

Deeloris and I met at her house in Lakeview. She lives in a one-room bungalow (i.e., converted garage). Her house is meticulous and simple. Single bed with a beautiful quilt, gardening books stacked on the self, a small television, a table for the phone and a pad of paper, light streaming through the windows. She wore jean shorts and a button-up shirt. Her hair is graying and not done up. Her garden is amazing – it is obvious that every inch is well cared for.

Carly Johnson: How long have you lived in LV, and what brought you here?

Deeloris Benson: I have lived. Well I grew up in the country and then I lived in Minnesota for a few years and but for about 20 years I lived in big cities, a lot of big cities like NY and Minneapolis. Anyway, I wanted to spend my later years in the country again, far from a big city because in a big city you are living in an apartment and you often don't speak to anyone in your apartment building, there might be 8,000 building in your complex and it is totally different. I mean you have to consider your safety all the time and I didn't want to spend my retirement years like that, and so one day I decided to go birding and I just started out up by Corvallis and I drove and at the end of the day I ended up in Lakeview. The farther I got from Eugene and the big cities – one city right after another, the better I felt, and I just through, you know, why should I go back? So I decided to stay here. And people right away have been really...it has been refreshing. I was seriously ill about 6 months after I came here, and people just, that I didn't even know, just came and brought things while I was in the hospital they put a twin bed in the house and they put in the television and VCR along with some Lonesome Dove tapes. They had supper delivered from one restaurant that is closed now, but it was the best restaurant in town.

CJ: What restaurant?

DB: Every night for a week – Indian Village. And they just did things like that. People were so great. I just couldn't believe it. They would just come by and leave their names and say, if you need help, just be sure and call me. One woman came by for a couple weeks every day early in the morning and would just say, do you need your sheets tucked in, do you need a light bulb changed? What do you need? Just tell me what you need, and I will do it. And then she would leave. But it was so nice. And that wouldn't happen in a city.

CJ: And you had only been here for 6 months did you say?

DB: Yes, yes, so it has been really nice, and then I am a gardener, and so, you know, I rent this house, and the land lady, when she was showing it to me, she wanted to show me the inside, and I said, you know, I am really interested in the yard, and it was just a driveway then. It was just a parking lot.

CJ: This whole thing was? [About the size of 6 motor homes]

DB: It was just gravel, rubble. And she said, well ok, but I want you to check with me before you do anything. Well, after 2 weeks, she just said, you do whatever you want. She said she liked watching the metropolis of the yard because I would go out there with rope and some sticks and put them in the ground and I would stand there for a while and then I would move them around. And then finally I had the driveway laid out and then I could work out the garden areas around that, and I didn't start the vegetables until I was here 3-4 years because I needed to get the trees in for some shade and to wind break. And so I have only recently started the vegetables, and Sharon and I went birding...she asked me if I would teach her birding, and we went out birding and then at the end of the birding season, she stopped here and she had her truck loaded up with wood, and she was going to take it to the dump...

[She gets up to answer the phone]

DB: ... Anyway, I said, you shouldn't take those boards to the bump, you could use them for raised beds, and so she said, oh, I'll go home and think about that, and so she went home, and she worked out these amazing raised beds out there. I could hardly believe it. And she didn't just do them in a standard pattern either; she used a haring bone pattern. She did a wonderful job. Boy, when she sets her mind to do something, she just does it... So anyway, she has some left over, and she gave them to me, so I had one of my neighbors put together those raised beds for me, which are perfect for my yard, and the size of the yard, and they go with the old fence back there. So, I started putting some of my vegetables in the raised area and then because I live in a litter cottage, I created a cottage garden so I mixed my vegetables in with my fruit trees and berry bushes and perennials.

CJ: So what kinds of vegetables and fruits do you have growing out there?

DB: I have, well, there was a plumb tree here, and I have added 2 apples, 2 pears, and a dwarf peach. And, this year though everything froze except the apples, so there are no peaches or pears or plumbs this year. Well, one or two on a tree...but last year that little dwarf tree, the peach tree, had so many I had to pick off over 100 peaches because the tree was weighted down so badly, so I left about 40 on there, and even that was a too much. So those dwarf trees fruit early compared to the other trees. My semi-dwarf, I have apples for the first time, and the pears are semi-dwarf.

