

I interviewed Jennifer while the Staubs were having a BBQ for their new neighbors. She is a student at OIT in Klamath and home for the summer in Lakeview. She seemed happy to do the interview and was a valuable resource on account of her being the only one I talked to, formally, that did not love Lakeview. In fact, she disliked it. When asked why she said, “because it’s small and gossipy.” Her brother John and Logan Staub were in and out of the room during the interview, which took place in the basement of the Staubs’ house, sitting on a couch. She was more eager about the interview before I started asking the community questionnaire which, I think, made her feel ignorant and unhelpful. I decided to ask a few questions from the youth questionnaire, these she responded to more readily.

Allegra Gordon: How long have you lived in Lakeview?

Jennifer Pittman: All nineteen years. Well, a year a school so I guess 18 years.

AG: And where do you go to school?

JP: Klamath at OIT.

AG: Are you living in Lakeview for the summer then?

JP: Yeah just for the summer.

AG: So, what are some of your favorite foods?

JP: My favorite food is cauliflower.

AG: Cauliflower?

JP: Hands down, I love it.

AG: How often do you get to eat cauliflower?

JP: When I go shopping by myself during the school year I buy it a lot. Buy here, my mom isn’t a very healthy eater so she doesn’t buy it for me very often while I’m here.

AG: How about a least favorite food?

JP: My least favorite food is pizza.

AG: How often do you eat pizza?

JP: For being my least favorite food I eat it too often. I ate it last week that was the first time in a long time. Too often.

AG: Those are not typical favorite and least favorite foods.

JP: [laughs] I know, I’m kind of a health nut.

AG: So, what did you eat for your evening meal yesterday?

JP: Oh, I had enchiladas last night and I had birthday cake too actually. It was my mom’s birthday and I made the cake so I had to give it a try.

AG: What kind of cake was it?

JP: Chocolate.

AG: Do you bake a lot?

JP: Not as often as I like to, I don’t have enough time, but when I get a chance to I like to make cookies or something.

AG: Okay, well, thinking about the food system in the community more broadly, what are three of your favorite or least favorite things about it?

JP: About the community food?

AG: About the food system in the community so where it goes and how people use it.

JP: Um, could you repeat the question?

AG: Sure, it's a difficult question. Thinking of the food system in the community broadly, what are three things that you appreciate about it?

JP: There are a lot of farmers who raise their own cattle and, I don't know if they still do it, but there used to be a farmers market where people could like, sell vegetables and I only went there once but I had some carrots and they were better than store bought. So I thought that was neat. Somewhere they could sell their things. We have our own butcher and meat shop here so we can take down cattle and our own animals to be butchered.

AG: Is that Lakeview lockers?

JP: Yeah.

AG: Okay, so how about three things that you don't like so much?

JP: Things I don't like so much, uh, in Safeway, since we're pretty far from things, the shelves aren't stocked that often. Certain vegetables aren't always the freshest. I see moldy strawberries a lot in Safeway; I don't like that.

AG: Does your family face any challenges in getting the food you want?

JP: Around the holidays everything is old out, you'll forget an ingredient and run to the store but it will be sold out.

AG: How do you guys get your food?

JP: How do we get it? Go to Safeway and buy it.

AG: Do you raise any food?

JP: We raise sheep but we don't actually eat them. My dad goes hunting a lot so we've eaten deer meat and elk meat quite a lot.

AG: Do you hunt?

JP: No.

AG: Do you fish?

JP: I do, I don't eat fish though, I don't like sea food or fishy stuff.

AG: Do you know the history of your family's involvement with food in the community?

JP: They have very little. I can't think of anything they've really done.

AG: Did your family move to Lakeview?

JP: Yeah they moved, they're not from here. Uh, my dad makes really good jerky and he put it in the fair once and it was voted best. And it is good.

AG: Do you have any family stories connected with food?

JP: Not really.

AG: Well, jerky in the fair that's one but, um, do you have any favorite family recipes?

JP: None that I can think of right now, uh, my mom makes this rhubarb crunch. We usually get the rhubarb from our neighbors or something, they grow it. It has like dry cake mix on top to make it crumbly and it's really, really good.

AG: That sounds good, I like rhubarb a lot.

JP: Me too.

AG: So, are you or any of your family members involved with growing or producing food?

JP: John is doing 4H, not that we eat any of that and he's growing lettuce, which I think is super cool. He hasn't eaten any of it yet but it looks good.

AG: Is anybody in your family involved in a community group?

JP: Not that I can think of.

AG: So how do you think farmers and ranchers are doing in the community?

JP: I dunno, I dunno much about it, they must be doing all right to still be there. There are a lot of fires that could damage things.

AG: Where do you work?

JP: I work at the inner agency office.

AG: What do you know about the disabled elderly population and how they get there food?

JP: I don't know much about it. I know this one lady that I went to church with, just random people who new her go grocery shopping for her.

AG: Do you know where the food comes from that people eat in Lakeview, in the community.

JP: No, not really. I see trucks coming in and dropping stuff off at Safeway some-times.

AG: Do you know where you could get more local food? A few things like a garden or something.

JP: I don't know.

AG: Do they have anything like that?

JP: Like I said the Saturday market, a bunch of people come together to sell their stuff.

AG: Are there ways you'd like to see the food system in Lakeview change?

JP: I'd like there to be better variety. I'd like our Safeway to expand. The used to talk about doing construction but that never happened.

