

Oral History Interview with Christine Frazer

Interview conducted on September 4, 2018

By Professor Judith Raiskin, UO Department of Women's, Gender,
and Sexuality Studies and Linda J. Long, Curator of Manuscripts,
UO Special Collections and University Archives, UO Libraries

For

The Eugene Lesbian Oral History Project

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Preface

This is an ongoing community-engaged oral history project. Linda J. Long, Curator of Manuscripts in the University of Oregon Libraries, and Professor Judith Raiskin of the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department at the University of Oregon, conducted video interviews with eighty-three narrators in the summers of 2018 and 2019. The interviews were held in the UO Libraries' recording studio. This collection includes the video interviews and the bound and on-line transcripts. Associated with the interviews are materials collected from the narrators, including photographs, diaries, flyers, business records, letters, posters, buttons, and t-shirts that document the businesses, organizations, and cultural and political activities discussed in the interviews. These collections will be made available separately as individual archival collections and can be searched and retrieved using the Library's Online Catalog.

In the 1960s-1990s hundreds of lesbian-identified women came to Eugene, Oregon from across the United States. These women

founded cornerstone organizations central to Eugene's history and influenced Oregon's political landscape. They created and worked in collective businesses, ran printing presses, and founded cultural organizations (theater companies and dance troupes, music bands and choirs) and gathered in lesbian cultural spaces (book stores, martial arts studios, restaurants, bars, and softball teams). They became leaders of Eugene community service agencies and worked in City and State government positions. A number were instrumental in leading important legal challenges of discriminatory policies at the county and state levels regarding employment and housing protections, benefits, lesbian and gay adoption, and marriage equality. Those who came to study or teach at the University of Oregon were influential in making institutional change protecting the rights of lesbians and gay men.

The artist Tee Corinne, whose papers and photographs also reside in the University of Oregon Special Collections, asserted, "The lack of a publicly accessible history is a devastating form of oppression; lesbians face it constantly." The Eugene Lesbian Oral History

Project seeks to preserve a specific and vibrant history that otherwise is lost. This collection of interviews captures a range of engaging and important stories that reveal new angles on lesbian history, women's history, the counterculture movement in the 1960s-1980s, Oregon history, feminism, sexuality, intentional communities, and women working in jobs reserved for men.

Looking back over 25-50 years, the narrators reflect on the complex relationship of individual aspirations and larger social movements in times of dramatic historical change. Many of the narrators have retired and continue to be involved in vibrant artistic, scientific and political work.

Abstract

Interview conducted on September 4, 2018. Christine was born in June 1949 in San Francisco. Her father was in the Air Force, stationed at Hamilton Air Force Base in Marin County. She grew up in the country, but in military housing. She travelled to Japan with her father and family twice, in 1955 and 1962. She was aware of feeling sexually different, and attracted to girls, when she was six years old. She discusses her lesbian identity. When they returned to the States, she and her brother became hippies and became a part of the counterculture. They decided to go "back to the land," away from the establishment and to become farmers. They moved to Santa Fe and spent three years out there. She describes the communal life as heterosexist. Access to adequate water was a critical and unsolvable issue for them in the Southwest, so Christine and her boyfriend got married and moved north to Oregon in September 1970. They rented a farm in Dexter for \$50 a month. Christine had a baby in 1971, and her husband, Jasper, died of Lymphoma shortly thereafter. She farmed with a lover in Williams, Oregon. She discusses the lesbian lands in southern

Oregon. Later, she worked at Starflower Natural Foods & Botanicals. With her social security survivor benefits money, Christine put herself through automotive school. She then worked at the automotive repair shop, Country VW, in Eugene for fourteen years. She talks about the recession of the early 1980s, and the social life and customs in the Eugene lesbian community. She describes the "Energy Bank" that was an exchange of services between people with various skills. She also describes the "Insurance Trust," which provided medical insurance at a better rate. Christine joined Soromundi Lesbian Chorus of Eugene when it started. She talks about other work after she shut down Country VW. Her last job was with Symantec. Christine concludes her interview by talking about the importance of community.

