

## Extension Oral History Project – Harold Kerr and Tom Zinn - Part 3

Date: February 24, 2008

Place: Tom's home in Corvallis

Time: 47:51 minutes

Interviewer: Elizabeth Uhlig, Oral Historian

Transcriber: Sue Bowman

EU: This is Part 3 of the interview with Harold Kerr and Tom Zinn.

**[00:10]**

Tom, let's start with you and go back to when you finished in Corvallis at Oregon State. Did you go into the Army?

TZ: I finished my IFYE assignment, if you will, and we talked about that, to Iran and got back. I had hepatitis and came back and the draft board was breathing down my neck as they did I think, Harold's. It wasn't the Korean War, but we still had the draft. It was still the draft and so my number came up and I was well enough by that time and recuperated from hepatitis to go in the service, at least so they thought. I went to Fort Lewis, Washington for basic training and completed the basic training there and then for some reason they asked for volunteers, anybody that wanted to get in the medical corps. And I thought well, the rumors were that our group was going to Yucca Flats and experience atomic bomb blasts, and I thought, "Boy, that would be real exciting but I'm not sure I want to be a part of it."

**[1:20]**

EU: That was in Nevada?

TZ: That was in Nevada and they were going to test an atomic bomb I guess, for us to be so close – I don't know how close it was – there wasn't any danger, but anyway we were going to get run through that drill and we had some pre-training right after basic and they said if anybody wanted to be in the medical corps – I thought initially that might be attached to Yucca Flats and the atomic blast, but I was wrong. I raised my hand

they said they would get back to me and they did and so they sent me to school for six weeks. What I didn't know, was they were training me to be a PA or a physician's assistant and back to anatomy. Only this was anatomy of the human and since I had anatomy of domestic animals, a lot of the parts of the bones are the same. So I scored quite well on those tests and I actually studied for a change. I went to the library at Fort Lewis and did quite well. And so I had an opportunity then to work for a physician after basic training, to be his assistant. It was about four weeks into working with him and I was enjoying it and learning a lot.

**[2:40]**

He had a golf match either every Wednesday or Thursday with a group of colonels. He was a Colonel and I was a Private. He knew that I played golf and I had played golf at that time and one of the guys couldn't make the foursome so he asked if I would like to go along. I thought, "Boy, that's great. You bet." So we played golf and it was the first time that he and I teamed up together. We beat the other two and one of the Colonels who we were playing golf with was in the Veterinary Corps. And so, he was asking me what I did and so forth, and I was telling him that I come from a livestock ranch and graduated in animal science. It was about a week later; the doctor called me in and said, "Well, I should never have taken you golfing." Colonel Klet wants to know if you would like to become part of the Army Veterinary Corps. I thought, "Boy, that would be right up my line; at least I'd get some experience in the Army." And so I said, "Well, yeah." So they put me in the small animal clinic for about three days and then an opportunity came up to go to Moses Lake to inspect milk.

**[4:00]**

EU: That was in Washington?

TZ: That was up in Washington. And I was in Fort Lewis and the time. So the Colonel called me in and there was another guy that had a little more rank than I did and the Colonel said, "I don't know how to do this, except flip a coin. Both of you are qualified, I think of all the people that we've got. We have a dairy up there that processes milk for the military and it's a canned product." And at that time we were kind of having not a war but there were situations occurring in Beirut, Lebanon and so apparently the military

was gearing up, I guess for an invasion or an occupation. Which ultimately did happen and they sent the Marines in there. So they needed a lot of milk.

Anyway, I won the flip of the coin and went to Moses Lake. And that was a great job. I spent about a week or two in training inspecting and it was just one product and that was canned milk. The dairy ran about two days a week and I met a guy that had a homestead there, so the next thing I knew I was baling hay and combining and thrashing, working on the farm, making more money than I had made in quite awhile.

About July 5<sup>th</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>, the dairy didn't have any more contracts, actually went broke, so they transferred me to Spokane to inspect meat and there I inspected meat. At that time Eisenhower moved the Marines into Lebanon and so we had a call for what they called "four-way beef." We didn't have enough beef apparently, in the United States, for what the Army thought they were going to need and so they sent me and some cattle buyers out and I inspected the cattle that they bought for slaughter to send back. And so there were probably a cursory inspection once they butchered them, but they didn't have enough manpower to inspect all of them and so they sent me out. It was quite an experience. I spent two months out in the field with cattle buyers. Got into Montana and Idaho and Washington, parts of Oregon, but into California, but we bought a lot of beef.

