse, which is still standing, in Twin Falls. They've added to it, but he and a man named [Intyre?] and [Tusch?], I think was their names, and I got to know them very well.

Another experience I had on a political side was that my father being a staunch Republican, I might say, and all, why he would have some of the important people call on him.

Well, on one occasion, Senator Borah from Idaho called, and Senator oh, Senator Borah and the representative. I think Bertnel [Burton] French. And French, I was visiting with him, and I was about, oh, 11 years old, I guess, then and all, but I was very interested in hearing their discussion and talking. And he said, "Well, Earl, maybe you'd like to have a little pamphlet I've got here." And he gave me a pamphlet on some of the Legislation that was going on in congress, and excerpts from different things, and to me it was quite interesting, and I'll never forget that Bertnel [Burton] French, they stopped to see my father about — they were running for office, I guess, and Senator Borah, I got to meet him. He was a very — one of the outstanding senators. So that was my first introduction to anything political, it's all my father being a county commissioner. So I guess that's about all I need to say.

I had two of these two sisters were born there, and for some reason or another and fact of the matter is, my father we had quite a ranch going. My gosh, he rented 120 acres, so that gave us 200 acres of ground, and we had good crops of hay and grain and clover seed, but that was one of our main crops, and they were profitable, red clover and alsike clover, and that was our money crops. I remember 1914, why, when the war came along, we got up to two dollars a bushel, and that was a whale of a price, and I know the people talking about, my gosh, they couldn't understand why people could afford to and that's when the war was coming on, and it was quite an event. So that was interesting to me.

CH: You had mentioned World War I in 1914. Prior to that do you — were there any events that you recall that made you aware of the larger world? When was the first opportunity you had to think about the rest of the country and the rest of the world? Any event that marked that?

NEWBRY: I never went — my father went to Boise quite a lot because of his being a county commissioner, and I know that, by gosh, one time I just — I just didn't want to be

home alone. That's the worst thing, and I remember that yet. And my mother was going too, and I just couldn't see them both going. I got almost sick thinking my brother and I would be alone there. And that's before my sister, other sisters were born. I remember that. So I never did get to town. We had Twin Falls and we'd go to Buhl, which is another little town.

The only time I got away from there was in 1917 my father sold out his ranch there, and we had an auction sale out at the ranch, sold everything, and he bought — well, I might go back a little farther. He bought a car in 1914, a Maxwell, and I started driving car when I was 14. My brother and I did — my father said, “Well, you boys, you can do the driving.” He let us drive, he wanted us to. And we had that 1914 Maxwell, he had it two years, and then he turned it in and got another Maxwell, and we drove it for about two years, and then in 1917 he went out, the first time I was with him, in 1917 he bought an Oldsmobile touring car. Sedans weren't available then, but this touring car, it was an eight cylinder, and it was a fine automobile.

So the salesman there in Twin Falls, he had to go to Ogden, Utah, to get it, to pick up the car my dad wanted. And so this salesman said, “Well, do you boys want to go?” And we said we sure did. So we went to Salt Lake with him on the train and picked up the car to come back. And while we were there, that was my first experience to really be away from home.

We went out to Great Salt Lake and we went into that lake, my brother and I, and I found out there that, by golly, you can't sink in that place and you've got to be very careful to keep from choking to death. I got a gulp of that salt water and it was hard for me to get my breath. You stand there waist high, about where you'd be, in that salt lake, and that's when it was a full lake. Later on it almost drained, and then about two or three years later well, about 19 what 1982 or 1983, why, the lake filled up again, as you know, and it even came out by the highway. But that was my first experience to be away from home in a larger place. And we really had my brother and I had a real time with that.

We went into a place where we oh, they had a swimming pool, inside swimming pool, and we did swimming in there and diving, we enjoyed that. I think we were there

about, oh, three nights. So we got this car and the salesman was ready. We picked it up at Ogden and drove on home. Of course, it was dirt roads all the way, and we drove home in one day from Salt Lake to Twin Falls. And it was all dirt roads, as I said. So that was my first time to be really away from the Twin Falls country. I don't know whether I missed anything that's of interest or not, but...

CH: Well, I'm sure there are lots of other things that you could recall, and I would love to be able to record if you'd like to — if you come up with anything here. You had mentioned your father being...

NEWBRY: Well...

CH: A county commissioner — oh, go ahead, go ahead.

NEWBRY: Well, anyway, here's another thing. There was a place they had a swimming pool out from, oh, this town of Hansen a ways, and that's when I was in high school. And we had this we had this second car that my father bought, Maxwell, and my brother and I, we went there and we had — I had my girlfriend with me and he had his girlfriend, I think, and we had about six of us in that car. Well, we went on our way back from this little swimming or, natatorium type of thing, it was, by golly about halfway we were only about 10 miles from home and we had a flat tire. Well, we fixed that. Then, by golly, we had another flat tire, and it was raining, and we decided, well, by golly, we was going home. It was a back wheel. And you know what we did? We went home with that wheel without a tire, and of course what happened, we just wore out the ringer and the transmission.

CH: Oh, gee.

NEWBRY: That's what happened. And there was a little shop there in Kimberly and, by golly, the guy took the car in there and he fixed it. I mean, he had a repair business so that

he could do it, and I know that was kind of a well it was one of those things you do and you don't know why, either. We didn't have sense enough to run our front wheel on the rim and put a tire on the back of course you didn't change wheels anyway. They weren't changeable wheels you had to just take the tire off on a rim. So that was quite an experience.

CH: I imagine your father didn't care for that too much.

NEWBRY: No, my father — my father never did punish us. He never scolded us, it was just one of the things that happened. He said, “Well, we'll just have to fix it, that's all.” My father never punished me in my life.

CH: Really. Why is that?

NEWBRY: Or my brother.

CH: Were you just a good kid, or was he just...

NEWBRY: Well, we just simply didn't get in trouble. Oh, we might — he'd say, “Well, now, listen, son, don't do that anymore.” He never spanked me or bawled me out, he just — my mother was that way too. It was the whole family, by gosh. So that was a very, very interesting experience. And coming over there from Twin Falls, well I had an uncle that lived with us for a while. He took a little — while we still lived on the ranch there, about a year before we left, he wanted to go to Oregon to see his mother, and that's where my people live there, out of Eugene. So he...

CH: When did they move there?

NEWBRY: Oh, they were there many years before in Eugene. That's one reason I think my father kind of wanted to come west. But this uncle of mine was a bachelor man that never married, a most unusual fellow, and he wanted to go, so he decided, well, if uncle Tom — that's what they called my father why if you'll that's his brother in law. He said, "If you'll help me out " He got a buggy, a little open hack, we called it, no top, and he had a horse, a young horse, not a draft horse, but a pony well, I don't know what to say. But in any event, he took off for Eugene with doggone buggy. The reason I mention that is we took off from there with this automobile, by golly, and that was about two years later, and I drove that car all the ways, and we had my father and my two sisters and my mother. We stopped in Boise and stayed there for a couple of nights, and we were through Nyssa, and we drove there over the McKenzie Pass, by gosh, we drove the whole ways in the fall of 1917, about October and November. And my brother, he had gone on to Corvallis because he registered at Corvallis at the college, Oregon State. So I drove the car all the way over.

CH: How long did that trip take; do you recall?

NEWBRY: Well, I think that we were about we stopped in Boise for a couple of nights. I don't know why, but we did, and my father kind of wanted to look around. And I think we stopped across the river at Nampa. And from there we it was only about three days from there by we stayed at Burns for two or three nights, and then he wanted to go to that Prineville country over there because there was the Ochoco irrigation project going in there and my dad was interested in that because he was a master in this irrigation thing, because he was a professional in that.

CH: What were the roads like?

NEWBRY: The roads?

CH: The roads traveling...

NEWBRY: They were dirt roads all the way.

CH: They were all dirt.

NEWBRY: Yeah. Coming over that McKenzie Pass, my gosh, there was lava rock of course the road was built through that, but there was — and you can still see the lava rock in that McKenzie Pass. It's a very interesting trip. There's some up here on Fish Lake, too, on the road to Fish Lake. But those lava beds was very interesting to me. Then we came down through that valley into Springfield, why, that was a beautiful, beautiful drive. Most of that other from Burns on from Boise through there, that was mostly arid country, sage brush and some — but it was a very interesting trip. And, of course, we — I don't know whether we camped out or not. I don't think we did, by gosh. We took all of our clothing and the belongings we had, by gosh, in that car.

CH: You were planning on moving at that point?

NEWBRY: Well, we moved. That's...

CH: That's what you were doing at the time?

NEWBRY: Yeah. We just left Twin Falls.

CH: And you were headed towards Eugene...

NEWBRY: Well, yes.

CH: But you didn't know if you were going to be ending up where you were going to be ending up living? Did you know at that point?

NEWBRY: Well, we weren't sure that we were just going to just stay there. My father, no, he hadn't decided what he wanted to do. You see, that's one reason we stopped there at Burns for a while, and he wanted to look at this Prineville country, and he wasn't too happy about it. And fact of the matter is, last night we were looking about this, and McCall's mother that wrote a book and we were looking at that book last night, and I was trying to orient myself with that when my father was there, but and I'm quite familiar with that area, too. In looking at that book last night, and some of the pictures that she had in the book about that country, and this fellow bought a section of land there in 1911. Well, that's when we were just getting started in Twin Falls. Have you looked through that book?

CH: No, I haven't.

NEWBRY: Well, that's a very interesting book. But in any event, that's why my father kind of looked that over, the Ochoco Valley, and he didn't think that's exactly what he had in mind because he had in mind going on to Eugene. But he did this on his way. Well, when we got to Eugene, we stayed there a few days and then rented a house in Corvallis to be there where my brother was going to school. And about the first of the year my brother decided college wasn't for him. He wanted to be a farmer, and by gosh and, of course, we were trained to be farmers, the two boys were, because we knew what we were doing and how to do it.

So I was in high school there, I had my last year of high school, and so my father went up he heard about this a place up in Washington in Colville Valley, Chewelah, the town of Chewelah in Colville Valley, and he and my brother went up there and kind of looked that place over, and, by gosh, they come back and they thought he had a chance and he bought a ranch up there, a half section of ground out of Chewelah, 58 miles north of Spokane, just about 30 miles or, 40 miles out of Colville, which is the county seat, and that's on the Columbia River right near that. He bought that ranch up there, by gosh. Well, my brother, he just quit school, and I was stuck down there, so I stayed there until I finished

my semester, I stayed there for about six weeks, I think it was and boarded in a boarding place, and I enjoyed that going to school, and I met a lot of friends there. And then, after I got through, I went on up to Washington where my father bought this ranch. And it was a good place he bought. He bought a place that had — a house with modern conveniences, which we had never experienced before 1917 in our own house, which...

CH: Running water and...

NEWBRY: Running water, we...

CH: Bathrooms.

NEWBRY: There in Kimberly we had a comfortable home. We had outside plumbing, by gosh, and that's about all anybody had, unless there were some wealthy people that come in , you know. Well, they went up there and this had some I had some really wonderful experiences there. I graduated from high school there. I don't know why I did, but they thought I was pretty good. I played in the high school band. When I was a kid growing up back there in Kimberly, we had a minister there, his name was Leach, and he was a band man. He played a wonderful trumpet. He was our minister. He organized a band of boys and we called it the Royal Blue Band. My brother and I were in it; we had about 20 pieces. I've got a picture here someplace for it. But that was quite an experience. And this man Leach, he'd — and we'd go and play in the parades in Twin Falls, or wherever they had a parade. We'd always have the Royal Blue Band there along with other bands then, too. But we had little uniforms on, kind of like military uniforms. We all wore those sailor hats, and it was really quite a deal. It was very interesting. I wasn't a very good band man but I did play in bands since then.

I played in the high school band there at Chewelah. I know one trip we took up at [Insulem?], which is an Indian reservation, for a celebration and our city no, our high school band there, and that fellow's name was he was the principal, too, the band man, by gosh.

And he was a good trumpet player. But in any event, they wanted our band to come up there and play for that celebration, the Indian celebration, in [Insulem?], Washington. And right now that's where the McNary Dam just about covered that part. That was an interesting trip for me. We didn't get paid anything. We got our food, we slept in sleeping bags, by gosh, outside, is what we did. But we had good food, and there was all them tents out there, this celebration where the Indians were. One interesting thing was, there was an argument which could beat the race up the river, whether it was a birch canoe or horseback. The Indians, that was their problem. So we watched that finish on that, and I don't remember what won. I think the horse won. [Inaudible] birch bark canoe. And we saw that whole thing. I enjoyed that trip very much.

CH: So you lived up in Chewelah...

NEWBRY: We were only there three years.

CH: Three years.

NEWBRY: Here the war came along and we — this ranch was a hay ranch and grain, had a nice home, had all inside plumbing and a beautiful barn. We had quite a few stock he bought with the place, and then my father bought more stock. He bought them over on the Columbia River, which was not too far away from [Insulem?], and my brother and I drove those cattle back, I think it was 80 head, by gosh, we drove back in one day. My father had his car, we had a Chevrolet, no we had a small Studebaker, but I know there were some calves, two or three calves, we had to put in the car and we got them home late that night. Now, that was quite a drive. And here we were, sure we knew about cattle, we knew about that, we had ridden horses all of our lives, but it was just quite an experience coming on that well, a dirt road, of course, through the mountains from over there down into the Chewelah country. Well, thank God, my father was there. We went my brother and I signed

for the SATC Students Army Training. The government was trying to get all these high school kids that could to get in that, and it was a good training camp.

CH: This is what year?

NEWBRY: 1918, fall of 1917.

CH: Fall of 1917.

NEWBRY: Yeah.

CH: So the war was still underway in Europe.

NEWBRY: Yeah. And, of course, they were calling people out. It had to be 19 — no, it was 1918. It wasn't 1917, it was 1918 that we went out. I was just out of school, see? 1918. Well, I went over there to Pullman, Washington, that's where it was, and we registered for school there and had a few classes. And, of course, mostly it was army, drilling, and all that. And then what hit us up there was that flu epidemic, and we had 1,200 men there.

[End of Tape 1, Side 2]

Tape 2, Side 1

1990 July 23

CH: This is an interview with Earl T. Newbry in his home in Ashland, Oregon. The date is July 23, 1990. The interviewer for the Oregon Historical Society is Clark Hansen. This is Tape 2, Side A.

So you were saying that you were in this army school in Pullman, Washington.

NEWBRY: Yeah. And, like I said, after training for about two months, or so, that flu epidemic hit and we lost 200 men out of the 1,200. And most of the things I did was hospital duties, by gosh. I did that for, well, till the flu epidemic kind of got erased. And then the war was over, thank God, and instead of staying there and going on to school I came back to Chewelah and went to work with my dad. And that epidemic, I'm telling you, we had — it seemed like the older men, the 35 year or older, are the ones it hit the worst. And out of our high school, young men from 21 less, they seemed to survive.

CH: Did you get the flu?

NEWBRY: I didn't get it — oh, I'll have to retract that. I had a sore throat and Captain Collins, he — I went to the infirmary to check them out, and, of course, I was in uniform, and all that, and he said, "Well, Sergeant, come over here." He looked in my throat and said, "Here's a typical flu case." And, my gosh, this was just getting started, see. I mean, it wasn't an epidemic yet at all, but they knew it was ravaging the country, and I remember that Captain Collins, he said this a typical — well, I was in there three or four days, and I notoriously had tonsillitis. I mean that's one thing I had as a kid, about once a year I'd have bad tonsillitis. In fact, in Eugene, Oregon, I had a bout when I was 19, but we'll talk about that later. So after that, why, when we were discharged, the war was over, why, in about another month or two they started kicking out, and some of the boys that was in my group they had moved out to some special training.

One fellow that was a very close friend of mine worked for me later on, while I was secretary of state, in one of the important departments, he got the mumps, for gosh sakes, and stayed in the army for two more months, and, of course, he got the benefit of about six months of army training and I only had about three. But that was an interesting experience. When we came back there to Chewelah, we started with our father and we got these cattle. That was after the war we run these cattle over, and we had those cattle on the range and I went up my uncle was with them, the uncle I told you about that came over to Eugene, he came over there with us and he just was looking after those cattle. Well, I'd go up there and I'd stay all night in a log cabin. I mean, the darn thing, there would be rats running around the place, and all. And, you know, there were log cabins up in the timber. It was a beautiful area. But I thought, my gosh, I didn't know whether to think that was for me or not.

Of course, we were in the cattle business and I was riding horses and looking after these cattle, and all that, and about two or three months later some outfit from Spokane, and why they did, they came down looking for property. And I'll be darned if my dad my father sold that out lock, stock and barrel, cattle and the whole damn thing. He made quite a profit on this he purchased that three years before. Then we had a — this ranch was right on that highway from Spokane to Colville, and it was the main highway and the main railroad right through our ranch, kind of split it in two. And in that place, it was irrigated and we had it right on the Colville River, and, fact of the matter is, my brother and I used to skate on the Colville River clear to Chewelah, about three miles. We could skate on it. It was a small river but it would freeze over. We had to cut the ice out of that river, and it got as much as 24 inches thick, and we had to cut ice to keep our cattle. And that was interesting.

Another interesting thing is that we had a cattle feeder there in town that was a butcher and a cattle feeder, and he bought a bunch of hay from my father, bailed hay, and we were just out of the service and my brother and I hauled hay. We'd leave in the morning, about 7:00 in the morning, and that winter it got 35 below zero. And, of course, this was teams and wagons and we had a hay rack wagon with two well, about two tons of bailed

hay, and we'd take two wagons, and, by gosh, we'd make that trip. We didn't make two trips a day, I don't think, but we hauled hay, by gosh, there for about a week during that cold weather. And it didn't seem as cold to me as you would think it was, but it was 35 below zero, there, in 1918.

CH: Why did your father sell the ranch? Was it just to make a profit, or did he have a plan...

NEWBRY: No, I think that he thought that was pretty darn cold country, and I think that — you see, he got to be very well acquainted with the banker there, and there were several lakes around that still is, of course, but there was a lake called Waitts Lake, which was only about eight, 10 miles from our home. And he and this banker filed for the water rights on that lake.

Now, in that short time that my father thought there was a potential, and what they were going to do is tunnel that and take off some of that water for irrigation purposes. Now, he did that in the short time he was there. And he and this banker, they filed rights right on this lake. I've often doubted whether they could ever proved up on that or not because that was a natural lake, and maybe they would have. It was a resort lake, really. There were no homes around, but people went up there for picnics, and all. I went up there many times to swim and in the wintertime it was skating. There was Loon Lake and Waitts Lake, and there was another, Deer Lake. That was a beautiful area. They might have succeeded. Had they, I'd probably still be there, but I hope not.

But in any event, my father sold that. And then, when we sold that, he bought a couple of automobiles. My brother — and in the meantime, my brother got married. He married the daughter of a doctor there in Chewelah. And we had this — he bought a Studebaker touring car. Like I say, there were no sedans available then, much. So we took that trip and we went from there, with two cars, and we went there to Yellowstone Park and from there into Colorado. We camped out all the way; had tents and we camped. We

stopped in Denver for a few days, and my father was in Denver one time as a young man. We weren't over five or six blocks from the state capital, I think.

There was a place where people could camp. There was campers then. And we stayed there for a few days. We had our tents, we had cots we slept on, we did our eating out most of the time. Very seldom would we go to a restaurant. And we were there for a few days and came back through Colorado where I was born and where, at that time, he had a sister still living there. And, by George, we went — that was as far east as we went. We came down through Arizona and come that southern route and coming back into Idaho, and stopped there and did a little visiting because I had — Uncle Joe still lived there and we had friends. And I took the train and went back to Corvallis because I wanted to see the girl I went to school with there and I fell in love with her, I thought I did, so they said, well, sure, I could go on.

I know in Salt Lake I bought a new [Inaudible] and we came through there, too, and I bought a nice suit of clothes and got fitted out pretty good, and I took the train from there to Corvallis, Oregon, and, of course, that was quite a trip then, too. Another trip, I helped my grandmother. She wanted to come up to Washington and I was with her on the train from there clear up to Spokane and then from Spokane down to Chewelah. That was quite a trip for me to take. And my grandmother, she was older and getting, not feeble, but couldn't get around very much. So I was the guy that went with her from, well, from Eugene. That's where she was. From Eugene to Washington.

CH: So after your family left Chehalis and...

NEWBRY: Chewelah?

CH: Chewelah. And they went — where did they move, then, from there?

NEWBRY: Well, we took this trip and we got back to Eugene and my father bought a house there in Eugene. He bought a house there on Blair Street in Eugene and he started

looking around and he heard about this town irrigation district here in southern Oregon and we made a couple of trips up here looking that over, and, of course, he knew about irrigation. That's what he was looking for. And, by golly, he sold that place, that little home on Blair, in the spring and came down here. And that would be 1920.

And he bought this ranch for right out of town. He bought this ranch out of town, here, which was 132 acres, I believe. And we had a couple of orchards on that, apple orchards. Two, 12-acre blocks of apples. But that was a good farming ranch. We had grain and we had hay, and all that. But the thing that was the money maker at that time was the apples, by golly. And they were Newtown [Pippin] apples. We could export apples for Europe. And they were the money crop for us. Of course, we had a good hay crop and we had good grain, and that was what that was, and we had we developed about 20 cows, dairy herd. My father was growing some hogs. I think he shipped two carloads of hogs to Portland, by gosh, out of that ranch.

But we saw this and I got to thinking, by golly, this orchard business looks better to me all the time, and my brother and I thought so the same, and my dad thought so, so he went out and bought a small orchard, 35 acres, pear orchard, and in 1926 we rented a packing house there at Phoenix, Oregon, which belonged to Oregon Co-op, I think. [Inaudible] And later we bought that and that's where we started our packing house business. In the meantime we had acquired, oh, a couple of more small orchards, so we kind of got in the pear business. We packed our apples there and we packed pears, had our own pears, and then we developed a — we had our own label, our own label for our pears.

CH: What was that called?

NEWBRY: Nufsed.

CH: Enough Said.

NEWBRY: N-u-f-s-e-d. And we went under the name of Newbry and Sons, Newbry and Sons, at that time. Gradually, we got rid of the — finally we gradually got rid of the cows. I'd had to get up in the morning, or we would, milk the cows and then we'd get out that would be about 4:30, then we'd go out and each one of us run the spray rig, by golly, then you'd come back and do your doggone chores, and all that. And we did that for quite a while. Of course, when we got into this packing business we thought, by gosh, that's a little too much, and so we sold the dairy herd. We had about 22 head, or 25, something like that. And we got out of the pig business because my father thought this orchard thing was the best opportunity, which it was.

Well, we stayed in that business until 1939. My brother decided that his I don't know why, but he decided he wanted to get out, and, my gosh, that was not a very good time because things were not good for us, either, during those periods in the fruit business. So then I was on my own, and I thought, my God, what am I going to do now? And my father, of course, was with me, and what we did, we had obligations that we had to look up to, but my brother, I think it was mostly on account of his family, his wife's family, I think, was the reason probably he wanted to — and he was very interested in chickens. He wanted to — and he had a chicken deal out on the end of our ranch where he lived. He had a home on the place.

And fact of the matter is, I can — I'll have to tell you more about this later. I lost a home in 1927. This home the home that I had was an old two-story building which was the headquarters for one of the big fruit growing people there, Hellerd, I think was their name, but there were a lot of stories about that building. It was on our ranch, right next to where my father lived, which was a very nice home. It still stands there out of town. But, by golly, my dad says, "Well, you're going to get married, Earl, we'll have to fix that over."

So we took the house and made a one story building out of it and it was very comfortable, very nice. And I did the plumbing in it, and I lived there from 1923 until 1927 when the damn house burned up lock, stock and barrel. I didn't even have clothes to get out early in the morning. What caused the fire, we'll never know. It was a very dry, old building, and, of course, we had remodeled it, made a new roof and finished the inside and

put nice floors in it, and all, and I had a new automobile and I had my son. He was only, gosh, he was only two years old, so 1926 is what it was. He was just a child. And I told my wife, I said, "Well, Ruth, you better get the car and go over to grandad's and I'll get out of here and do what I can." I got a few items out, but I didn't get the items, you know, you never think about. But this house went up like that. I only had 1,500 dollars insurance, I just had that much on it.

Think of that. A blow for a young guy. I was only 27. And that was before, of course, we got into this fruit business this heavy. And I was quite active then in the traffic association, which was a shepherds group here, and all, and I was a member of Rotary no, Kiwanis Club first, then I got to be a Rotarian for over 30 some years as a senior citizens, and that. That's just incidental. But we managed to get out of that and we built this house. Fact of the matter is I had a neighbor that was a carpenter and he said, "Well, Earl, it's wintertime. I'll come down and we'll build that house." And I think he said that well, he said, "We'll build it." We had a brick layer but up the chimney. I had enough brick left over out of the big fireplace I had in the other place, so we had brick enough for that building, and we built a real nice little home for 2,500 dollars.

And it had hardwood floors. And this fellow's name was Sullivan. I think that was his name. Well, he used to hunt with me. And he said, "Earl, I'm not doing anything. We'll build your house. You and I can build it." And we did. It's still standing out there, too. So that was a bad experience I had. And here we were in the fruit business and just kind of getting started at that, I was getting active and talking about politics, I was a member of the school board and I was chairman of the school board. That was my first political job. I was a precinct committeeman for the Republican party here starting in about 1921, I think. I first started voting in 1921. I haven't missed a vote since. Now, where do you want — [Laughs] what do we talk about now?

CH: Well, just going back a little bit, here, did you go on to college?

NEWBRY: No, I didn't.

CH: You didn't, okay. It was your brother who went...

NEWBRY: My brother went to Oregon State for a semester, or for half a year, and all the college experience I enrolled, and I enrolled there at Pullman, Washington State College. I was enrolled there and, of course, attended classes, but most of the classes all depended on the army. That's what they were. I had some classes in agriculture because that's what I wanted to be and what it was. And they didn't preclude you from selecting, but you got nothing out of it as far as the education. It was all army. So I had no — I was just enrolled, is all.

I did have another experience. Before my house burned down I thought I'd like to know a little more about law, so I wrote to that LaSalle Extension University in Chicago and I enrolled there and got my law books, and all, and I'd been at home just kind of studying about contracts and about different law terms and leases, and what have you, and then, by gosh, that burned up in my house. I lost my law practice.

But I got quite a lot out of that, though, because I couldn't have — and I used to write a little poetry on the side. One fellow, a neighbor, was quite a pianist and he wanted to — and I had written a few little poems and he thought he might make music to them, and he come down and visited with me awhile and I thought, well, I don't think I want to do that. And that's while I lived out there on the ranch. Do you want to refer back to something else now?

CH: You were married in 1922, weren't you?

NEWBRY: 1922.

CH: Maybe you could tell me a little bit about that.

NEWBRY: Well, here's an interesting thing about that, too, that nobody else ever experienced. My little fiancée was in Corvallis and she had just finished the Oregon State, she had just finished that and we were to be married in the fall, in September, and I had a Ford, a Ford Roadster I bought, with wire wheels. It was a pretty nice little automobile. And, by George, I was already to go for my wedding and out of Medford, just over an overpass there, by golly, my car lost its power. And here I was, early in the morning and, what had happened, the axle had snapped in that car.

Well, there I sit. And there was a guy walking along the street, well, a bum or a hobo, or whatever you want to call him, he come up and we built a fire and I had to get back to town some way. So I hitched a ride. And this guy said, "Well, I'll stay here. I'm going on I want to go on north, and I'll stay with your car, you get it fixed, and then by gosh, we'll go on." He wanted to go to Eugene, I wanted to go to Corvallis.

Well, I got down to Medford and Bob Gates had this Ford agency down there. And, gosh, I think this was on Saturday. Well, I got ahold they said, "Well, we'll come out and get your car." Of course, I was down there and went out with them. They had a way they could fasten a wheel right on so you could tow in. I don't know why, but that's what they did. And they towed it in and they put that axle in, by gosh, and I think about noon I was ready to go again. Now, that was pretty good service, wasn't it?

CH: It sure was.

NEWBRY: So I went back there and, of course, the guy was still waiting for me. And he got in the car and we went and got I think I got into Corvallis, oh, about — see, those roads were just gravel roads then. All the pavement you had was in town. So I got there and, of course, my wife to be, she wondered what in the world ever happened to me. Here I've got my wedding coming up in the next two or three days. But my father-in-law, he was a school man there. He was in the school system for many, many years. In fact, when he retired he'd been in 50 some years in the schools in Oregon. But anyway, that's where I

was married, in their home, and that's 1922. And then my son was born about nine months and two days later.

CH: Right on schedule.

NEWBRY: That's an exaggeration, but, then, it was almost like that. So those are experiences I had, and, by gosh, I'm telling you, and lived through them.

CH: When you first got married, then, where did you live? Did your wife — your wife's...

NEWBRY: Oh, no, I had this little home that burned down.

CH: Name is Ruth? Yeah. Before it burned down, then.

