

Extension Oral History Project – Harold Kerr and Tom Zinn - Part 2

Date: February 24, 2008

Place: Tom's home in Corvallis

Time: 39:31 minutes

Interviewer: Elizabeth Uhlig, Oral Historian

Transcriber: Sue Bowman

EU: This is Part 2 of the interview with Harold Kerr and Tom Zinn.

[00:10]

Harold, let's see, you graduated from the University in 1957.

HK: That's right, Elizabeth, after winter term. Then I went back for the graduation ceremony with my old college roommate and got to wear the gown and walk through the procession which was a pretty big thrill for somebody from Lakeview that never thought they would go to college.

EU: And what did you do next, then?

HK: Well, I was working for my father and my parents on the farm and they had hinted that I probably ought to be looking for work, so I started making a few inquiries and everyone I talked to said, "What's your draft status?" And I said, "Well, as far as I know I'm still number four on the list. I never got a school deferment and every time they were about to draft me somebody volunteered for the draft say I stayed in the top four or five for four years of college and as far as I know I'm still there."

[1:16]

EU: This was during the Korean War?

HK: It would have been; they were being drafted at least, there wasn't actually any combat going on when I went in November of '57. One guy said, "Well, why don't you

just go in and volunteer to go take your physical.” Because that was the other part of it. My family doctor had said, “You won’t have to go in the army; there’s no reason for you to take ROTC; you’ll fail the physical because of asthma.” And so I had that in the back of my mind and I told this potential employer that and he said, “Well, why don’t you go to Portland and take your physical and then if you fail it, then we might be interested in hiring you.” So I put my boots in the shoe shop and never did get them back, come to think about it, and wore a pair of moccasins and Levis and a Levi jacket to Portland to take the physical.

Well, by then I’m 22 years old and I really don’t think I told my parents exactly what I was doing, but anyhow, I went up there to volunteer to take my physical and there were 30 of us there upstairs in this building, and the sergeant ran us through all these hoops and after five or six hours, he came over to me with a stack of papers and he said, “Here these are yours.” And I said, “What are these?” And he said, “Well, you are in charge of this group, you’ve got to take them to Fort Ord.” And I said, “No, Sarg I don’t think so; I’m supposed to fail the physical and supposed to go home to Lakeview.” And he said, “No, we needed 30 and you all passed.” And he said, “You’re in charge because you had the best test scores.” I said, “Well, these guys, I don’t know where they all are, but I know where some of them are and they’re pretty drunk and they are not going to be very controllable.” He said, “Well, we’ll help you get them on the bus and take you out to the airport and then you’re in charge.” I thought ohhhh....

So anyhow, we flew to Fort Ord; got in there at 4:00 in the morning and went through all the Army hoops of picking up cigarette butts under the barracks and went through getting your shots and all of the sudden after I had been there about three days, I realized I should call my folks and tell them I wouldn’t be home for two years. So I did and that’s how I got in the Army.

At one point in time I got a note from a Colonel to come over and interview him so I went over to this office building and walked in and saluted and he said, “Son, we don’t salute in this office.” I said, “Okay Sir, that’s fine with me.” He said, “We need some

people to be in the vet corps to be food inspectors. We don't have any Army vets anymore but we still have a vet department and they are in charge of food inspection. We would like to know if you would consider doing that." And I said, "that sounds a lot better than the rumor mills says the rest of these guys are going to Fort Bliss, Texas for a second eight weeks of training and then going to Germany to be a showcase Army outfit doing nothing but parades and what not." I said, "Food inspection sounds like a good deal to me." So when we checked out, they all took off for Fort Bliss, Texas and I caught a plane to New York City and started nearly two years of Veterinary Corp food inspection in New York City.

[4:40]

EU: Did they give you any training for that or were you prepared with your background?