**[6:45]**

When we got back and started inspection there at the plant, it's was Carstens and Armour, my Dad suddenly passed away. And we had about 200 mother cows and the hired man quit, and I was able to, I had about a month and a half left, to stay in my draft and I was able to get out of the service and get an early discharge. So I was out of the service then.

EU: So you were in the service then, under two years?

TZ: Yeah, it was about 21, it was a 24-month draft and I was in the service just about 22 months. So it was about 60 days I got out early. I had applied for an agricultural

discharge which was available in those days if you were a farmer but it hadn't gone through and then when my Dad passed away, the Red Cross was able to get me out, actually 30 days earlier.

So I stayed on the ranch until the family decided they would rather sell the ranch. This was something that I had dreamed of all my life, as I thought back about my college days. Anyway, I didn't think I could afford to buy it, so we did sell the ranch and I went to work for Weyerhaeuser at the time in Klamath Falls.

**[8:20]**

I was there two years and during that time I met my wife. It was about '58/59 through '60 and we were married in 1960. She was going to school and had just got her degree in teaching.

EU: Where did she go to school?

TZ: She went to school at Southern Oregon College in Ashland, but she lived in Klamath Falls. I went to school with her brother but I did not know her in school. She was four years behind me.

EU: What was her name?

TZ: Lydia. I'd ought to throw that out, hadn't I? Yes, and she got a job teaching at the grade school that I graduated from. And there happened to be two or three teachers that were still in existence that taught there. So every once in awhile when I would come home and Lydia would come home and she would say, "I can't believe what I heard you did when you were a kid." So things were kind of getting out of hand there.

**[9:25]**

One day, we saw an ad in the paper for the Extension Service and Lydia said, "You know, you're working at Weyerhaeuser, you've got a degree in animal science and here's a job that says they're looking for a crops/livestock agent in Klamath Falls. Why don't you apply?" So, I knew some Extension faculty there in Klamath; I contacted them

and visited with them quite a little bit and they said, “Oh boy, if you’re interested, we’ll let some folks know in Corvallis.” In fact they said, “The Director of Extension, by the name of Frank Ballard is going to be down here next week or so. We’ll call him and let him know if you really think you’re interested.” And I said, “Well, yeah, give him my name. “ I thought I couldn’t lose anything by at least talking to somebody.

Well, I got a call from an instructor of mine in Crops; he was a graduate student; his name was Norm Goetze, saying that he was going to come down with the Director of Extension and they were kind of looking for people to hire throughout the state and he heard that I was looking for a job. Well, I knew Norm at the time, not real well, but we hit it off, at least in class and so I thought, “Well, that’s good.” I said, “Well, I work on the swing shift,” and he couldn’t meet me in the mornings so I said, “I don’t get off until midnight.” Well, that was all right. “Where could we meet at midnight?” And I thought, “Gosh, at Klamath Falls, the only place to meet would be a bar.” You know, I thought that would be all right. So it didn’t bother him, so we agreed to meet at the Ponderosa Room in Klamath Falls at the Willard Hotel at little after 12:00, about 12:30, one night. So I went into the bar and I recognized Norm and I was introduced to Frank and we visited for just about two or three minutes, Norm and I and then Norm said, “I’m gonna go to bed; I’ll leave you two guys to talk. So kind of like Harold’s interview, I had never been through a professional interview, but I did know what to do, and Frank said,

**[11:55]**

EU: This was Frank Ballard?

TZ: Frank Ballard. And Frank said, “Would you like a drink?” And I said I would have a drink. And the cocktail waitress came over and she said, “Oh Hi, Tom, do you want your usual?” And I thought, oh boy, I just lost a job here. And he said, “What is the usual?” and she said, “Oh, he drinks scotch.” And Frank looked at her and looked at me and said, “Well, that’s not all bad.” And so we had a couple of drinks and just talked about life and he said, “Well, tell me about yourself.” And I told him about my farming experience and so forth, and he said, “Well, you know, I got a full day tomorrow; it’s really great visiting with you.” And he kinda looked at me and he says “Ya know, I kinda

think we would like to have you on our team. When I get back to Corvallis, I'll visit with the associate directors, assistant directors, supervisors and you can rest assured we'll get back to you one way or the other, but we will get back to you." And I said, "Well, thank you very much. Is there anything I need to write up or send, or a resume?" "No, no, I don't need any more than I've got right here." And I said, "Okay."