NEWBRY: Oh, before, I was living at home with my father and mother.

CH: And then you got married.

NEWBRY: Here in town. I'd go up there, oh, once a month, maybe, and see her and visit, and we'd write, and all.

CH: This is Ruth Johnston?

NEWBRY: Ruth Johnston.

CH: And then after you got married, she came back down with you?

NEWBRY: Oh, yes, she came down and lived with me.

CH: And you lived in the house that eventually burned down.

NEWBRY: Yeah, we lived in the house that I fixed up. It was a pretty darn comfortable place, too. It had outside plumbing, of course, in that house, but we got along good. We lived there until that burned down, we lived there until 1939 or 1940, and then I sold that 10 acres I had there. In the meantime, I bought my father out because I wanted to kind of expand our operation. We had some fairly good years, 1941, 1942, 1943, I was making a little money. Not a lot, but pretty good years.

CH: Going back just a little bit, what was it like going through the Depression during those years?

NEWBRY: Well, I'll tell you what it was like. We had men working for us, and I think we kept probably four men. And we was paying them 20 cents an hour to do our pruning and to keep them on the job, and then if we got ourself refinanced, by gosh, why, then, we would pick up their back time, which we did. And that's how bad it was. And they were damn glad to have the job. And I had I think there was four key men that we had on the ranch, and that's how it was, but we got through. When I was first married, why, I lived on 25 dollars a month, and lived pretty well, too. And then we started getting our dairy and our cows and then we got a little more money coming in, and all, and that's when we were part of my father gave me a quarter interest in our Newbry Orchards, and my brother a quarter interest, and so we had an interest and on our own with him, and we were successful. We were doing all right.

And then, as I say, as time went on, my brother decided he wanted to get out of it, and he had a chicken deal, and out there at his home, why, he had quite a few chickens and he had a nice, new, little chicken room, double story thing, and, my gosh, it caught fire and burned up. That was quite a loss for him. I think he had some insurance on it. And that was a few years and then just a short time after that, and I don't recall just what, he decided he was he wanted to get out of this fruit business.

I think his wife had something to do — the family, I think, had something to do with it. I don't know, but I think so. But then he left here and I had to take over, and he got into a deal with some fellow in Yreka, California, and he kind of lost his shirt there, too, in a short time. Lynn and I, my son, we went down and retrieved some of his assets for him, and he went from there to Spokane where his father-in-law lived, then he got a job with some aluminum company up there and worked at that until later on, why, my father helped him out and he got a business in Portland, which he did fairly well in at Portland, in a feed and seed business out on Foster Road. And there's where he was very successful. And all of that experience up there in Spokane, that's where his father-in-law, which was a doctor, that's why he went up there, I think, and I've always thought that maybe that family had quite a lot to do with his changing his mind about the fruit business.

And, of course, for me it worked out all right. 1943 I bought my father out because I was obligating myself to build a plant down here in Ashland. I bought the Ashland Ice and Storage, Medford Ice and Storage, I bought that, and I borrowed money to build a cold storage plant, and I didn't want my father to get involved if I — so he — I bought his interest out at a sum, paid him cash for quite a little of it, and on time with the rest. So, that's what I did.

CH: Was he retiring then?

NEWBRY: Yeah, he retired, and he was 78, I think.

CH: In 1943.

NEWBRY: So, that's quite a story about that.

CH: Well, that's a lot of good detail. You were — when were you first involved in any political activities? You had mentioned being a precinct...

NEWBRY: Well, I was precinct committeeman, and then I had occasion to — oh, I'd attend the Republican caucuses, what have you. I was chairman of the Jackson County school board, I was chairman of that one term, and that got me into political activity to a degree. And I know that when Herbert Hoover came down through here when he was campaigning I got to meet him and we had a nice conference there in Medford on that — at the Medford Hotel. That's where everybody met at the time.

CH: This would have been what year?

NEWBRY: Well, I'm trying to think. It was when Hoover was running for president, and that was before...

CH: 1928, was that?

NEWBRY: I guess it had to be 1928. Hoover was in there for one term and he got beat. That's when FDR beat him. So it would be 1928, wouldn't it.

CH: 1928 , and then he got beat in 1932.

NEWBRY: And then a little later on, why, I wasn't particularly active in it. I was active in civic affairs, and what have you. I was a member of the chamber of commerce, Medford had a — I was a member from this area to the Medford Chamber of Commerce, then I was president of the chamber of commerce later in Ashland when I moved down here. But I was out there on the ranch when my first inkling about going further in politics I was out pruning orchards out there at a new place we bought, and we bought this orchard from a bankrupt grower and we still owned it until about three years ago my son sold the balance of it. But we was out there pruning trees and my father and my brother and three fellows come out and wanted to talk to me, and it was Ben Harder and Olden Arnsberger and a lawyer. I had his name a while ago. But anyway, they come out and said, "Earl, we'd like to

talk to you.” And I said, “Well, what is it?” They knew me pretty well. I was going to Rotary Club then. “Well, I’ll tell you,” he said, “we’d like to have you run for state representative.” “Oh,” I said, “my gosh, I can’t do that.” “Well,” he says, “you can run,” he says, “and we’ve got a Democrat in there that was all right, but we don’t like him too well.” Frank Farrell was the other fellow. He was a lawyer there in Medford.

[End of Tape 2, Side 1]

Tape 2, Side 2
1990 July 23

CH: This is an interview with Earl Newbry. This is Tape 2, Side B.

NEWBRY: Ben Harden was a banker and Olden Arnsberger, he was the town irrigation district superintendent, and my lawyer friend, why, he was just a friend of mine, wasn't my lawyer, especially, but somebody that I knew quite well. Frank Farrell. So I said, "Well, if you fellows think I can be elected," I said, "I don't want to run and not be elected." I said, "I'll talk to my wife about it and see what my family thinks."

So I decided, after talking to Bill McAllister, who was in his first session he was a lawyer in Medford, later became supreme court justice I talked to Bill about it and he said, "Well, Earl," he said, "my wife works for me," and he said, "you can have Ruth be your secretary." And, of course, that was her major in college, she was a commerce student, with honors. So that was a perfect match for me because — so she got that pay and I got the 200 dollars in payment one way to and from Salem. So Bill said, "Well, Earl, you can do it all right. We only meet up there for about six months, or, not over three months at the time." "And it's just I'm doing it out of my law practice, an all." and he said, "Sure, you can do it." He kind of urged me to run. So I said, "Okay, I'll do it. I'll run."

CH: Now, why do you think that they asked — when they asked you to run, why do you think they came to you? What was their attraction?

NEWBRY: I don't know, I don't know. I was quite active here in different things. They knew I was in the Traffic Association, which is the members composed of all the fruit shippers here, and I was active in the Fruit Growers League. And, like I say, I'd been president of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. I don't know why they asked me. And I was active in Rotary Club and civic affairs. I think may I took a little part — I don't know why. I was active in my own Lodge, I was active as a Mason. Only one of those fellows

of the Masons had talked to me. I don't think that had anything to do with it. So, I can't tell you.

CH: Did you have do you recall what your political orientation was at the time? What your political beliefs were?

NEWBRY: Well, I had no — I had been at the Legislature representing the Traffic Association in 1937. That's when I first met Harry Boyden because he was the Speaker of the House. And George Roberts, he came down from Medford. He was a lawyer representing some of the legal profession there for a while, and that's when the Legislature was held in the Marion Hotel and the armory. And that was my first experience at being around the Legislature at all. And then it was just two years later, for gosh sakes, in the new capitol, I was elected and was serving up there. But my previous experience was just representing fruit interests down here, principally, at the Legislature. Now, why they wanted me to go, I don't know. Maybe they thought I'd be all right. And I think I was.

CH: You feel that you were representing the fruit interests, then, of southern Oregon?

NEWBRY: Well, I felt I was representing the whole district. I mean, I was interested in practically everything down here. I know in the fair, had a little county fair, I was in charge of the livestock department, and Harry and David, they were sheep growers then, Harry and David Holmes, they were sheep ranchers out here, by gosh, in "aggie" country. And their father bought this sheep ranch and put his boys out there, and I don't like to tape this, but then they didn't go in the service because they were farmers, and they were both fine gentlemen. I was personally acquainted with both of them. Harry, of course David got killed in an automobile accident down out of Sacramento and Harry became mentally incapable. They were both fine gentlemen, and I appreciated the association I had with them. In 1936 I represented them up in Yakima, along with three men from California, representing the

fruit growers here. I went up to Yakima on a safari there to work out something with Bartlett pears.

CH: How tight were the fruit growers? They knew each other and associated...

NEWBRY: Well, I think the fruit growers and the fruit shippers worked pretty darned close together. I mean, they was — I never saw very much rivalry among them. They were competitive, of course, and there was a good many major interests at that time, like shippers and big operators. And now it's boiled down to about five; [Beanomus?], and Harry and David, and Associated Fruit that's Lowry, and the growers, and there was one other one Pinnacle Packing. That's about the major — and Baker Refrigerated Fruit Company. They're the major ones out. And when we were in business, by gosh, there was many independent growers, and that was our outlet. Of course, while I was in the fruit business, too, I made a lot of contacts, when I was in our own packing business. So, I don't know. I think I did a good job as a state representative and I think I did a hell of a good job as secretary of state, I'll tell you that. Later on we'll discuss it.

CH: Okay. So maybe we could go on to your first campaign for the Legislature. How did that go?

NEWBRY: Well, my campaign, I said, "Well, it's up to you boys. You want me to be there, you've got to try to get me elected." So Herb Gray, who was the editor of the business manager of the Tribune, and he was a personal friend of mine, Herb, I don't think he had charge of the money getting — but there was darn little money spent on my campaign. I know he ran some ads in the paper. We didn't get out any brochures, we didn't do anything like that.

CH: Who nominated you? How were you nominated?

NEWBRY: Oh, well, I was nominated — I had no opposition in the primaries. I had no opposition in the primaries at all.

CH: So who put your name up for nomination?

NEWBRY: Well, I put my own. I had to register as a candidate.

CH: Do you remember anything about the...

NEWBRY: Herb Gray probably was more instrumental than anybody, and maybe Bill McAllister had something to do with it. He was my co-member after I was elected. In the general election I beat the Democrat, and I think it was the same fellow there before, and I don't think he did any he didn't want to run even, I think. But I got a good vote.

CH: Why was it — he didn't have more enthusiasm about the campaign? You just think he wasn't interested in going back?

NEWBRY: What do you mean?

CH: Your opposition, your Democratic opposition.

NEWBRY: Well, he was in the lumber business up here and I don't think he was — I just don't think he wanted to go back. I can't think of his name. I knew him. In fact, I talked to him when I was up there in 1937, for gosh sakes. I mean, I knew him quite well. He had a lumberyard there in Medford, and I don't think he wanted to be away from there. But now, my golly, you see what they want to do with the whole year.

CH: Well, was this when you were considering running for the Legislature, was that a consideration that you had to think about? Was your — the time that you would be away from your business?

NEWBRY: Well, no. I thought, because — no, that wasn't a problem at all because it's all in the wintertime and it only lasted about 90 days, and that's about all it did last. I think maybe my father thought it was great. I don't know whether my brother, who was my partner in this business, I don't know whether he thought too much of it or not. But there was no friction at all between our family. And after that one session, I thought I wanted to I thought, well, I've got to run again. I can't just quit here. And I was reelected, of course without — I had no opposition in the primaries. The only time I had opposition in the primaries was a lawyer run against me for the Senate, and this lawyer's name was Looker, and he was our secretary at the Traffic Association when I was president of it. I was ex-president of the Traffic Association, which was our shippers of fruit out of Medford.

CH: Do you remember anything about your first — when you first ran for the Legislature, the platform that you ran on or...

NEWBRY: I didn't have a platform.

CH: Didn't have a platform?

NEWBRY: No.

CH: Or what campaigning you did? Do you remember anything about the campaigning?

NEWBRY: No, I did very little campaigning. I'd go before, maybe say, I recall I think I went to chambers of commerce meetings, and I was a Rotarian, and I, you know, I made some of those pitches. After I was elected, after I came back, why, I had to make a little

report to different groups, and my major objective was to be like one of my predecessors, George Dunn in the Senate. George Dunn never introduced a bill in all of his experience and, by gosh, he was opposed to too many laws. And I was too, and I thought we ought to repeal some of the damn laws that were on the books, and I still think we should. And I — if you want to get into it, I introduced bills. I introduce one bill in 1939. George Dunn, who was a senator, I was a House member and just a neophyte, I wanted to appropriate 50 thousand dollars to build a governor's home. 50 thousand dollars. Gee, I thought that was a lot of money, but I thought it would make a presentable home for our governor.

And George Dunn, he says, "Earl, gee," he said, "we can't do that." He was in the Senate side, and I got no support on that at all. The bill was introduced, and all, but it was knocked out. And afterwards, we had governors I had never thought of ever being governor, but I thought I knew Charlie Sprague very well, I knew all the governors well, and I thought, my God, they've got to have a home for the governor. Because I'd seen states, I'd been around a little bit then and I'd seen Idaho, I'd seen Utah, I'd seen California. When I was in the fruit business here, I'd see homes on the visits, Borah, and different ones, and I thought, my God, Oregon don't even have a home. That's why I did it, but I got no support. I introduced one little bill to protect our registered brands on boxes and I got that passed.

CH: What year was that?

NEWBRY: That was about 19 — I think my second session in the Legislature.

CH: 1941?

NEWBRY: I think so. And that was all right because people were stealing our picking [inaudible] boxes, and all, and taking them out of the state, and all, and I thought that would be — and they went along with me on it, they thought it would be a good idea. Now it's antiquated because we don't use those anymore. It still applies [inaudible] boxes.

CH: Well, when you first became a legislator in 1937, what was it like when you first got up to Salem?

NEWBRY: Well, I found the seat that was assigned to me, that's the first thing. My father-in-law, he — I think you know the first thing I did, I found a place to live. I got in a little room out on Capital Street. In fact there was another legislator there from La Grande no, he was from Pendleton. He was a pretty well to do sheepman. And we were in a — I can see the little place yet. It was right across from what used to be a skating rink on that oh, that main street out of Salem. That's the first thing I did, I found a place to live. And then when I got — I found my seat, and then when the Legislatures were open, of course, we were sworn in, which was quite impressive to me, and, of course, Bill McAllister I was seated pretty close to Bill. He was my contemporary. He was one of my pals and a stalwart supporter.

And among that group I had Marsh, McAllister, Newbry, we all voted together on every issue. And, oh, I can think of a few more people. And at that time we had, I would say, a very conservative group of legislators. We had very few people that we would call us ultraliberal or far out. We had a woman there from Hood River, she was a wonderful woman, Mrs. Munroe. She was interested in the pear industry. She was a person that would talk to me and we kind of compared notes, and all. I respected her very highly. There was a Dr. Hosch, I think, from Bend. He was a kind of a little more liberal, but I liked him and I liked to get along with him. Had a Dr. Booth from Lebanon. He was a doctor. Not too aggressive, but one you could depend on.

CH: This was all when you first got into the Legislature?

NEWBRY: Yeah, that's when I first went in as a House member. See, there was McAllister, Newbry, and about three or four voters right just tic-tac-toe, and they was all yes votes, by gosh, or no votes.

CH: You mentioned the swearing in ceremony that impressed you. How did that impress you?

NEWBRY: Well, it was quite impressive because you swear to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the state of Oregon, which is very impressive. Of course, I've been sworn in several times. Three times in the House, twice in the Senate, three times as a state official. I was the first state official to ever be elected from southern Oregon.

CH: You were the first state...

NEWBRY: First state official ever elected from southern Oregon. What I mean by state officials, I mean governor, secretary of state or state treasurer or attorney general. I mean, attorney general is not a — but he's — I was the first one, as far as I can find out. Here I was, just a farm boy out here in the country, by God, and yeah, that's quite interesting to me.

CH: Well, was it different for you at all than what you thought it would be once you got up there?

NEWBRY: No, it wasn't at all. I got to know the governor, Charlie Sprague, and the fact of the matter is, I've been in his home, even for the neophyte. My wife had had a kind of a rough experience about the second or third week of the session. We were walking home from the state capital and it was a dark night and it was kind of rainy, and, by gosh, we got hit by an automobile. And I ruined some of my clothes on the wet street [inaudible] intersection and a fellow come in, and I don't think he saw us. But it was a college student there from eastern Oregon. But I know that governor Sprague, he — my wife had to go to the hospital because she lit on her pelvis, on her tailbone, and coccyx bone, and that hurt her for some time. But I know Sprague sent a nice bouquet down to her, and we were just neophytes, you know.

Then she got to go to — was invited to Sprague's home different times during the sessions while he was there, and we got to know the governor very well. I think a little more than the average legislator because of our association. He, I know — my wife was a bridge player, but then Mrs. Sprague would have her come and play bridge with the family group, and I thought that was quite noteworthy. So, my impression was this. Of course, I felt quite if I might say, quite proud to think that I could be there under the circumstances and be elected by quite a substantial vote of people, and that was it. And when I came back and was making my little reports, say, to the chamber of commerce in Medford or Ashland, or all, or grange, or what have you, I just told them that I was trying to represent my interests down here, and I said I wanted to see that we had no more laws that were unnecessary, and I approved those things which were essential, and the ways and means committee, I went along on that with moderation in some cases, and I think they liked it.

CH: Did you get the committee assignments that you wanted?

NEWBRY: Well, I didn't particularly want any special assignments. I was on Labor and Industries, I was on State and Federal affairs, I was on that committee my first session. And here's an interesting note. I represented Oregon down there when Governor Olson, wasn't it, in California that was having quite a group of people there, and I was to go down there and represent it was during their fair, and I was supposed to represent Oregon down there, which I did. I paid my way down there, I bought my hotel room, which was the Chancellor Hotel, there, right in the square in San Francisco, and I the only thing I got free out of it was the dinner, by gosh, that the governor put on, which was beautiful, and all, but I represented our state down there, and, of course the only representation was just to be there and be counted and to say that Oregon was represented. That's what it amounted to. But now I think you'd have a — you'd probably have an expense account, for God sakes. I paid my own way, I did everything, and I was happy about it. And I was just a neophyte. That was my first year.

CH: Did you have anybody else working for you other than your wife?

NEWBRY: No. While I was on the Labor and Industries Committee there was a secretary of that. She was secretary to, I think, two committees, and she — when I needed her, she was there, and that's all. And that's all any of us had, unless on ways and means, I think they had more help, naturally.

CH: Did you have an office?

NEWBRY: No we had our desk was our office. The desk was the office for everybody unless you were the president of the Senate. He had his office, which was essential. But there was office rooms for major committees in the state capitol. There was no private offices for any member of the Senate or House when I was in it.

CH: Even for the president of the Senate or the Speaker of the House?

NEWBRY: The president of the Senate did and the Speaker of the House. Naturally, they had an office. That was right back of the podium, in each case.

CH: What was the — was this the first session that was in the new capitol?

NEWBRY: Yes.

CH: So do you remember the burning down of the old capitol?

NEWBRY: Yes, I did. I'd been in the old capitol. I had been in there. I'd been in the old capitol just as a visitor.

CH: Do you recall anything about the building of the new capitol?

NEWBRY: No. I just knew it was being built, and I was quite impressed with it. I had occasion to go to Portland occasionally, and Salem, and what have you. I never expected to be one of the first residents.

CH: Well, how did you feel when you came into the building for the first time?

NEWBRY: Well, I thought it was very impressive. I'd been in state capitols, as I say, before, but I was quite impressed with our state capitol, and I was particularly impressed with the House and the Senate chambers. I thought they I still think they're very, very adequate, very adequate. I was there at the 50th anniversary last year, and I hadn't been in the capitol for some time, and I could see how it had expanded. I could see how everybody thought they had a private office, for God sakes. And I could see some money spent that I thought was unnecessary, totally unnecessary. And, I mean, I was in charge of the building for almost 10 years. The secretary of state was responsible for the capitol grounds. I hired the people that run it, and all that, and the maintenance of the building. I had people working under me, of course, but I had to see that it was done. So I'm very much disappointed in certain aspects of the development of our state capitol.

CH: How was it for you learning the ropes as a freshman legislator?

NEWBRY: Well, I had no problem at all. I mean, I had some — I got acquainted with some pretty darn fine people, I thought, and we'd visit and talk about things, and I thought I got along pretty well.

CH: Do you recall any lessons in trial and error of trying to figure out how things operated there?

NEWBRY: No. No, I don't recall any particular problem I had to climb myself around. I had a key to the state capitol, I know that. I could always get in and get out of it. I came in one time on the train from down here, for some reason or another, and I went straight to the capitol and I opened my door and went to my desk it was real early in the morning. I know that the caretaker around there, or the guard, he come over, "What are you doing here?" I said, "Well, this is my seat. My name is Earl Newbry and this is my seat." "Oh. I just wanted to check." And, of course, it was all right. But I thought that was good. I opened the door and it was about that train got in early in the morning. It was in the wintertime, of course.

CH: Did you make trips back and forth at all, during that time, down to southern Oregon or...

NEWBRY: No.

CH: Did you stay that entire time?

NEWBRY: I don't think I made even one trip back.

CH: So your wife was working up here with you...

NEWBRY: Yeah.

CH: Or, up in Salem, and then now what happened with your children?

NEWBRY: My son, he was here.

CH: Oh, your son was here.

NEWBRY: Yeah, sure.

CH: How old was he when you first started the...

NEWBRY: Well, let's see, what would he be? He was in high school.

CH: He was in high school.

NEWBRY: Yeah.

CH: So did he transfer, then, from the high school down here up to the high school there?

NEWBRY: Oh, he went to school right here, my son.

CH: In Ashland, or Medford?

NEWBRY: Ashland.

CH: Ashland?

NEWBRY: Yeah. He lived out on the ranch, the house that I built there in 1927, 1928. He lived there and the fact of the matter is, he was about 14 years old, I believe. He was in high school.

CH: So when you went up to Salem, then he would go up with you, along with your wife and your son?

NEWBRY: Well, the only one that went up with me was my wife.

CH: So your son stayed here?

NEWBRY: My son stayed here and milked the cows, for God sakes, and went to high school. And I don't think I came back maybe I came back once or twice, I'm not sure, but I don't think I did my first session. My wife's folks lived in Corvallis. We'd drop over there once in a while, maybe on Sunday, and my daughter spent quite a little time with them because she was with us too. My daughter, she was just a child, and she did most of her living there with her grandmother, which worked out great for us.

CH: Well, you had mentioned earlier about how you felt apprehensive about when your folks would leave you at home when you were a kid.

NEWBRY: Oh, gosh, I just...

CH: How about your son? How did he cope with that?

NEWBRY: Oh, he thought it was all right.

CH: Yeah?

NEWBRY: Yeah. And my daughter, I think she's very close to her dad. She was here last week and spent a few days with us. She's in Seattle. She retired from the school system up there in Washington, and my son-in-law, he's the Husky band director, and he's, gosh, he's busy with this deal going on in Seattle now, that Goodwill thing. We watched that on Saturday night. She said, "Well, Dad," or Sunday, "be sure to tune in on Channel 5, the Turner Network, and watch that, the opening ceremony." And we did. It was quite a thing. He's in charge of the band down there and a member of their staff, coaching staff, my son-in-law. So he's very much involved with that whole thing. So no, she — my son, he got along

fine. But when I was a kid, I just couldn't be away from my father or mother. I just couldn't I mean...

CH: Was there anybody looking after your son at all, or did he just take care of himself?

NEWBRY: Oh, he took care of himself. Fact of the matter is, he had a couple of young fellows, high school classmates of his, I think they come out and stayed with him. Fact of the matter, he milked a couple of cows every morning, and he went to school. No, he had no problem. And my daughter, we were just talking about that, the further it got up in the session, why, she would — it was only two times. I think one time I had — and it kind of bothered me. There was a place here she could room with some people, and I said, “Well, honey, how did you get along with them?” “Oh,” she said, “daddy, I was all right. It was me and this other very good friend.” And I kept thinking in my mind that she was alone there. Her mother lined this up for her right here in town. But she got along fine. But to be away from her, she was quite a daddy's girl, but I don't think she had the same feeling I had when I was a kid. I couldn't stand to be away from my family.

CH: Well, when you first got to the Legislature, who was there at the time and who were the leaders and how was the Legislature composed as you were a freshman, when you entered?

NEWBRY: Well, I can't I just can't relate to any definite people. I know that in the House, I know that Gene Marsh, he was a lawyer and he was a leader, and Bill McAllister, too, was outstanding, and I can't think of anyone else in the House at that time that I — I might look through some pictures' names and I can pick out some people that I thought were quite active. I don't think — I think Howard Belton was in there too. I believe he was a member of the House before he went to the Senate. I always respected Howard very much. And he was a leader. Of course, Dean Walker was in the Senate. Dean was a leader there, for God

sakes, and a good one. And Spike [William] Steiwer, he was an outstanding leader, I thought. And Hank [Henry] Semon, my gosh, he was [inaudible] from Klamath Falls.

CH: Did you know any of these people before you got into the Legislature?

NEWBRY: Well I knew Bill. [Tape cuts out]

[End of Tape 2, Side 2]

Tape 3, Side 1
1990 July 23

CH: This is an interview with Earl Newbry in his home in Ashland, Oregon. The date is July 23, 1990. The interviewer for the Oregon Historical Society is Clark Hansen. This is Tape 3, Side A.

When you first went into the legislator as a freshman, how did you feel as being with this group of people that were basically running the state, and how easily were you accepted by them?

NEWBRY: Well, of course, I was quite impressed by the fact that I was there, and I was impressed with the fact that I was representing my people in southern Oregon, and, as time went on, why, I know that I was accepted by most of the people down there as a pretty good representative. I'm not bragging, but I just know that people would come to Earl Newbry and say, "Earl, what do you think about this and what do you think about that?" And I'd say well, I'd tell them what I thought. In fact, I was entertained by lobbyists. I was never, in my experience as a state senator or representative, opposed by any lobbyist that wanted to give any type of financial assistance, or anything, for my opinion or for my vote. Never. I know that that would happen, I had known of it happening, maybe, on some occasions. Some people would be influenced by some group that represented special interests. The oil companies, of course, they would invite you up to their rooms, and I was respected — I think I was respected by most of the lobbyists because, by gosh, they kind of knew where I stood on everything. And I know that with the I can't think of any exception to where I didn't have a friendly relation with every member.

And I had the pleasure of knowing Governor Snell while he was secretary of state, and I knew Earl quite well. In fact, I had him in my home right here on two or three occasions while he was governor. And I don't think I'm presumptuous, but the people that were, I would say, conservative, down to earth people, I respected them very highly, and they respected me, I know, because they knew how I stood and how I on issues that might be

kind of on the rough edge, they knew damn well that I was going to vote right the way I should. And as far as introducing bills, I stayed away I'd be cosponsor, probably, of a few bills, but I never I was kind of like my fellow George Dunn who endorsed me when I run for his place in the Senate. Dunn never introduced a bill under his caption while he was in session, ever. Well, I thought that's a pretty good value, to let somebody else introduce the bills. And I told you what bills I introduced. They didn't get anywhere. There was one that got through. And I can't recall cosponsors of specific bills, but I was cosponsor of some bills in the interests of southern Oregon.

CH: You didn't feel at all as though you were — that there was an “in” club or an “out” group that you had a hard time getting in with the people that were controlling things? You got along pretty well with everyone, or were there cliques that...

NEWBRY: Well, no, I got along very good with everybody. And fact of the matter is, and I can't tell you — there may be cliques, and I guess there are, developed later in Legislative groups of different in both the House and the Senate, I don't know. But as far as that time is concerned, I had no problem whatsoever, and I didn't sense a problem because I felt very much at home and, certainly after I — in my second session I felt very much at home to be there, in particular when I got in the Senate.

CH: What was the relationship between the House of Representatives and the Senate like at that time?

NEWBRY: I think they quite amicable. I think that they worked pretty close together. I don't recall there were bills that were sent back for reconsideration at different times, as there always is, but I think the leadership in both Houses was quite closely connected, is probably the right word. I think we worked harmoniously.

CH: And with the governor's branch?

NEWBRY: Yes, as far as I know, I think we were very, very close.

CH: So would you say, then, that there was a spirit of cooperation that existed among all three branches, all three groups?

NEWBRY: Well, I thought so, too. I thought the dissension was very limited between the House. I know there were certain bills that come up, and I can't recall now, but there would be people say, "Well, what the hell are they doing over there?" Well, you know, in my — and certain bills were not sponsored by me, of course, but there were certain bills that had to be corrected a little bit before we could act on them properly and with satisfaction of success. So, then, you'd have to refer bills back to the House. Of course, all the appropriation bills had to originate in the House, as you know, and everybody, but then you could refer bills back, and I say that was done with no degree of animosity, I think. Of course, rivalry is always prevalent in, I think, any society.