CJ: And how many years have you had those planted?

DB: 3 or 4. Not very long.

CJ: and how big were they when you got them?

DB: Well, I ordered them from a catalogue, Millers Nursery Catalogue in NY, and they are bare root, and they come and they are 3-4 feet high. And they actually catch up to the taller trees that you buy at a local nursery within a few years, and I think they get established better. And they are a lot less work. You don't have to stake them or anything, so it has worked out well for me. And you can plant those, like when you buy from a nursery, you are buying in the summer time when it is hot here, but you can order your bare root, and they arrive early in the spring – whatever date you say, so I have them come around March 15. We have like a week window in there when the ground thaws and then it freezes again, but then you have your snow and rain in the spring so that helps them get established before the summer months when it is really hot. So it works out better for me to do a bare root.

CJ: And how did you find out about the seasons here?

DB: Well, I just learned on my own, but then I... the first year that I was here, I worked for the FS just as a receptionist and they sent me to the Chamber of Commerce to work for 6 months, and while I was there, I set up the garden tours for here in town. And so that allowed me to go around, and I would just... I just have a keen interest in gardening, so I would go around, and if I saw a garden that I liked, whether it was vegetables or flowers or just mature evergreen garden, I would stop and ask the owner about it, and people are really eager to tell you about their gardens and to just show you around, so I met some old-time gardeners who has a lot of experience, and I have learned form them, and I have paid attention and I will go back and say, I am having this problem, what do you think I should do. So that helped me out a lot. But otherwise, I have learned on my own, and I have also ready 100s of books on gardening. The OSU has some excellent books on gardening in Corvallis, and the Corvallis library has excellent books,

and you can order books here. They don't have much in LV at all, so you can order books from other libraries, and so that is pretty much how I have learned.

CJ: So can you order them through OSU Extension?

DB: I go to the library here and then they have some sort of a Sage system, which is with-in OR. There is no charge if you go outside of OR or certain places in OR, then you have to pay \$3, but it is worth it... The only thing is that you don't know what is available. It is not like going into a library and selecting books or just sitting on the floor and looking through the books, so... you can look in the bibliography and they tell you where they got their sources and so I often order some of those.

CJ: So what else do you have growing out there?

DB: Oh, I have current bushes, and raspberry, and strawberries, and then I have winter squash, broccoli, carrots, beets, turnips, and potatoes. I am trying eggplant and artichoke this year, and they are not real hardy, but there is a woman in town that grows artichokes and she gave me some seeds. They didn't take, so I ordered some seeds, and I got 3 started. She is not sure if hers come back from root or come back from the seed, and I have pumpkin out there and sunflowers. I haven't eaten sunflowers. I have always used them for the birds, but I think I might try eating them this year.

CJ: So you have the big ones?

DB: Yes.

CJ: And do you have lettuce or edible flowers?

DB: I haven't had good luck with lettuce this year. A lot of things froze even though I had them covered, they didn't do well. This year has been really strange. We have had some real late frosts, and so things just haven't... you start things early and they just won't do anything because there are too many cold nights. I don't know, it has been a strange year, and I don't know if it is just me because I am new at growing vegetables. We grew them when I was a kid, so my grandfather was a farmer, so I think I have this instinct. It has just been a strange year.

CJ: It sounds like a lot of people have been saying that it has been a tough year.

DB: And I was told out at the nursery that, his customers have been saying that they have planted 3-4 times. So, and I have this huge squash plant that you can see out the window. Well, it has one big squash that is over 9 inches, and that is it. And all the other little ones that started, they froze when they were about 1.5 inches. So now I am on the second set, they are starting to form new ones, but I don't know, I think I will have to cover them in the fall in order to get them to mature.

CJ: So what do you do over the winter and the fall? Do you have any greenhouse space or any way to grow?

DB: I have a cold frame and I take cuttings from my herbs and lavender and put them in there and so I am able to grow new plants from those. And I also order early from the catalogues and little plants and I harden them off in there. And I have hoops over my tomatoes and I put plastic on early in the season to get them started early because I like to use the heirloom one, which take a longer season, so in the fall too, I put plastic over them so that I can extend my season.