And I did get a call and they asked if I would come up to be interviewed and they were very emphatic that they would like to have my wife come with me, Lydia. And of course they said, "We'll pay for the trip and everything." And so, like Harold we went downtown, only I didn't buy my suit from New York, but I didn't really have a suit except what my father had that had been willed to me and those were kind of outdated. And my wife says, "You're not going for an interview wearing your father's suits." So we went into the local store and bought a sports coat and a pair of slacks and a suit. And it was the first new one I had since high school, since I graduated from high school, I think.

**[14:00]**

Anyway, we came up to Corvallis and was interviewed by several people. Met Frank Ballard first and he said, "Well, I've got you lined up with some other people and Jerry Nibler here is going to take you around and introduce you to some of these folks and what you'll be doing is just sitting down and you know they are going to ask you some questions and then you come back and visit with me." So we went through that for I suppose maybe two hours, or an hour and a half anyway, and I asked quite a few questions of the budget manager and so forth, and nothing was mentioned in salary or anything, but they talked about the benefits, the retirement and got back to Dean Ballard and he said, "Well, what do you think?" And I said, "Well, it really sounds good."

He said, "Well, you said you really didn't want an assignment on the west side of the mountains. Can you tell me why?" And I said, "Well, you know I went to school here for about five years and what I remember most about school, outside of studying, was that it rained all the time." And I said, "You know I live in Klamath Falls where it's kind of high and dry and we have snow and a lot of sunshine and I'd just rather go east of the mountains." And he said, "Okay. Well, I talked to the folks and I got some good

feedback and we'd kind of like to have you on our team. We'll let you know within a week or so and we'll call you and if something comes up we'll talk to you about where we might have a place for you. In the meantime, Jerry Nibler is going to give you some orientation and we want to start you out working the first week in Klamath County; so when could you get to work?" And I told him I probably couldn't go to work, I needed to let my employer know at least a month and I think we shortened that by 15 days.

**[16:05]**

But I started out in Klamath Falls for a week and went to Medford for a week and in the meantime, they had kept talking to me about St. Helens in Columbia County. And when I tried to explore the job a little bit, they said it was in Horticulture and well, when I was in school, I just barely got by in Horticulture; I didn't know the difference between a strawberry plant and a filbert tree, really. And I didn't think that I would be a very good horticulturist with my background in animal science.

So, I was kind of leery of St. Helens - Columbia County and the fact that it was on the west side; I thought, "Boy, this is kind of like the Army. You tell them where you think you're qualified and they put you somewhere else." So while I was in Klamath during my orientation, an agent said you know, "If there's a place you really have in mind to go, probably the best place would be to take the first job they offer you and there's always opportunities to move. There's always somebody retiring or somebody leaving and so, get hired. They had been pushing Columbia County among a couple of others. One on the east side. So I just called Jerry Nibler, the supervisor at the time and told him that I'd been talking to the faculty in Klamath and that if it sounded like St. Helens was the place they wanted me, I'd go there. I said, "You just have to realize my academic background is in animal science, not horticulture, so hey, guys, I'm going to need to some help." They said, "That's no problem."

They let me know that it would be St. Helens in Columbia County and that they wanted me to come up with fourth week to Corvallis and spend the week up there, which I did. The first person that wanted to see me was Ballard. I'll never forget what he said, because it really exemplifies Extension, in my opinion, at least throughout my 31 year

career here is, he said, "Well, I understand that you are not too sure about your ability to be a county agent in Columbia County. Can you tell me why?" And I said, "Well, yes sir, I can. My academic background is more in livestock and crops and so I would need a lot of help. As long as you understand that, I'm willing to try." He said, "Well, you know, in this organization, I've always found as long as I've worked for them, if you've got people skills, we really can't teach people skills. That's kind of a natural thing you've got. We hire people that we think can get along with people, that can communicate with people and that have people skills. But you know, I can take someone who has people skills and I can teach you everything you need to know about your job. So, as long as you keep that in mind, you'll just do okay."

**[19:35]**

When I went to Columbia County there were a lot of ranchers that realized my background. Well, ranchers...they were strawberry growers, cabbage growers, people that contracted with Steinfeld's Pickles, so cucumbers. And I had never had any kind of experience of that kind. But they just worked with me and then the specialists on campus just bent over backwards in being there helping me, giving me training.