Additional subjects: Aging; Amazon Kung Fu; Automobile repair; Children's house; Collectives; Communal living; Cooperatives; Cormier, Margaret; Cormier, Thomas; Counterculture; Country VW; Despain, Robert; Displaced workers; Drug use; Emerald People's Food Cooperative; Energy Bank; Eugene School District 4J;

Farming; Glass, Debbie; Glass, Charlie; Hippies; Homophobia in schools; Jackrabbit Press; Lane Community College (Eugene, Or.); Lefton, Enid; Lesbian identity; Lesbian mothers -- United States; Lesbian separatism -- Oregon; Mama's Home Fried Truck Stop (restaurant); Morrigan, Kendra; Mother Kali's Bookstore; Non-Monogamy; OWL Farm; Parenting; School choice -- social aspects; Serial monogamy; Vaden, Paula Jo; Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Protest movements -- United States; Whiteaker (Eugene, Or.); Women's Press; Zoo Zoo's (restaurant)

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Session Number: 001

Narrator: Christine Frazer

Location: University of Oregon
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Interviewers: Linda Long and
Judith Raiskin

Date: September 4, 2018

Long: This interview is part of the Eugene lesbian oral history project. The recordings will be made available through the university of Oregon library's special collections in university archives. This is an oral history interview with Christine Fraser on September 4th, 2018 taking place in the University of Oregon library's recording studio in the Center for Media and Educational Technologies.

Long: The interviewers are Linda Long, Curator of Manuscripts in the UO library's Special Collections & University Archives and Professor Judith Raskin of the UO Department of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Long: Christine, please let us know if you agree to be recorded for this project and that you give your permission for the university to preserve, and make available your recorded and transcribed interview.

Frazer: I do and I thank you for doing it.

Long: Thank you very much. All right. Why don't we begin with a basic question. Can you please tell us when and where you were born, where you grew up and something about your early background?

Frazer: Okay. Well, I was born in San Francisco, California in June. June 16th, 1949. Second child born to my mom and dad. My father was in the Air Force. We were stationed at Hamilton Air Force Base, which is in Marin County. And I was the second caesarian, so I was just scheduled at the big hospital. The Army hospital in San Francisco. So early childhood was really rural living in a military environment.

Frazer: We lived in the country but in military housing. And my mother was ... Well was passed away. Both my parents.

She was a Spaniard, and immigrated to the United States at six, and grew up in San Francisco. My father was an Irish descendant Oki. They met in San Francisco, got married after the war. Had my brother had me and I'm proud of this. My father had a vasectomy in 1949 after I was born because he said we got a boy and a girl, I'm not going to put my wife through this anymore.

Frazer: And my mom said, "Well, Lloyd, what if you, I died and you want... life could change." And he said, "Take my chances." I've always been very proud of my father for that. So I feel like there's little feminism there in my dad, at least care for women. Growing up in the service, was very interesting. Did a couple of tours in Japan, two different times, saw Japan on their knees as a broken country in 1955 and went back in '62 and was there when Kennedy was assassinated.

Frazer: Significant events, both of them. And it left a significant impression on me. I mean, I saw them humbled on their knees and then they got on their knees and said,

"We're so sorry for the loss of your president." And they taught me so much about humility.

Frazer: And also, gee, I think most Americans who don't get the opportunity to travel as children, they don't realize what it's like to be thrust into a homogeneous population because we're so non homogeneous in this country. And that was very interesting experience. It was partly helped me grow up a little bit, I think that second tour, learning humility as a teenager. Then we came back to the States and it was full thrust '60s hippie era coming on Vietnam war.

Frazer: And my brother and I just rolled right into, we became total pot-smoking acid taken hippies. We did the tune in, turn on and drop out. And drop it out didn't mean lying around, being as pot-smoking bomb it meant do something about life, make, make a difference. So we chose five kids from an air force base, chose to go to become farmers, go back to the land, learn what our ancestors had used to survival. And because we really saw the world coming apart.

Frazer: I mean, we were on the, the buildup to Nixon's Lyon times the war, it was tense times and that some percentage of us took it hardcore and said, we're going to make a difference. We're going to just step out all this and do something else. So where are we got this idea? I really don't remember, but we were like Santa Fe or happy Valley Idaho meeting. None of us ever having been to any of those places. And we flipped a coin and we ended up in Santa Fe.

Frazer: And so I spent three years out there on trying to start two communes, joining another commune and then leaving because there's just not enough water out there. And once instead of things falling apart in society on the level we thought they were, where we thought we needed these land skills, we needed to be the pioneers that recaptured these land skills for certain vial of our species.