CJ: And how much food are you getting out of your garden?

DB: I am not getting much. I am not getting enough to store, but I haven't really learned how to store them properly either. I thought because the porch as unheated, I could store, but my squash froze within a couple days. And I was able to keep some apples and some potatoes for a

short while, but I didn't really grow enough to store. But I wanted to learn how to do that. And I tried storing garlic but the garlic had such a strong odor that it wasn't real pleasant to walk into the house and have the garlic smell in the porch. So, and I do have a pantry that is unheated too. It has an electric heater in there, but I don't use it. And so things do keep fairly well, but not very long.

CJ: So it sounds like you just need a place that is not quite as cold.

DB: Yes, I have a shed out back, and I need to figure out a way to store in there. I know you can buy big whisky barrels apparently and put saw dust in them and layer things. It sounds like a lot of work to me. I wish there was a better way. There is a person named Joe Efird and you might talk to him. He inherited his house from his grandfather, and he is probably 60 years old, and anyway, he has a garden that has been there for many, many years, and he keeps his squashes and carrots over the winter by putting leaves over them. So,

CJ: and is here her in town?

DB: Yes, he is down on 9th Street on the corner of H and 9th.

CJ: Does he have a pretty big vegetable garden that you can see from the street?

DB: Yes, with rocks around it.

CJ: I think so, it must be...

DB: A small house and it looks...he cut back his trees and they didn't re-grow very well. So, anyway but he also has fruit trees and things, so you might enjoy talking to him.

CJ: So what kinds of things do you like to eat? What are your favorite kinds of foods?

DB: Well, I like to have meat with each meal, or once a day I should say. And I have potatoes and carrots a lot and corn and peas and other things. I tend to buy salad green and don't get around to eating them. I know they are good for you and they are so easy to fix, and I don't know what it is, but I just don't eat them. And I know broccoli is good for you. I don't really care much for the store-bought broccoli, so I buy it sometimes and it dries out sometimes in the freezer, but I do like the broccoli that I grow.

CJ: It is really different straight out of the garden

DB: We did have a farmers market here, and I liked to go there and get things, but we don't have that this year.

CJ: Do you know what not?

DB: Yes, one of the people had a problem with her legs and feet and she was one of the organizers so she isn't able to stand, and the other person that helped I guess moved away. So they need someone else to take hold of that. It is a good project for Sharon. Except it really needs to be somebody that has grown things, and she really hasn't grown anything to sell.

CJ: No, and it doesn't sound like she is going to either.

DB: No I don't think she is...she isn't really into cooking and you know, so, she wouldn't be the right one, but they do need somebody with enthusiasm that will take over, but it wouldn't be me either, so I don't know. I think Karen Bunch is going to try to find somebody.

CJ: So where do you buy your food, the stuff that you are supplementing?

DB: From Safeway or Stewarts, and Safeway has some better prices, but I prefer Stewarts. Safeway looks like they have better prices on sale, but I found that when I ring up my things, it always seems to be less when I go to Stewarts, even though there things aren't on sale. I just think it is misleading the way Safeway prices their things. They have 2 prices if you have your card or if you don't, and then there... I don't know, anyway. I like Stewarts meat better.

CJ: Why is that?

DB: I don't know I just think it tastes better, and also, I don't know what it is about it. I also just like talking to the butcher and saying what...can you give me this or can you give me that. I sometimes drive over to Klamath to the meat market.

CJ: How often do you go over?

DB: I only go a couple of times a year, but they have more variety. They have some interesting sausages so I can get 10 different kinds of sausages and freeze them, but anyway, and then I go over there... that meat market also has honey in a jar and I don't like to use plastic, and you can't buy honey in a jar here, so I stock up over there and things like that.

CJ: Do you shop at any of the smaller places like the Mexican store or Meat Lockers or anything like that here in town?