CH: There was the official structure of the Legislature and then there were people who had more personal power than other people that were just more persuasive or were there — even though you had an official structure in place, I imagine there other people that had a bigger effect on the Legislatures; would that be true?

NEWBRY: Well, I'll say this. In order for a person to become a Speaker of the House or president of the Senate, they do a little campaigning on their own throughout the whole state trying to get votes. I know that Bob [Robert] Farrell talked to me my first time. I couldn't — Ernie [Ernest] Fatland, who was the Speaker of the House, I had a particular reason to go for Ernie Fatland from Condon, and I think Bob knew it. I didn't go for Bob then. And then when the president of the Senate came along in fact, every time, before any session, why, people presumed or, running for that position of the Speaker of the House, why, they'd contact, I suppose, most of the members. I know I was contacted by practically every

one of them, I think. And, then, even before I was ever in the Legislature, I can recall one fellow that contacted me before I ever got there, and he represented — he was a union leader and he contacted me out at the ranch, for gosh sakes, before I ever become I was elected, but I wasn't — the sessions hadn't opened yet. And this fellow was all right. He was a fine fellow, and I'll tell you what, he became mayor of Portland.

CH: Oh, is that right. Who was that?

NEWBRY: Well, I can't think of his name. You ought to.

CH: He became mayor of Portland later?

NEWBRY: Oh, yes, he became mayor of Portland.

CH: In the 1950s?

NEWBRY: Oh, gosh.

CH: Terry Schrunk?

NEWBRY: I knew him so well. He was from Portland. You see, that's it. If I I'm going up to the library and get some Blue Books. I've got those at home, but I can next time we're together I can remember some of these names. I'd like to now.

CH: Okay. Well, I'll loan you some of my newspaper clippings and information if you'd care to...

NEWBRY: Well, I don't know whether I need those or not.

CH: Okay. Well, what were the reactions during that time to Roosevelt's New Deal policies? How were people affected by that and...

NEWBRY: I can't recall any particular effect it had on that as far as the Legislature is concerned. I can't recall any apprehension on our part about what might happen. I know that he had Roosevelt started a lot of things that were all right, and fact of the matter is, some of the things he started Herbert Hoover got going anyway. That public reconstruction, that was already set up and that became very successful. That's helping out industries throughout the United States so people could get on their feet. In fact, they helped our industry too. I borrowed money through that group. I borrowed money that way. But that was set up — nobody knows about that, but that was actually set in sway by Herbert Hoover but it took place in the Roosevelt administration, which was fine. FHA [Federal Housing Administration], that was under him, he did that himself, but during the Legislature, I can't recall of any apprehension or any feeling, only the fact that our state, by gosh, wasn't in too good a shape. When Meier was governor of Oregon, that was way back before, why...

CH: Julius Meier?

NEWBRY: Julius. By gosh, what he did, he just cut things down across the line, and no question about it. I respected — that was before I was well, I was interested. I was just another tax payer. But as far as the national administration, I don't think it had too much effect on our state Legislature.

CH: What were some of the issues that you dealt with in that first term in the state Legislature?

NEWBRY: Well, I just can't recall any particular ones. There was — I know there were some that I went along with McAllister and Marsh and some of those other people. I used

to get on the floor and make a little talk in favor of certain bills, and I can't recall what they were, but I think I did a fairly good job when I addressed the House. Fact of the matter is, I run for president of the Senate and I come darn near getting elected. I can tell you more about that the next day.

CH: Okay. The allies and adversaries that fell into various camps on various issues, how would you characterize those? But...

NEWBRY: I know what you're talking about but I can't orient myself into just what situations I thought obtained. I don't think there was too many problems come up during that time that would fit that category. Maybe I have to do a little thinking.

CH: Well, reading through some of the newspaper articles I saw that one issue that seemed to be constant in a lot of the sessions was on school financing and school — various education issues.

NEWBRY: Do you think that was during my administration?

CH: Well, perhaps when you were in the Legislature?

NEWBRY: Yeah. You think it was?

CH: It seemed like in each Legislature there were issues that had to deal with school financing. Of course, there were so many things to deal with, but...

NEWBRY: Well, there must have been. I don't know what we had. We had a six percent limitation on our budgets for all of our districts, and fact of the matter is, I think that's still a law. And as far as that, we had no particular problem I could see meeting our budget. I mean, there were certain things had to be hewed off. Of course, the ways and means

committee, they were the people that would come up with the recommendations, and, of course, they had no problem getting through the House or the Senate with it.

CH: Well, I think we'll stop here for today and then come back on this tomorrow.

NEWBRY: Okay.

CH: All right. Thanks.

[End of Tape 3, Side 1]

Tape 3, Side 2
1990 July 24

CH: This is an interview with Earl T. Newbry in his home in Ashland, Oregon. The date is July 24, 1990. The interviewer for the Oregon Historical Society is Clark Hansen, and this is Tape 3, Side B.

I believe the last time that we were talking, yesterday, about these — about your work in the Legislature, we were going over some of the people that you knew as you came into the Legislature and some of the issues you dealt with.

NEWBRY: Well, Clark, the first man I actually knew was Bill McAllister, who was the representative from here and had been there the previous year. And I got to meet him, and fact of the matter is, we were seated side by side and they were I think they arranged that by the House, seating people. You had a little bit of selection, as you got older, in the House, but I kept that seat, I think, all the time I was in the Legislature. And then Gene Marsh was one of us. Gene was a lawyer from over McMinnville way, and I respect him very highly. And then there was a man, Steelhammer, was right in that area, John Steelhammer. He was a oh, I really don't know what his business was. He lived there in Salem but he was a representative from Salem, and he generally voted pretty much along with some of the more stable fellows like I thought myself was.

CH: What do you mean by stable?

NEWBRY: Well, I mean people that's conservative and had their feet on the ground and their head twisted on right. That's what I meant.

CH: Okay.

NEWBRY: I can mention several others. Ernie Fatland, who was the Speaker of the House, and he was from Condon, Oregon, and Ernie was a very high-class gentleman. He was the Goodyear tire dealer, I think, in Condon. He was the Speaker of the House. And, of course, Bob Farrell, who became secretary of state, Bob was the Speaker of the House the second year, and I got to know Bob very well.

CH: So, would this have been in 1941?

NEWBRY: That was my first session, 1939.

CH: 1939.

NEWBRY: Yeah. And then there was a Harvey Wells from Portland that was a very substantial citizen, Burt Snyder from Bend, he was a druggist from over there but a very substantial, down to earth man. He became a very close friend of mine. And there was some that was the Democrats were [Harry] Boivin and [Phil] Brady and [Vernon] Bull. I got along with them fine, but they represented a little different type of — well, I'll say people or type of the state than some of the rest of us did that were we thought we had our feet on the ground.

CH: How would you describe the people that they represented?

NEWBRY: Boivin, of course, was a Democrat, but a very close friend of mine. Boivin actually, when I was running for secretary of state, he being a Democrat, he had me at his home several times with many people from Klamath Falls to meet me, and so we were always very close friends, even while we were in the House. I didn't class him with Brady and Bull. They were good — Bull was a man from La Grande. He was a railroader and very much a labor supporter, which was all right, and Brady was very much in the same category. And then there was Truman Chase, who was a farmer from Eugene. He was a

stable citizen. He was one that I figured was of the group that we could depend on, and a man by the name of [Alfred] Cunha. He was a lawyer, a Basque, from the Pendleton area. A very substantial citizen. He lived in the same apartment as I did when I was first in the Legislature.

CH: When you refer to him, or some of the others, as substantial citizens, what do you mean by substantial?

NEWBRY: I don't mean financially, I mean just stable citizens. He was a very successful lawyer, a Basque.

CH: A Basque from Spain, originally.

NEWBRY: From the Pendleton area, yeah. They were very fine people. And then Truman Chase, I told you about him. Burt [Glen] Riddle from Riddle, Oregon, and that was the town was named after his family. Burt was another one that was very dependable and voted the way you thought a person ought to vote. He became a very good friend of mine. In fact, I became friends of all these people. There was a Hannah Martin, who was a lady lawyer in Salem, and she was a very substantial person, I mean a good lawyer, and represented, oh, generally, I think, better type of Legislation, if there is such a thing.

CH: Was it unusual that women were in...

NEWBRY: No, because we had a Mrs. [Christina] Munroe, and she was an orchardist from Hood River. A very fine person. And she voted like I did. She didn't — not too much talking, but you could depend on her for a vote in what we thought was the right direction. I respected her very much. This Hannah Martin, though, she was rather outstanding. She was from Salem and she represented the — and I became very, well, good friends of her even after I was out of office, and all. And let's see, one man that the crew always figured

was stable was Henry Semon from Klamath Falls. He was a farmer over there, and we always — Semon and they lived at the Marion Hotel. Let's see. There was Semon and Spike [William] Steiwer, he lived there, and, oh, there was two or three others. But they were the group that you could kind of be together with and talk over what Legislation was coming up and get their opinion of it and then work from there. So I respected them very highly.

CH: You mentioned living at the hotel. Did very many people get together in social situations outside the Legislature? Did they meet at other places or talk about politics and...

NEWBRY: Not too much. Well, by and large, several of these people I got to be friends with happened to be very close to, I would see them quite often. And then there were some lobbyists that stayed at the Marion Hotel. One from the oil company, one from the railroads. I got to know those people quite well and, of course, we would discuss they'd discuss with me and they'd never try to I never had them try to pressure me for a vote, or anything. They was very happy to discuss any problem that came up in whatever department it might be. So I got quite a lot out of that, of those associations. But you say outside, I — occasionally a lobbyist would want to take you out to dinner, or something. Not too often. I never had very many people take me out to dinner. And I think it's a common practice now, I understand.

I told you about French who was from eastern Oregon. Giles French, he was a newspaperman in eastern Oregon, and he was on the floor of the House and had a filibuster, and the only filibuster I ever actually saw in the House, and I think he went on for about two hours and was not too — I can't remember for sure what the problem was, but it was a kind of a minor detail, but boy, he was making hay out of it detracting attention from — I got from something that was kind of inconsequential to where something was quite important to him, and I thought he did a whale of a good job, and I'll never forget him. He passed away, here, not too long ago. He was a stalwart, and he was one of the group we could depend on for sure.

Of course, George Dunn, he was in the Senate at that time, and I told you, I think, George Dunn supported me for the Senate job when I first ran. Another member of the House was [Peter] Stadelman. Now, Stadelman was an orchardist from eastern Oregon, and the Stadelman people were substantial people financially, and in the fruit business they shipped under their own brand, and we had a lot in common. He was a man that you could depend on for votes, he was one of the very stable men. Interesting thing was, he'd always have a present for most of his people from well some kind of a fruit product, maybe apples, for every member. He never gave it to me because it would be like taking me being in the fruit business, and fact of the matter is, on a few occasions I put out a pear on his desk. But he'd always give me, oh, a bottle of liquor of some kind, and he said, "Earl, this is bringing coals to Newcastle to bring you fruit." And he was right, because I'd been doing that myself a little bit. And he was secretary of state for a short time, filling in on after and I can't remember, I think it was Hal Hoss that's going back. He was secretary of state for a long time, and I think when Hal passed away he was appointed to fill out but didn't run again. So he was an ex secretary of state. Earl Hill was another man I got very close to. He lived at Cushman and he — I think he was in the real estate business over there, and he was a man that run for state treasurer at one time. He ran for state treasurer while I was in the House and, likewise, he was a House member when he got defeated in that.

Al Grant was a lawyer from eastern Oregon which was a very substantial citizen and a law practice, and I had a great respect for him, and he was one man who, on the floor of the Senate or, floor of the House, some bill came up and he understood it was on labor and industries, and he understood that there was some finagling going on and he said, "We're going to discontinue our discussion on this immediately until we find out more about what's going on." That's the first time I have ever seen that happen in either House or the Senate. But Al Grant said, "If there's some finagling going on in the back of the room we don't know about," he said, "we're going to drop this." And we did, too. And I think later on we picked it up and I think the bill was defeated. I don't remember what bill it was, but I think it had to do something about the labor people were very much interested in.

Now, while I was in the Legislature talking about labor, I'm not an anti-labor man, but while I was building this plant here in Ashland, I had local men working. I had a contract a man that was supervising the building. He was a labor man here and had many jobs and he employed organized labor. Well, by golly, unbeknownst to me, I had a little office yet and I was rebuilding the plant, and, by golly, I was being picketed.

CH: Is that right?

NEWBRY: And here I was a state legislator at that time, which is all right, but I was being picketed, and this fellow, Ed Borg, was the man, and he had to quit because he had several jobs he worked on and supervised. And fortunately I got a man that stepped in his place and we finished the building in fine shape. But all the time they would have the meeting and then try to get these people organized, well I didn't care whether they organized or not, but I just wanted to get a building done, but I did want to keep these men employed that didn't even want to belong to a union. They were individuals, and that's the way we did it, we built the building. So I had no particular qualms against it. One of the men that was on this and fact of the matter, he was a secretary to the carpenters union, lived right across from me in Phoenix when after I retired I lived in a mobile home there at Horizon Mobile Home Estates, and he was right across the street from me. We were always friends.

But he had to be down and supervise this little problem they were having trying to get organized and, of course, they couldn't, they didn't get these people signed up and I didn't care which way they went. I preferred that they not be unionized because I was paying wages that was fair and right. So that was my experience. In any event, this — well, I was talking about Brady and Bull, they were I got to know them very well, and good friends, but they were always voting kind in the interests of the bills that came up for organized labor, and some of the more liberal Legislation that came up, they were always pretty much in line on that. So, I don't know, that goes over quite a group of people. This man from eastern Oregon that was in the Senate that was one of my stable friends was

Carl Engdahl. He was a big rancher there in Pendleton. He passed away during the — he was in the Senate. He passed away during our last session.

CH: How many of these people have you kept up any contact with over the years after leaving the Legislature?

NEWBRY: Well, I did with a lot of them, but most of these I've told you now are gone. Another one, Scotty [Angus] Gibson, he was the automobile dealer there in Junction City and, my, we were very close friends. He was one of the group that kind of hung along with McAllister, Marsh and Newbry, and that group. His widow is still living, I think, but he was a scotchman and just a wonderful little guy. Of course John Hall, who became governor and appointed me secretary of state, he was in the House at that time and I knew John just casually. I mean, we were friends, and all, but not close friends like I was with Marsh and McCallister and some of those others. I'd been in John's apartment for a highball, or something, in the evening, I've done that two or three times, and his wife, Alice, I got to know here very well. He lost his first wife and Alice was his second wife and she was the gal that met me when I went to Portland after he wanted me to come there. I'll tell you about that later.

So Dr. Hosch from Bend, he was a doctor and I considered him a well, I considered him a friend, and all, and he seemed to be looking out for any interests that might come up he might understand that was in the medical profession. There was another man — doctor named Booth and he was from Lebanon, and I got to like him very much. He was not very vociferous, didn't talk much. He had a wife who was his secretary, and a lot of us did. My wife was my secretary because I couldn't have — I mean, I like McAllister said earlier, if you go to the Legislature, you can afford to go if your wife worked for you. And, of course, she did and she was very qualified to do it because she was a graduate in commerce at Oregon State College. And, then, that kind of runs down the line. Al Grant, I told you about him, and Dr. Hosch, and there was Lonergan, there was a Lonergan that was in the house, Frank Lonergan. He was a lawyer from Portland. He was a very sound

legislator, I thought. He, too, was representing interests that he was interested in. Some of them I'd go along with but some I didn't. But I always respected him very much, and even after that I would meet Frank and see him, even, before he passed away.

Of course, Gene Marsh and Bill McAllister, Bill became a supreme court justice, as you know, and passed away there. I mentioned Harvey Wells and Burt Snyder from Bend. Harvey Wells was from Portland, a very stable citizen. He had, I think, an interest in business, there, in industry. George Dunn was, of course, our state senator from here. Jim Jones was a — I'll talk about him a little later. Charlie [Charles] Zurcher was one I was very friendly with. He was from Molalla, and I used to call on him even while I was secretary of state while he was still alive. If I happened to be up there at Enterprise, then I'd call on Charlie Zurcher. He was a very, very fine legislator. And then Bud [Walter] Pearson, who became state treasurer, why, Bud and I were good friends. He was a Democrat, too. We didn't always see eye to eye politically well, we didn't ever politically, but we got along, and then after I became secretary of state, why, he was state treasurer and we worked pretty close together on that. But Bud was one of those fellows that you could depend on if you were in need. When the chips were down, why, Bud was all right. And I respected him very highly.

Walter Norblad, I want to mention him later on. Walter Norblad was in the United States Congress. I might just say — deviate a little bit we had a meeting in Portland, that's while I was secretary of state, and there was a group of us got together there, a bunch of Republicans, at the Multnomah Hotel and we were talking about the political situation and Norblad, he was — he told me, "Earl, I think I'll run for governor instead of for Congress." And I said, "Well, you mean it?" "Yes," he said, "I'm very serious about it." And he said, "You ought to think about my place." I said, "Well, by gosh, Walter, if you run for governor, I'll run for Congress and I can be elected." I knew that. And he said, "Well, by gosh, Earl, I think I will. I'd like to be governor, I'd like to get back to Oregon." And we were very close friends, Walter and I were. And as time went on, why, he decided to cut that out and to stay in the Congress, which he did. Well, I would have. Thank God I didn't.

CH: His congressional district is up out of — he lived in Astoria, didn't he?

NEWBRY: Well, whatever district it was I could run for Congress I could run for Congress without a question. No, he wasn't [inaudible] was he from Astoria? Well, anyway, that's the way it worked out. And we it wasn't just coincidental. It went on for a few days, and sometime we ought to make up our mind, and then he decided not to run for governor. I can't think what — I was in my second term as secretary of state. So, I got that taken care of.

CH: Well, I presume that you worked with some of these people fairly closely on committees as well as on the floor of the Legislature. You had mentioned yesterday that you worked in the...

NEWBRY: Well, I was chairman of Labor and Industry, yes.

CH: Labor and Industry.

NEWBRY: And we had to consider every bill, of course, that pertained to labor, and I don't remember any very controversial things. I know one time that I went to Portland with while I was in the House I went to Portland with Rex Ellis, Senator Rex Ellis, and we spoke before the before the men's club in Portland and I was there because I was opposed to a bill that was coming on that was trying to control the price of bread. Rex Ellis was very much opposed to it, I was opposed to it, and, by golly, I think was on that bill and I had a very good friend here at Fleur Bakery, that was one of the big bakers in the country, and of course they wanted to put a base price on bread so that you couldn't sell it for less than a given number of figures. And I was very much opposed to that. Later on I had to kind of change my mind a little, which I didn't want to do, not on that subject, but on another subject. So Rex Ellis and I went to Portland and we for that group. I thought it was called the men's club. It was some that club still operates, I think, in Portland. But we went there

and they wanted us to come down and discuss this bread bill. So Rex Ellis and I did that before them. And as time come on, why, we defeated that bill too. There was no question about that.

And I know my friend [Heine?][William] Fluhrer who succeeded me as state senator. [Heine?] Fluhrer had the Fleur Bakery. And before he got to serve in my place he was killed in his own airplane. And he had been retired from the United States Air Force, and he served under a friend of mine that was a major he was a major general from Portland, and he served under that major in Italy, by gosh, [Heine?] Fluhrer, and he flew around well, he was very active in the lore, and he came here before the Legislature, it was during the summer when they were campaigning, and all, why [Heine?] and three other Republicans, in his own little plane they crashed the plane at Lake of the Woods. [Heine?] Fluhrer had a home there. I did, too, at that time, and, by golly, they'd been there on a visit and talking over Legislation, and all, and, by golly if he didn't — his plane went down in the lake and killed all four of them. That was the first bad accident that hit us politically in Oregon.

CH: What year was that? What would that have been?

NEWBRY: Well, that could have been 1946.

CH: So right before the other plane crash.

NEWBRY: Yeah, Ed Reichert. Because I was already a — I'm not sure about that. He was going to succeed me as state senator, and I'd just been I'd been well, I had already been appointed, see. I was already secretary of state, because my vacancy didn't occur until the 1949 session, and that's when he was going to so it would have been late 1947 or 1948. Probably 1948. And I knew those three men very well in the House. So that was an incident that was bad. [Heine?] would have been a very, very good representative. And I think that — I'll tell you who was appointed was a doctor from Medford, instead of [Heine?]. He was a doctor who later became a congressman. I'll think of his name pretty quick. So

that's about so much for the House, Clark. If you want to start talking about the Senate, why, we'll do that. If you want to ask me some questions or...

CH: Well, yeah. In your sessions in the Legislature now, which years were you in the Legislature?

NEWBRY: Well, I was there my first session was 1939, 1941 and 1943, 1945 and 1945, yeah.

CH: And 1947 before...

NEWBRY: No, 1947 I was the in the Senate. I was in the House 1939 and 1941, 1945 and 1947 I was in the Senate. I served two terms in the House, that was four years, then I succeeded George Dunn and I was elected to the Senate.

CH: And while you were in the House do you recall any significant Legislation that you worked on or that was passed that...

NEWBRY: Oh, not especially, no. I got that one little bill over that I told you about to protect our brands on field lugs and fruit boxes, I did that. I got that — I tried to get that bill over for a governor's House, a mansion, I didn't get that over. The one bill that came before the House, I think it was my second session, that I wasn't very happy about, but then they tried to put a base on barbers fees that barbers could charge, and all, and I finally went along with that, and I didn't want to, but I did, I went along.

CH: What convinced you to go along with that?

NEWBRY: Limit the something about, oh, certain sanitary conditions, which was all right. I thought that part was good, but they wanted to make lower the price for not — they

wanted to make a minimum price that any barber could charge, and I didn't like that, but I voted for it.

CH: Well, was there somebody that convinced you?

NEWBRY: Oh, no oh, I had a barber that I liked pretty well, and all. I think he wanted it, and I thought, well, by golly, I'll go for it. And I know some of my friends, they just they wondered why in the world did Earl go that way? And one of them was Ernie Fatland, who became Speaker of the House, or was Speaker and [Inaudible]. I think they — some of them even voted for it too, but they wondered why in the world that Earl go for that, because I'd been so damn much opposed to all this. But I did, and it passed with a pretty good majority.

Oh, there was — Brady was for it, and all the labor men were for it, and that's why they wondered why would Newbry go along on that. In fact, another one, Tom Mahoney, Tom, he was Tom, he was quite a guy. He was a Democrat, of course, and we were very friendly, and all, and he was realistic. If he was going to vote against you, by gosh, he'd come and talk to you about it, which I thought was good. Now the thing, I say, going against it, they knew what bills I was interested in, like Bill McAllister, Marsh, and Steelhammer, and that group, and he would talk to you, which I thought was darn nice. And some of them will talk to you and then they'll vote against you. I mean, they'll — and they've done that to my son on several occasions. So I think that takes care of that.

CH: In the Legislation that you did work on, you've mentioned here with the governor's home and the bill to protect Oregon brands, how did you go about soliciting help from other people?

NEWBRY: Well, just introduce the bill, and then it's referred to a committee, which was then my committee. When it came out on the floor I had to discuss it with them on the floor of the House, and I pointed out the reasons why, and all, and no question, they passed it

without a dissenting vote. I never went before the committee. I didn't have to because the bill was self-explanatory, and I think probably I did sometimes you don't recall those things, but I think I had to explain it to the committee just why it was, and, of course, Stadelman they were interested. They were in the fruit business. I was one of the few fruit men up there. So and I'm sure it's still on the books.

CH: Did you talk to people on individual legislators to...

NEWBRY: Oh, not too much, no. I think that I obviously talked to this group [inaudible] was going to go along. "Earl, why are you proposing this bill, why did you have it written and introduced," and I'm quite sure I did. And, of course, we never got up. McAllister, he was in a position to support me in my little argument on the floor of the House because he was from this district. And, of course, Stadelman and that group, they were all for it.

CH: Were there any other agricultural issues that you recall during those two sessions?

NEWBRY: No, not that I remember. Another man that was very much that was my friend from Eugene, Truman Chase. That's the one I'm trying to think about. Truman, they had quite an operation there out of Eugene growing different kinds of plants, orchids, and things like that, exotic plants. And he was a farmer, and all, but he could understand that. He said, "Earl, I think that's a good thing." So that's about it, Clark.

CH: Okay.

[End of Tape 3, Side 2]

Tape 4, Side 1

1990 July 24

CH: This is an interview with Earl T. Newbry in his home in Ashland, Oregon. The interviewer for the Oregon Historical Society is Clark Hansen. The date is July 24, 1990. This is Tape 4, Side A.

So after 1941 Legislature you decided to run for the Senate.

NEWBRY: Yes.

CH: Now, what was your reason for doing that?

NEWBRY: Well, I just I kind of wanted to improve my position. I wanted to be a state senator while I was there, and I knew that George Dunn was going to not run again, retiring, and he said, "Well, Earl, I'll support you," which he did, he did publicly support me. And that's the time that I got elected from both the I got the election in the primary. I had enough write-ins. There was a local man running for it and he didn't really want the job in the Senate, and that was a local druggist here in Ashland, and I don't think he wanted to be, but he was he was a Democrat and he filed for state senator, and, of course, I had filed. And then, by golly, there was enough people that wrote my name in on the Democratic ticket that I got the nomination and I got certified by the secretary of state as the nominee from both parties, so I was in right now.

CH: Has that ever happened before, that you know of?

NEWBRY: No, it's never happened, to my knowledge, and I don't think in the history of our state. And also, when I first run for secretary of state I got the most votes anybody ever got. I had more votes than there was registered Republicans. I thought it was quite a compliment. And then when Edith Green run against me, why and she ran against me

because I was in office, and she gave me kind a rough go, anyway, but I still won by about 50 thousand votes, which I thought was pretty good.

CH: Substantial.

NEWBRY: I know one time that we were down there, and this is not particularly germane to the Senate, but we were at a Portland chamber of commerce meeting and Edith Green was there, and I was there too, and I made a little pitch, and so did she, but my first observation was that I was a pear grower here in southern Oregon, and during my tenure of office, why, through some circumstance, the federal government bought pears from different places out and they buy pears to be distributed to institutions, and what have you. And, believe it or not, they bought a carload of pears from us, it had my brand on it and it was shipped to Salem, Oregon, at the state penitentiary, for God sakes, and well, my son had no knowledge of it. He was running my business and the government would buy these from the surplus pears, and there they were. Well, at this meeting this thing had been in the press a little bit before that or, not a little, quite a little in fact well, not quite a little, but in any event at the salad, they had a pear salad and I said I sure appreciate the fact that you served a pear salad for me today. And all these people — I got quite a boost out of that. But Edith, she was a pretty nice person. She kind of pulled some little fast stuff on me, but I — it worked out all right.

CH: How was that, that she...

NEWBRY: Well, she brought up things that actually weren't factual but makes you think they were. Fact of the matter is, I was at a church meeting where a friend of mine who now is a very close friend of mine, and he knew me better than I knew him, and he lives in the desert. He's very active in some of the things I'm active in down there, like the desert roadrunners, which I'm a past president of the desert roadrunners, which is made up of Jesters and Shriners, and all, and Myron Coe was the minister in the Congregational church

in Portland and he had all these candidates there, which was all right, and Edith Green was there, and myself, and [inaudible] was running for state treasurer. But Myron Coe introduced us, and all, and I think that he was kind of sorry afterward.

Now, I thought Edith Green was all right in some departments, but to this day, Myron Coe he wrote a book, he wrote the story of his life and gave me a copy of it, Myron Coe did he's still alive in the desert. He's retired from the ministry. But he mentions me, and he also mentions Edith Green in that. But Edith I thought was a very darn good legislator as a congresswoman, and she was more Republican than she was Democrat in the Congress of the United States, I'll tell you that. That was my analysis of it, and Myron Coe, who's not a Democrat, Myron's a Republican, but he had these candidates there, and I think that he knew me, as I say, better than I did him, but he was kind of in a way kind of didn't particularly like the way the attending of that meeting went, these candidates. So now, are we going to talk about some of our state senators?

CH: If you'd like to, yes, I'd like to...

NEWBRY: Well, I'll tell you the ones I was very...

CH: Well, first of all, just going back one step here into the Legislature in the House side, did you chair any committees in the House?

NEWBRY: I was chairman of the Labor and Industries committee.

CH: Your were chairman of that committee.

NEWBRY: Yeah. I was on the Agriculture committee but I wasn't chairman. State and Federal Affairs committee, I was on that, and I told you I represented our state in 1939...

CH: Okay.

NEWBRY: I told you about that. Did we make a record of that?

CH: [Yes]. So do...

NEWBRY: Another interesting thing — not interesting, but the first man who was electrocuted was when Governor Sprague was governor, and being on the federal State and Federal committee, I was invited to be out there at that execution, and I didn't go, but I was invited to be there because of my position in the House. And Charlie Sprague and that — I know when they tried to get him to commute his sentence, why, Governor Sprague said that the law is the law and he had no right to commute the sentence because the man was properly convicted and it was out of — as much as say it was out of his jurisdiction. And I don't think you see that anymore among governors. There are many cases now, as you damn well know, in the East, they're hanging fire where they do have laws of for, what is it, execution?