HK: Well, I was pretty well trained from the college background, but they did offer a school for six weeks in Chicago and I signed up for that and still hold the honor, as far as I know of having the best grades ever received at that Vet school. The only question I missed; I'll never forget, they wanted to know what you called the milk that cows gave right after the calved. And I wrote clostridium, I think that's right, but anyhow, I put that down and they said, "That was the wrong answer; you should have said it's not milk." Okay, so that's the only question I missed in the six weeks and ended up tutoring a bunch of kids that were in there that had no farm background at all and didn't know what a steer was. The main thing we learned about was quality and grading of beef and cheese and packaging it so it could survive overseas shipment being exposed to salt water and rain and what not. So, that was a great school.

While I was there I purchased an engagement ring and went back to New York. I thought I was being really secretive and really sneaky as I met with my girlfriend to propose to her that night and from the time she met me at the train depot until I finally got around to proposing, she knew exactly what I was up to because she could see the square box in my pants pocket. So anyhow, I didn't surprise her a bit and haven't surprised her since. She's a New York City, raised in Brooklyn, Polish girl, the mother of our two kids and after the Army we can do this and go back to the Army if you want.

But we got married in April of '59 and my goal was always to go back to the farm in Lakeview. So we drove out in November of '59 in a snowstorm. I got stranded in Alturas, California and finally got into Lakeview with a foot of snow on the ground, pulling a trailer that my brother had driven back to New York City so the three of us rode back together. And moved into this old farm house that my folks had moved out of into a much nicer home and there was a pack rat nest in the middle of the couch and the place hadn't been swept or heated or anything for a couple of years and it was in pretty bad shape.

[7:20]

But the story I wanted to tell, was that one morning after we kind of got pretty well fixed up in there, Carol got up first because you had to build a fire in the stove so we had hot water; she went out to the kitchen to start the fire and screamed. And I thought what in the world; so I rushed out to see what the problem was and here was this huge sow probably weighed 500 pounds looking down into the kitchen window, because as I reported earlier there was no foundation under the house and it had sunk. We had hauled rock into the driveway so we wouldn't get stuck, so the driveway was quite a bit higher than the kitchen window and this big old sow was looking right down at Carol. And she was supposed to farrow that day and I had a pen all fixed up for her, but she didn't like it and she tore it all apart; she was looking for a better home for her babies. So that was one of Carol's many experiences as a farm wife in Lakeview.

[8:20]

TZ: She didn't know what it was, did she?

HK: She'd never seen anything that big!

TZ: The closest she had ever gotten to a pig was in the deli back in New York. She didn't know pigs came with four legs.

EU: So where did you live in New York City?

HK: When I first got there I lived in a place called Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Club on Lexington Avenue in New York City itself. And we were stationed down, I think it's actually the site where the World Trade Center was built. This was in the '50s and we were in a dairy cheese market there and inspected cheese and butter that was sold to the Army or was government owned and was transferred to the Army and we had to do the quality and taste tests and all. And then after we got married we moved out into a little place called Middle Village which was on the edge of Queens and Long Island. I couldn't figure out what the name implied until we moved out there and found out it was a little two block wide area with apartments surrounded by cemeteries. And so you caught a bus and walked into this area and when you were leaving you walked out and caught a bus and rode it to a subway and it took just about an hour and 45 minutes to get to downtown Manhattan from out there, but we were in the suburbs of New York City.

[9:40]

EU: How did you meet your wife?

HK: She was a hostess at the Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen's Club. And I was not acting; I was doing the real Harold thing. I was very shy and standing on the staircase looking out over the dancers wondering how I would fit into this and a friend of Carol's came and got me and said, "You need to dance." And so we are dancing and she dances me over next to Carol and Carol was dancing over with a paratrooper, a Green Beret, and she said to me, "You need to dance with her." And I said, "Okay." And I turned and said, "Excuse me." And we kind of bumped this paratrooper out of the way and started dancing with her and it turned out Carol that had signaled her friend that this guy was coming on too strong and she wanted out of it and so I was the hero and took her home that night and we dated steady after that until we got married 14 months later.

[10:35]

EU: And so, what was it like for you? For you in New York City and then for her coming...