And Frank Ballard turned out to be right. I really, really enjoyed that job. I only stayed there for three years but during those three years it was a steep learning curve, but the learning curve was a great learning curve and I just loved the people there and I really thought, "You know, I could be a horticulturist." I got confident enough that I really thought I could. I learned a lot from that. What Frank Ballard said at that time has rung true later on when I was in the position that Frank was, at least in hiring people, I always looked for the people skills. I don't know how many times I told candidates, if you have the right kind of people skills, we can teach you what you need to know. And it's true.

**[21:00]**

EU: What exactly was your title in Columbia?

TZ: County Extension Agent and my responsibility was Horticulture.

EU: Did you work with 4-H or Home Ec?



TZ: I did. I worked with both 4-H and Home Ec. I became quite close to both the home economist and the 4-H agent and started out because I was an International Farm Youth Exchange delegate, I asked Bob Stevely who was a 4-H agent then, I asked him if I could help him with the IFYE delegate and he said, "Yeah, you can take the program if you'd like." And since I had been an IFYE, I really enjoyed that. We had a number of IFYE's and I just worked their tail off at various locations, high schools and service clubs and stuff. And I can remember one IFYE that was more serious that I thought he should be about life and everything but he just got back and I thought maybe to bring a little levity into it, I introduced him as an IFYE and I asked the kids if they knew what an IFYE was. Well, they didn't know what IFYE was and I said "Well, it's IFYE, do you know what it stands for?" And they didn't. And I said, "Well, it stands for 'I'm the fool you expected' and I said here he is" and I introduced him. He kind of just stood there and looked at me and then he got a smile on his face and I kind of thought he warmed up a little more – he wasn't so serious after that, at least in his talks and stuff.

**[23:40]**

And then the home economist, Margaret Allen. In those days, they had a lot of frozen turkeys and I remember them selling in a supermarket some turkeys that were canned, but they had their label on them that they were boned and rolled in this can. And I had taken the meats course at OSU and I always did a lot of hunting and we cut our own meat and we butchered our meat on the ranch and we boned most everything out. And I thought, "Well, that would be interesting." I wonder how they bone a turkey.

So, I bought one of those and I took it all apart to see how they boned it and thought, "I bet I can do that." So I bought a turkey and the first turkey I boned took about four hours and my Lord, it was something else. It was almost a disaster but with a lot of string, I got it rolled and tied up and then I did another one. And I was telling the home economist about that, so she said, "We could put on a program; you could teach boning and I could show them what they could do, you know, with boiling the meat off the bones and they how could use the meat in making soup stock and gravy and all this stuff and dressing. And so we put together some demonstrations where we had people

come and buy turkeys and I'd have a team – two people to a turkey – and we had it usually in a cafeteria or someplace where we had a kitchen and then we usually brought on that was already boned, rolled and cooked so the people could see what it was like. I did that nearly in every county that I worked in after that. It was just a lot of fun and I kind of enjoyed it and with Margaret's encouragement, I got started with it.

**[24:35]**

EU: Did you run into Harold much in those years?

TZ: I ran into Harold the first time, I think, in a bar in Corvallis. I think it was an agents meeting and I had come down and I can't remember what it was because it wasn't a chairman's agents meeting, but there was one whole motel in town, the newest motel, not the Country Kitchen, I can't remember what it was now, but they had a restaurant there and a little bar and we were sitting in there because the restaurant was full, that would be my excuse, and Harold came in. And I looked up at him and thought, "Oh, Good Heavens, what are you doing here?" He said, "Well, I'm here for a 4-H meeting or something." I said, "Really! You're working for Extension too, huh?" Come to find out he had been on the staff I think two years longer than me and I guess I hadn't seen his name or hadn't put it together. And then after that we were pretty much together when we realized one another was here and working for the same organization, we pretty much ruined Extension after that.

**[25:50]**

EU: So, you said you were in St. Helens for three years? And then you went to...?

TZ: Gilliam County. The county seat was Condon, Oregon.

EU: So you got to the other side of the mountains.

TZ: Got to the other side of the mountain. When I was assigned to St. Helens I moved there October 8<sup>th</sup>. Four days later was the infamous Columbus Day Storm [October 12, 1962]. I got that experience in St. Helens.