DB: Well, I had a bad experience at the meat locker when they first opened. I asked for some suite for my birds and I had always gone there before they were selling the meats, they used to just butcher there, and I would go there to get beef suit, which comes from around the kidney and is a particular fat and use that for the birds, and so when they took it over and started selling meat, I asked for it, and she gave me some rancid suit. I mean I couldn't even stand to have it in the car on they way home, and I went right back and took it back to her and said, "I am not used to this type of service from these people, from this place. So, I have been reluctant to try other things. Their cheeses, some of them look like they are totally dried out and they are very expensive. Now maybe she has improved. I haven't been back.

CJ: And how long have they been open?

DB: Only a couple years. And I see advertised on the television on channel 4 that they are also selling vegetables, salad greens and other things. It mentioned several things which surprised me because I though they were a meat market, but I know Sharon said they go to the farmers market. Last year they went to the farmers market and buy any thing that was left...

CJ: Ok, and then have it to sell...

DB: Yes, so I don't know if they are trying to turn into a grocery store or what. I think they should have just stuck to meat personally. And because I don't think that they can have that big of a turnover to sell cheeses and here in town, especially at the prices that they have, and keep things fresh.

CJ: I guess we'll see where that all goes, what direction they are headed in. I just stepped in and looked at it, but I didn't see any veggies.

DB: But I know several people have said they buy things there, so I don't know. And I didn't even know that we had a Mexican market.

CJ: It a little store on the same street that extension is on E.

DB: Oh, it is up town?

CJ: Yes, just on that main street.

DB: Oh, I will have to look. It must be new them.

CJ: It is new; it has just been open like month.

DB: O, sure, see we are getting more Mexican people, but they might have some things that I might enjoy.

CJ: So thinking about the food system in Lakeview a little bit more broadly, can you identify three things that you appreciate about the food system here?

DB: I, well, having lived in big cities where you can go here and buy your cheese and go there and buy your bagels, you know, shopping for groceries was fun. I don't find shopping at Safeway or Stewarts fun, and I find it boring, and it seems like I am eating the same things every

month. I just, there is no variety. I don't, I can't think of anything I really appreciate. Well, the personalized service, but I think you could probably develop it someplace else too. I mean when you are shopping at Zabar's you are certainly getting personalized service in NY City, so I don't know. Grocery shopping here is not fun for me, and there have been times when I have gone around and walked all through the store and gone out with nothing.

CJ: So what kinds of things would you like to see in town? What kind of variety?

DB: Well, I would like a pizza that is a real pizza.

CJ: You are from NY, so...

DB: yeah, and... um... a bagel that is a real bagel and a croissant. You can't even buy frozen ones here. And Honkers, the coffee shop, used to have them, but apparently not many people bought them, so she doesn't carry them any more. And I am sure hers came in frozen and she just heated them up, but still, it was better than none. And I just, um, I don't know. I really love cheeses. I don't... I just, like the mozzarella that you get there is just awful, and they have the same kind at both stores. I don't know, I just, I don't know what I would want differently... At least Safeway does have some variety in fruits. If you go there all the time and keep track, you can be there when they first bring in dates or first bring in something that is a little different. Maybe a melon. But they might not have them very long. Or oranges that are real fresh and ripe. I will say that about them, they do occasionally have some nuts that are real special. In Eugene you can go out to the orchards and buy fresh nuts or at the farmers markets, but you can't get those down here. And like having a variety of nuts. And so once in a while I will say Safeway does do that.

CJ: So it sounds like you would just like a lot more fresh food.

[She gets up to get the door. It is Sharon inviting her to go to Alturas to the garden shop. They agree that it is really beautiful.]

DB: I went down there earlier this season with Vivian Springer who won the garden tour last year, and we went down. It was her first... she had been gardening for 30 years, and she didn't know that there was a nursery down in Alturas, so of course I had to talk her down there and show her.

CJ: She survived without it for all these years.

DB: But I am kind of at a point now where I am not adding things to my yard, and I am actually giving things away and taking things that are not working real well for me so that I am not spending so much time watering or dead heading. I had some beautiful daises that needed a lot of dead heading and... well, that doesn't have anything to do with the food...

CJ: So it sounds like, you were saying that, was it your grandfather that was a farmer?