HK: Well, I loved New York City. We had passes to all the Broadway shows and saw every new show that came to Radio City Music Hall because we knew where these passes were available for the soldiers coming back from overseas and if you got there first, you got the pick of them. I guess I would say I liked it because I knew I didn't have to stay there. I was going home. When Carol got to Lakeview she did a lot of crying. I got a job driving truck for my Father and so I was gone three nights a week hauling wheat to Portland and San Francisco and she just was kind of lonely. Didn't have a driver's license, couldn't drive, didn't know how to drive. And so she just waited there at this old farmhouse until I got home. She said she had a number of meetings with herself and decided that she had gotten herself into this and she was going to stick it out and she's still there.

[11:35]

EU: So you were working on the farm with your Father but you were driving, too?

HK: That was part of the farm work hauling wheat to Portland and bringing back whatever we could find. Scrap lumber, new lumber, anyway to make a return load and that's what I did from November until the next fall. Almost through the year.

And I guess I'll go ahead and tell this story. [telephone rings] We were harvesting the last field of wheat and Dad had ridden in with me on the truck and we didn't have a lift, we had a shovel to get the wheat out of the truck and so I'm shoveling the wheat and thinking to myself, "I've never gotten a compliment from my Father all my life and so it might be kind of nice to hear what he has to say." And that's my thought as I'm finally getting the last of the wheat out of the back and he's just sitting up on the cab watching me. He clears his throat, and so anticipating what I thought he was going to say, he clears his throat and says, "You know you're going to have to get another job, I can't afford to pay you \$250 a month through this next winter." Because he hadn't paid us through that first winter. We lived off the money we had saved in the Army. Which was pretty hard to do, but we had saved a little money and so that was how we got through that first winter. And so, looking back on it, you know he was a lot smarter than I ever

gave him credit for because he knew there wasn't a great future there on that farm for two families and that I had an opportunity to do something else.

[13:10]

So I went to town and saw my county agent, Elgin Cornett, and said, "Elgin, I need a job."

EU: This was the Extension...?

HK: The county agent there in Lakeview. And it just happened that Carol's mother and her new husband were out visiting us from New York City to see our baby daughter who was a month old. And so Elgin called Corvallis and talked to Charlie Smith who I had taken Charlie Smith's class in Extension Methods which is the same class that Glenn Klein taught later. And so Charlie knew me and said, "Well, you be here and eight o'clock tomorrow morning,(or it might have been the day after that, cause this was in the afternoon, ahh I think it was the next morning) and he said we'll get you an interview with Frank Ballard. And so I said, "Okay," and turned to my step-father-in-law, we need to leave about 2:30 in the morning if we're going to get to Corvallis by 8:00 in the morning and he said, "okay."

Do you want to take a break there and get to Tommy's Army stuff?

EU: Why don't you finish this story with your interview?

HK: Okay, well, we arrived in Corvallis and there was a Chevron station down on Jefferson and Fourth Street and I went in there and put on this horrible suit that I had bought in New York City and never knowing how ugly it was. It was the only suit and tie I had and so I wore that up to campus and met Charlie Smith and Charlie said, "Well, you go in and meet Mr. Ballard and if he thinks you'll work out, we probably have a spot for you."

So I went into now what is still the Director of Extension's Office, although the receptionist had a little room up front and Mr. Ballard had this great big room in the back of that area. Probably a third again as big as the room is now and totally dark in there. The shades were all pulled and I couldn't see a thing when I came through the door. I finally found a couch; sat on the couch and Mr. Ballard was sitting behind this big desk with sun glasses on. And I thought that was kind of strange. I'm sitting there thinking I've never been interviewed for a job, but I think they are supposed to answer the questions, so it seemed like an eternity that I sat there and he finally said, "Lakeview, hum," and I thought to myself, "That's not a question." And I said, "Yes, sir." And another long pause and he says, "Damn good goose huntin' down there." And I said to myself, "That's still not a question." "Yes, sir," I said. And there was this long pause that seemed like minutes; it was probably seconds but it seemed like minutes and he said, "Why don't you go over to Prineville tomorrow and meet Gus Woods and if Gus Woods thinks he can get along with you, we'll put you in Prineville as the 4-H agent."