CH: [Yes]. Death penalty.

NEWBRY: But, now, I respected Governor Sprague very much. Sprague was a very religious man but he was a very excellent man, in my opinion, to discern the important things in Legislation, the important things of his activities as governor.

CH: What were your views on the death penalty at the time?

NEWBRY: Well, I think that I'm not opposed to the death penalty. I just didn't want to be there, that's all. I was there when [Diatrement?] [inaudible] I've seen his of course well, while I was in office as secretary of state and the governor and secretary of state and the state treasurer, we were the important people in supervisory not per se, but in control of the institutions, the penitentiary, the schools. I visited all these schools around here, and

we had a little responsibility, the governor particularly, in appointing chancellors, and all that kind of business, but the physical institutions, like at the penitentiary, and other places, why, if we had I would be there quite often over at Pendleton, our hospital over there, and all. I bring this up because I was there where I saw the [Diatrement?] the place where he was, the [Diatrement?] case, and where he had tried to burn up his mattress in the cell block.

And then we built a new building there while I was in office, a new cell block. Quite interesting to determine what you're going to use in a jail, particularly the bars, how they had to be made, how they can't be cut with a hacksaw, they can go a certain way, but then I mean, it was a very interesting experience for me to select those and be one that would determine which we were going to use. Well, at that time we could use a lot of the penitentiary help to build that, but later on organized labor was opposed to that, as you probably know. They wanted us to feed those people, not let them work, and, by God, cost you know what it costs now in every state in the union I don't know, in California they what is it, two thousand dollars a month to take care of every individual? But in any event, that was an interesting thing.

And, going back to that, I saw where [Diatrement?] was, and I and fact of the matter is, George Alexander, who was our deputy I mean, he was our penitentiary supervisor, wonderful fellow, and I'd go around with him, see these different men. I've been when they interviewed men for parole, and that was quite interesting too. I won't go into detail of some of the answers and questions they had, but they were quite, quite well, I'll say interesting.

CH: Maybe you would care to describe that a little bit more?

NEWBRY: Oh, I don't think so. Fellows wondering why they ought to get out and why they shouldn't be there. And I'd be with the superintendent of the pen, and we'd probably have a doctor with us, and some of those things involved well, it involved sex among males, and all that kind of business, which, of course, now, I guess quite generally a lot but there

was some of those things, and the habits they had, and all. They was brought up in some of these interviews. So I don't think I want to talk any more about that because...

CH: Okay.

NEWBRY: George Alexander, he and I were very well, very close friends because he we had to hire the man that runs that place. We had a man, [Clarence] Gladden, later on that was tops, and I don't — he was — and the man between them was not so good. He would condone things that, by gosh, Alexander wouldn't. Alexander retired. Gladden, though was we finally got Gladden, and he was one of those fellows that's very much in control, by gosh.

CH: Well, who were some of your peers, then, in the Senate?

NEWBRY: Oh. Well, I'll tell you, Spike Steiwer was one of the great guys, and he became president of the Senate. And Dean Walker, he was that hop grower there at Independence. Dean was a very personal friend of mine, very we were very close together. Rex Ellis was a man from eastern Oregon, from Pendleton, Warren Gill from Lebanon, he was a great guy. Warren got killed in his own plane accident here about a year and a half ago. He was a retired navy officer. He lived in — he had a yacht well, it was a nice boat that he lived in while he was in the Senate. He was a navy flier and he built a plane, for God sakes, and, oh, not over two years ago, and he was killed. He was a wonderful guy. And Howard Belton who became state treasurer, and later on he was one of my stalwart friends. He was an orchardist and grew well, he was in the he grew filberts there at Canby.

And, as I mentioned, Dean Walker, he was one of the great guys, and Jim Jones, he was from over in Malheur County. Jim was one of the stalwart fellows, a very close friend of mine. I'd stop at his place even while I was in office. After I became secretary of state, I'd stop and visit with Jim. Stay all night with him, in fact. And he and his wife, they had quite a spread there in Juntura, I think it was. He was a banker, he had a bank there, and

also a rancher, a cattleman. He was a very stable citizen. Fred Lamport was a local citizen in Ashland in Salem. He was a one of the men that you could depend on, and I've been in his home. And fact of the matter is, we had an opportunity to buy his place for a governor's mansion, which was totally adequate in every department. Fred Lamport, he was a man of considerable wealth and...

CH: What happened to that proposal?

NEWBRY: Well, I don't know. It was turned town. We had a chance to buy it, the state did, but gosh it would have been a beautiful spot. In fact, there was it wasn't only a house, he had quite a little acreage there. I would say probably two acres. And he'd entertain the Senate or, some of his friends, not the whole Senate, but I was always included. He had a he had a compartment there that, by gosh, you could it would be bomb shelter, actually. I think he kept his liquor there, but it was built in every way it had adequate space. They should have bought that. They had a chance to do it. Bill Walsh, of course, was another darn good friend of mine, and Bill, I recommended him to be on the supreme court but Bill turned it down and Bill McAllister got it. In fact, Smith asked me, he said, "Earl, who do you" — when we was down at the convention in 1954 in San Francisco and Elmo Smith was governor. Story about that, too, I'll tell you. But he said, "Earl, who do you think we ought to have for" — he had to appoint a man for the supreme court.

And, well, I said, "There's two guys, McAllister and Walsh." I said, "Either one of them are darn fine men." And Bill Walsh didn't want it and so McAllister got it. And I know that that's what I told Elmo. So they were two fellows that I lived very close with. And Dean Bryson, he's another man that was good. He's retired from the — a district judge. I say he lives down in the desert now, too, and he called me up this winter. And he was a very close friend of mine. Lonergan, he was in there too. Rex Ellis, I mentioned him. Phil Hitchcock was from Klamath Falls. He was a man that I thought was very dependable and an excellent man.

Of course, Marshall Cornet, he and I were very close friends. He's the man that he and I were both running for the state president of the Senate, and I thought I had it. In fact, we was in the Imperial Hotel in Portland two or three days before the convening of our Legislature, and Gene Marsh, he said, "Well, Earl, I think you've got it. I don't think there's any question. You've got enough votes to be president of the Senate." And I said, "Well, by golly, it kind of looks like it, Gene." And two or three other fellows, they thought so. And through some hook or crook, I got kind of inched out by one vote, and somebody changed their mind and we weren't sure who it was, by golly.

CH: It was a secret ballot?

NEWBRY: Well, it was the ballot was in the president of the Senate, and fact of the matter is, if you knew that they you were beat, why, we just simply forgot it. There was no secret ballot to it at all. I knew I didn't have the votes and Marshall Cornet had them, and Marshall became president of the Senate, instead of Earl Newbry, and the irony of the whole thing is, and the sad part of it is, that's when this story comes about how Newbry goes to Salem. Marshall Cornet was Speaker of the House and lieutenant governor in 1947. And, by golly, then a few months later I was appointed in October — November the fourth I was appointed secretary of state, I became lieutenant governor, for God sakes, for 14 months. And Marshall Cornet and I were competitors for the state presidency, which was the lieutenant governor position.

CH: Those positions were the same?

NEWBRY: Well, fact of the matter is because I was secretary of state then, or the next man in line, there was no president of the Senate because then I was...

CH: I see, yeah.

NEWBRY: Now the secretary of state is by actual Legislature, they are the next in line for the governorship now. Many states were that way. Many states there's no limitation on the tenure of office. You can serve I would have probably served the rest of my time if I'd have had no limitation on it, and I'm glad that's the way it is. I think two terms is enough for a major I think United States senators ought to have two, six-year terms, by gosh. I think that congressmen ought to have two.

CH: Why is that?

NEWBRY: I'm very much opposed to this thing of men staying in there all their life and their main objective, when they're once elected, by and large, they want to run for office again and forget what the hell they're there for. So, Marsh and I were always close friends ever since then and, by God, he lost his life in that accident, which put me in the spot I found myself in. Truman Chase was another good man. Austin Dunn was from eastern Oregon. I think I've gone through most of those senators that I well, fact of the matter is, I was close to — I was pretty much close to all of them.

CH: Which committees were you on in the Senate, then?

NEWBRY: Well, let's see. I was on the taxation committee. I was on that, I know. And I was on agriculture committee. We had an agriculture committee in the Senate; I was on that. Well, I just...

CH: Did you preside over any of those committees?

NEWBRY: Well, I presided over them when I was chairman, yes.

CH: Of the taxation and...

NEWBRY: Yeah.

CH: Agriculture, both? How did you come to be chairman of those committees?

NEWBRY: I think they're selected by the committee, as I understand it.

CH: Does it rotate?

NEWBRY: You've got a question there that I should know, but I'm not so darn sure about it, either. I think tenure of office has something to do with it, and the fact that you are the Speaker of the House in the House and the president of the Senate on the president's side, they, to a large degree, select these committees and name the members. I'm sorry I can't be more knowledgeable of what actually went on.

CH: That's all right. What about specific Legislation or issues that came up while you were in the Senate. You were on the agricultural committee and the taxation committee. Were there issues that or major Legislation that came through those committees at the time that you recall?

NEWBRY: Well, I'll tell you, at one time the Legislature was about over and I came home and I thought it was over that day, and, by gosh, they didn't close that night and Cornet called me up and he says, "Earl," and I'd come home. He says, "I think we're going to be in session tomorrow and we — I want you to be here because the bill we're so darn much interested in, we need your vote." So I got on the plane and flew back to Salem to vote on that particular bill, which was important to us, and Marshall Cornet was the president of the Senate, and, by gosh and I don't remember what the bill was, but I was there to vote for it.

CH: So...

NEWBRY: Well, Clark, we had controversial subjects and, of course, come up issues, but, by gosh, it's been quite a long time ago and I just don't recall. I know in that one instance I had to back to Salem even after I'd come home, and then I was there for the adjournment, and all. But that's the only time I ever had to do that either in the House or the Senate. In Sine Die we'd generally quit, and maybe it would be midnight, or later, in the House adjourning, it was quite an experience. But the Senate, I'm not so sure why well, in any event, I flew back there to be there to vote because I was going to be gone that next day when it came up for a vote. I think probably I had to go home for some purpose. I don't recall. But that's one instance, and I don't know what the bill was, but I know Cornet was very much interested, and Jim Jones and [Phillip] Englehart, and those boys, and I thought, well, by gosh, I've got to be there and vote.

CH: Were there interim committees that you were on?

NEWBRY: No. And fact of the matter is, you know when the Legislature was over, it was all through, and that went on for several years. But now, for God sakes, they're in office every day, they have their own office. Our office, as I've told you, was our desk unless you were a committee chairman. I had a room where I was committee chairman of labor and industry and also of agriculture, and you'd only be there when you had to call a meeting of your committee. Now, it seems like that these boys have to have a secretary and an ombudsman and somebody to work for them, which is totally, totally ridiculous.

CH: Where was your wife?

NEWBRY: My wife?

CH: You said that she was your secretary.

NEWBRY: She was my secretary, yes.

CH: And then where would her desk be?

NEWBRY: Oh, their desk — the secretary was right by you, your desk at the — it's still the same. In fact when I was there this last summer I saw that was our office for every member, was your desk, and here was your books and you had a bookcase back there, which I thought was quite adequate, and, of course, now I think they've got it wired up for intercoms, and all that kind of business, and speakers, but that was where your desk was. Now I guess it must be that your secretary stays up in your room, wherever it is. I suppose she's supposed to be there. Of course, the secretaries had a place where they could do their typing, and all, a special room where the secretaries would go. You didn't do it at your desk, but they had they'd do that typing in a typing room.

CH: So what would she do, then, at the desk in the Legislature, in the room, in the assembly room?

NEWBRY: What did...

CH: If she would be seated next to you, would she be taking notes or...

NEWBRY: Well, they'd be seated there and just — all they would do I mean, if you went to sleep, they'd wake you up. [Both laugh]

CH: Did that happen to you?

NEWBRY: I never did that.

CH: No?

NEWBRY: I think most of us that listened, maybe they'd nudge you and call your attention to something maybe going on or something somebody said. One guy — here was quite a thing. There was a fellow from eastern Oregon in the House and he made a big speech on the floor of the Senate — I think it was the Senate, or the House. It's immaterial. But we had a senator by the name of [Irving] Rand and he was from Portland. Rand, he was another damn good man too, a friend of mine, though I didn't mention him before. But this fellow made this [inaudible] making a big speech, he just — it's just like pouring sand down a sathole [just like pouring sand down a rathole], he said. [Inaudible] appropriations. Just like pouring sand down a sathole. [Both laugh] Oh, gosh, that's a of course, that got a big laugh because Rand was in the Senate and here he was in the House and made that remark.

CH: Were there any all-night sessions that you recall?

NEWBRY: We've not — I have been in evening session, yes, on several occasions.

CH: And they would run all night long?

NEWBRY: No, no, no. Probably no...

CH: You had mentioned that some sessions ran until 12:00 or one 1:00 in the morning.

NEWBRY: Yeah, but that's about it. We never had an all-night session. I think 1:00 was the latest we ever was in that I can recall. So it was quite an experience and I'm thankful that I had the experience I had and I hope I did some good for the state. Now, when you want to talk about while I was secretary of state, that's another program.

CH: Before we get into that, a few more questions on your Legislature tenure. Were there any critical election campaigns, that you recall, that were...

NEWBRY: You mean during a session?

CH: During when you were either running for the House or the Senate were there any really important, critical, close elections that you can recall?

NEWBRY: During when I was seeking office, you mean?

CH: Yes, that's right.

NEWBRY: No. And I never — we never had debates, or anything like that. Of course, I had no opposition that one time in the Senate. The next time was, I told you, I think, a man by the name of Looker. He was the secretary to the traffic association which I was president of at one time. In 1936 I was president of the traffic association. I went to Yakima for them on a business for the pear industry for California and Oregon, but Warner Looker, he was he was a lawyer, and our secretary. But he ran against me for United States Senate or, for state senator. And we didn't do any speaking, we did a little advertising, and all, and that was in the primary. He was a Republican. That was in the primary my second term.

And, by George of course, I won with hands down the first time. I got both nominations, as I told you. But all I did, all the campaigning I did, like I told you about Herb Gray looked out for my publicity, and I don't know who put up very much money for it. I knew nothing about it. I think probably Ben Harder and Oly Arnsberger and Frank, my pal, the lawyer. I think they kind of saw to it there wasn't very much need for money. For the newspaper they — and we put out a few public cards, window cards, and all that. They were very nice, very good. Herb Gray took care of that. I mean, he did the work and somebody paid him. And I oh, I'd try to make contacts like Eagle Point and different communities. I went around and tried to be known. I was known to a degree, anyway, pretty much over the county at that time.

CH: Because of your business or other associations?

NEWBRY: Well, my fraternal associations and chamber of commerce. I was a member of the — they had the members of the I think it was called Jackson County chamber of commerce. It was really a number of chamber of commerce, but they'd have a say a man from Ashland, one from Talent, maybe one from Central Point, to be a member. What you call an associate member, I guess. But I attended those meetings. In fact, that's the first report I made to them when I come back from the Legislature the first time. I told them about what I did and I think that it was all right I mean, I think I was pretty well received. I know I was. But as far as having debates, and all that, no. I don't think anybody did at that time have a debate.

CH: Were there any major junctures or critical junctures in your career?

NEWBRY: Well, no, not to my knowledge because I felt quite secure. In fact of course, when you file, you want to be elected. That's the first thing you're concerned about. You don't want to be defeated. I got defeated in the primaries for governor in 1954, you know.

[End of Tape 4, Side 1]

Tape 4, Side 2

1990 July 24

CH: This is an interview with Earl T. Newbry. This is Tape 4, Side B.

You said that the only time that you were ever defeated was in the primary in 1954 when you were running for governor.

NEWBRY: Yes.

CH: And who were you running for at against at that primary?

NEWBRY: Well, Paul Patterson.

CH: Paul Patterson.

NEWBRY: And Paul, I didn't think he was going to be a candidate and I announced my candidacy in Sacramento, California. I didn't do it, actually. Some of my help, we were down there at a motor vehicle no, a secretary of states' conference in Sacramento and I know at that time I had occasion to visit Earl Warren, and I'd seen him on other occasions. But I didn't think that Paul Patterson was going to run for governor at all because for the reason that his health was not too good. And in the Senate, why, I know he was out for about two or three weeks on account of his physical condition. I think probably I don't know what. Heart condition, probably. But I didn't think he'd be a candidate, and then, by golly, he did, he filed. Well, I was tempted to withdraw, but it was kind of difficult to do after you file. And so I got beat badly. In fact, some of the people that supported me so heavily for secretary of state, by gosh, they even worked against me, some of the lawyers that were very good friends, like Van Dyke and like McAllister, for God sakes, and I hoped to get McAllister appointed, but which was all right.

The lawyers stuck together pretty close on that and Paul was a good man, a darn good governor. But he passed away in about, what, three or four months, for God sakes,

and then Elmo Smith became governor. Well, then I was about at the end of my second term — here's another coincidental thing that's interesting about people. I had been promised or indicated that I would be appointed after, I was through, chairman of the industrial accident commission, and I kind of wanted to stay in Salem, I kind of wanted to stay in that public life. There were no openings for me to run for a position at the end of my term because they were all filled. The state treasurer was there, the governorship was filled. I'd have to wait two years for any of those. So, Elmo Smith told me, when he was governor I thought that I would be appointed, maybe, motor vehicle administrator because they set that up and took it away from the secretary of state six months before my term expired. And the previous Legislature enacted that law to make the motor vehicle administrator appointed by the governor but they left it go for another 18 months, I guess in deference to maybe a good job I was doing, I think.

So Elmo Smith, and some of the men in Portland, the automobile dealers and my friends there, they says, “Earl, you're going there's no question but you're going to be motor vehicle administrator.” Now, why they thought that — and that was in a meeting some kind of meeting we had there in the Multnomah Hotel that they come around, and I think it's during the campaign too, but I'm not so sure what Eisenhower wasn't there. But in any event, as time went on, Elmo Smith told me, in his office, he says, “Earl, I'm going to appoint you to that industrial accident commissioner.” And I said, “Well, that's fine. I'll accept that.” He said, “Well, do you want me to put it in writing?” I said, “Governor, no, I don't.” I said, “I don't want you to put that in writing. You've told me and I said I'll accept it if you appoint me.” And he said, “Well I'm going to appoint you.” He was defeated for governor by Bob Holmes, the Democrat, and he had every opportunity for the next few months to appoint me in that position because it was going to be vacated, and he didn't do it.

CH: Why?

NEWBRY: Now, what do you think about that?

CH: Why do you think he didn't do it?

NEWBRY: I don't know. I think he thought he would be elected. I thought he was disappointed in his defeat. Now, isn't that something? And the way it turned out, I thank God that he — I didn't get it because I was — and fact of the matter is, Lou [Eddie] Ahrens, who was one of the three members of the board, Lou was hopeful that I'd be there. He knew that I had that — Lou Ahrens knew that, he knew that I was supposed to be and I'd go over to his office and try to get myself familiar with what was required, and I had some knowledge of it anyway. Then, later on, a man was appointed from — a man elected — was appointed from Klamath Falls. I'll never know why Elmo Smith reneged on that.

CH: Why are you glad that it didn't turn out that way?

NEWBRY: Well, the way it was I'd been stuck there again, and that would be an appointive office and I thought at the time I'd like very much to have taken a part in that because I had a little responsibility in appointing one of the men on — Pearson and I, there was another thing. Pearson and I, we — the Democrat, stuck together on the board of control appointment for one of the commissioners. And that happened even before this occurred. And I know McKay didn't like that very well because a friend of his was on that commission and they needed a Democrat and I thought they should have and I went along with Pearson to appoint a man over on the coast, which I thought was a good man, and turned out to be a darn good man, but Doug McKay didn't like it very well because Pearson and I voted for this man to be on the commission. So, and I suppose if I'd have been really concerned about my own personal future, and all, I'd have probably have gone along with McKay on that and said, "Well, Pearson, I can't go along on it." I kind of wanted to see a change, myself, there.

This fellow, I think, that was there, and I can't think of his name it started with a "W" I didn't know him too well, but I think he and Doug were [became?] buddies in the service,

or something like that. And I thought it was time for a change and Pearson told me the reasons why he thought we ought to make a change and he recommended this man, and I can't think of his name right now, but he did a good job. So that was an incident that I did what I thought I wanted to do, but to go back to the original premise, I see it now I'm better off than I would have been stuck there for 'til another appointment came up, and all. And then my son had a chance to be a state senator, for God sakes, otherwise he wouldn't have — there was no way could he have left our business, you see. And he had a better career than I did, much better, in the Senate. He was there 14 years, and he was defeated for the Senate job right here in Ashland and that was a good thing for him, too, and the man that was — the Democrat that succeeded him, he changed his registration to Republican after his first session.

CH: Oh, is that right?

NEWBRY: And he's a Republican now. In fact, Lynn gave him a lot of support when he first started. He helped the fellow out.

CH: Going back to your years in the Legislature, how did you maintain your lines of communication with your constituency down here while you were up in the Legislature?

NEWBRY: Oh, I had no problem at all. If they wanted to talk to me, they'd come and talk to me. I mean, I think it's a different story than it was before.

CH: Did you have — were you connected with any newspapers that you could communicate your ideas to?

NEWBRY: Well, the only one was the *Mail Tribune*. I think they'd run a story once in a while and say, "How are things going, Earl?" and I'd tell them what I knew, and, now, also

George Green over here at the *Ashland Daily Tidings*, they'd run a story once in a while about what we was doing, but for me direct to make my own contacts, no, I didn't.

CH: Were there special projects in your district or special projects of constituents that you worked on in the Legislature?

NEWBRY: No, none that I know of, no.

CH: And...

NEWBRY: We had our state college going along, and fact of the matter is, we — I was very much interested in Southern Oregon College, with their progress, and I was there today, as I told you, in that library, and it's unbelievable how that thing has developed. I was instrumental in one, while I was in the Senate, to trying to make a change in our administration out there. In fact, I and Van Dyke met with — he was a state representative and I was a senator, and we met with the board and we told them that things ought to be changed in Ashland. We met in Portland. And that was a direct contact I had with local problems. And the change was made. And I was very unhappy in one way because I was personally friendly to the man that was president of the college, and to see him taken out by my action, my [inaudible] I'll say in this action with Van Dyke and others, when I was a state senator. But it was better for him as things went on because he improved himself financially after that was Walter Redford. He improved himself financially, and the college started progressing in the right direction. Walter was a great — he was a great teacher but he wasn't an administrator. I think that's the best way to put it.

And Stevenson was just the opposite. He was an extrovert and a go-getter and he did a wonderful job. Stevenson was appointed. I had quite a lot to do with that. State highways, I was always in contact with Baldock, state highway commissioner, and I used to discuss — I was maybe had a little influence in getting four lanes made from here to Central Point, and Baldock told me, he says, "Well, I know we need it and we're going to

get at it as quick as we can.” He says, “You know, we'll complete one of these projects and they're antiquated about the time we get them finished.” And since that time, you know how it's improved? Now we've got four lanes bypassing the other four lanes that was Highway 99. And how true that was. I worked very close with those highway people because I was interested in the highways throughout the state. And fact of the matter is, Bob Farrell wanted me to be state treasurer but he said, “By gosh, Earl, if you can't be that, I'm going to put you on the highway commission.” Of course, that was before this [terrible?] accident happened, and all that stuff.

CH: And did you ever get on to the highway commission?

NEWBRY: Oh, no. I was never a commissioner, no. Glenn Jackson, as you probably know, was one of the great commissioners, my gosh. In fact, we were talking about — Lynn and I were talking about him yesterday, about his activities. He became very, very wealthy in land, and he gave so much away. He gave the University of — Willamette University part of the golf course in Medford that the — Medford golf course.

CH: Did you know Glenn Jackson very well?

NEWBRY: I knew him quite well. In fact, I — well I knew him I knew him very well, and fact of the matter is, I contacted him when I was running for governor, trying to solicit his support and help. I was the one that said that I thought the government should build these dams. Well, I thought that the distribution of power should be by private enterprise. I was for building that Hells Canyon Dam. I was for that. And I know that I was kind of criticized in fact, that's one T.V. program I made, and I know the utilities weren't very happy, but, then, what I wanted to do, private enterprise, it's difficult to build a project like that, but I thought that the private enterprise should distribute the power, by gosh. That's what I thought, and that's what I said, and I think that's the way it should be. But and I was talking to Glenn about that. Glenn kind of half way agreed with me, too.

CH: Were there other water projects that you worked on?

NEWBRY: No, no, not — no. I did work on that. That as a governor, I'd have gave all the assistance I could. But when McKay was — while he was governor he was taking a trip over that Hells Canyon in a small plane, and I was down at a meeting at Seth [Earl] Latourette had for the justices and had me there. The governor was gone but he wanted to have a little get together. And George Tooze was there too, another justice, and they were two sitting there, and the other fellow was [George] Rossman and the other men, judges, there would be about four or five of the other supreme court judges there. And we were visiting and talking and he says, "Earl, do you know what would happen if that governor would go down in a plane over there, God forbid," he says, "that little devil, if he went down in a plane?" I said, "Lord forbid." He said, "Well, you'd be governor. You're next in line for governor."

There was no Senate, there was no president of the Senate. And Seth Latourette said, "By gosh, that's right, Earl, there's no question about it. You'd be governor if anything happens to McKay, by gosh, while he's still in office, until the first of the year." That was in late November. Well, the irony of the whole thing came out as I told you yesterday, I had to appear as a friend of the court, *amicus curiae*, a friend of the court, and be represented that I wouldn't make an issue out of this situation that I should be in the governor's spot, which I should have been. And that's what they told me. And both of them had they had to support me in my representation of *amicus curiae* to the court. We were — there was no unfriendship about it. I had two more years as secretary of state and I would be in Sampson's home on occasion, and Walter Tooze, but they knew that was right. Well, what else do you want to know?

CH: Well, were there any occasions where regional or national politics played in any of the issues that you were dealing within the state Legislature?

NEWBRY: I don't recall of anything.

CH: Or any way that it affected your district?

NEWBRY: I don't recall anything, Clark, that I can think of. There certainly were some things that came along that we had to go to the Congress about. I don't know what they were or individually seek help from our congressman, which was Stockman, Lowell Stockman. I was very friendly with Lowell. He was a congressman from eastern Oregon. A very good friend of mine. I stopped to see him on the plane in Medford when he was going through on one occasion, I know, and I forget what there was something I wanted to talk him about, and that while I was in office.

CH: Were there national politicians that — or regional politicians that came through when they were running in elections? You had mentioned Eisenhower at one point.

NEWBRY: Well, when Eisenhower was running for office, of course I was secretary of state and I rode with him from Portland to Eugene, and I was in his private car and he was asking me about the interests of that area, and all, which naturally I knew, so he could address the group for things of interest. So I had quite a visit with him. He and I alone were in his, I call it a stateroom on the train, whatever it was. But all the way from Portland up there he wanted to interview me and talk to me. We'd been on the platform together at a meeting there in Portland, and fact of the matter is, it was quite an interesting one. Eisenhower was there, and a good many other political figures, but I was up on the front stage with him, and someone, the mayor of Portland, and all. But that's a contact I had and I got off of the plane I got off of the train there at Eugene, of course, because it went on through Klamath Falls, and I think my wife picked me up at Eugene. I was living in Salem. So, that was quite an interesting thing. Eisenhower was a wonderful fellow. And I was interested to see what he said about this man that had just retired. That's one of two things that he was — he goofed on was the point that fellow had just retired.

CH: Justice Brennan?

NEWBRY: Yeah. He said that's a mistake he made.

CH: Did Eisenhower say that?

NEWBRY: Yeah, Eisenhower said that.

CH: Why did he feel that it was a mistake to appoint...

NEWBRY: I think he thought he was too much of a liberal, and he didn't realize that. He made that statement some time ago, while he was still alive. In fact, my son, we was visiting last night, and Lynn said, no, there was two things. That was that Eisenhower, oh. Two things was appointing Earl Warren Supreme Court justice, and pointing out those were the two things that, in Lynn's opinion made a mistake, and I kind of agree with him. And I got to know Warren well, I would say on a personal level because I called on him in his office and we had things in common and but I think Lynn was right. Warren was not the type of man that a lot of us thought he would be.

CH: He made some changes, then?

NEWBRY: Oh, yeah. Well...

CH: Well, what about your relationship with the news media here. You had mentioned that the Tribune and the Tidings and...

NEWBRY: Oh, gee, I — they were very friendly to me, more so than they were with my son when he was running.

CH: How was that?