EU: Did the Columbus Day Storm, that was the huge wind storm that took down all the trees?

TZ: Took down all the trees and took down – they had a lot of filberts. There were a lot of filbert trees that were grown up there. Tipped a lot of those over and I guess, as the memory comes back, I remember when I was going to school and talking about the courses that we had to take that were required and one of them was Journalism. And I remember struggling with Journalism as I struggled with Horticulture and I always thought about where I was going and of course I knew that I was going to go back to the ranch and raise cows. And it was beyond me that in getting a degree I had to take Journalism because the cows wouldn't care about Journalism or know anything about that. Why did I need to learn to write?

And four days after I got to Columbia County and the storm occurred, my boss, Don Walrod, indicated that you probably ought to get some news releases out on what to do with these filbert trees; can you set them up, what can you do? Of course, I didn't have a clue. I called campus and they gave me some instructions and I said "Well, here's what we can do." And he said, "Well, what you need to do is sit down and write a story for the newspaper and get this out. You know, Journalism 101." And I've used that story on a lot of kids. I used to be asked to be part of a senior seminar when I was here on campus and I would always tell the students that you know, you wonder why some courses that you have to take that you think that you're going to do something in your life and you're never going to need this and with me, all I wanted to do was raise cows, and four days after the storm, I had to write a story. And I thought, "What did I do with those books? Where do I start?"

And I remember going to the newspaper and I'd met the owner of the newspaper and I said, "I need to write a story about this storm and I'm not sure I can write very well and I've never written a news article for a newspaper. I'm really kind of nervous. Can you guys give me some help?" And we sat down just like the specialists in Corvallis and it turned out to be a very good story. I'm not sure I could claim all the writing for it. But

from there on that kind of whet my whistle to doing a lot of writing. I did a lot of news stories. And I really liked feature articles and did a lot of feature articles. I'll never forget being very concerned about having to take Journalism and then the first challenge I had in utilizing my degree was ....so that was a good lesson for me. And one that I used with a lot of our candidates as well and students.

[29:40]

EU: So this writing was for Extension Service publications or local newspapers?

TZ: Newspapers, news articles, a lot of us, Harold included; a lot of us did news articles a lot.

HK: We wrote articles for the *Barometer*, the student newspaper, as part of the class. Interviewed people on campus – not just for Extension, it was probably required for almost all underclassmen.

TZ: But in Extension, we did articles like we had to do in 4-H. We would do articles on 4-H and camp and summer camp consistently. I did a lot of articles when I was in crops and livestock on whatever the situation that was happening. Like white muscle or this kind of thing, might do a feature article on that or feature articles on others. I just enjoyed feature articles. It took more time and I liked to do photography with it and take pictures and stuff.

It's kind of interesting, in Columbia County, Gilliam County, Morrow County, those were small newspapers so anything they could get from the county agent they would probably print it. So, some of the articles that I wrote, I still have them. I have three notebooks full of articles and if you start at the very first articles I wrote – one was about the IFYE program. They were just pitiful. They were terrible! I hope that as you got to the end of the book when I was writing at the last, they were much, much better. It was pretty pathetic there, those first articles, but you know that's the way you learn.

I think all of our county faculty did a lot of writing. The specialist will write articles for us that we could take the article and then adapt it to the locale so in a lot of articles, you didn't have to write the whole thing. I kind of liked to do my own articles, but occasionally, timing – peach leaf curl, or something, was an article that came out from the college to us and then you could adapt it for Columbia County. It made it pretty easy, so you didn't have to sit down and reinvent the wheel every year for say, peach leaf curl or something or white muscle or selenium deficiency, or that kind of thing.

**[32:30]**

EU: So you talked about Gilliam County. After St. Helens, you moved, to Condon?

TZ: Moved to Gilliam County and the county seat was Condon, Oregon. I moved to Gilliam County just prior to the John Day Dam being finished. So I got to sit up on the cliff and watch the river rise. I moved to Gilliam County in '65, just missed the '64 flood and moved in '65.

**[33:05]**

EU: The '64 flood?

HK: Christmastime. A situation very much like we have right now. A lot of snow in the mountains, it turned off warm and it started to rain and there was water everywhere; both on the eastside and the westside.

EU: So the Willamette?