And the only thought I had was this is not the fellow to ask where Prineville is. So I left the room and Charlie was standing out in the hall and he said, "How did it go?" And I said, "Well, Mr. Ballard said I should go to Prineville tomorrow and meet Gus Woods." And Charlie said, I'm sure they had this all set up, but Charlie said, "be there before eight o'clock because Gus goes to the office before eight, gets his messages, and if he needs to go up country", which is what they called the eastern part of Crook County, "he'll leave before eight o'clock and you'll miss him." So we took off, I didn't even ask Charlie where Prineville was, we took off, I guess we must have gone back over the Willamette Pass, anyhow, we ended up in Bend and stayed in this little cottage on the edge of Bend. I think it cost ten dollars for the night's lodging. Got up the next morning early at 5:30, not knowing how far away Prineville was and drove to Prineville probably sitting out in front of the courthouse at 6:30 and about seven saw the lights come on in the Extension Office. Or what I thought was the Extension Office.

[17:15]

So I excused myself from my father in law and went over and knocked on the window and he let me in and it was almost like being interviewed by Frank Ballard. He said,

“You were a 4-H’er, were ya?” And I said, “Yes, sir.” He said, “You know, being a 4-Her is not being the same as being a 4-H agent.” And I said, “Yeah, I think I can understand that. I had two or three 4-H agents in my career in Lakeview, and they were all different but really nice guys. I think I can understand there is a difference.” He said, “Well, when can you be to work?” I said, “Well, I’ve got to take my mother-in-law and her husband back to Reno because they don’t fly and they have to catch a plane in Reno. That would be Thursday and I said we would need to pack up what little we’ve got and I said, “I could be here Friday morning.” And he said, “No, Monday will be soon enough.”

[18:10]

And so that was my introduction to Extension work and interviews by my future staff chairman and the Director of Extension. Which were both – Gus Woods became my adopted father; he became a real friend and real supporter and I met with Mr. Ballard maybe one other time and he was famous. He had been Director of Extension for 44 years and he had even been President of the University and every other Extension Service in the country said he was the best director in the U.S. I don’t think all of Oregon knew that or appreciated it, but nationwide he was very well thought of.

EU: Do you know why he had that reputation? What did he do to gain that reputation?

HK: Oh, I think he had good people around him and he had an uncanny ability to judge people with a first impression. And was an extremely effective lobbyist with the legislators in Salem because in those days Extension had to lobby for their own money and he did that well and was well thought of up there. And it was just everybody said he was “Mr. Ballard” and there was nobody that was quite his equal. That was the way – he wasn’t a great speaker, he had more sense of humor than I first realized after I got a little better acquainted with him, but he just had that ability and I think he had himself surrounded with excellent people.

[19:45]

EU: So, I guess you learned where Prineville was.

HK: I found Prineville. I was thinking about this last night and wondered how I got to Bend? Because that isn't the shortest way from Corvallis to Prineville and the only road I knew over the mountain was Willamette Pass, so I probably went back to Eugene and went up over the Willamette Pass and went up to Bend. That's probably how I got there.

EU: So, what were your feelings, I mean you had to leave your family ranch.

HK: Oh, I dreamt about somehow or other owning that place someday. Even talked to an uncle who had a little money in California about borrowing money from him and he said "No, you don't want to do that." He didn't say he wouldn't loan it to me, but he did say you don't want to do that. It stayed in the family for a while. My younger brother went in the service when I got home and then when he got back to Lakeview he went to work for the county and my sister's husband, brother-in-law, had moved back to Lakeview, he had worked for Boeing up in Seattle and he had moved back to Lakeview and started a feed store and a gas station and sold gas and sold feed and livestock supplies out of what used to be the grease room. He and my father became partners in the trucking business and they had up to seven trucks on the road hauling freight from Lakeview out and things back into Lakeview and then when that kind of broke up with no hard feelings or anything, it just kind of dissolved itself, Dad sold the farm and they moved to Arizona for six months of the year and then spent the summers in Lakeview. Mom passed away shortly after they did that from cancer and then our Father lived in Lakeview for a while and then spent his later years in Klamath Falls with my two sisters; they lived in Klamath Falls.

[21:45]

EU: So, what did Carol think about moving to Prineville?