NEWBRY: Well, I know there were not very many complementary things that Eric Allen wrote about my son, and I knew Eric when he was secretary to Governor Sprague, Eric Allen. But he was friendly enough to me, I think, while I was in office. Of course, I but Lynn, I know he didn't he wasn't very close to my son, I'll tell you that. The Ashland paper was always giving me support, and the Tribune, Herb Gray was the manager there. He was the what do I want to say he wasn't editor, but he was the financial guy and he got all the publicity, and that. Herb took care of all of my post my placards, and everything. Of course, Eric wasn't there then. He was up in Salem. And who was the head — he was a good friend of mine, too, by gosh, that run the paper.

CH: The *Mail Tribune*?

NEWBRY: Yes. He was a darn close friend of mine, and fact of the matter is, while I was in the Legislature, there, with Burt, he and Burt oh, I've forgotten his name. They were really staunch supporters of mine.

CH: Other people in the Medford area, I was wondering whether you might of worked with in the Republican party, or otherwise, with Otto Frohnmayer?

NEWBRY: Well, Otto, I knew him very well, Otto Frohnmayer. Of course Otto, he was a little younger than I am. I knew Otto very well. I know him well yet. I'm not too proud of his son, but I'll vote for him. Yeah, Otto Frohnmayer, and I'm trying to think of that oh, the head of — there was two men that were Mr. Republican down here, and they were very staunch friends of mine, by gosh, even before I became a politician. One was a big orchardist out here and the other one was Stump Smith, Stump Smith with the Tribune, there. And he was a sign of the — my very dear friend Ray Reeder down here at Oregon Fruit Company. Ray

was one of my staunch supporters, too. In fact, I had a lot of friends down here that — I don't know any of them that was against me, only Walter Looker. He tried to beat me.

CH: Well, as far as your staff went, the only people that you had on your staff was your wife, who was your secretary; is that right?

NEWBRY: I had no staff at all, for God sakes.

CH: Was that common for the rest of the representatives?

NEWBRY: Sure. The only one that had help would be the chairman of ways and means. He'd have help. But in that time, Clark, there just — every member, he had his own secretary.

CH: And was it usually his wife?

NEWBRY: No, a lot of them had hired secretaries. I'd say at least 50% of them. Now, McAllister and myself and, in fact, Gene Marsh, he was a lawyer, his wife, and she was capable. And, now, one that wasn't was Steelhammer. He never had his — he wasn't married. He had to have a secretary. Jim Jones, he had a that come from eastern Oregon, I think Jim — I don't think Jim had a wife, I think he had a secretary. I know that well, of course, Stadelman, he had a several of those fellows, particularly the lawyers...

CH: Were there any setbacks that you had in your career in the Legislature, any controversies or disappointments that you had to deal with?

NEWBRY: No, I don't think so. In fact, there wasn't anything. I was pretty happy with the way things turned out. I was always supportive of a sales tax, so I voted to refer that to the people, the first time in 1939, and that was voted down. The Legislature didn't go for it. It

wasn't referred in 1939. But I was on the bill to refer it. And, then, later on it was referred to the people and the people voted it down every time, I think, in the last three or four times.

CH: And what was your reason for supporting a sales tax?

NEWBRY: Well, I just thought it was a good place because or, measure a major source of taxation is property tax, excise income tax or excise corporate taxes. That's what makes the source of income, it is yet, for the state. And I thought that, by golly, if a guy supposing he wanted to wear a pair of overalls. That's all right. If you wanted to get a, at that time, a hundred-dollar suit, why, you can afford it, why not pay it. It was six percent on I think we was asking for four. And if you want to buy a Cadillac automobile, why, sure, but you can get by with a Ford or some smaller car. You're taxed according to your ability to earn, is what I think, and that's why a sales tax, I think, would of course, if you go to pot like I mean, if you get out of hand like California, by gosh, six percent sales tax the way things are now, and I buy down there. I don't but it's just collectible. I mean, it's immediate cash. You don't wait 'til you're — 'til the year is over before you start paying taxes. I mean, it's a steady flow of revenue, currency, that comes to the state.

I thought it was a good thing, and I still do. I think now, labor was very much opposed to it, organized labor, but I contend this, that a laboring man or a multimillionaire, whatever, they are going to be taxed according to their ability to spend, and I think that's fundamentally sound. We've got a hidden sales tax in Oregon. It's not hidden, either. We were the first state in the United States that put a sales tax on gasoline. We were the first at one cent a gallon. And that was a dedicated fund for highway purposes only. I think they've made a few inroads on that. I think the parks — well, I'm not sure, I can't state myself, but I believe that they that dedicated fund, they've kind of moved in on some of that. There was a classic example of that when they had this industrial accident commission group. The state took money from them that was dedicated, some 80 million dollars, for God sakes, to help out with their budget in the state. When I was in office we had no problems financially at all. I mean, we always had a balanced budget, and by law you're

supposed to. I mean, that's the demand of the state law. Local districts, you have a six percent limitation that you can go to increase your tax, and that still obtains, it's still a law. The United States government has a problem too.

CH: They sure do, don't they.

NEWBRY: When you talk about billions, they're about 385 billion no, trillion, and this new budget's going to be a 186 billion dollars, that they're talking about. The budget for 1991. Now, that money has to come from the people. There's no place else that money comes from, there's no well that you can pump it out of. It comes from the people. In fact, corporation taxes, that don't come from the corporation, that comes from the people who the corporation is serving. The guy that has dividends and stocks, they're going to be cut down. They're going to have to pay for that because if the corporation don't make money, they're going to go broke. They've got to show a profit.

CH: So they just pass it on?

NEWBRY: So when they increase that, what do they do? They've got to pass it on to the consumer. My son's got a great theory on that. He's probably one of the smartest men in the state on that. In fact, I think he is the smartest on economics in the state of Oregon.

CH: What is his theory?

NEWBRY: He's a smart man. You haven't met him, have you?

CH: No, I haven't. I've talked with him on the telephone.

NEWBRY: Well, I'll tell you, he's got a theory on government that's — he ought to be a United States senator. He ought to have been of course, he's 67 years old now.

CH: Speaking of your son, did he maintain your business while you were in Salem then?

NEWBRY: Yes. He took care of that, and then I sold out my interest to him in 1968, and then he had it on his own to run it, yeah.

CH: And do you feel that your — the time that you spent in the Legislature or the time that you spent in public office affected your business at all?

NEWBRY: No.

CH: It didn't.

NEWBRY: I don't think it affected it one way or the other. It certainly didn't hurt it. I don't think it hurt it while I was in office on a permanent level. I didn't get down here only once in a blue moon. Like John Hall said, he said, "Well, you can come down once in a while," and he said, "Your son can run your business." Well, my son did run our business and did a good job of it. So it didn't affect my business. I might have been a little more helpful to him. In fact, I thought for a while I'd get a manifest of each carload of fruit that was sold and I had a file my secretary there, I said, "Well, I want you to put these in the file." And he'd the secretary down here would mail it on each carload of fruit, why, we would make a manifest on it and show what they was, size, and all that, and I did, I thought, well, Earl, you'd better forget that, because — I happened to be back in Chicago, or maybe New York. If I was back there for some purpose, why, I'd always call on my broker. In fact, while I was national president of the AMBA, why, I had to make four regions throughout the United States, and I did and if I was in Chicago, in that area, or going through there, I stopped and talked to my broker. One time I — no, I didn't. I'll have to retract that. I was in the state...

[End of Tape 4, Side 2]

Tape 5, Side 1

1990 July 24

CH: This is an interview with Earl T. Newbry in his home in Ashland, Oregon. The date is July 24, 1990. The interviewer is Clark Hansen for the Oregon Historical Society. This is Tape 5, Side A.

You were remembering something from long ago on your childhood?

NEWBRY: Well, when we were visiting about my education, and all, I just recalled that for some reason or other they had the eighth-grade graduation at a smaller town than Kimberly, which was east of us, and, by golly, I rode my bicycle up there. That's about three miles from home, but I rode my bicycle up to get my diploma. And why they had it in that small town, I don't know. Of course, when I graduated from high school, it was up in Chewelah, Washington, and I was the main speaker of that class, and I'd only been there a half a year, and I don't know why they selected me, but I had to — they wanted me to make a speech. I wasn't the valedictorian, but I was the important guy next to that. So that was kind of interesting.

CH: Did you enjoy your studies in school?

NEWBRY: Oh, yes, I did, and I don't know why I ever graduated because I passed my examinations but I didn't study much. I was a poor studier.

CH: Well, the last tape we were talking some about your traveling around the United States as the president of the association for fruit growers; is that right?

NEWBRY: A.M.V.A., American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators.

CH: Oh, for the motor vehicle administrators.

NEWBRY: That was in 1950, and I guess I told you that we had a reception for the people in the way back in the Northeast, and a Standard Oil plane brought these people all down there and I was at the airport in Portland visiting — there was a receiving line for them, and one of the Standard Oil boys was there, Bobby Burns, and another friend of mine that was with the Standard Oil, because they were the host group for that group in the North, and they had this plane come down, and they said, “Well, Earl, you can use that plane any time you want to.” Well, I was too busy at that convention to think about a plane, but I did get one day off and we flew up to Corvallis, and I took the governor and myself, and we had quite a crew on that plane. It was an advertising plane that they traveled all over the world. I think it was a not a six but a four, DC4, and it was a commercial plane and they had exhibits inside the plane, and they had comfortable seats, though, but I took the governor and we went to Corvallis, Oregon, at the state college for some reason, and that's the only trip I got. Then he took some of the people out over the ocean, so it was very nice that they would be there. And it was a compliment to me, too. So...

CH: When you were working in the Legislature, do you recall what your salary was? I remember you had mentioned...

NEWBRY: Oh, that's a good point.

CH: At one point it was \$200.

NEWBRY: Yeah, that's a good point. The constitution provided that legislators would be paid \$200.

CH: For what period of time?

NEWBRY: For two years.

CH: For two years.

NEWBRY: For two years. And then you was allowed, at that time, I think, seven cents a mile to and from, once, from the state capital. Then a little later on it was raised to 400 [dollars], and that's the most I ever got, was four hundred. Now it runs into the thousands, and I don't know how much, but other provisions they have, and assistants, which I think is totally out of line and completely unnecessary. But that's the way it was. And we had men that was there to represent the people. They were not there to make a — now they go to make their living, that's what they do, most of them. I think today most of them are there, and that's their job. There's a few of them, of course, that are gainfully employed and in their own business or occupation, but by and large I think the Congress of the United States is the same.

For example, Hatfield went there with nothing, he's a millionaire now, as I understand it. At least he was listed once as a millionaire some time ago. And I know that Packwood, I knew him, and his father was a very good friend of mine, he used to provide a synopsis of the bills that were going to be presented the next day, and he would lay it on our desk, his father did. His name was Fred Packwood, and this was young Packwood's father. Well, I knew him I knew his father, but I didn't know him until he came down to solicit help from my son to become elected to the United States Senate, and I happened to be in our office when he came down, he and his wife, and I thought, my gosh, I guess the guy would be all right. He was young then, of course, and kind of rusty looking for a lawyer, I thought. He looked more like a hayseed. No kidding. [Both laugh]

But there he is, he's a — it's amazing what they can do when they get in office, the speeches they make, and all. He made a comment to my son that I don't think that I'll relate, but he sent out a lot of letters, not a few but a lot of them, soliciting support. It cost considerable out of his own pocket, but it turned out to be in the seven figures, the returns, for God sakes. Can you imagine that? Well, anyway, that's one of the things. So, I say, when I was in the Legislature and all of the people with me, we were there because we were elected to represent our district and do a job for the state of Oregon to enact our laws and

repeal what wasn't necessary and set up a budget to operate the state, but we were there for that purpose, not to and we didn't get didn't have expense money, actually. We didn't have any expense, but that's all.

CH: What about your secretaries?

NEWBRY: Our secretaries were paid. They got more than we did. I think at that time they paid, I think, five dollars a day, is what they got. All the secretaries, I think they earned five dollars a day, which helped me out, like McAllister said, and also Gene Marsh. They said, "Well, gosh, Earl, we're both lawyers and we couldn't be here. We're giving our time anyway." So, and they were both capable gals to work. Bill McAllister's wife one time got stuck in the elevator there at the state Senate. It was while she was — that's just coincidentally, but she was hung up and that's the new building, too, of course. Something went wrong. She was there for about an hour, I think. Well, those are some experiences. Well, now, where are we?

CH: Well, what about the major events that happened during the time and how they affected you and your district in the state? We'd talked about the Depression and some of the New Deal programs of FDR. Of course, you were in the Legislature during World War II...

NEWBRY: Yes, but I wasn't there during that Depression, of course.

CH: No, but at the end of the Depression. You came in in 1939; is that right?

NEWBRY: Yeah. Things were getting a little better in 1939 for our industry down here. We started being in the black a little bit instead of in the red. And many of us there were some of them didn't survive, either, during that, some of the businesses were completely washed out. I can think of a few. [Skrogland?], they was one, they were pretty big operators

here, they had to close up. They were shippers for different growers. American Fruit Growers, they went by the board too, and they were a pretty big operator.

CH: And how did you manage to keep your business afloat?

NEWBRY: Well, how we managed, we had a lot of our own fruit and we was packing it, I did my own packing, and then eventually had my own cold storage plant, which made quite a lot of difference. And I had enough fruit almost enough fruit of my own to keep that small plant going. About a hundred carloads a year is what we did.

CH: What about World War II? How did that affect you and your district and the state as you were a legislator at that time?

NEWBRY: Well, I can't comment too much on that. I know that some of our boys were taken into the service. In fact, some of my very dear friends my next-door neighbor right here, he was a doctor and he, too, with — and they were very close friends of the doctor I sold to, Dr. well, Dr. Woods, he was injured over there. In fact he had a bad going out of a foxhole, I think, and he had a hernia develop on him, and he went up that what is it, the Monty — the Monroe landing — not Monroe. What was that landing, our first landing on the beach landing? Omaha landing.

CH: Omaha Beach?

NEWBRY: Omaha Beach. He was in that group, for God sakes. And he was out in the front, of course he was the doctor, an MD, he was a major at that time, but by gosh, he was in maneuvers, and all that, active duty over there on the front line, and they got him back to England some way or other, and he was there, hospitalized, for quite a lot. To tell the truth about it, I don't know whether this is of interest. It is to me because you asked about what I did. I know that, from knowing him as I did, and now knowing Irma, his widow, as I

do, why, he — that had a lot to do with his passing when he did because he had urinal problems and that was all caused from the type of the surgery he had, they gave a spinal, which was kind of new and not too good, and that, so I know that did that to Marcus, my friend. And you say how it affected them, well, this doctor over here had three sons that were in the service and that was the second world war. One of them is a doctor, and MD, another was a dentist. He was in the service. He's retired from here. His father was a dentist for many years here. And little Billy, the young one, he was an engineer, graduate from Oregon State engineering school, he wrote a book, for God sakes, on he was with Northrup, and I think he's retired from that now, but...

CH: From Northrup?

NEWBRY: Northrup, yeah. And he lives down there in California yet, now, and I know he's retired. I saw him just at his mother's memorial. His mother passed away. But that little Bill his father, I mean, now, he being an MD, and all, he couldn't understand this boy, I read part of the book and I didn't know what it meant, but that's how he got into this electronics, and all that kind of business. So that was three children went into the service, in fact they were educated by GI privileges, which is a great thing, but they became very successful. Joe was an outstanding doctor, Joe Burdick in Ontario, Oregon, and he worked for the state for a while in the psychiatry department because now he got that because he wanted to be a qualified psychiatrist. They didn't have one over there at Ontario, which I think is quite noteworthy and of interest, and he is still in Ontario. He lost his wife about a year ago. Joe, no, that was not Joe, but that was yeah, that was Joe.

CH: Was there any Legislation that you passed that whose intention was...

NEWBRY: That had a direct effect on my district, and all?

CH: On your district or...

NEWBRY: Well, I can't say that there was. I know that George Roberts was one of the lawyers that I tried to think of this morning. He was one of the outstanding lawyers here in Medford. He was up there in 1937, the same year I was there. He was representing some interests down here, and we both collaborated. I forget what it was, but it had something to do with — I think it had something to do with our forestry setup, because George was representing that interest here in our district, and I was interested too because we had charts and maps and showing these legislators what we thought ought to be done, and I can't recall exactly what it was. I think maybe it had to do with power, irrigation, and all that, because we had a group of power lakes that were developed for the purpose of irrigation, and also for supplementary power. And they still operate, of course. And I think that that was something in 1937 that we were talking about, but I'm not sure. Well, anyway, George Roberts was there, and I happened to be in on the committee meeting [Inaudible] before this committee. That was my first experience, as I told you, to have anything to do with the Legislature per se. Later on, of course, I had a committee meeting, and things like that, but I had an indoctrination, which was helpful.

CH: Were there other constituents that you were able to help with problems during your tenure?

NEWBRY: Oh, I don't know anything now that's really noteworthy. Actually, I don't think I had any problems.

CH: You're lucky. [Laughs]

NEWBRY: Oh, I don't think I did. I was trying to recall, after we visited this morning, about some of the little incidents that happened, but there was little — all kinds of fiascos on the floor, arguments back and forth. I was quite a good listener. Sometimes I'd make a comment or remark and it always kind of stood for something because I didn't talk long. I

made my speeches rather short and right to the point, and everybody knew that. So, in looking back, it was to me it was of great interest, and I think I represented my district as well as it could be represented. The college, I was interested in that, of course, Shakespeare was just about get to going, not quite, but it's quite an institution now, as you probably know.

CH: [Yes].

NEWBRY: That's one of the fine things in Ashland. This fellow [Bullmer?], I lived when I was building this house I lived in the [Alycia?] Hotel for about six months and he would come up there, in fact, he was living there and he would come up and have certain little exercises, among a group of his people that were entertainers, at this hotel before this ever started. And I recall we'd go down occasionally into the banquet room where they had this, and that's when that first started. He was a very, very interesting man, a man that deserved a lot of respect, which he had in this area.

CH: Well, maybe you could describe for me how it was you became appointed secretary of state, that whole process.

NEWBRY: All right, how I got appointed to that. Well, that's a good thing. I mentioned before that I was down having a little visit with my friends, about four of them, down at Dr. Woods' home, which is about three blocks from here, and my daughter called up down there and said, "Daddy, the governor wants to talk to you, Governor Hall." I said, "The governor?" She said, "Yes, he wants — he'd like to have you call him back right away if you can." And I said well, I told the people, I said — Irma and Marcus and two other friends of mine there, I said, "By gosh, the governor wants to talk to me. I'm going up there tomorrow," I said, "because I can't imagine, I just — I don't know what he wants to talk about, but I'm going to call him." So I called him from down there at her home, at the doctor's home, and he said, "Well, Earl, I'd like to have you come to Portland." I said, "Well " I said, "Well, gee,

I'm going to be in Salem for Monday, I'll be there tomorrow and I'll be for the funeral on Sunday " they had a state funeral for all three of these men...

CH: Maybe you could explain what happened, how that accident happened.

NEWBRY: Well, how the accident happened, the governor, Governor Snell and Marshall Cornet and Bob Farrell were on a hunting trip over at eastern Oregon at my friend Oscar [Ketrige's?] place. Oscar was a very close friend of mine too, and — but those three men wanted to get over there, and the background was they wanted to go hunting. [Ketrige?] was waiting for them to land the plane on a strip that they could land out there on his cattle ranch back near Adel, and I got a call from one of my friends here in town, and I was down at my little office it was a cold morning in October, and this fellow said, "Earl," he said, "have watched the news?" And I said, "No, I'm down here doing a little work." It was on a Saturday, I think. So "Well," he said, "they say the governor may be lost, and the plane that he was in last night, they think it's lost."

And I said, "Oh, my God." And so I said, "Well, I know what I'll do." I said, "I've been over to Klamath Falls, I know the secretary of the Elks Lodge over there." I knew him very well, and at that time I was district deputy of the Elks, and Bob Farrell got me appointed to that, too. So I called him up and he said, "Yes, Earl," he said, "the governor is lost," and he says, "Bob Farrell and Marshall Cornet," of course, Marshall, that was his home town, and they had a man by the name of [Hogue?], I think, that was an excellent pilot. But they had this four-place plane, it was loaded with guns and heavy equipment, and they thought that was the thing that was to a large degree caused their accident because they landed in some of the higher elevations over there on their way to Lakeview. And it said where they were going.

Now, that's what happened, and outside of that, nobody knows for sure. It wasn't a malfunction of the plane at all, it was just an elevation and I think it was kind of an overcast — it wasn't too good a time to be going. And that's about all anybody knows about it. But there they were, those the three top officials of the state of Oregon were taken out just

like that. Well, then the governor, who was the Speaker of the House, was John Hall, and he was of course actually became governor immediately. And that's when he called me. He had to have a man for secretary of state, and that was his major responsibility. So he called me, and when I went to Portland he wife Alice met me at the door, my wife and I went there, and I'd never been in his home before, but it was up on about Tenth Street, out toward the stadium out there, the Multnomah Stadium, and I went and she Alice said, "Oh, Earl, I'm so glad you could come. John wants to see you and he's in the kitchen. A lot of your friends are out here, Gene Marsh, and several, they're out here, but John wants you to come right in. He wants to talk to you."

I said, "Well, all right, Alice." And so my wife went in with Alice and another woman, they visited because we were pretty close friends socially that way, even while we was in the Legislature together, which we were, before I was in the Senate at this time. In any event, John said, "Well, Earl, I've got an important appointment to make." "Yeah," I said, "I know you have, governor." He said, "Well, I'll tell you, Earl, I've been thinking this over and," he says, "I want you to be my appointee." "Oh," I said, "my gosh, Governor, I don't know how I can do that." "Well," he says, "yes, you can." He said, "You can get home once in a while and," he said, "your son, he can I know him. He can take over your work." Well, he knew who my son was because my son was just out of the service not too long before that.

But in any event, he said, "You can do it." And I said, "Well, Governor-" [John Hall said] "Well, do you want to talk it over with Ruth?" I said, "No, I don't have to talk it over with her. If I say I'll accept the appointment, it would be great with her." And, of course, that's the way it was, it was that way. And he told me, he says, "Earl, one reason why I had you in mind was Bob Farrell was talking to me not too long ago, and he said, 'John, how well do you know Earl Newbry?'" and John said, "Well, I know him, I've served with him in the House, I know him. We're not close, or anything like that." "Well," he said, "I wish you'd go down and see him in southern Oregon and talk him into running for state treasurer." He said, "I kind of like-" what did he say? He said, "I'd kind of like to have him I'm going to be governor, I think. I'm going to run for governor, I think I'll be there after Snell," and he says, "I think I'll be governor and I'd like to have him on the board of control with me." I thought

that was quite a compliment. I think John did too. And he said, "That's one of the reasons I thought, by gosh, if Bob Farrell would like to have you, I'd like to have you as secretary of state." And I said, "Well, John, with that, there's no question."

CH: Do you know if he was considering anyone else?

NEWBRY: No, I don't think so. And I think I'm the only guy he considered.

CH: And were there any other factors that might have entered into his mind in his consideration of you?

NEWBRY: Well, I don't know, I don't know. He'd watched my voting record throughout the years, he'd watched that because he served with me all the time I was in the House. At this time I was in the Senate. He knew that I was vying for the presidency of the Senate, he knew that, along with Marshall Cornet. And, of course, Marshall was taken out in this plane accident. He knew that, he knew that I was a candidate to be president of the Senate, he knew that. So it was quite an interesting story, and that's it. So...

CH: That must have been a big impact on a lot of people in state government at that time because you know how things work in a certain order, and if you just take out so many...

NEWBRY: Right.

CH: People, and then you'd talked about this other plane crash — this other accident that happened...

NEWBRY: Yes.

CH: And then Governor Patterson died in office and...

NEWBRY: That's right after, yeah.

CH: It must have for people whose careers spanned a number of years in the Legislature, in state government, it must have really impacted their lives when all of these people were gone.

NEWBRY: It had an impact, I think, on the state, as far as that's concerned, because here was men that knew what they were doing, they were outstanding men. Earl Snell would have been a United States senator, there's no question about that because when he finished that term, which was in his second term, he was going to run for the United States Senate. That's when Bob was going to run for governor, which was just six months hence. So and those people taken out, and then when my friend here was killed in that plane accident with two others, Johnson, I think, from the coast and one from Eugene, and they were outstanding legislators, too. [Heine?] Fluhrer was going to take my place. So it had quite an impact on the state but, of course, like everything else, the government goes on and it's here forever. But...

CH: Who were the senators at the time? Wayne Morse was a — had just been elected, hadn't he?

NEWBRY: Yeah, Wayne Morse was a United States senator and the other senator was oh, gosh, I know him so well. He was from...

CH: Guy Cordon?

NEWBRY: Guy Cordon, Guy, yeah, and Wayne Morse.

CH: Was one of them planning to retire or was it possible for him — Governor Snell, for him who would he have run against?

NEWBRY: Oh, he'd have probably run against Morse and he'd have won, too.

CH: Is that right?

NEWBRY: Oh, yeah. He was a very popular man. He'd have won against Morse, and that's who he was going to run against. Guy Cordon was a good man. He came from the Roseburg area, I think. We had another good man from Roseburg who was a very good friend of mine and I stayed at his called on him in Washington when I was back there on my own interests. I had to go back to Washington to get a permit to get enough steel to build this building in 1943. I went back East, and that's particularly — I went by train, my wife and my daughter, and, my gosh, we spent three well, we spent three days in Los Angeles.

My son was in the service down there and we watched him graduate from the engineering course he had at El Monte, and I think that was the name of the town and so we were on our way east, stopped in — I stopped in New Orleans for a few days, and I had a friend there, a next-door neighbor, a rancher, who became quite outstanding in the fruit business here, but he was a captain in the army reserves and they were there before going across. I visited with them at New Orleans and had a very interesting time with him because we went around some of those places up and down the streets and saw what they were doing there in that New Orleans area where there was all kinds of people, more particularly French.

So that was a good time, but on my way in Washington I had to spend some time there to get a permit to buy enough steel, to get the steel reinforcing for what little concrete I poured, which it's a good sized building, but I had to do that and I was successful in getting that because they needed storage space, and fact of the matter is, after I built that, the government put in a whole storage full of eggs, for God sakes, at my off season during the

summer, and they had to be taken out in the fall for my harvest, and that was quite an experience because here we had that place loaded with crates of eggs, army inspectors came down from Camp White, which was a big camp here, as you know, at that time, and they'd come out and check those about every other day and they'd break eggs and see how they was getting along.

Of course, that was a new storage. It was clean. A perfect place for that. Thank God I only did it one year, and that's all I had to, but that was a touch and go deal. And they got the eggs out in time for my first — and fact of the matter is, they were there before I had any fruit in it. That's how early that came in the fall of 1944. So that's why I went back to New York, well, I was on my way to New York then. We came across from there on the rails from Canada, I went to Toronto for a couple of days and we crossed there and crossed through Vancouver, and my son and daughter came up drove up to Vancouver, B.C., and picked us up and brought us home. It was quite a trip. But that's why and — I'm not so sure I contacted my senator or not. I don't believe I did.

I had a man that I had met down here in the fruit business, one of the packing house — in fact, he was with Guy Connor, who was a receiver and a shipper here, and this fellow worked for him, and I can't think of his name now, but I knew him and I got — and he had something to do with the allocation of materials for different things, so that was quite a boost for me. And he says, “Well, Earl,” I think he called my Mr. Newbry. I was a state senator at that time. But then he said, “Well, I think we can take care of that.” And I got the permit. So when I got home we started building it, and that was in the spring, and then I had to get it built ready for that fall, and that's the time the government put this bunch of eggs in there. I didn't solicit it, they just come down and almost commandeered it.

CH: Is that right?

NEWBRY: Yeah.

CH: You didn't have any choice?

NEWBRY: Which was about right. Well, I had the building, nothing in it, they needed that space, there was a war on, so we did it. Another little thought I had in mind, I — it was through that connection, I think, without going to Guy Cordon or Wayne Morse, and I got to know Wayne Morse I thought Wayne was a pretty darned good man, and Guy Cordon, of course, was. Another little incident that I'll tell you about that I happened to be in 1965, and this is quite interesting, I think, and will be to you, probably. I was there when I was — I happened to be elected, or I happened to be the grand master of Masons of Oregon, and we always meet once a year in Washington, D.C., and I was in 1964, 1965, so I was there in February in 1965 and I — Wayne Morse was going to be my guest at a dinner that we put on for people that are ex-Masons, and he was a Mason, and other dignitaries. And Harry Byrd was there, and I was visiting with Harry Byrd, who I'd met before, the senator from where was he from?

CH: Virginia?

NEWBRY: Yeah, Virginia, Harry Byrd. And I had met him before, and I don't know how, but I had met him, and he was very close to my friend here, Raymond Reeder, who was a shipper here and a very close friend of mine, but in any event, I was visiting with Harry and I said, "Well, Wayne Morse is supposed to be my guest." And he said, "Well, I don't know, I haven't seen him." And then we visited awhile, and it was at the Shoreham Hotel. And Harry said, "Well, here comes Wayne now." And I saw here he was coming. And he said, "Well, Harry, how are you?" And he shook hands with me and he said, "Gosh, Earl, I'm sorry I couldn't be with you last night." He couldn't make a dinner we had... [Tape cuts out]

[End of Tape 5, Side 1]

Tape 5, Side 2
1990 July 24

CH: This is Tape 5, Side B.