AG: Do you know why?

JP: I heard that because that road out in front was a public road, they couldn't take up that space.

AG: Have you heard anything about other communities changing their food system?

JP: No.

AG: Does that kind of thing interest you?

JP: Um, if I had to watch the news or read the newspaper then, maybe, but in the summer I'm always working and in the school year I'm busy so I don't really have time to keep up on current events.

AG: That's okay you don't have to feel guilty.

JP: [laughs]

AG: Do you think there are other things about the food system in the community that will be useful to know?

JP: No.

AG: What do you think the community will be like in 20 years?

JP: Hopefully bigger, I doubt it though, I could see it becoming a ghost town.

AG: Oh yeah, why's that?

JP: I heard that a while ago they wanted to build a Buy Mart or something and the people voted against it because the thought it would hurt the local businesses and such, which is kind of sad because I think it will never grow, and I'd like to see it grow.

[After the general questionnaire I asked questions from the youth questionnaire even though she was 18+]

AG: How do you feel about Lakeview?

JP: I don't like it very much, I don't feel like there is opportunities or anything exciting. It's small and judgmental and gossiping.

AG: Could you give me an example of a story that would illustrate how it's small, judgmental and gossipy?

JP: Oh, I have *lots* of examples, let me see, in the school district for one thing it's almost like who your family is and who know can get things. In my class it actually affected who was Valedictorian. There was a tie and for some reason, I don't know why they couldn't just have two, I don't know I think she wanted to be the only one. But she got her parents to call the teacher and raise their grade to make their GPA a little higher and since they were an important family on the school board and stuff it happened. I just don't like that things like that can happen.

AG: Do you think that people are concerned about their health here?

JP: I dunno, it's really high up so I think everybody's lungs are really healthy. Um, a while back there was a Uranium mine or something and people at work joke about drinking Lakeview water, that it's gonna make us deformed or something.

AG: Do you drink Lakeview water?

JP: No, we have a well and if I'm in town I'll drink out of a bottle, I'll take water bottles from my house. Just more how it tastes, I'm not really worried about it.

AG: How about you, do you think much about your health?

JP: I do, I like to exercise and eat right and stuff.

AG: And where do you get your food?

JP: My mom. My mom does the shopping my mom puts the food in front of me and I usually eat. When I lived alone, though, I'd eat really healthy.

AG: What kinds of food did you eat?

JP: Well, like I said, cauliflower, I'd eat it for, like, two meals a day. There's this one recipe I make. It's like mustard and like some sort of salad dressing and some spices and you mix it all together a put it over it. You can warm it up, but I don't like it warm, I like it raw.

AG: Do you ever go with your parents to the store?

JP: I go with my mom, sometimes.

AG: When you do, do you pick out foods?

JP: Sometimes, I'm not really that picky. I do check the expiration dates, I'll check expiration dates on everything.

AG: So like if milk is at the expiration date but it's fine will you drink it?

JP: I won't drink it the day before the expiration date.

AG: You need that buffer.

JP: [Yeah]

AG: What do you like to pick when you go shopping with your mom?

JP: Bean burritos are probably my favorite.

AG: And how do you make them?

JP: Oh, I usually just buy the frozen kind, the microwavable ones, and then put lots and lots of ketchup on them.

AG: Ketchup on the bean burritos?

JP: Yeah it's good. Other than that I like stuff like cheese and crackers and any types of fruits and vegetables.

AG: So your mom usually does the cooking for the family?

JP: Yeah my mom cooks for the family.

AG: What kinds of things does she cook?

JP: She makes a lot of casseroles, she cooks a lot of meat, chicken and steak.

AG: Do you like to cook?

JP: I'm not very good at it. I wouldn't mind doing it more often, I don't very often.

AG: How often do you eat together as a family for dinner?

JP: Pretty much every night, if I'm home we all eat together but usually I'm not.

AG: So what do you eat when you hang out with your friends?

JP: When I hang out with my friends it's like, usually chips or something. Some of my more healthy friends we eat like, grapes and stuff.

AG: So, what does the word vegetarian mean to you?

JP: Vegetarian means like, doesn't eat meat, healthy.

AG: Do you know anyone who is a vegetarian?

JP: Yeah, one of my friends from college is a vegetarian.

AG: Do you eat together ever?

JP: Yeah, I eat with her a lot.

AG: Do you like the stuff she eats?

JP: Yeah, I could probably go without meat but if I was a vegetarian it wouldn't be because I was against animal killing or anything, it would be because I don't like meat a whole lot.

AG: Do you have a favorite restaurant or anything?

JP: Like in Lakeview or overall?

AG: How about Lakeview and overall?

JP: In Lakeview it would probably be snack shack and overall, I can't even think of overall there are too many options.

AG: Could you give a couple options then?

JP: Okay, well for fast food I like Taco Bell but not too often because fast food is so fatty but um, in Klamath there is this place called Nibble's café that's really good, probably one of my faves.

AG: Are there any restaurants that Lakeview doesn't have that you wish were here, more like kinds of food?

JP: It would be neat if we had a deli or, like, a healthier place. Like, um, a salad bar or something. That would be cool.

AG: Do you think that would do well here?

JP: Hard to say, it seems like most of the people that go to restaurants are kids on school lunch breaks. I'd go there though.

AG: Do you have any questions?

JP: No, I don't think so.