HK: She thought Prineville was a great step forward from the ranch in Lakeview. She got involved with people there and the kids of course, our son was born there and I guess we were there nine years so they started school in Prineville and then at one point in time, my supervisor said, "You know, Harold, we've gotten to the point where

you need a Master's degree to stay with the Extension Service and ever get treated right and promoted." So I said, "Well, okay, I'd consider that." So I had the GI Bill which I hadn't used so we packed up the two little kids and Carol and I borrowed a trailer from Gus Woods and hauled our meager furniture to Fort Collins, Colorado and took a course there called, well, it was in the School of Education but it was for Extension people. Extension something or other. Ended up with a Master's in Education.

EU: Was that Colorado State?

HK: At Colorado State at Fort Collins and a very enjoyable experience. I wrote a thesis on a topic that was very appropriate at the time; Extension Administration was looking seriously at dissolving county lines and having area agents across the state. So I did a survey of the county agents and got a 96 percent response. I developed a questionnaire, tested it on an audience in Colorado and then sent it out to the agents. Got a 96 percent response from the agents about their attitude. The title of my thesis was, "Attitude Toward Change."

What I was measuring was their attitude toward changing their job as Extension workers. Nothing significant, except that younger agents saw it as a career improvement that they could specialize in their subject matter and work across county lines. The older agents were pretty well opposed to it because they saw a lot of strength in the ties and commitments and connections that Extension had with the county government, where they provided a substantial amount of financial support. They paid for the office, paid for travel, paid for telephone, secretaries and all those kinds of things. They had historically built up a terrific relationship with their county governments wherever they were; particularly places like Gus Woods who had been there for 25 years. And so most of those older agents saw little advantage in it and I'm not sure, although a number of people in Oregon have read the thesis and I don't know that it influenced anybody, but it was a very interesting study to do and the people in Colorado couldn't believe that I got that kind of response from the Oregon agents, but they really filled out the form completely. I remember one old county agent who I won't

name, he said this is one of the dumbest ideas Extension has ever had. He just wrote that across the top of the questionnaire and that's all he said. I didn't count that one as a legitimate response.

Anyhow that then set me up so I could be considered for other jobs and I was offered as Tommy will tell later, I was offered a job in Gilliam County as the ag agent and 4-H agent and that was before I decided to go get my Master's or I was just in the process, so I turned that down and when I got back, I was three or four months I was offered a job in Heppner. Well, I'd never been to Heppner, didn't have a clue where it was, knew that it was mostly a wheat job and didn't know very much about wheat having been an animal science major, but thought I could do it and it turned out to be a terrific career decision and a job I really enjoyed.

[25:55]

EU: Well, before we get to Heppner, why don't you talk a little bit about...you talked about your thesis, the close relationships between agents and farmers and so forth? What was your position then in Prineville?

HK: In Prineville I was known, even though all agents had the same title, "County Extension Agent" I was known as the 4-H agent and so that was my major responsibility. I was responsible for the weed control program that the county ran. I purchased the chemicals, supervised the actual spraying of the country roads and enjoyed that experience. I did that same thing up in Morrow County.

Gus made a real effort to involve me in a lot of the beef Extension work that he did. That was his specialty and we had a lot of large ranchers up country in the Paulina country and a number of registered herds there in the Powell Butte and Prineville area they were on what they called "production testing" where we would weigh the calves and grade them and then often help select the bulls that they needed to buy to replace their herd bulls as they needed to do that. So I got involved in quite a bit of the beef work because that was where my training was. I need to go back and talk about my first week on the job as the 4-H agent in Prineville.

Got there Monday morning and Gus Woods...oh by the way, my mother in law loaned me \$60 to pay the first month's rent on the motel where we moved into. We lived in a motel for six months in Prineville.

Anyhow, I went to work Monday morning and everything was all new of course, and I was getting acquainted with what the process was and Gus said, "Well, ride out to the radio station with me at noon." He did a Monday noon radio program and it was a high listening time because it was called "Farm News" and they had national speakers on tape and often guest speakers from the Department of Agriculture. Anyhow, Gus did this live seven minute program every Monday and he did his thing about what was going on in the beef industry and turned to me and said, "Well, we have a new county agent here. His name is Harold Kerr and I'll let him introduce himself." He slid that mic over to me and I know my lips moved, my mouth moved, but nothing came out. He grinned and pulled the mic back in front of him and said, "Well, he's a little shy, but he'll be on Saturday morning to tell you more about himself and the program."