So the — when you met — when you finally saw Harry Byrd...

NEWBRY: Well, after Harry and I got through, here comes Wayne Morse, and of course we were waiting to go in and have breakfast. We chatted awhile and then, I told you, he said, "Well, Harry, our country's going into war." And, oh, Harry said, "My God, no." And Wayne says, "I'll tell you, I can't " he says, "it's the worst thing that will ever happen to us." And there were two Democrats very much opposed to what was happening...

CH: This was in Vietnam?

NEWBRY: This was when the Vietnam War came on, in 1965. And this was February the 22, I think, Washington's birthday, isn't it?

CH: [Yes].

NEWBRY: Well, all right, that's the way we always meet. And the next day, for God sakes, it come out in the press that we our ship was fired on over there and the president has called out our troops, we're going to war. And both the Democrats lamented the fact that our country was getting into it, and many others. And I think the Congress of the United States, of course, the — I don't know how there's any you can override a president's action, but the net result was we lost the war, we lost 50 thousand men, and here was two Democrats, I was telling you, were very much opposed to it, and the Democratic president, for God sakes, got us into it. Nobody will ever know about that. And here the first war we ever lost, McNamara, of course, he was — my son said he was a cull, he was in charge of that stuff over there, and he was a cull. He was Ford, he was with Ford and flunked the course there, and here the president puts him in charge of that our forces over there, and,

you know, every once in a while you don't know, but he would say, "Well, the war's going to be over just around the corner." And McNamara was talking about that all the time. The war wasn't even hardly started when he said it was about over. Well, anyway, that's my experience in Washington.

CH: What was your response when they when these two senators were lamenting the war?

NEWBRY: I said, "Well, for gosh sakes, Senators," I said, "this should never have happened, it should never happen." And they said, "By God, Earl, we know it shouldn't but, by gosh," he says, "that's the way it is, that's the way it's going to be." Well, it kind of blighted my feeling on the whole deal. Then I was on my way to New York, and all around, and sure enough, we were in war.

CH: And that was in February...

NEWBRY: February 22, 1965. And the war started right then. We started shipping troops over there, by gosh, and well, now we get back to where we were talking about this...

CH: Going back to this period, this transition into secretary of state, how did that go for you? Was it a smooth transition?

NEWBRY: Oh, yes.

CH: Into secretary of state?

NEWBRY: Oh, very smooth. And fact of the matter is, after the funeral there in the state capitol, nobody knew who was going to be nobody knew who was going to be secretary

of state but me, and I had a friend from Eugene, Paul Green, and Paul, he was — I was very active in the Shrine [Shriners International]. In fact, I was going to be elected potentate that year, in 1948. And I said, “Paul “ this was in November, and in fact it was about the fourth no, it was about yeah, about the third of November, but in any event, I said, “Paul, I know who's going to be secretary of state.” He said, “You do?” I said, “Yes.” I said, “You're looking at him.” “Are you kidding?” I said, “No, by gosh, Paul, I'm not kidding. Will that have any effect on me being potentate of my shrine? I'd sure hate to miss that.” He said, “They'll be proud of you.” That's what Paul Green said, and he was the potentate at that time, and we worked together throughout the years.

So that was — and then when I was up there and after the funeral, why, the governor says, “Well, I want to tell you people-” Let's see, how did he put it? He said, “I am appointing Earl Newbry secretary of state.” Nobody had a dream, Paul Green knew it, but nobody else in that room. And I think they were all aghast and surprised because there was legislators there and there was prominent people there, like Gene Marsh was there and Bill McAllister and Frank Van Dyke and the other representative from here, and they were all they just were absolutely they were just completely surprised, as I was, in fact. I was surprised and very grateful. So the transition, as you said, was perfect. I had to appoint a new assistant and I made a pretty good choice, a man that worked pretty close to me. The fellow that was ahead of me I thought maybe that worked for Bob, I had thought, even while I was in office, that I might have tried to keep him on, but there was reasons the governor says, “Earl, you may have to change your assistant.” And when he told me that, why, I made up my mind maybe I'll have to.

So I had a man from Ashland that was a pretty good publicity man and he was very active in the chamber of commerce here, and was rather close to the newspapers, and all, and he was a pretty good appointee. So he moved to Salem and he was my assistant. I had to can him, finally, about a year before I went up no, six months before I went out of office, because he wrote a letter to the governor, Paul Patterson, he wrote a letter to the governor telling him what Earl was trying to do, and he thought it was the wrong thing for me to do because I was contacting computer people about probably putting that into effect

in our motor vehicle division. You see, the secretary of state at that time, and still is, the state auditor, he's in charge of the election division, he is the motor vehicle administrator, he's on the land board, the banking board, the forestry board, now, that forestry board has a complete new building now.

Our forestry board was in the state capitol and our — and here the help, because they're outside of the fieldmen that work, in that office, which was adequate at that time, and there's where we had a safe, a very burglar-proof safe where we kept the documents for pertaining to the state capitol, and particularly the land board documents, which were very valuable. Well, here's an incident that occurred, and, of course, Early Newbry being in charge some way or other that safe got locked so we couldn't get in it. It was locked inadvertently and there's no way you can get into that safe. So what did we do? We had to get the some people with jackhammers and blow torches and go through that about I think it was a 20 inch wall of concrete reinforced with steel throughout, and I watched that operation, making a hole big enough for a man to get inside to open up the gate.

CH: Oh, gee.

NEWBRY: Yeah. And, of course, the secretary of state was responsible, by gosh, for the actions there, and for the grounds, as I've told you before. So that was kind of an interesting thing, and our clerk of the land board, and I'm trying to think of his name, but he was aghast that, oh, that happened and don't know how it happened. But, by golly, it was a lock that you couldn't there's no way you could impregnate it. So that was a little incident. And I don't know what got us on that track oh, you asked about the transition. Well, I had a very fine group of people working. I made a few changes, as time went on, in key positions. In fact, I employed one of my pals from high school days at Washington State College, and he was available and good in insurance, and all, and I put him in charge of this financial responsibility office. I put him in charge of that, and the man that was there, I put him in another position that he was doing a better job than he did before in that.

In fact, Bob Farrell, my predecessor, didn't believe in the financial responsibility law in its application to our situation, and he wasn't very — as I understand it, Bob wasn't very exacting about what should be done, but this fellow let files build up, which I thought was wrong, well I got McCoy, who had been in Spokane, and he was in college, or graduate of college, and was my high school classmate. That's incidental, but he got a hold of that and straightened it out and that made it — and the man then that was in there, he was a retired army officer, a good man. I put him in charge of another division in the motor vehicle department, and he did a good job there, better than he was down below. And I had another fellow by the name of Ellis that drug his feet a lot around there, and I kind of put him in charge of [Inaudible], so I was very happy and pleased, and I lost Carl [Gabelson?].

Now, that was a name I was trying to think of the last two or three days. But Carl was the head of the motor vehicle division, which that was an important division, very important. And Carl passed away immediately, I mean accidentally. He had a — I'll retract that. It was an immediate situation involving, not cancer, but probably heart. He was an ex-service man with fairly good rank, but a wonderful administrator of motor vehicles. Well, the man I put in his place was Bob [Guile?], who I knew from Roseburg, and Bob was an Oregon State grad and had been working in insurance, and different things, and I thought Bob would be a good man, and he was. So I appointed him instead of bringing anybody up. I didn't see anybody in line that I thought could take that responsibility because there were so many employees there, probably 200 employees in that department, and, of course, all of our registration cards were going out by hand, typed out, and all, manually operated.

And one thing we did I'm talking about, now, the accomplishments of secretary of state, motor vehicle administrator we were getting those things out as soon as five days. You'd apply and we'd get them in five days. I waited six weeks, here, for a new car I got just a year ago. And I can understand that because this computerized situation, I think, slows things up to a large degree. But we were operating that manually, and, I'm telling you, we had efficiency because whenever you'd get an application in and get it out, say a driver's license, or certificate of title, or chauffeur's license, when you get them out that short,

you're doing good. And so, going back to the transition, the election division, I knew the man ahead of that and he was tops. Secretary of state, of course, is a major election division officer and you sign all the governor's employments, and all that, they have to be signed by the secretary of state. All the bonds of the state servicemen, the retired servicemen, we have a fund in Oregon, the...

CH: For veterans?

NEWBRY: The veterans. They have a — still do, but at that time they issued state bonds. Well, for a while I the secretary of state, and the governor, and the state treasurer, all three of us, had to sign those, and they was bonds like that, and I know I'd be at night sometimes in my office signing those. Finally, the governor and myself authorized the state treasurer to do that on his own, and he'd go back to New York and sign those when it was issued in New York, or wherever it was. So that was a responsibility that first we had to approve, and we that's the way we did it. Let's see, that was McKay and I, I think, and Pearson.

CH: Were there other responsibilities as secretary of state that you can recall?

NEWBRY: Well, of course, the auditor, your state auditor, you had a deputy on that, a fellow by the name of Rex [Starr?] now I thought of his name right now he was a good man. Our state audits. And then he passed away and I had to appoint another fellow that was just equally as good, in the audit division. And if they — if there was anything that was of material value or needed some responsible looking at, why, they'd always come to me and say, "Well, here's what's doing." I know the university had a problem over there and they come and talked to me about that. I mean, they'd clear everything through the secretary of state. I guess, boy, they still do. But I had very competent people. This [Starr?] was a terrific fellow. I mean and they were accountants, CPAs, of course. To qualify to do that you had to know what you were doing, and we had some good ones. I lost one man by

virtue of him being such a darn good auditor that he got a job with a company that paid him much more. And I can't think the name was Martin, I believe. So...

CH: But that was under your department, it wasn't under treasury?

NEWBRY: No, that's under the secretary of state's office, yeah, the state auditor. Still is. That's one of the major things. See, I was secretary of state they took the motor vehicles away from the secretary of state, they lost about, oh, half of their employees. There was over — at one time in forestry, and all that, I had over 8,680 employees, which in our state. That was the driver examiners and then these and this field office, that's another thing that I started in Oregon. I told you something about that. That's when they told me that Newbry violates the law, and I had that national conference in Portland and here I was, by gosh, I was the host of all these people from the United States and Canada and Mexico, and Newbry violates the law, big headlines in the *Journal*.

But anyway, that was all about those field offices. And I had started putting in those offices throughout the state in the major interests. I had them in, well, in Salem, where we had the office right in Salem. But I had at Bend, at La Grande, at Pendleton, at Medford, not Ashland but Medford, and on the coast at Independence and Tillamook, at that time. I can name the ones we put in — and Bend. And my that was a big assist to the people because they could go right there, they could register their car, application for registration, application of their plates right there. And another thing I did, or was responsible for, was cycle billing on registration of motor vehicles. We split it out throughout the year so that they'd come due periodically, every month a certain group.

That was a little problem to make that transition. People had to work pretty hard because some of them would buy a license maybe for a short time and then some would buy it for maybe 18 months so we could get on that cycle system. Well, the reason I thought about that was because I knew the cycle billing was being done by some of the major corporations. Here I was a farmer, but I knew that. And I thought, well, the state can do that. And I was one of the first states to do it. In fact, Minnesota and Missouri, they beat me

a little bit on permanent license plates that's another thing we put on, is permanent license plates, and that started under my administration. But I think who beat me to it was Minnesota and Missouri, and I was with a McDougal up in Washington and he said, "My God, Earl, if I could ever get going in my state what you're doing down there, I'd feel like my life's work was done." That's what he told me. And they're still registering cars, I think, through the county agents, through the counties. Well, we never did that in Oregon, and it's kind of a mixed-up deal, but they still do it there. But that's what McDougal said, "By God, Earl."

And then this fellow in California, I'm trying to think of his name, but he said, "Earl, I think we're going to get to that pretty quick." And they did. They started cycle billing, they started putting out their permanent plates. But isn't that quite interesting, because there were only three states that did that, Minnesota, Missouri, and Oregon. And not because I was so smart. It was because some of my boys in the office were pretty smart about this. They said, "Well, Mr. Newbry, let's kind of consider it." I said, "Well, that's what I've been thinking about. Let's do it." And we did it. And that permanent plate program saved a lot of money because you send those plates out once a year, like we were doing for years and years and years, it cost you postage, it cost the new plates, and all. You buy one plate and it'll last as long as you drive that car. I mean, it was a tremendous saving.

Another thing about financing, I know that our budget, many times we'd have the Legislature would appropriate so much money to operate, we'd make a request I generally turned back a quarter of a million dollars or more that we didn't use in our operation, so I thought it was quite noteworthy. But this man, he wrote that letter to the governor and he didn't know that the governor was going to show me a copy of it, and that's what I just thought, well and then he run for secretary of state after me when Hatfield — he run against Hatfield, and I would — he didn't get anywhere. He was — the job he was doing for me was good until he got to the point where he might better himself and he was criticizing his own boss for what I was contemplating might be done...

CH: Who was this?

NEWBRY: Oh, that his name was — he was my assistant. Yeah. I don't...

CH: The one that you appointed from down here.

NEWBRY: Yeah, he was from down here. I won't mention his name because it won't be apropos. And he worked good for me, worked hard. I had to kind of watch him, though. I had to be very — I tried to be very careful about — when fellows were out in the public drinking, and I had to slow him up a time or two. I made one declaration to myself, that I would never be found intoxicated, ever, and one drink was about all I'd ever take. I could drink more, but I've never been intoxicated, ever, in my life. But I do like a highball, I still like it, but I think there's a time to quit, and but the reason I mention that is Bill, my assistant, we was over at McMinnville at a masculine party they have once a year for people over there and, oh, they have little miniature gambling, I mean, maybe no big money passed, and all that, and I know he was shooting craps, or something, and he was getting oiled pretty heavy. Well, I thought that's not very good for my assistant to do, and I told him, I said, "Bill, by gosh, you've got to watch yourself on that." Well, it isn't good.

So, then everything went pretty smoothly and we got that over. I know another thing I had done, I had enacted so that you could keep your license plate. If you buy a new automobile, why, you can keep your old plate. It's not a special, particularly, but I had the Legislature enact that law where you could retain them, and I'm not sure it's still in effect, whether they repealed that or not, because I tried to retain a license I'd had for many years, on several cars when I bought this new car last year I tried to keep that license and they told me I couldn't do it. I had CCC999, and that's when I went out of office and I applied for a new plate, and they thought, well, we'll give the old man a pretty good number he can remember. So they mailed it to me out of Salem, and that's when I had that, back about 19, oh, 56 or no, [Inaudible] I think it was in 1958 I got I got a new Lincoln, I think, and I had to get a plate for it so they issued that, and I had it on every car until I got this car, here.

Well, that's that was quite a saving to the people in many respects and, my gosh, it made everybody have — and they still have it, but you pay for them now. You get a — and we could then, you get a special number for about 35 dollars. Well, that's all right. But this way you can keep your old plate as long as you had in your name. Any car that you bought under your name, why, you just you'll use that plate. And another benefit was, supposing you bought a car after only now you — at that time it was just a year at a time. Well, suppose you got another six or eight months, why, you had the advantage of that until you bought a new plate, and only for five dollars you get that extra, it cost five dollars, is what it cost, to re-register after and keep your old plate. So I thought that was a good thing.

So we accomplished that, and I had the help in the office that went along with me, by golly. There was only one time that we had a little, what shall I say, somebody tampering with our money and the F.B.I. was in there and I didn't know too much about it. Of course, they come in and talked to me and but I never knew — I think somebody in our office was taking out money for they said in cash, and all, because quite a lot of cash is transacted in the motor vehicle division. And I never did know who it was. But they worked in there for, oh, maybe a month, and I asked Bob no, I think it was when [Gabelson?] was there. I said, “Carl, what's going on down there?” And then he told me. Of course, I had no jurisdiction over that, the FBI had the jurisdiction. And that's the only incident that ever happened.

CH: Did they ever find...

NEWBRY: I'm not sure, I'm not sure about that. I'm not sure. And I really didn't want to know.

CH: Is that right? Why would you not want to know?

NEWBRY: Well, I thought everybody there was pretty loyal, and all that, and I think that I probably Carl, he knew I think I'm quite sure they were after — I know they apprehended who it was, was taken to the — and that fouls up your whole system, too not your whole

system, but the recipient is the one that gets fouled up. They wonder what the hell ever happened. So that's the way this sequence of events works out, and it got to the point where these thieves or, this money always went as cash, and that's why checks, of course, is hard to do. So that's the only incident I know of that was in that category at all.

CH: Were there any other disappointments or...

NEWBRY: Well, no...

CH: Setbacks you might have had?

NEWBRY: I had little — not a problem, but when I changed the manufacturer there was somebody that had the corner on building these plates year after year after year and I changed that to another outfit that I thought did a better job, and they bid on it and they were low so they got the job, and this fellow from Portland, he was pretty upset, and I think he was opposed to me for everything out, and I don't blame him because I took that away from them and I gave it to the Screw Machinery Products people in Portland and they did a darn good job for us. And that's when we — they were started working when we put out new plates. That's when they had the contract, when we put out this permanent plate program. Of course, that's cut down the big demand for that metal, too, by gosh. Every year they had to get metal for new plates, and that certainly wasn't a conservation measure. It was to retain the old plates because it just saved that much metal, which I never thought of that before, but that was quite an item.

CH: In some states they have a prison...

NEWBRY: Oh, yes, they do.

CH: Prisoners make the plates. Had you considered that yourself?

NEWBRY: No, I never considered it because that wouldn't be my prerogative. I think the Legislature would have to approve it, and I wouldn't even request it. And I don't think, knowing George Alexander like I did, I don't think he particularly wanted it out there anyway. And I know that some states do, probably many states, probably more do than do not. I know California does in their pens, or did. A fellow Mason was the head of that motor vehicle department when I was here. And Frank Jordon was the secretary of state. A very good friend of mine. I've been in his home in California. And he'd been there for years as secretary of state. Until he died he was secretary of state, and he succeeded his father as secretary of state of California. And I know that he come up to my place in Salem one time and stopped, and I had bought a Hammond organ and my wife played some. She was a pretty good pianist.

And Frank was in my home in Salem, and there for a night or two, I think, on his way someway, but he and his wife were there, and he said, "Earl, do you play?" "Oh," I said, "yes, Frank, I work at a little bit," which I was I was just kind of — I did a little, but not much. "By gosh, I want to get one." So he went Sacramento, when he went back, he bought an organ. And I think he started learning it. Now we had the secretary of state of Arizona, Wes Bolin, he was an organist. By gosh, he — while he was in office and I've been in his home. In fact, I've been in his home overnight two or three times on the way back from the East while I was motor vehicle administrator. And, by golly, he had an organ. He got so he could play pretty well. And secretary of state there was lieutenant governor. I mean next in line to the governorship. He became governor when the governor passed away, here, about four or five years ago.

And then Senator [Graff?], why, he passed away himself while he was in office. And he was a tall, about a six foot three, southern accent fellow, likeable guy, and he had a nice family. I think he had three children. And he had a little place out there right in Sacramento right — not in Sacramento but in Phoenix, Arizona. In fact, I stopped there on my way from the South and visited him while he was still in office. With my travel trailer I parked out in town. Now it's so darn big down there I don't think — well, you'd have to — I don't know.

But I stopped there many times on my way back I'd stop there at on our way back from the South. Well, I mentioned that Wes Bolen was a he was a Democrat but he was a darn good friend of mine.

CH: You still got along with him even though he was a Democrat.

NEWBRY: Oh, yeah. We used to kid each other a lot. In fact, he and I and the fellow from Colorado. We were just elected at the same time and we went to our meeting up in Maine in 1949.

CH: This is the association of secretaries of state?

NEWBRY: Yeah. And I was the national president in 1954.

CH: The president?

NEWBRY: Yes. I was national president of the secretary of states in 1954, and that's the year I ran for governor and the secretary of state of Michigan, he was running for governor and we both got beat in the primaries. But he, gosh — and I was entertained by motor vehicle people because they knew Earl, he was the secretary of state of Oregon even though I was motor vehicle administrator because my name came over so darn many things, and I picked up three automobiles [inaudible], but the first one I picked up was in 1949. I was back there on my personal business in 1949, I was in Chicago and I went over to Detroit and picked up a Cadillac and drove it back, and my daughter was with me, and then and I picked up two more on business, state business. I was back there for something, I'd drive a car out. I drove two Packards out, and then I bought a third Packard to make sure. Then I was back there with a friend of mine from Cottage Grove. I had bought equipment from him and he was a dealer there, he was the dealer there for Ford and Lincoln.

So we he and his wife went back at the same time I did, at Detroit, and we both bought — he brought back a new Lincoln Coupe and he sold me one. Well, my car was supposed to be available, by gosh, and he had his already, we'd been there two or three days, and what happened, my car, the one I was to get, something happened to an electronics part and it burned all the stuff out of the inside of it. They had to wait — they had to run a new car through the line, and that's how I was late getting my car. And when he got his it had no — something he didn't have that my car did have, and I think it was, I think, a radio. His car was out and it was a time when it was a little tough getting them, but that was the difference. And he's still alive, Lloyd [Githner?]. We got to be very close friends. We went to Dearborn together, went through the Ford display at Dearborn, which is a very interesting — you've probably been there. But I got to see that and the Edison museum, and all. So, I guess that's about that.

[End of Tape 5, Side 2]

Tape 6, Side 1
1990 July 24

CH: This is an interview with Earl T. Newbry at his home in Ashland, Oregon. The date is July 24, 1990, the interviewer for the Oregon Historical Society is Clark Hansen. This is Tape 6, Side A.

You had just been talking about being president of the national association of secretaries of state.

NEWBRY: Yes.

CH: What was that position like and how did you come about getting it?

NEWBRY: Well, you're elected. They have a president every year, you're elected by the group every year. You don't have a vice president, or anything like that, they just elect a man, nominate him and elect him. And I thought it was quite an honor. And, my God, New York, and all these big cities and big states and even Canada...

CH: This is what year?

NEWBRY: 1954 I was the national president. See, I was secretary of state, I mean I was motor vehicle administrator in 1950, and how I got that was because some of the boys in my office, they kind of pushed the group that comes to these conventions, and Bob Farrell, my predecessor, I think he, on his way [caught up?], and these people from the different states all over the country, why they thought, well, by gosh, Bob couldn't get it, Newbry's in there, we kind of like him, and that's the way it was. And my boys, Carl Gabrielson and some of the key boys, they all I always took those to a convention because they were head of different departments and at our conventions there was always something come pertaining to their particular function, so that's why I would take the head of license, the head of different departments, probably four of them would go with me to these close

conventions, not back East but where they were in Oregon, Washington or California I always took them. So, that's how I became that. But when we come to secretaries of state, that was a little different story because you're elected by the group. You're nominated and elected. And I don't recall I was never vice president, I don't think. I think we just picked them that way.

CH: So did you travel much around the country?

NEWBRY: Well, not too much. There was occasions you had to go. We went — I had to go to the conventions, of course, and I didn't do as much traveling with that as I did being motor vehicle administrator.

CH: Were some of these other secretaries of state that you've mentioned, for instance Arizona and others that you've mentioned, did you meet them through the association? Is that how you met them?

NEWBRY: Well...

CH: When you were secretary of state and president of the association?

NEWBRY: Well, you're asking whether other secretaries of state or motor vehicle administrators. There were, several of them, but not all. The one in Missouri, and I can't think of his name, he was motor vehicle — at one time secretaries of state did all that. They were all gradually at one time, the secretary of state in every state issued license plates, and all. That was under their — one of their functions. But they gradually drifted away. Now I don't know whether any of them are left. We were one of the last, I think, that the very few were offices like — where they had the complete responsibility of motor vehicles. I wanted to mention this. In 1954 I was the delegate to the Republican national convention, and that's when the that's when Eisenhower was nominated, in 1954, and I was a delegate.

That, of course, was the year I ran for governor, too. But I happened to be in San Francisco during that time and that's when I talked to Elmo Smith and he asked my — about the appointment of a justice for our supreme court. It happened to be down there we were talking and I was coming up right away, and that's how that occurred. But I — you're elected for that in your state, as you know.

CH: What was that experience like, being a delegate?

NEWBRY: Oh, I enjoyed it because I was there at a national convention. The only one I ever saw was on television before, but it was an interesting experience. I was secretary of state of Oregon, and Hatfield was there, he was a potential for governor, which he was, and Smith, of course, the governor, he was there. Hatfield was a state senator. And we had a — all of our delegates was there. Hatfield was a delegate, I was, Elmo Smith, of course, naturally was. He was the governor. So it was a very good experience and I was glad to be there. In fact, I should have gone to some of the others. Of course, every four years, you know, they don't come too often. So that's about it as far as my office of secretary of state is concerned.

CH: Well, what — speaking of being a delegate to the convention, what was your how would you describe your relationship with the Republican party? Did you have much to do with the party?

NEWBRY: Oh, very little. Fact of the matter is, our governor had a few words to say, but there's a myriad of delegates, as you know. I don't think I ever said a word.

CH: But your relationship with the party in general on from year to year, how would you describe that?

NEWBRY: Well, I don't know. I think I've had I've been a pretty staunch Republican. I've had many Democratic friends, as I pointed out to you, in my experience in the Senate and the House, and I didn't discredit them because they were Democrats. I mean, they were darn good men. Why, I can mention a lot of them, Harry Boyden, for example, I considered him tops, and even Bud Pearson not even, but I thought he was always a stable man. Party lines I've been a Republican and, by gosh, I'm still a Republican. I have voted I have voted on occasions for a Democrat because he was better. It wasn't something that I advertised at all, but I think there has been times that I have voted for a Democrat because I thought he'd be the best man.

CH: But not too often.

NEWBRY: No.

[End of Tape 6, Side 1]

Tape 6, Side 2
1990 July 25

CH: This is an interview with Earl T. Newbry in his home in Ashland, Oregon. The interviewer for the Oregon Historical Society is Clark Hansen. The date is July 25, 1990, and this is Tape 6, Side B.

Yesterday, when we were finishing, you gave me an article here from the *Mail Tribune*, the Medford newspaper, of March 23, 1989, and it recounts some of your experiences as secretary of state. Actually, there's some interesting things on this and I thought maybe I could ask you a few questions.

NEWBRY: Well, that's fine, Clark, go ahead and ask.

CH: One thing that was interesting here, it says that your Build Oregon campaign maybe you could — it mentions your Build Oregon campaign. Could you describe what that was?

NEWBRY: Oh, I can't talk too much about that, Clark. We — in my office we had the program, by golly, to do everything we could for the interests of Oregon, our lumber industry and our tourist industry, and, more particularly, our agricultural industry, and at that time, why, as I recall, it was nip and tuck between forestry and agriculture, and agriculture was composed of wheat, of course, in eastern Oregon, but, more particularly, in Hood River and in Medford districts were fruit. And we became quite noted throughout the whole country. Some of the people that started that business in the early days, the firms are still represented by some members of the family going back that far.

So Build Oregon, that's what our thought was, and it was a specific thing but to encourage those three industries. Then later on, as I understand it, why, our tourist rate almost competed with most of the other industries. I'm not sure that that's true, but I think McCall had something to do about that. He had quite a talk about come to Oregon but, to a certain degree, please don't stay too long, or something like that. So I think that those

three are the major industries and, of course, now we're threatened by that silly spotted owl situation, which I think is a fiasco. I think, by gosh, they could do like they do with the condors, they could get a bunch of those, which there are many of them available, and put them in a compound, by gosh, and retain them forever.

But now they're ruining an industry in the interest of some people that are dedicated to environment procedures which are totally un — in my opinion, unexplored. So that will have an impact on our state, and there's no question about it. If I was in office, we'd do everything we could to stop that silly kind of a procedure because, in my opinion, it's strictly silly for those people that seem to be dedicated to a situation and a subject that they're not too familiar with, themselves. So, and there's been proof of that. And I understand, maybe you told me, but somebody told me that they thought there was 150 possible species that are on the verge of extinct. Well, now, if that's the case, maybe all of us will be gone but the but the people themselves. So Build Oregon was a thought we had in mind, and there was no specific thing we wanted to do other than encourage these industries, and not discourage them, in any way we could.

CH: It does mention here that it talks about diversifying to get away from dependence on logging and the timber industry.

NEWBRY: Well, that's a good objective, I think. In fact, we were pretty well diversified when I was in office. We had a big industry in the Willamette Valley, we had the seed industry that developed, we had hops, of course, there, that Dean Walker was very much interested in. That was for certainly was diversification. And, of course, in eastern Oregon we had some very substantial acreage in wheat, which it still is, and that's about it. Of course, southern Oregon, we went mainly to fruit, and now it's developed that we've got a lot of people coming in from the south, and every other state — city is too, I guess, Seattle being one, I think, that's growing faster than anybody else. In the whole country, in fact. I say that because recently they broadcast, and you probably noticed it, that Seattle is the

first number one place where people could go to have a nice place to live, comfort wise, and a climate, and all.