DB: Yes, my, both my maternal and paternal grandparents were farmers, but my paternal grandparents did it for all their lives. Whereas grandpa Luco [?] did something else later, but um, they had a 365 acre family farm where they were self sustaining pretty much. They raised all of their meat and dairy and produce, their wood for fire. They didn't, you know, they had all of their grains for bread and for their animals. So it was a totally different way of life.

CJ: And that was in MI?

DB: Yes that was. And my dad wanted to be farmer too, and my grandfather wanted to give the farm to my dad, he was the youngest. But my mother did not want to live on the farm. She did not want to... you had to be there to take care of your animals 7 days a week. And she

didn't want to have to do all the canning and all the other things that are required of someone, and it was heartbreaking for my dad. Twice he tried to... anyway, but my dad did have a big garden, a big vegetable garden, and when he retired, I bought him fruit trees so he could get into that, but he had a couple heart attacks, and he didn't live very long. And so, I learned a lot just as a child, I mean, you had to go out and weed and do this and that. You know, I earned money for school picking beans and they boys were always allowed a week off from school to pick potatoes. They girls weren't but that was alright. I didn't really want to do that anyway, but we didn't raise things to sell, but our neighbors did. We lived in farm country.

CJ: So, ya, you have quite a bit of that in your family.

DB: So, I tried growing beans this year, and they have lots of buds on them, but I am not getting any beans this year. I don't know what is wrong. I did get a lot of peas. I just pulled those out yesterday and I am going to start new ones as it gets a little cooler, and so I do like eating those fresh things.

CJ: Do you have any favorite family recipes that you still cook?

DB: Ah, no. I am actually, I don't. I am the kind of person that turns the oven on at 375 and puts things in there and I go back in an hour and check it and in an in 1.5 hours I take it out. That is pretty much the way I cook. And I stir fry a lot.

CJ: What kinds of things do you like to cook besides stir frying? What do you put in the oven?

DB: Well, in the oven I would put, like, some wild rice in the bottom of a dish with carrot and garlic and then I would put meat, maybe chicken or pork chop or something on top with a little water. Or, I save my water from cooking vegetables and I drink it as a tea or I save it to put in my rice. And...my stir fry, I do that with my fresh carrots and other vegetables, broccoli and stuff. I just stir them up a little bit. I don't cook them very long. I don't like to boil them.

CJ: Sounds good. It sounds like a pretty healthy diet.

DB: Yes, I think it is, and it is easy. I mean the stir fry it takes you 3 minutes and you are done.

CJ: Which is nice when you are cooking by yourself. That is how I like to do it.

DB: Yes, yes, see, my mother she boiled things. She would boil the heck out of everything. And then pour the vitamins down the drain, but we have learned that that isn't really the way to do it. So, and she used a lot of store-bought bread and I bake my own bread. I don't like that store-bought bread and she just had a different way. She used a lot of canned things. We canned a lot, and so she would take those cans of spaghetti or beans or whatever and just put them on the fire and heat them up. I don't cook that way. I don't like canned things.

CJ: there is a lot of that here at the store.

DB: Yes, you have to buy some canned things here.

CJ: What about eating with other groups or things. Are there people that you meet with to eat regularly or go to some...?

DB: No. I don't go to restaurants. I am not keen on paying a lot of money. I don't have a lot of money. I am not keen on paying a lot to eat in a restaurant. I think you can fix a better meal at home. I don't, I haven't made many friends here. I don't, I have a lot of acquaintances. I am not like Sharon though, who has probably, she has made far more acquaintances than I have, and I am sure a lot of them will develop into friends after she has been here 6 years. So I don't have people that I eat with. I have one woman who just turned 80 last week, and she lives out in the mountains on the creek, and I love to... I go out there and walk her dog at least once a week.

Two dogs, sometimes 3 dogs. She started with one, and um, we always had tea afterwards. And she likes to bake, and so tea and whatever she bakes. As soon as she knows I am coming she...I always call ahead...she is immediately baking something.

CJ: Sounds like a nice exchange.

DB: Yes, but she is about the only place I go that I have anything to eat or drink, so...

CJ: So do you belong to any groups in town. Do you volunteer with anybody?