And then on the way back to town, the radio station is about five miles out of town, he said, "Well you do a 15 minute live program on Saturday mornings." And I said, "Okay." So I spent a good time of that week preparing that 15 minute radio program. Having never done one. I had written it all out, had read it to myself and then read it out loud and I had everything pretty well organized, except that I'd never timed myself. So I get to the radio station that Saturday morning and Bob Arnott was the local radio announcer and he said, "Well, we have a new man here this morning." He said, "We'll let him introduce himself and tell you all about himself." And I had prepared that part and I had that and read it and did a little bit about what my expectations were of the job and what was happening that next week or so, and got down to the bottom of my script and I looked at my watch and I'd been talking for seven minutes. I had eight more to go and I looked at Bob Arnott with horror I guess and he said, "Well, we'll just play a couple of western tunes for Harold and he'll be on for 15 minutes next week. So that was my introduction to radio.

I thought afterwards, I wonder why Charlie Smith didn't make that as part of that Extension Methods class. Because a lot of agents did radio programming in those days and KRCO, it set on an alkaline flat which the locals said would improve the radio reception; had a tower – you could get it almost to Lakeview and almost to the Columbia River. It reached a big area of eastern Oregon. So I learned later that my audience wasn't just Crook County, that I was talking to people for over six, or seven, or eight counties. Anyhow, I got so I could do that 15 minutes totally ad-libbed no notes, no preparation, just get out my calendar and see what was happening and start talking. So it became kind of fun to do each Saturday. I had to schedule my life so that I was in town on Saturday morning, because that was a live show, they didn't want it taped.

[30:40]

EU: You also played some of your own music?

HK: I did. I learned how to run the table and what not because the fellow that was in charge, he'd take a break and he'd go have coffee, or he'd be in the restroom or something when my 15 minutes was up, so I would just walk around the corner and say well, I'll play a new tune that I just found here today. And I'd put on a record and play it.

I guess I should tell about Mr. Hutton who was the state 4-H Leader at the time. One Saturday morning he was driving from Burns to Bend and picked up my radio program and turned out that one was probably one of our better ones because Bob Arnott had been our guest at our tri-county 4-H Camp up in the Ochocos for the evening and stayed for the evening program and what not, and he was really impressed with what we were doing with the 4-Hers up there. And by the way, that was a two week camp. We took the nine-twelve year-olds the first week and then the older kids the second week. We had counselors for weeks but the staff, the faculty, stayed both weeks. For quite a few years we didn't have showers, we had to bathe in the basin which often had ice on it in the morning. We kind of roughed it.

[31:55]

EU: This was a statewide camp?

HK: No, a three-county camp. Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson County and so anyhow, Bob was really impressed and he was asking all kinds of questions and I was talking with enthusiasm about the camp and of course we had some stories to share. And when we got through Bob had left the room and so I went in to play some music and the phone rang and Mr. Hutton called and said, "I'm on the road between Burns and Bend and I've been listening to your program. You sure have a lot of fun there on that radio station." I said, "Well, Mr. Hutton, you know if life's not worth having fun then life's not worthwhile." And I don't know if he tended to criticize me or not, but he never did and I never expected the State 4-H Leader to be listening to my radio program.

[32:40]

EU: What were some of the other activities with the 4-H students?

HK: Well, I think you would have to call me an old fashioned 4-H agent. I felt pretty strongly that I should support the leaders and go to as many 4-H meetings, individual meetings, as I could. So the Powell Butte community has a Community School which is still there and it was available to 4-Hers every night of the week if we wanted it and in the cafeteria, there were usually activities upstairs but we could have the cafeteria and we almost had a meeting there every night. So, sometimes, I wouldn't know which group was going to be meeting there, but I would drive out to Powell Butte which was about 12 or 13 miles away and there would be a 4-H group there and I'd contribute something to the meeting. I always felt good about doing that. I had a couple of leaders that wouldn't meet without me. So I had to go to all their meetings, that's totally unheard of now and probably wasn't necessary, but it gave me a direct contact with the kids and I valued that very strongly.