Now, that was publicized nationally, oh, gosh, less than a year ago. And I forget what towns followed those, but Seattle was tops. I don't think Florida was in there at all. I'm not sure that the desert was. Of course, Palm Springs is an attractive area, and that area is attractive to an awful lot of people, and the development there is unbelievable. This year they had 92 golf courses in Coachella Valley, which is composed of Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Cathedral City, Indio, and Indian Wells. 91 golf — 91 or two golf courses, and some of them are major courses, of course, you can understand. Every place down there that's of any consequence at all I can say that every one has either one or two or three or half a dozen lakes, for God sakes, in their golf course. And where does that water come from? It comes from the Colorado River.

And their water down there and I don't know why I'm talking about this, but, then, to me it was of quite an interest, but the upshot of that is that there's a lot of people coming in there. Indio, when I went there, was only 5,500, I think. Now it's 36 thousand. And I think I told you that Palm Springs is less than 30. But that is a diversified area because they've got a big business in horticulture I'm talking about dates, I'm talking about grapefruit, I'm talking about carrots, row crops, my God, and corn, and it's a tremendous shipping point. In fact, they have the first grapes that go to the market out of the United States, they have the first grapes there. But down here, we were at the first on the market with good fruit, and Hood River and Medford, Oregon, and, in fact, Yakima, compete with us heavily on the amount of tonnage they ship.

But quality wise, I think Oregon just about tops them. They used to tell us that, in any event, and the Bosc pear, which sells very popular throughout the country, and you'll see them on every market, it is about the best crop of all the pears. Comice, of course, is a gift box crop, and it's widely publicized throughout the world. But Bosc is the one that's taken the place Bartlett, of course, is a canning pear, they can a lot of them, but they're also a fresh market for Bartlett pears. Now, Build Oregon, I was thinking about all those things and I didn't want to stop anything, for gosh sakes, I wanted to keep going.

CH: Well, no. That's good. The article also mentions your involvement with the control board, and I thought maybe you might describe what the control board was and what it did.

NEWBRY: Well, the board of control had the responsibility for, well, the forestry department, for example, the banking board. I was a member of that. The banking board, the forestry department, and we had charge of the penitentiary, of course, and we had charge of the institutes incident to that, like Fairview Home, and it was our responsibility in fact, while I was in office we had some construction going on and the board of control had to approve that type of construction. That's what I was talking about. And not only that, we had certain responsibility on the management of those places. The penitentiary, of course, and then, while I was in office we selected a new site for a penitentiary, which is out, I think, southeast of — and we selected that site while I was on the board, the governor and myself and, at that time, it was I don't know who the state treasurer was, Belton, I believe.

So, that's the responsibility of the board of control, but they've taken a lot of that responsibility away. I don't know whether they've done away with the board of control or not, per se, but at that time I know that the three major officials had that responsibility, even to a degree over the board of higher education. Of course, the governor, he was the main one in that, but many times the board was interrogated about certain things relative to the operation of those places. Now, that's what I mean by the board of control. Of course, in the secretary of state's office, he is the — and still is, the state auditor, as I say. Everything that I was but the motor vehicle department, as far as I know. But the secretary of state is not on the land board, he's not on the — he's not a member of the forestry, as I understand it now. Or the banking board, I think that's all under the governor, and I'm not sure about that, but I believe I'm right. Now, what else?

CH: Well, there's there are lots of things here.

NEWBRY: That's very interesting to me, though, to kind of review those things.

CH: Well, it's interesting that so much power was consolidated into such a small group of individuals. There were just three of you.

NEWBRY: Well, I think it was very successful throughout the years, though, because our state grew under that situation, and I think the people elected those people to office. And now, many, many of the — many, many of the people who have responsibilities are appointed by the governor, or somebody else, and then the bureaus get a hold of it and they'll appoint people that have the authority to appoint their underlings, which I think is proper, but now we're getting to be a bureaucratic government just like the national government. I don't know whether you come under that category or not. [Both laugh]

CH: Well, I guess the historical society is a little outside of the state government because we're funded partially by them.

NEWBRY: Say, are they going to have a meeting this year? I was at the meeting last year of the Oregon Historical Society, I think. They met on Sauvie Island.

CH: Oh, yes, at the...

NEWBRY: You have some kind of house that's dedicated to the Oregon, I think, Historical Society.

CH: That's right, we do, we do, on Sauvie Island.

NEWBRY: I was there last year or year before last, I forget which. I think year before last I was there. I think about every, what, two years they meet, or do you know?

CH: Usually every year.

NEWBRY: Well, I think I missed last year, then. Well, at any rate, I thought I was quite impressed and they had a very nice program, and I was pleased to be there. I met some of my old friends, Bill Hedlund, I couldn't think of him the other day. He was with the oil company. He was always a friend of mine. And Cec the Speaker of the House, or the well, what the hell was his name. Cec something. I met him, and, Lord, he...

CH: Was it – are you referring to Cecil Edwards?

NEWBRY: Yeah, Cec Edwards. When I saw him he was about the same as I am, but now he's he went out quite extensively. I was pleased to see him, and he they knew I was there. They came up and said, "Well, hello, Earl, how are you?" And I looked up and thought, my God but I always liked Cec, I liked Hedlund, and of course, Cec, he worked for the Senate.

CH: Well, you were in public office during a lot of major events in the country. We talked a little bit about the Depression and World War II. What about the McCarthy era? Did that have any effect on state government or things that were going on during that time?

NEWBRY: I don't think it had any particular effect on our government at all, if that's what you mean.

CH: Or was it a topic that...

NEWBRY: [The McCarthy?] if I ask who you're talking about?

CH: About Senator Eugene McCarthy's campaign against, you know, communists in government during the...

NEWBRY: Well, I don't think that affected Oregon at all.

CH: What about the Korean War?

NEWBRY: Well, I don't know about that either. I wasn't in office then. I don't think that affected Oregon, only we had a lot of troops go, and some of them, of course, never came back, for God sakes. That's the bad effect on it. And then, as I told you yesterday, that should never have happened, in the minds of a lot of our congressmen, and particularly those two Democratic friends of mine, Wayne Morse and Harry Byrd, and they were just completely shocked when they found out that the president was going into war, for God sakes.

CH: This was the Vietnam War.

NEWBRY: But I don't think that had any effect on our state. We did all we could. I wasn't in office, but I know we furnished a lot of men for the service and we cooperated in our steel business some. I know during the first world war I wasn't even in office, but we built locomotives that was shipped over to Russia, and you probably know about that. Portland Iron Works, I think. And I knew the boys that owned that and run it, but they shipped several locomotives, my God, that they built in Portland, Oregon, to Russia, and we never got paid for them. They reneged on all of their obligations to the United States. That only one that did pay off was that little country up northwest of them, and they did, they paid 100% off what how we'd helped them out. So, I don't believe it did, Clark, have any only, just as I say, we furnished a lot of men that didn't come back, and that, which is a God's shame. So, that's a pretty good article. I wasn't interviewed on that. I think they just they just picked that up. I thought it was a pretty good story.

CH: Yes, it does have a good summary of...

NEWBRY: It quotes my son there.

CH: Yes, I noticed.

NEWBRY: And I think he kind of laid the line on the — on what I he said my feelings a lot. I think he made some observation about dad. He...

CH: Well, it did say that both of you were — that you didn't get a lot of help from the Republican party at one point, and I think this is when later on in your career where you slipped, there, at the polls.

NEWBRY: Well, I told you I didn't record what I told you, those two justices of the supreme court told me did I record that? Seth [Earl] Latourette and Walter Tooze? They were having a meeting of the — well, Latourette, Seth Latourette, who was a supreme court justice, and they was having a group of their people and I was invited to be there, and the governor was out at that time — McKay was out in a small plane flying over Hells Canyon, and Walter Tooze says, "Earl, do you know what would happen if that little guy'd get wrecked in a plane?" I said, "Oh, God forbid." "Well," he said, "you'd be governor." And Seth said, "Well, by gosh, that's right, Earl. You're next in line in office because we've got no Senate, they're not organized, there's no president of the Senate, there's no lieutenant governor. You'd be it."

Well, the irony of the whole thing is, as time went on, there was little contention in our party to higher places that might result in a little bit of dissent in our party. And rather than to make an issue of it, and knowing these things, why, Paul Patterson was the previous president of the Senate, but there was no Senate organization at all. So as far as that was concerned, there was no president of the Senate at that time, which this happened after November, which the election was on for new officials. And they both the supreme court justices, that's the way they determined it. Well, to make this story a little shorter, I could see that rift, and all I thought, I don't want to get in the middle of it, and I got Lamar Tooze,

who was a lawyer that was a friend of mine, and all, and he was the brother of Walter Tooze, I had him appear before the court amicus curiae, that means in my presence, my stead, in favor of the court. And he supported the theory that Earl Newbry — I don't know just how he put would rescind any claim of being governor.

Well, that put Patterson in, without a question. It was a question, and still is, but nevertheless, that's what they did. Constitutionally, I think they were wrong, and what should have well, what I think, if McKay didn't want me to be governor, and I'll never see why that was because he was appointed to the department of interior, as you know, so that left that space open. He might have not accepted that position until after the election, why if he was determined — if that was it, and I'm not sure. He's gone. He and I were friends. In fact, after he retired we used to have lunch together at the Elks club in Salem while I was out of office. We never discussed that at all, ever. But why that occurred, I don't really know.

But Paul Patterson, at a meeting shortly after this happened, that he became governor, and he was governor — that's after McKay was appointed and he took office right after the first of the year when the new administration comes in, and we were there at a fathers' day program, I think it was Oregon State University, I was sitting right with the governor, and when he got up to speak, he made the remark, he says, "Because of Earl Newbry, I'm speaking to you today." Now what do you think he was relating to? I was just the secretary of state, is what I was, at that time. But he made that remark, "Because of Earl Newbry, I'm your governor today." I think it's because, based on the fact that I was represented before the supreme court to reverse some of the opinions of the very top men that had made the decision before in my presence.

Now, that makes sense to me, and that's the way it — and, of course, Paul and I were always friends, always. Even in the Senate we were close friends. I had him in my car one time going out to visit somebody, and I think, by gosh, the next day he couldn't come back to the Senate because I think it was a heart condition. So I thought he'd never run again. I just I mean, I thought that he would not be a candidate for governor. So I — as I told you before, I announced. And so, now, that's just history, and I'm, I'm happy about it. I

think probably — I think I'd have made a good governor, but I do think that I know I'd have been — oh, I shouldn't say this, but I know I would have been a better governor than Elmo Smith because he came into office after Paul passed away because he was president of the Senate. That's how he became governor.

CH: In 1956.

NEWBRY: That's right. And he told me I was going out of office, and he told me, he said — well, I was slated to be when I got through, to be motor vehicle administrator because I had quite, presumably, an outstanding record as an AMV administrator. And some of the men in Portland, the automobile dealers and my friends, they says, "Earl, you're going to be the next motor vehicle administrator and we sure are glad of that because you've sure cooperated with us and we—" and all that. And I said, "Well, gee, I've got time to do that. There's nothing else to run for." Which there wasn't on the top level. And then it came about that the Legislature, of course took that away from the secretary of state and another man was appointed head of the department. Well, that folded me out entirely.

CH: Why did they take that away from the secretary of state's position?

NEWBRY: Well, they did that 18 months before I went out of office, you see. They wanted that to be under the governor, which it is in most of the states. At one time, as I told you, the secretary of state was the one that issued all the automobile licenses. Originally, that was their responsibility in every state in the Union. But now I don't know how many are. I got an invitation to be at our next meeting in August in Los Angeles as an ex-president of the A.M.V.A., and I always get an invitation, but of course, if I were down in the desert, I would be — I would go, but now I wouldn't go. I still get notices from them, being a past president.

So, then a few months before that, when that occurred, that occurred shortly after the [inaudible] they had to have a new administrator, see. I was willing to resign as

secretary of state for the last few months of my office to take that position. But then there was a possibility of being in the — another position that was going to open up, industrial accident commission, and Lou Ahrens, who I think I told you was in that one of the members one of the three members, he was very anxious for me to be appointed for that job. And I don't know if word got to Smith, but in any event, Elmo called me up and we talked about it, and he says, "Earl," he says, "I'm going to appoint you as chairman of the industrial accident commission." And I said, "Well, Governor, I knew that there was some thought of that." And I said, "I think I would enjoy that and I think I could do a good job there."

In fact, I know Lou Ahrens. He was the Democrat on the party [he's anxious?] for me to be appointed, and he was. And I think Lou's — I don't think he's still alive, but I've called on him. But in any event, well, the governor says, "I'm going to appoint you to that." He said, "Do you want a letter to that effect?" I said, "No, Governor, I don't want your letter. If you told me that's what it's going to be, that's what it will be." Well, he was defeated for governor by Holmes and he never made an appointment. He reappointed the guys that was in there, which people didn't like too well. Now, can you figure that out? That's why I said I think I'd make a better governor than Elmo Smith. Now, he was all right, but, by gosh, I don't think he performed like a governor should.

CH: And by — you don't think that he performed the way he should have because of...

NEWBRY: Well, that's one incident, because the man [inaudible] now, he was a smart young man, had a good experience in the service, he was a flier, I'd been with him on occasion, many occasions. We worked close together, but after that, why I had lost, I lost quite a lot of my personal respect for him. And he was successful in his business. He had a small newspaper there in eastern Oregon when he was — became a state senator, and then he became president of the Senate. He had a good career. And subsequent to that, why, he was tied up with Glenn Jackson, who was an outstanding citizen in our state, owned a lot of property and interest in newspapers in Albany and here, and Elmo got in

with that and he did a good job as long as he was alive. But when I go back to some of those other things, I didn't like him very well. So.

CH: Well, after Smith was defeated by Holmes did you have any contact with Bob Holmes, then?

NEWBRY: Oh, well, I knew Bob well. I was only in there for six months, you know, and I knew Bob quite well. I — there's other men in the state that would be more caliber for governor. Of course, that's true in [life?]. There's a lot more people that would be better caliber for governor than Goldsmith, I think, and I think he's been pretty good.

CH: Hatfield was secretary of state after you.

NEWBRY: He followed me, yes. He was elected when I went out of office.

CH: Do you recall that campaign?

NEWBRY: Pardon?

CH: Do you recall his election at all?

NEWBRY: Well, he had no problem. I supported him, I supported him very vigorously, and fact of the matter is, the fellow that worked for him come and he said, "Earl, I wish we knew how you'd get votes." I said, "Well, I don't know, either." But I said, "People seemed to vote for me." Oh, I'll think of that Travis Cross, wasn't that his name?

CH: Travis Cross, [yes].

NEWBRY: Yeah. I'm getting better than I thought I was. Travis says, "Earl," he says or, no, he said, "Mr. Newbry, how-" well, I had a pretty good record of getting votes, but I said, "Well, gee, I think Mark will have no problem." I said, "I'm going to support him." Which I did. My assistant, who I fired about three months before that, and I think I told you about that because he wrote a letter to Governor Patterson about things that I was going to do, and computerize — mechanize the department, and all, and of course that letter came back to me and I saw things there that actually was ridiculous, and he was trying to build a something, I guess, with the governor, for God sakes, but he didn't know that the governor was smart enough that he'd give me a copy of that letter. I suppose he'd ought to have known that. But in any event, Bill Healy was a good man while he was with me, but that was just enough to let him go, and I didn't need him anymore, anyway, because I was only four or five months yet as secretary of state. So, Hatfield became secretary of state, and then McCall followed him no, Appling, I think, followed him.

CH: Howell Appling?

NEWBRY: Yeah. And then Tom McCall. So, Hatfield put on a little more vigorous campaign, I think, than I seemed to have had to. Of course, I when I was running for secretary of state, by golly, I had some darn good support. By gosh, bill boards there was one in Portland that was the biggest billboard I've ever seen anyplace right off the Ross Island Bridge, I think it was, and here that was here was a darn good picture of me, and something. It was terrific, and I don't know who did that. I think somebody. And we had placards around over the state. I had a good campaign. I called on as many places as I had time to do and made little talks here and there, and I was complimented many times, which kind of pleased me, about what my plans were and what we hoped to do for the state, and all that. I had a lot of support. So.

CH: How do you view the successors of your office as secretary of state, the ones that followed you. Hatfield, McCall Appling, McCall?

NEWBRY: Ask me that again. What?

CH: How do you view their performance as secretary of state?

NEWBRY: Oh, I think of course, the I think they did a good job. I think they were all right. I think the responsibilities were not as much as they were before. Like I said, all these boards, they were not on all those, for God sakes, like the previous secretary of states were. Stadelman, you know, he was it wasn't Stadelman. Hal Hosch was there when I was well, during the 1920's, early 1930's, Hal Hosch died, and then Stadelman, I think, was appointed for a short time. He was a state senator. But I think Hatfield did a good job. I don't think this gal that's running for oh, that ran for governor awhile back. Who was that?

CH: Well, Norma Paulus.

NEWBRY: I don't...

CH: And then Barbara Roberts.

NEWBRY: Yeah, I met her this last year. But Paulus, I don't think she did a very good job.

CH: Why is that?

NEWBRY: I think she did some things that she shouldn't have done. She made determinations for audit division, the state auditor, by gosh, and those are things that I'd never do. And I won't go into detail about those, but I know quite a lot about 'em. So I think that she was not what should be expected of a person in that position. She made remarks about, even about my son, which was totally totally out of line. Making a remark he had his

hands in the cookie jar. That's enough, for God sakes, to — that would burn me up completely. Of course, you can think how my son thought about it. And he did one of the finest jobs that was ever done. He was chairman of that SAIF [State Accident Insurance Fund Corporation] outfit. And then when...

[End of Tape 6, Side 2]

Tape 7, Side 1
1990 July 25

CH: This is an interview with Earl T. Newbry in his home in Ashland, Oregon. The interviewer for the Oregon Historical Society is Clark Hansen. The date is July 25, 1990. This is Tape 7, Side A.

You were talking about somebody running for governor. Was...

NEWBRY: Well...

CH: Dave [Frohnmeier?]?

NEWBRY: Yeah. He approved, as I understand it, he approved the governor taking eighty million dollars from the SAIF company's dedicated fund, for God sakes, to help balance the state budget. Now that was strictly in my understanding, strictly unlawful and illegal, for God sakes. A dedicated fund cannot be touched by anybody, like the highway fund we were the first state in the Union to impose a sales tax on gasoline, and that was a dedicated fund and was always to be used for highways. Likewise, the SAIF fund. It was a dedicated fund to care for the insurance problems of our industries throughout the state, and the people that had liability security with them. And that was, well, that's why I say that that's a black mark, I think, against the attorney general, by gosh. And [Victor] Atiyeh, why, he went along on that, and God only knows.

CH: How is your feeling about Atiyeh's...

NEWBRY: I thought he was...

CH: Performance?

NEWBRY: Pretty nice guy. I bought some rugs from him, a few of them, but I think he was a something to be desired for governor.

CH: He was leader of the Senate before, wasn't he?

NEWBRY: I don't think so.

CH: No?

NEWBRY: No. He was never president of the Senate. I'm sure he wasn't. He was a senator, yeah. In fact, he beat a darn good man from McMinnville, and I thought, well, gee, that's pretty good. Atiyeh, a man in Portland of course he had a lot of votes there in Portland. They were good people. But I can't think of the man that he beat, and I knew him well. It was Paul Patterson's friend, and all, right from that area.

CH: The Democrat, you mean, that he beat?

NEWBRY: No, he was a...

CH: Governor Straub?

NEWBRY: No, oh, no, no, no. It was in the primaries.

CH: In the primary.

NEWBRY: He got nominated in the primaries and then was elected. There was one time it wasn't very bad for a good Republican to be elected in our state because we predominated in registration and, like I told you, down in southern Oregon we're getting to be lopsided well, I mean we're losing our majority of registered Republicans now, I think,

to what it was. Lord, if a Republican back there in those days, like when George Dunn, and all those, if you was a good Republican you didn't have to worry, you'd be elected, period. But that's changed a lot. No, Atiyeh was running against this man in the primaries, and I can't think of his name, but he was a good senator from — and he got elected to the Senate. And then I don't know how many times Atiyeh served in the Senate. He was there while Lynn was there, my son. And fact of the matter is, Lynn was loaned by his company to help Atiyeh set up his budget, and he worked there for three months. I don't know whether you knew that or not but he did. He and Travis Cross were working together with the governor, by gosh, to set up his well, I'll say his budget, and that's right. So Lynn had quite a Lynn was chairman of that taxation committee in the Senate for quite a while, and he had a terrific knowledge of many facets of state government. So, and after a while well, I don't want to go into detail about that, it's not essential. But that's my reasoning for thinking that he had a lot to be desired. So, what else?

CH: What about the previous governors before Atiyeh? Hatfield, McCall, and Straub?

NEWBRY: Well, I had a high respect for — I didn't know Straub very well. I was kind of surprised. He was a county commissioner, I think, down there in the Springfield area, and talking to some of my friends that were in business down there, and some people I knew, they wondered why in the world that guy ever got to be appointed state treasurer. I think that's what he was or, got elected. They wondered because he was a county commissioner awhile, and they said, Jiminy Christmas, not being a state treasurer, he got to be governor, for God sakes, of the state of Oregon, and I — a lot of them wondered how he could ever be that. So I think Straub was a I think they did a good job.

I think Hatfield did all right, and I think McCall — I know McCall I used to when the governor was gone, why, we'd ride in the parades together and he'd be kind of there because the governor — he was secretary to Governor Sprague, or no, Ernie Allen was secretary to Governor Sprague, but he was McKay's, and when McKay couldn't be there, if there was a parade in town, why, I was always asked to be in it and we'd ride together in

the same car. And I never thought that he'd ever be elected governor. I mean, I had that kind of I think he was a good guy, and all that, but I just some way or other I just couldn't imagine him ever being governor. But he was, and I think he done a good job. I know that he one time he got beat running for some job down there in Portland, and I can't think — I think he was running for congress, or something, by gosh. The record will show that. Tom was beat on that before he...

CH: Tom McCall.

NEWBRY: Yeah, Tom McCall.

CH: Well, he ran — he was going to run again for Senate...

NEWBRY: I guess so.

CH: He was planning on running for Senate and declined. What about his before McCall became secretary of state Howell Appling was secretary of state, and wasn't he — was he appointed by Hatfield?

NEWBRY: I kind of think he was because Appling as I understand it, I think Appling wanted to get back to his business. As I understand it, he had a business in Portland, heavy equipment, or something, and as I understand it [inaudible], but I understood that he just wanted to spend more time in his business and he couldn't do it and be secretary of state, and I think you're right, I think Hatfield appointed McCall.

CH: And wasn't McCall anticipating being appointed when in fact Appling ended up with the position?

NEWBRY: Well, I wouldn't know about that. I wouldn't know. I got to know Appling fairly well, and, of course, I knew McCall very well. But I don't know about that. So.

CH: Well, some of the senators that were in office during your time in public service, did you have any contact with Charles McNary?

NEWBRY: Well, not officially, no. I though McNary was a great senator.

CH: He was in the Senate for a long time, wasn't he?

NEWBRY: Yeah.

CH: And Guy Cordon?

NEWBRY: Well, Guy Cordon was a personal friend of mine. I knew him very well. And fact of the matter is, he and Earl — he was one of my friends, and I think I mentioned this to you, Guy Cordon smoked the same kind of tobacco I smoked, by gosh. It was Bond Street and Rum Maple mixture. And Earl Day, I picked him up at the plane one time and he said — at Salem. He come in there, and that's while I was in office, in fact, and he says, "Earl, what kind of tobacco do you smoke?" Or, I asked him, because he smoked a pipe quite a lot. But he said, "I'm smoking the Guy Cordon mixture." And he says, "It's Bond Street and Rum Maple." I said, "Gosh, that's pretty good." So I kind of started that and I still try to, that's how well I knew Guy Cordon. I mean, not because of that, but I knew him very, very well, and I think he did a terrific job. I think he's a far cry from probably what we have now. He was a lawyer, not that I think that's particularly essential. I think and I made a remark while I was running for governor that I thought there was too many lawyers in the Legislature, and I still think so. And maybe we don't have enough.

CH: Do you think that other areas of background are better for...

NEWBRY: I think so. I think people with the background of successful business or people with the background of doing something for themselves or — that's what I think. I think that lawyers of course, they're dealing with laws that are going to be made, by gosh, to govern the rest of the people. I think that a good — I think there are some darn good lawyers. I have a great respect for them. But I do know that there's we're overloaded with lawyers, both in the congress, for God sakes, and also in our Legislature. What it is now, I don't know. In my time I thought we had just a little bit too many. We could have more professional school teachers, maybe more doctors or maybe more businessmen. That's what I thought. A regular — a better distribution of membership from our public, from our people. That's what I thought, and that's what I said. And I had reason to say it, too. I knew [Rylaya?] very well. He thought I — I think he thought I was going to be governor, and I kind of halfway thought I was too.

I represented when the governor was gone, I had to be governor there for about a month, and they had me reviewing the troops over there at Camp Rilea, and, of course, I was reviewing the troops, and all, and I had my governor's car, of course, and drove into town, which is quite an interesting thing and something I will always look back as something real nice. But I know that [Rylaya?], he, well, properly, he was very cordial to me and we knew each other on a kind of a personal basis, too, because we were both Shriners and members of that craft, and so, but I knew him very well and I think sure that he thought well, a lot of people thought I was going to be governor, anyway. But that period I was there, I really enjoyed it. I had the governor's chauffer take me out there to Camp Rilea, come to the house and pick me up with the governor's automobile and they had the flags. He put those on the front just before he got into town, you know, and I thought it was quite an experience. I wish I had some pictures of that, but I don't happen to have.

And I had some of my friends that were militia guards at that time, the state guard, that's what they were doing, having their regular annual maneuver over there. In fact, one of the boys that was in the home that I was talking to when I got that appointment by the governor. He was in that home, along with Dr. Woods and myself and one other person.

There was about four couples down there. But one of these men, he was a captain in the — or, one of the officers, a captain, I think, in the guards, and he was there. Of course, then, some other men I knew, especially from our town. So that was quite an experience. Now, going back to [Rylaya?], he was a — I thought was tops. And he married a gal that used to be a secretary to Governor Sprague and she was I'm trying to think of her name. Phillips, I think was her name. And then he married — she married Rylaya after he lost his wife. And then, by gosh, after he passed away, she married the fellow that followed him, I think, and I knew him. Pete [Covert?]. Is that right?

CH: Pete [Covert?]? I don't know.

NEWBRY: I think he was head of he was head of our military, yeah. And he had a brother that was quite active as a lobbyist in the Legislature, and I don't remember who he represented, but I hadn't thought of him for a long time. Well, what else do you want to know?

CH: Well, after McNary was out of office he died in office, didn't he?

NEWBRY: Yeah.

CH: In 1944, I believe.

NEWBRY: I don't know what year it was, but it was while I was still in office.

CH: Well, there were several other people that were in and out of being senator, and one was Frederick Steiwer?

NEWBRY: Who?

CH: S-t-e-i-w-e-r.

NEWBRY: Steiwer?

CH: Steiwer. And Alfred Evan Reames?

NEWBRY: Well, Steiwer was a good man, and I don't remember him being considered. Who else?

CH: Alfred Reames.

NEWBRY: I don't think I know.

CH: He was just in in 1938, and Alex Barry was in and out during that same time before Rufus Holman then came in for a while. Rufus Holman was elected in 1939 and was in there through 1945. And then, of course, Wayne Morse after that. What was your relationship with Wayne Morse like? I know you talked a little bit about that yesterday.

NEWBRY: With Wayne Morse?

CH: Yes.

NEWBRY: Well, he and I were friends, and all, and, my gosh, he — whenever he was back here he would come to the state fairs once in a while, you know. One time he got kicked by a horse. I remember that. He was quite a man with horses. He had good horses, and I think they were trotting horses. They weren't bucking horses, or anything like that. And — but I always had a friendly experience with Wayne Morse. I know a lot of people a lot of people didn't respect him, I think probably in my party. I don't know why. Maybe it was some of the Democrats. But I had a quite a high regard for Wayne Morse.

CH: Were you involved at all in his transference of party membership from — well, first he was a Republican then he became an Independent and then...

NEWBRY: I had nothing to do with that at all.

CH: And then a Democrat.

NEWBRY: I mean, I would have no reason to. No, I would have no — actually, I'd have no reason to. I thought he had a good many attributes that were very admirable, but maybe some of the things he didn't see like we did. I don't know. But I thought he did a pretty good job, and I respected him more than ever after I heard that conversation, there, we he and Harry Byrd, by golly, and I think Wayne Morse was a — I think he was a pretty sound thinker. Now, a lot of people may not agree with that, but I think that he was a good man.