DB: No, I volunteered with food share, but I felt like I was standing around and not doing any thing. They had so many people helping.

CJ: The food share at the faith center?

DB: The food pantry at the church.

CJ: Ok, ok, so they had too many people there...

DB: Yes, and so. I felt like there were more people volunteering than there were people coming in to get food. I didn't.

[She asked me to leave a part of the transcripts out about people at the food pantry]

DB: So, anyway, I didn't continue [volunteering at the food share]. I also have helped as a caregiver the Senior Center. And I don't do that very often, but there is going to be a time when I am going to need somebody to come in and help me, and so I need to pay my dues ahead of time.

CJ: It sounds like a good place. I haven't been over, but I heard...

DB: Yes, now they do serve meals for seniors. I don't know if someone has told you that. They have cut back on their services; they must not have as good of funding as they used to have. And so they don't serve meals as often, but they still serve it 2-3 times a week. And some seniors really depend on those meals because they don't cook anymore and they have bus service to the meals. And so it is a good thing.

CJ: Oh, I didn't realize they had a bus service.

DB: Yes, you have to go early though. I think they are finished busing people by 10 and the mean is not until noon, so they provide games. So it is a social thing for some people.

CJ: Do you know where else people can go in town. Like people who can't make ends meet or something. Do you know what other services town offers for things like that?

DB: No I don't. I know they have food stamps. They do have meals on wheels on here too through the senior center. Senior Center takes those same meals that they serve and take them out to people and they give them some frozen ones for their weekend.

CJ: Oh, that is nice.

DB: Yes, yes.

CJ: Um, do you know where the food comes from that you are buying at Safeway when you go there, or at Stewarts?

DB: well, Safeway's food I am sure comes from a main warehouse, and you can tell them that you want them to order something special and they will see if they can, but it has to be a Safeway food that they have in the warehouse because they service a lot of area. Maybe all across the country, I am not sure. Now Stewarts, I know their meat comes from the mid-west because when they ahs that mad cow scare out here they told me not to worry because their meat doesn't come from this area, where Safeway's meat did so.

CJ: That is interesting...

DB: Ya, I don't know where everything else comes from. You know, towns have become so homogenized I think you get the same thing at practically every grocery store.

CJ: I think that is the goal...

DB: It is too bad.

CJ: Um, maybe just one or two more things. So, I guess we have kind of talked about changing things...what about a little bit more about your time here. Have you faced any challenges in the community? It sounded like at first it was really great when you first moved here and everyone was really helpful when you were sick. What about challenges over these last 6 years?

DB: No, I am not an extrovert and I had gone through a really hard time and I needed some years to just reflect and just work it out through gardening and then I didn't really try to go out and make friends. I wasn't real sociable and um, so I have been pretty much left... you know I haven't,... I mean, people have been really nice to me, and I have made some friends. I have one particular gardening friend who is really special. I don't know if you have met her. You might like to interview her too. Norma Gumser her number is 3203. Now she is about 81 and she has a male friend and he is gardener too, and they, I have learned the most from her. I took Sharon to her garden one time. She was on the garden tour this last time. Well, she has been on the garden tour for several times. Her garden is always a favorite. So she grew up here so she would be able to...

CJ: Oh, ya, that would be great...

DB: Her grandmother brought plants across the country and she still has some of the roses and hollyhocks. Her mother was an avid gardener and her grandfather owned a ranch and she lives in, I think the houses that one of her grandfathers owned. Anyway, she would be a good person for you to talk to. She is a real special person.

CJ: How do you see this community changing over time? What do you think it will be like 20 years from now?

DB: Well I, even in the 6 years that I have been here, more and more of the ranch land has been taken over and tricky tacky houses are being built on it and I just think it is awful. I think that future ranchers are going to have a tough time finding land that they can afford. And I think it is changing the community too so that eventually. I mean people are talking about wanting a mall here and wanting...you know, the chamber is always trying to do things to bring in people, and so I think retirement people from CA are going to sell their houses there so they can make a lot of money and then come up here and buy, and then that is raising the cost of living here, and that is changing the community from a ranching community to a retirement community eventually, and I think we are losing the history, the way they ranchers interacted with the community. I think that is going to be lost. I am not real sure how that affected that, but somehow I think that is going to change. I don't want Lakeview to become homogenized and just like every other ...I mean it is like they put in these big planters. They had them special made with brands from the ranches, well then they... but they didn't use anything that was native or anything that looked like a western community. They just put in these same old pansies like red, white and blue like everybody has all the way across the country. I thought that was a shame, and I don't want to see that happening in other ways too.