Another thing that I did, I don't know of any, well, I have heard of a few 4-H agents tell about doing this. We had a portable scales and the kids, when they buy steers to raise for 4-H, particularly nowadays, but even then, they had a substantial financial investment in that animal and to feed it for eight months to get it ready for the show. And so we instituted a program where we weighed every steer in the county every month.

We had three 4-H beef clubs - one in Powell Butte, one in Prineville, and one up in Paulina. So it took three Saturdays a month to get those steered all weighed. That was from January through July. I had to do the radio program anyhow on Saturday morning and so I only had one rule that a leader had to go with me or if not a leader, a parent so I wasn't doing it totally by myself. But we helped kids break their steers to lead because so often that was the first time they had had a halter on them when we showed up to weigh them and just was another real good experience for me and I think the kids appreciated it. I put a lot of miles on that state car pulling those scales all over the county.

[35:10]

EU: Tom talked to us before about this experience with the International Youth Farm Exchange.

HK: Right. As a 4-H Agent I had the other side of it – he talked a little bit about I was the host, then, for the “IYFEies” as we called them that were coming back from overseas and they were always outstanding young college students to be selected to that honor and it was always a real treat to host them. And I let the people in Corvallis know that I wanted to host IYFE and for many years it was four every year. I didn't get all four but I got one of the four because they tried to go to every county in the state and so that meant the people I had had probably been to seven or eight counties by the time they got in their reporting history.

And they were just neat young people, both men and women, and had terrific experiences – New Zealand where Glenn went and Australia and Scandinavian countries and France and Turkey. I remember one time, we had a young man who had been to Australia and he was from the Willamette Valley and he said, “I told the Australian farmers that there wasn't any gates like they had in Australia in Oregon.” What it was just a wire attached to a pole and you just hooked it over the barbed wire on the gate and wrapped it around behind this pole and there wasn't anything to it, fancy, but I'd never seen one of those in Oregon. And we took an indirect route back to Prineville from Paulina and had to go on a private road to go through one of these

gates. We stopped and he said, "I'll get it." When he came back, he had this funny look on his face and he said, "I told those Australians we didn't have any gates like that in Oregon." Anyhow, it was just a terrific experience and the service clubs enjoyed having them but the schools just insisted that they get a chance for their kids to be exposed to this kind of activity.

[37:10]

Tommy, we've been through the Army and through Crook County and so it's kind of your turn now.

EU: Well, I think this might be a place...I have one more question before we take a break. So, looking back at your first nine years in Prineville, what do you think was the most satisfying part of your work there?

HK: Oh, I think I realized it later when I started meeting these kids that were in 4-H and they were young parents now, or even in some cases grandparents and have them come up to me at State Fair or here on campus and make some real positive comment about the influence I had on their lives. At the time, young people wouldn't tell you that when they are seventh, eighth grader and I probably didn't appreciate that I was having that kind of influence on them, but I think the feedback I got from kids and their parents...

I remember one time we were in Sisters having dinner and this family came in and it was a daughter and mother and father and she was in 4-H in Powell Butte and she had three neighbor girls that lived right across the road from them. The four of them were my livestock judging team one year at the PI. And they just were exceptional young ladies and she sat there and told me how much it mean to her for me to think about helping her and assisting her in a number of ways, she said. And I just thought she was just an outstanding young lady and a heck of a good livestock judge and I hadn't realized any other impact I might have made on her.

EU: This was during the '60s, too.

HK: Yes. I miss the 60s! Our world didn't include what everybody else was doing. We weren't worried about drugs, we weren't worried about protesting the war. We were just growing up and having fun raising animals and being farm kids.

TZ: That was the '60s...you were supposed to be adult then.

HK: Yeah, but I like to be like the kids.

TZ: That hasn't changed.

EU: Okay. So this is the end of Part 2 then. And so we'll go ahead and take a break.

[39:30]