TZ: Yeah, we called it the Christmas Day Flood because I think it started flooding around Christmas and in the east side in those dry areas where the soil was pretty loose, there was just a lot of flooding. Washed out bridges, and really wreaked havoc. It was probably one of the worst floods we have had in Oregon in a long time. But, like Harold said, there was just a whole lot of snow and a lot of moisture and when it got warm, we kind of had a big long Chinook up there and I got there the year after that. That was in '64 and '65 we arrived in downtown.

EU: What was your title?

TZ: I was agent in charge of livestock, crops, and 4-H

HK: And staff chairman.

TZ: And staff chairman. I had my first experience as an administrator. I got there and I think a month later the home economist left with her husband. He had been going to school and got a job over in Washington, so I was responsible for everything.

EU: So you did just about everything?

TZ: Yeah. You know, those smaller counties are just wonderful counties to grow up in, to learn, to have experience in. And we didn't have an home economist and particularly the women in that area really wanted one and we were searching frantically, but you know, that was a pretty remote area and to get a candidate to want to live there, particularly, a single candidate, if you could find one, it was very difficult and so I remember the agent that was there came back to help me several times and she planned some programs and one was furniture refinishing or reupholstering. And the gals told me I could do that, or the women in the county, so I came down to Corvallis, took the upholstery class and then went back there and some of those ladies knew more about upholstery than I learned when I was down here, but you know, I really enamored myself with those folks because I was willing to get some tacks and a hammer and work with them. We had about 25 women in doing upholstery and I had a lot of fun. The livestock ranchers and wheat growers were whining "such a waste of time" for me to be working with these women. Some of them were their wives, but it was a good learning experience.

And 4-H was something that I was always nervous about. I was in 4-H but I never thought I would be a good 4-H Agent and so I never indicated any interest in being a 4-

H faculty at all, but I didn't have a choice in Gilliam County and once I got into it I really enjoyed it. It was like Horticulture. It was another new experience for me on the other side and it was a good experience. And it turns out that all those experiences, I think, were very helpful for me when I ended up in Corvallis.

**[36:45]**

EU: So you said you got into administration in Gilliam County, is that right?

HK: Staff chairman.

TZ: Yes, staff chairman. I was in administration as staff chairman, really the chair of the county, I mean he's responsible for the bookwork,

HK: County budget...

TZ: County budget, and glorified office manager's job in away and if you have other staff you're responsible for keeping the peace and helping them and so forth. Like I say, I got into administration when there was only one other staff member, so it wasn't a big administrative job and then she left so I was administrator to myself. But ultimately we did have another agent and then we did some area work as well.

EU: I was going to say, did you cooperate with other counties?

TZ: Well, we did, as time went on, I was able to talk Administration at that time in Corvallis into hiring one 4-H agent between Gilliam and Wheeler County – Ron Mobley ended up working for us as a 4-H agent and it made sense. Because both counties were small, Wheeler County is very small. I think the population of Wheeler County was like 1,100 or 1,200 or something like that. The population of Gilliam County was like 2,000. Where you had a 4-H agent in each county, you were duplicating a lot of things and these counties were close enough together, or certainly the county seats were, so that made sense. So we did combine for a while while I was there.

**[38:40]**

EU: Did you take the 4-H to the camps?

TZ: Yes.

EU: I suppose you ran into Harold?

TZ: Yes, we had our camps; we couldn't have them together because they were too big, but we used Heppner's camp, the Morrow County site. I don't remember if we paid rent for it or not?

HK: Probably not. It was a county park named after one of the early pioneer farmers, Orville Cutsforth; it was called Cutsforth Park, sat right at the edge of the timber. Beautiful place.

TZ: We had some great, I had some great camping experiences with the kids. I can share Harold's feelings with the kids that later on when they came back from a camping experience. We had camp counselors which were normally the older kids that kind of ran the camp, did the games, did the teaching. And I was kind of hard, not hard, but emphasized teaching. We even had gun safety at camp. Which was kind of unheard of. But the kids went to camp to have fun, but we wanted them to learn something as well. And in order to teach them that we would have State Police or someone come up and talk about gun safety and let the kids shoot if they wanted to. Fly tying and just some kinds of things that you normally don't think of as traditional 4-H Clubs. I think the kids really responded to that. It put a lot of pressure on the camp counselors; I did, and relied on them to help us with the younger kids to teach them.