CH: He was, I believe, the first senator to publicly speak out against the war in Vietnam.

NEWBRY: Yeah.

CH: And how do you feel about his conclusion on the Vietnam War?

NEWBRY: Well, I don't know. I wouldn't be able to I don't think I could comment on that. I don't think I could. I don't know.

CH: Well, did you know Richard Neuberger?

NEWBRY: Oh, yes, I knew him very well. He served in the Senate when I was in the Senate and he had — yeah, I knew him very well. He was different, I'll say, by golly. He had his desk all covered with books and papers and, good Lord, more than any senator there,

and I thought that he was a I thought he was a good man. And I thought his wife was an excellent person, likewise.

CH: Maurine?

NEWBRY: Yes. I got to know them very well. Not on a personal level, we didn't fraternize together, but Dick would always say, "How are you?" and all that, and we'd visit. He was only seated about three seats ahead of me in the Senate, and he was a little different type of a man than our average senators. Now, there again, he represented a group of people that I think should be represented in our state Legislature. He wasn't a lawyer, he was a personal man that had his own thing. He was an educator, I think you would call him. And of course, I don't know, he was — I thought he was a good man.

CH: In what way was he different, or what kind of group did he represent?

NEWBRY: Well, what I think he was — the reason I think he was different, he was kind of a loner. I say that because I didn't see him fraternizing with some of the other members, like we generally do, get together and have lunch, or something. Oh, he went up we had a place where we could have lunch up in the state capitol, maybe they still do, maybe they've got a beautiful lunchroom someplace for that now. I suppose they have, and they probably have a diner somebody doing all the service and stewards, and all that. I think they probably do. The Lord only knows. But we had a little place where we could pay for our own food and maybe buy it and have it brought in. I never did see him come up there at all. I mean, he didn't fraternize, as I could see it. And I don't say that was against him, but that was one of his — I won't say peculiarities, but, then, he was kind of an individual. And I think she served quite well after he died in — she served in the Senate after he passed away while he was in the interim, didn't she? She wasn't elected, but she...

CH: That's right, in 1960.

NEWBRY: Yeah. So.

CH: Well, what about some of the representatives from Congress that you were familiar with?

NEWBRY: Well, Norblad, I was — I told you about that, that Norblad was thinking about running for governor and I was going to run for Congress. I knew Norblad on a personal level. We'd see each other quite often and have lunch occasionally when he was back, and all that. I knew him. I knew Wendell Wyatt very well, too, over on the coast. I thought he was an outstanding man. There again, he was a — he quit because, by gosh, he wanted to be more at his home and be with his people. That's why he didn't want to run for Congress anymore, and I respect him for that. I knew Stockman, wasn't it?

CH: Lowell Stockman?

NEWBRY: I knew him very well. In fact, I called on him in his home in Washington when he was there. And on two occasions when I happened to be in Washington I always saw him. He retired, finally, down in the south, and I think he's not living. I think he — so.

CH: What about you had mentioned Walter Pierce, I believe.

NEWBRY: Who?

CH: Walter Pierce?

NEWBRY: Well, Walter Pierce, you mean state treasurer?

CH: He became a congressman, then, eventually.

NEWBRY: Well, Pierce, that was some — well, I don't know.

CH: From the second district?

NEWBRY: What year was that, Pierce?

CH: In the 1930's and 1940's, from 1933 to 1943.

NEWBRY: No. [Inaudible] I didn't know him.

CH: Any of the other congressional people that you had associations with that you recall?

NEWBRY: Well...

CH: Edith Green, did you know Edith Green?

NEWBRY: Well, Edith Green, I had no association with her, but she beat — that Edith Green, I'll tell you what about her, Monroe Sweetland, who was a Democrat from down in Oregon City, in that area, on the last day of filing to run for office I was over in the front of the elections department, which was right across the hall from my office. I was there to tell my men that were elections I said, "Registration's got to be closed, it's over, because it's 5:00." But Monroe Sweetland came up and he says — I think he called me Earl. He says, "Earl," because I served with him in the House, or in I think in the House "I got somebody who's going to have a little opposition for you in the campaign." I said, "You have?" I said, "It's kind of late." "Well, she's right here, she's ready." And that was Edith Green. And I could have said, "No, I'm sorry, Monroe, it's just too late." And I think I should've, out of — not out of — I think I should've, actually, and I could've.

But I didn't even know the woman, and fact of the matter is, I never can — I got to know Edith Green after campaigning, and all that stuff. She didn't look any more like that woman than Irma does. She actually looked — and I think she — I think — I don't know whether it was — it must have been Edith Green. But I think he kind of worked her over to do that instead of running for a state senator, or something like that. I think he said, “Well, why don't you run for secretary of state.” Now, that's something I — it's not hearsay, or anything like that, but my reasoning for thinking it is because somebody in the party, I think, indicated to me that's what happened. Well, of course, she put on a kind of a race against me, but I won, which is all right, which was good for me. But — and I thought, maybe, on the other hand, if I'd have said, “Well, now, Monroe, it's just too late, I can't do that.” and something else with McKay, by gosh, that I did that I didn't have to do, either.

CH: What was that?

NEWBRY: Well, he was kind of late and he come into my office to do — to file something, and I said, “All right, Governor.” Of course, at that time he was not governor, he was with the department of interior. It had something to do with that. I don't some kind of papers he wanted to file, or something, and it was late. It was after 5:00, in my office, for God sakes. But I'm glad it worked out like it did because Edith made a darn good congresswoman, and I think she made a better Republican than she did a Democrat. [Both laugh]

CH: Well, speaking of Democrats, you've mentioned Monroe Sweetland. He was certainly a Democratic leader for quite some time.

NEWBRY: Oh, yes. He was quite a guy. I never fraternized with him. I knew him well, of course, and all that, and he — I don't know whether he was in the newspaper, or what kind of business was he in? I don't know.

CH: I'm not sure. I know that he was in the Legislature for a long time.

NEWBRY: Yeah, he was, but I don't know how he — I don't know what his business was or what he did before. Well, we've covered quite a lot of territory, Clark.

CH: Well, we have, and maybe you could — oh, did you know Charlie Porter?

NEWBRY: Who?

CH: Charlie Porter, Charles Porter. He was a congressman from the fourth district...

NEWBRY: Well, no, not personally.

CH: Yeah. I was just wondering because he was sort of back in that time.

NEWBRY: Wasn't he from Eugene, or someplace?

CH: I think so, I think so, I think so.

NEWBRY: Yeah. No, I didn't know him at all.

CH: Well, what are some of the changes that have occurred in the Legislature since well, while you were in office what were some of the major changes that occurred in the Legislature and in state government?

NEWBRY: Well, I don't think I'm qualified to tell you how many changes there are because I'm not around there. I know that they're appropriating money for things that I don't think is essential. I think this building program that they've got in mind is completely out of line because our state operated pretty darn well, with half the population it has now, but we don't need triple the employees and triple the people, by gosh, that we had then

to carry on the state business. I think we're overloaded with bureaus that I think are, to a degree, are members who are not specifically qualified, by gosh, to do the job. And I say that, not advisedly, but say it because what I pick up and what I hear and what I can see. I think we're getting to be more of a — well, I'll call it a bureaucratic government, by gosh, where people are thinking only about their job and not thinking too damn much about the state of Oregon and the people they represent.

But I know there's been a big change in that because when you think about — when I think — well, I mentioned before that each representative has to have his private office and all the help that he has, for God sakes, and have an office back in his own, I think that's totally unnecessary and totally worthless, only for them to retain their office and to perpetuate themselves in office, by gosh. It's just like the Congress of the United States. And I think Bush made a good appointment on the Supreme Court justice. That's in the Supreme Court. I think that was a darn good appointment because he picked a man that I think will be proven to be a constitutional justice, which I think probably this man, like Eisenhower said, that's the worst thing he ever did was appoint... [Doorbell rings]

CH: Pardon me.

[Tape stops]

What were some of the changes that occurred in state government that you helped bring about? What would you say what were your major accomplishments as either in the Legislature or as secretary of state?

NEWBRY: Well, I don't think I accomplished — I can't recall anything drastic changes we made, or anything. The only thing I do — I told you in the secretary of state's office we accomplished some things that, by gosh, a lot of other states were trying to accomplish, in our motor vehicle administration. But as far as the secretary of state's responsibilities or concerns, I think we — I can't say any major changes at all. We just kept up with the

demand, like we needed more space in the pen, we built a penitentiary, another one; like we had more space out at Fairview Home, we took care of that, we got appropriation to do it and stay within the budget, and that's all I can say. I think that we had Leslie Scott was the first state treasurer I worked with, he and the — he and McKay no, he and Hall. He was in there with Hall, by gosh, yeah. Yeah, Hall and Scott and myself, we were the top people. I did one thing once that I thought I was doing the right thing, and I did the right thing, but Leslie Scott didn't think it was right, and I don't need to bring this out but I will. And we had some timber over in the Bend area.

It was prime timber, about 80 acres, I think, or something like that, and there was a client of a friend of mine that wanted to buy that and I thought, well, by gosh, and the governor and we talked about it on the board, see, the forestry board. And Scott didn't want to sell. He said, "I think we ought to keep that." And I said, "Well, it's marketable timber and it is a fine stand of yellow pine." or whatever it was, a very fine stand of that, and when they got it up to the price these people were willing to pay, it was the highest price anything had ever sold for, and I thought, well, this is the time to sell, and I talked to the governor about it and he said, "What do you think, Earl?" And I said, "Well, gosh, Governor," I said, "I think the forestry department that these people want it." and I don't know who the people were now, I can't recall, but they want this, they're paying 22 dollars a foot for that, and, my gosh, at that time I think stuff was going as low as four or five, six, maybe 10 dollars was tops, and I thought it would be good, but Leslie Scott never liked that, ever liked it. And he was right. But who knows what the future is going to be. That stuff now is worth 400 dollars instead of 22.

But that was 40 years ago. And it's been utilized and fact of the matter is, I think, I was told later on, and I'm not sure about this either, but I think these people didn't harvest it, but it runs in my mind that some official told me that, Earl, somebody traded something to — they traded that for some other area they'd like to have more than that. So the state, I think, still owns that. Now it's getting so darn old they'll have to start harvesting. I've got a — Irma's son-in-law, he's a trucker I don't know whether you want to record this or not but he showed me a picture of a log that he hauled just recently. There was 58 no, 85

thousand board feet in that. It weighed 58 thousand pounds, just one log, and that was about two and a half tons overweight for the truck. Of course, a single load, if he'd have a little small log, it would have been a penalty, but he hauled that in from Tiller, which is over here, into Medford. And I'm going to get a picture of it. His wife just told my... [Tape cuts out]

[End of Tape 7, Side 1]

Tape 7, Side 2
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NEWBRY: Thirty-six feet long and, my gosh, it was oh, it was over almost filled a 10 — you know, a truck will go eight feet, I think, but I'm not sure, but I think it's eight feet. Well, it just almost filled that truck. That's how — he said that's — well, Ed said that's the biggest log that ever come in. He took it down to [Alley and Abercrombie?], I think, the people there no, Boise Cascade, I believe, some of their timber. So it's a very interesting experience, and, of course, that's one of our major industries, and now it's being threatened by a spotted owl which don't mean a damn thing to people. What about these people that they don't like to kill things. What about the beef they like to eat, what about the pork they like to eat, what about the lambchops they like? But we want to — those species we're getting we ought to go out and kill those owls, I think, or else put them in a cage where we can keep them for the next generations.

CH: Do you feel that there's plenty of old growth to go around for the timber industry?

NEWBRY: I can't comment on that, but I know that, from what I read and who I talk to is that it's limiting the it's limiting the production of timber by not getting into the old growth. And while I was on the forestry board I did quite a little flying around some over our forests that we state forest. And some of them we thought were getting to the point where, because of their age, and all, they ought to be started to harvest, we thought that. And I was flying with some of the people over at Coos Bay and saw some of their very fine timber. And this fellow wanted to show me he said, "Well, we've got — we're getting into this because, after all, this is old timber and we've got this young growth coming on, second growth." And it's a crop, actually what timber is, is a crop, just like wheat and cotton, and everything like that, and people ought to recognize that. Fundamentally I think that is substantially true.

But anyway, I had an opportunity to see that, and we in the forestry, we would dicker on it and sell. Of course, the state sells that timber all the time, but we do it with or, did at that time, with reason and where it was justified and where we thought we needed to do it, and to keep industry going. We did away with that to a large degree of clear cutting, more select cutting, which I think is good. Fact of the matter is, the other day they were taking stuff out of Mt. Ashland, here, with helicopter, thinning out some of the logs here in our watershed of Ashland. They had a helicopter lifting those logs and taking them to where they could be loaded. That's to keep from building roads in, and that can be accomplished. Bohemia Lumber Company had one of those big balloons that they log with, and that was down, I think, in the Willamette Valley area, which was a smart thing. They can log where you don't have — can't build roads, and don't have to. That's a conservation effort, in my opinion. So, what do you say we call it a day.

CH: Okay. I couple of other things here. I notice that, in reading the newspaper articles, that there were some a number of little traditions that the Legislature would participate in, and at the end of the sessions they'd all get together and sing "Auld Lang Syne." Do you remember that?

NEWBRY: Oh, sure.

CH: Do they still do that, do you know?

NEWBRY: They do?

CH: Do they? I was wondering. I...

NEWBRY: I don't know whether they do or not, but we always did, my gosh, and some of them got a little bit swacked. In fact, one of the fellows I've kind of forgotten, Greenwood, he lived up towards Mt. Hood. He was a darn good friend of mine. But he at the end of the

session I think he got kind of looped and, boy, it was quite an interesting closing, I'll say that. But, my God, I think he came in with a woman's hat on of course, he was acting, too. But I knew him so well, and I'd been up to his home. He had a place right near Bowman's. Isn't there a place that used to be called Bowman's...

CH: That's right.

NEWBRY: All right. That's where lived, in that area.

CH: Near Welches.

NEWBRY: Huh?

CH: On the edge of Mt. Hood, on the side of Mt. Hood, there.

NEWBRY: Yeah. That place was — so, yes, we had — it was a great — it was kind of interesting, and people were tired and they wanted to go home, and then they'd — of course, you make a lot of friends. I think I was friendly to everybody. I don't think I had an enemy in either House or Senate. I can't think of who they would be well, maybe nobody had enemies. But in any event, I — some of them I didn't agree with, some of them I didn't vote with. I always voted with that group of men, by gosh, that I told you about, like Stadelman and Strayer and — old man Strayer, he was a Democrat, by gosh. I didn't mention him, but he was one of my stalwart friends and supporters, and he was a Democrat, by gosh, from La Grande, I believe, or Pendleton. And Colonel [Eberhart?], I got to know him. He was a Republican. But in any event, this Strayer was the salt of the earth, boy I'm telling you. And his daughter [Nita?], she kind of was her father's secretary and she was good. But that Strayer, he was an elderly man, he was probably in his — probably 70, but we all respected him and, by gosh, I'm telling you, a spade was a spade, when he called it. He didn't take any roundabout way about it. That's why I respected him so highly. He

was, as I say, a Democrat but, boy, I'm telling you, he would — he kind of voted with what I call the salt of the earth. I had a great respect for him. One of our fine men.

CH: Well, what about your family — well first of all, on these traditions, are there any other traditions, you know, like singing “Auld Lang Syne” at the end of the sessions, were there other things that you did as a group that...

NEWBRY: Gee, I can't remember really — I don't remember doing anything but wanting to go home, for God sakes.

CH: What about your family? How did they participate in your...

NEWBRY: Well, my family, I had...

CH: Political life?

NEWBRY: My father and mother were still alive during that and they were kind of proud of me, but they never came up around the Legislature, and even while I was secretary of state. My father passed away in 1955. That's just before I went out of office. And my mother, she passed later. They, I think they was only there once at the state capitol when I was there. It wasn't too easy for them to get there, and they was kind of proud of me, and all that, and I'd be back to see them a lot. And, of course, when I was secretary of state, why, if I was on my way south, I'd always stop at my father's and mother's place. But my family was very considerate, I think, of what I seemed to have to do. I had to be there to do my job, particularly while I was secretary of state. I couldn't see them as often as I used to because, while in the Legislature I was home most of the time, only out about three or four or five months once every two years, so that was no [inaudible]. So my family of course, my daughter and my son, they were very happy in going along with me, and my son, he

stayed here and went to school every time I was in the Legislature, and then after all why, he was in the service later on.

CH: How did he eventually get involved in politics?

NEWBRY: Well, he was very active in fact, here in the county he was appointed as a state senator. In fact, I had retired and I lived in the Plaza apartments there in Medford. I had a suite there in that apartment. I lived there for three years. I had a — they just completed a two-bedroom, two baths apartment, made two out of or, one out of two, and that's where I lived. But he had been on the in the county he was on the budget committee here and chairman of that budget committee for the county, and he was never a county commissioner, or any office that I knew of in the county, but he was very active. And when this vacancy occurred, why, some people come and thought, by golly, if they asked me what I thought about Lynn being a candidate, or suggesting his name to be appointed. And I said, "Well, for gosh sakes, I think he's qualified." I said, "I'd be very proud if he'd get to be in the Senate." I said, "As far as I'm concerned, why, that won't interfere with our business at all because I can be here and run our business while the Legislature's on because I don't live it, don't convene the year around, for God sakes."

And they said, "Well, we wanted to know." And three or four men come to talk to me and they were concerned. They thought, well, maybe Earl will say, well, no way. But I thought, no, I'll be very proud if he's appointed. And a friend of mine, personal friend, and her husband and I were very close, she was hoping to get the appointment, and her name was Nye, Evelyn Nye. And fact of the matter is, I she had something to do with it, and I was on my way back from on one occasion I was on my way back from oh, I think that's when he had to run the first time, and I think that Evelyn was — kind of hoped to get the appointment when my son got it. And I called her from Nogales, Arizona, on my way back from Mexico, and I asked her — and I thought that she would be some support for Lynn to be elected, and she was a little cold on it. But I called her clear from down there, not knowing some of the previous hopes and ambitions she had, or I wouldn't have called,

because I knew them very well. They lived on a ranch close to me and he became a very successful man in the fruit business, he passed away, but he was a retired first world war veteran. She's still living.

He was part of the Nye Naumes Company here, and they're one of the big ones in the whole United States, Naumes is. One of the biggest operators in the country in deciduous fruit. They own two big properties up in Wenatchee, they own up to 55% of every pear tree in this valley, and I knew that fellow when he was representing Del Monte buying pears and we sold some to him. But I knew his father very well, but that was an outstanding accomplishment, or achievement, of one man, Naumes Equipment and Naumes Incorporated. They bought a bunch of orchards down south, bought the [DiGiorgio?] Fruit Company holdings, pears and I don't know what else. But the [DiGiorgio?] Fruit Company, they sold out to him and the wine people, Gallo wine people, he and Joe were very this Naumes were very close friends, and I think Gallo probably twisted Joe's arm to buy that because he wanted pears, more pears, to put through in his juice business. Now, that's the story I got, and I believe it. They both served on the school down there in California, the Santa Clara, that Catholic school, what is it?

CH: Jesuit, it's a Jesuit school...

NEWBRY: No...

CH: In the University of Santa Clara University. It's a Jesuit school.

NEWBRY: Yeah, I think so. Well, he was on the board there, Joe was, along with the Gallo wine boy. And I think that that's where their first connection was, and I think Gallo kind of — well, that's my own thinking, and it's true or not true, but they were very close and Joe bought this outfit and of course, Joe's daughter, she's a — he's gone now. He died in his 70's. But he's gone and she's running the show and they've got this big business. They bought part of our ranch out there. Not part of it, they bought our last holdings. We

had it leased out for years, and then they bought it. But in any event, getting back to that, why...

CH: Well, your wife was your secretary there for a while in the Legislature. What happened after you became secretary of state? Did she continue to work for you?

NEWBRY: Oh, my gosh, no, no. I had a secretary there. I wouldn't think of hiring my wife to be that. I wouldn't have even thought of it. She'd have been qualified, but I had a very excellent person that Bob Farrell had had for some time. Her name is Peggy Peterson, and she was excellent. She helped make me a pretty good officer, I think, because she kind of engineered people that come in to see me. I'd have people come in and we'd talk about their driver's license. I mean, they talk about different things. I had a call, a few at night in bed, my gosh, when I was living at the Marion Hotel, and I was just getting indoctrinated in this secretary of state's job. But, no, she was an excellent — and I had her and I had two girls, in fact. Now I don't know how many they have. But I had her, and then I had the — I had two girls in my office, and one did the work, well, either one did work for me, but one of them was for my assistant. The second girl, she did most of his essential writing, and all. But my wife, no, she was very much a lady and I wouldn't have thought of having her employed, my gosh. I suppose now they do, though. I suppose they put them on the payroll for something whether they're there or not.

CH: I don't know. But your last effort in public — in elective office was when you ran for governor, for the nomination for governor; is that right?

NEWBRY: Yeah.

CH: You were secretary of state at the time?

NEWBRY: 1954, I was...

CH: In 1954.

NEWBRY: Yeah. And I had two more years to go.

CH: And so you remained, then, as secretary of state, then, until...

NEWBRY: Sure.

CH: 1956?

NEWBRY: 1957 was...

CH: 1957.

NEWBRY: Yeah. All through 1956, yes, and then up to about January 10th of 1957. That's when my term expired.

CH: Were you sorry to leave public life?

NEWBRY: Well, yes and no. I knew that I was going to — I knew that I'd be out of office, I knew that because I — if there'd have been an office open, like state treasurer, or something, I would have probably run for that. I wouldn't run for and I've told you what I was thinking about these appointments that were disappointing and I didn't have — but I had kind of planned on, well, this is it, I did the best I could, I served my time and I've served the state, I thought, with a little bit of credibility. So I didn't feel too much let down because shortly after that I took a trip and would be gone for four or five months to Mexico and then I came back and I was around the ranch here and helping, and I'd go up to Salem once in a while and see friends. I never did visit the Legislature, but when my son was there I visited

occasionally and he'd always give me the respects of the Senate. Of course, once a senator, always a senator, and I think I always carry a card, or used to, and senators did. They could get in anyway, I mean, be recognized at the door. That was a rule. I don't know what it is now. But I suppose the secretary — ex-secretary of state and ex-senator, I suppose I could tell them who I was and maybe the doorkeeper would let me in. I'm not going to try it, but I had no problem when I went to visit my son because I was recognized then and I hadn't been out of office too long. But I did, I visited a few times while he was a state senator.

CH: Did you help your son in any of his political campaigns?

NEWBRY: No.

CH: In his work as a legislator?

NEWBRY: No, I didn't help I — no, I didn't help him, only stand back of him and his campaigns weren't too tough. Of course, this last one was. He got beat by just a few votes, but, then, those are things — I think that he probably mentioned that, or knows about it, which was a Godsend to him. He'd have been stuck there. He was — he had a position with the Medford Corporation. They were a sizable firm here, and still are, in Medford. But he had a position with them, and had he gone on I think that would jeopardize his position because he'd be tied up to the Legislature, and then at that time he couldn't lobby for them, or anything like that, and, gosh, when he was defeated, why, then he was in there full scale. He was on a salary before, as I recall, outside of the Legislature. Of course the Legislature didn't pay anything then, anyway, to speak of. They hadn't started into that high bracket of payments.

But, gosh, he worked at that and got to be executive vice president and retired from that about two years ago. The man that bought that is a multibillionaire. And he started out as a druggist, got a chain of drugstores, bought the Amalgamated Sugar Company in Utah,

Amalgamated Sugar Company bought Medford Corporation for 200 million dollars, cash money. I know this because I read it in the paper and know something about it. He's the guy that was working for — trying to get the control of Lockheed, here, awhile back, and it's been the story about him and Lockheed has been in the paper, not right recently, but even in the stock reports they mention Simon, and here's Harold Simon, by gosh. And he came down here two or three times, I think is about all, while my son was an officer. Somewhere he'd always want my son to have lunch with him when he was in Medford. He had a manager or, a president. He called him a president of this company.

And that fellow Simon, Lynn said he was a very commonplace fellow, very commonplace. But you knew that he know what he was doing and where he was going. He said you could appreciate that. And I seen him on T.V., here, awhile back when this negotiation was going on for Lockheed. He is a common looking guy. A man about my height and about my size, I guess. But a complexion something like yours. But by gosh, some of the things those people do, it's amazing. He started out with one little drugstore and then he made a chain out of it. That was his original start. And now he's one of the big people in our country. He's not just a multimillionaire, he's recognized on Wall Street as a multibillionaire. And that's occurred, I think, since the — a lot of it since he acquired Medford Corporation five years ago.

CH: Well, what kind of involvements have you had politically or publicly since leaving office? Have you...

NEWBRY: Me?

CH: Yes.

NEWBRY: I've had none whatsoever.

CH: Any organizations that you've been involved with?

NEWBRY: No.

CH: I know that you've mentioned before being a Mason and an Elk...

NEWBRY: Well, I've been very active in some of the some of those...

CH: And Shrines.

NEWBRY: Shrine, I'm a past top man in the Shrine here. That was in 1948. That's what one thing I wondered if that would jeopardize me being elected. And my friend Paul Green said, "My God, Earl, no, we'd be very proud of it." And then I was a Master Mason, I was a grandmaster in 1965, and for that reason I had to go to Portland about for five years, once a month, and that was a nice thing for me to do, in 1965. And down in the desert I got I helped organize a group that called themselves Jesters, and that's what this little insignia is, a Jesters' insignia. It's a pelican. And we meet twice a month there at Palm Desert. And I also helped organize what we call the Desert Roadrunners. I helped organize that in 1972 and I'm a past president of that no, I'm not. I have to retract that. I'm secretary emeritus. We've still got the original president with us and he's getting to be about my age, too. But I enjoy that and that's kept me busy.

For that few months out of the winter, why we spent in Mexico. So and I know that it's just a little difficult for my son to adjust himself after that active life he had in the Legislature, and more particularly this, and then the different facets of state government he was into after he went out of office. My gosh. And then he — now he's the chairman of the board of this Rogue Valley of the Rogue Bank, and that is a good thing for him because they meet periodically. They've got seven branches now, that little bank that started here in Rogue River, I think. They've got a bank at Rogue River, one at Ashland, one in Phoenix, two in Medford, they just built a new one in Medford. They've got seven. Well, he's the chairman of the board on that. He had a little stock in it, some stock, I don't know how

much, but enough, and they elected him appointed him on the board and now he's the chairman. Well, I mention that because that gives him something to do and it takes quite a little of his time.

CH: I bet.

NEWBRY: And he's enjoyed it. And he's one of the most I told you before, that son of mine is one of the most brilliant in political affairs, and then industrial affairs and natural habitat than any man in the state. I don't think there's anybody that will now, I'm being proud, but I mean, damn it, what I say. He's got a vocabulary that's just — and he's unwavering in his opinion. If he thinks he's right, by gosh, you can't change his mind, and he lets people know it. He won't impose on people's other opinions, but he lets them know definitely, by gosh, how he thinks. And I've had the pleasure in the last, oh, couple years, or so, and occasionally we get talking, and he gets down to fundamentals, by gosh, and it's just spellbinding for me. And I'm just amazed by gosh, that guy ought to be he ought to be a United States senator. And he might have could have been, but he's thankful that he isn't.

He said, "My gosh, Dad, I've got-" of course, he's 67 now. He was born in 1923 and he's not an old man, he's very active, and all that, but I think it's a good thing that he isn't doing that. But for qualifications, the facets of government, he was very definitely interested or, was responsible for, and had an active part in, by gosh, he just — well, Debbs [Eugene] Potts was another guy that's damn well off in that area, knowing what to do and how to do it and when it ought to be done. I think Lynn is a great respecter of Debbs, but I don't think Debbs measures up to Lynn because I don't think he's had that broad experience as my son has happened to have had in different facets of governments. Well, what do you say we call it off.

CH: Sure. Maybe we can continue the Newbry oral history with your son. How would that be?

NEWBRY: Oh, okay.

CH: I hope that we can do that, and I appreciate your cooperation with this, and...

NEWBRY: Well, I hope it does some good to somebody if they ever get to see it. It'll be in the archives, I guess.

CH: Do you have any other comments, anything else you'd like to...

NEWBRY: I don't think so. I think it was very nice, and I think that as long as I'm around, and all, I'm going to try to make some of those meetings of the historical society.

CH: Good.

NEWBRY: Maybe I ought to send my check in and become a member. I don't know whether they might not accept me. [Laughs]

CH: Oh, I'm sure they will, and I'm sure they'll accept your check as well. [Both laugh]
Well, thank you very much for your cooperation.

NEWBRY: Well, Clark, it's really been a pleasure, and I do hope that I can get a copy of those cassettes.

CH: I'll see what I can do on that.

NEWBRY: I want that, by all means.

CH: Okay.

[End of Tape 7, Side 2]

[End of Interview]