CJ: and even in thee 6 years, which is a pretty short amount of time, you are already seeing those changes?

DB: Oh, yes, more and more of the land right around the town, some of the best ranch land is being sold off. And roads are being put through and wells dug for developments. And I think they maybe overextended on some of that. They thought when the prison came in that the town would be developed more than it... and it hasn't boomed quite the way they hopes it would. Thankfully. So, I just, I don't want to see. I mean they put in a subway this year. I don't want to see McDonald's and all those. I don't want us to have the same thing they have in every other community.

CJ: You like the uniqueness of Lakeview.

DB: Yes, and one thing I have noticed. I mean we are like 95 miles from Klamath Falls and yet in the last year or so, something has changed in the way the airplanes go over. I don't know if it is the air force has moved into this area, but you can be out just about any time of day now and you'll see a jet going over, or you might even see 10 jet streams crisscrossing in the sky. You go out in Cream Creek where you think you are out in the wilderness and you are constantly hearing these jets going over, and that didn't happen those first few years when I was here. Something has changed in the pattern.

CJ: A lot is changing it sounds like. Do you think this is going to be home for you?

DB: I am not planning to go anywhere else. I plan to stay here, but I am renting, and I think this house, they intend it at some point to use it as a guest house. Their children, their oldest child now is 15 and she will be going off to college, and I think this is going to become a guest house, so I don't know how long they will let me live here.

CJ: So is this attached to...

DB: They own it. The people who live next door here. And I let them build their lattice panel for their patio out onto my land that I am renting. And people can't tell whether it is my garden or her garden there along there. Most of it is mine, and so, but the only thing is, she can't garden. She is not any good at that, so she wants me here so that I will pull the weeds and take care of it. It is kind of a balance, but at some point, they may just decide that they need the extra space for company or something.

CJ: Oh, I hope not because this seems like a great little spot for you.

DB: It is. The house is perfect for me. I mean, I used to own a three bedroom house and it is a lot of work and running up and down stairs and taking care of all that. And I don't want to do that anymore. I am not into cleaning house.

CJ: So what did you do before you retired?

DB: I was in insurance for many years. I supervised an agency. I went into the NY City home office as a specialist. It was a totally different way of life.

CJ: Sounds like a very different lifestyle.

DB: Yes, see, most people that know me here have no idea that I used to live in big cities and worked as a specialist, and that is alright, you know, they don't need... that is not who I am anymore. I think people can be reborn and born again and do something else. And you let go, you give up. I think, I mean, I go in some of these houses around here and people have things that they collected for 40 years. I think it is good to clean out an area. A move is good for you.

CJ: Oh, yes, I have done a couple moved across country and my load is pretty light now...

DB: And you have more freedom then I think. I remember when I sold my house in Duluth. I though, oh, I just was devastated before I sold it, and thought, oh, this is going to be awful, and I gave up everything in order to move out here, you know, I didn't want to haul things. Well,

on the way out here I just had this feeling of freedom, you know, like you could start over. But then of course, I had no idea how much it cost to live out here. Far more.

CJ: Is there a big difference?

DB: Oh, tremendously.

CJ: Even in Lakeview?

DB: Oh, yes. I mean I sold my 3 bedroom house that was totally renovated with new roof, new furnace, new everything, new kitchen, new bathroom for \$48,000 and then I arrived out here in Eugene and they had... the cheapest house I could find was \$50,000 and it was a made-over garage and was on an alley, had no land. It was awful. It was a shock. Here you could probably still get one, but even here they have really gone up in price in the last couple years.

CJ: Because people are moving in from out of state?

DB: For the price, but not so much that. California is just become too crowded and a lot of people are selling their homes there and using their money to buy in southern Oregon. It is all across southern Oregon.