**[40:20]**

Tried to give the camp counselors an opportunity to have some experience so because the relationship that I had with agent in Columbia County, we had some leadership development seminars where I would take a bunch of our 4-H camp counselors to Columbia County and they would stay with some of the older 4-H kids in Columbia County and so we had some exchanges which really turned out to be kind of neat and



gave our counselors an opportunity to see a different side of the world, live with a family that they didn't know and then have the family's kids come over and spend some time with them. I had several come to me later in life and say that was one of the greatest experiences they had because what we made them do is when Gilliam County camp counselors went to Columbia County, they had to put on a program on leadership training and what leadership was about and they had to get up and do that in front of their peers. If they did it in front of us, it probably didn't bother them as much but when they had to stand in front of their peers, they really had to think about what they were doing, what they were saying. And I can remember a couple of girls that lived in the middle of the county saying they just hated me because they wanted to go but they were so upset and they got really uptight. Four, five, six, seven years later, they said, "You know, in the job I have now, what I learned doing that..." So those are the kind of neat things you hear back. That was particularly good for me because I never felt that I would have been a very good 4-H leader or agent or whatever. Some accolades out of that...

**[42:15]**

EU: So looking back on those early years in the Extension Service, what was the most satisfying thing that you worked in?

TZ: I think working with people. I enjoyed very much working with people and seeing people develop. Kids, but not just kids, for example, most of the counties had people in leadership roles or could be. Fair board chairman or chairman of the livestock association, Gilliam County Livestock or Gilliam County Wheat Growers. And you'd have ranchers come in that had to be president, they were working up the chairs, and had meetings and I think one of the satisfying things was to see these people develop into leadership roles when they didn't want the job to begin with. Didn't know why they were there, didn't know why they volunteered for the position, thought it was just going to be easy. "Why are you putting all the pressure on me?" And well, while I would work out an agenda for them when we had our annual banquet or something, I wasn't going to get up there and do it. I made them do it. And encouraged them to do it. And some of the ranchers, you know, I can think of, not names now, but there were people that

you would never have thought would get up before a group and I remember one that said, "I just can't do this." I said, "Yes you can. Here's the sheet, here's what happens next, here's who to call, you have to say a few remarks." And he ended up being quite a leader in the county. And those are the things I think, as I look back, that make you feel good.

EU: So Frank Ballard was right in your interview about the importance of people skills.

TZ: Absolutely.

**[44:105]**

Another thing, I think in Gilliam County - Morrow County takes all the credit for this, because they were the ones that did it. But we thought we had a project that was going to pump water from the Columbia River up on those millions of acres, thousands of acres up there. And so, I was stimulated by a local rancher to set up some research and grow some crops to see if we could. Because he was paying for a survey from CH2M here in Corvallis, to see if it was feasible – a feasibility study. And so the pressure was on me and a lot of us and him – because he was getting money from several of the ranchers that had land that might come under irrigation.

At the same time, they had been drilling a few wells, but not many, a couple in Morrow County and had been irrigating some potatoes I think at the time. So, in working with some specialists here, we set up quite a demonstration. Research and demonstration, really, plots there in an area called Shutler Flat, and I thought this was for Gilliam County. Harold was aware of this and Harold had been over there and he knew what I was doing. And we had a field day and we had more people from Morrow County than I think we had from Gilliam County to the field day and we had some pretty good results from our yield trials in growing them that year, I claim that, or like to think that part of our results stimulated a lot of ranchers.

We were hoping that the irrigation project or I was certainly, in Gilliam County that it would have been feasible to pump out of the Columbia. As it turned out, no one was

willing to invest the money. I think it would have been feasible. But boy, in Morrow County, it was right after that that they started sinking wells and growing crops all over there.

**[46:20]**

A number of ranchers said they remember having those trials. We got a lot of press out of that. I did quite a bit of writing, but got not the *Oregonian*, but the *Oregon Journal* at the time, there were two papers. We got one of the writers to come up and he did quite a story. We flew him all over the area and took him to the research plots and he did quite a story on it. I think it was great. Those are the kinds of things as an agent you look back and see the good things where your efforts seemed to pay off.

EU: Well, I think we've moved up again. We've finished the '60s. Did you experience the '60s in Gilliam County?

TZ: I ended the '60s in Gilliam County by going to Turkey. I think the reason I was chosen to go was because of the demonstration plots that we experimented with there in Gilliam County. They wanted some similar kinds of things in Turkey. That was 1970.

EU: Well, let's take a break and end Part 3 here and pick up in Turkey next time.

**[47:51]**