Frazer: We weren't fatalistic, we were really altruistic, but we just saw a need and thought this is where we'll... in fact, we were all working class, we were all raised, get a high school diploma and get a trade. That's how you make your family

proud. So we chose farming. I spent almost a decade trying to be a farmer. At any rate, it wasn't really good out there for farming.

Frazer: You couldn't get water rights. And so I said, "Let's go back to the West, but not California." It's too crowded. It was too crowded in '67, '68 for me. So I left. The summer of love, 1967 was wonderful. And then the streets were full of hippies from all over the country with nothing to do, no income, everybody's just can, no pan handling and can I crash at your pad? And those of us that did the back to the land movement we were striving to produce.

Frazer: So we shoved off and went out there and try to produce. And then when that didn't work out and then I ended up in Oregon. But the important point I want to bring up about it, the calming life though, is that because my life then as a hippie, and then I transitioned to lesbian and there's a joining of the hippies and the gay people as we started coming out in this generation and in the communes, that was very first place that we encountered

communication issues. Where we realize we, all we had was Robert's rules of order, which was part of the 'man.'

Frazer: And what else did we have? We had yelling at each other. We had, who can get on the tallest chair. We had all the women pushing me to the front. Somehow that energy was there.

Frazer: They were, "Christine, you tell them the inequality in the workload that we're doing, the babies, children cooking, cleaning, cleaning the outhouse, and the guys are cutting wood, hauling water, doing goats, doing the garden." And so that was the first time in my understanding of how our generation said, "Well, we don't have the right skills."

Frazer: And by yelling at each other and saying, we're not gonna use Robert's rules of order, which has always bugged me, that country fair. They use them. We slowly started developing stuff and then I think the lesbian community took that even further, but with the help of the alternative community, I would call it the old, the hippy community alternative community.

Frazer: My lover at the time we were, I said, "We got to go, we got to get out of here. We go to go some someplace where there's water." And we're like, well, how are we going to get out of here? We don't have money, we don't have jobs, we live on a commune. We kept, let's just get married, our parents will help us.

Frazer: And they did. His parents got us a 49 Chevy pickup and my parents gave us 300 bucks, and we gave us the money to head on out. And we actually spent a summer in Minneapolis than he wanted to live there. He had lived there before that I can take the humidity. So that's why I'm like, we got to go back to the West.

Frazer: And I had been to Oregon once, I had a friend my mother's best friend's daughter lived here. When we went to New Mexico, we drove through Oregon up to Washington to pick up one of our air force base pals that was going with us and then stopped and saw her on the way back. And so that's all I could remember was how beautiful Oregon was.

Frazer: I've got a friend in Eugene, we can go, she'll put us up and we can find something there that we want to do. And that's what we did within a week we had great luck in that time, we found 300 acres of land in Dexter for 50 bucks a month with a cabin on it. Wood stove had a pump down at the barn. So there was water and I mean we were hauling water the last place we lived. A hundred gallon barrels on flatbed.

Long: Is it just the two of you?

Frazer: Yeah, it was just my partner and I, and then a bunch of our friends did end up coming out that next year. But they came out because I was pregnant with Juniper, My daughter who's 47 when we came to Oregon, I was pregnant with her. It was September of 1970 and then she was born in April '71. And then sadly my friend at that point, husband by the law, which was interesting because immediately I had new privileges. I didn't get looked at like hippie scum because I had a Mrs. hippie scum in front of my name, it was very strange.

Frazer: At any rate, he fell ill right after she was born and we struggled for a year and he died of lymphoma cancer. So he just was this little blessing in my life that furthered me into another state, gave me a child and left me. And then because we got married for that gas money, I had social security windows benefits that, which I could have just sat back and been a little better off than a welfare mom, but I didn't want that for me or I want it for my child. So I put myself through automotive school. Not right away, but a little bit later.

Long: Can I ask you where she was born?

Frazer: Juniper was born in Dexter and that little cabin. Yeah.

Long: Who did you have attending with you?

Frazer: Nobody.

Long: Nobody.

Frazer: Nobody.

Long: Just your husband?

Frazer: Mm-hmm (affirmative)- [inaudible 00:10:49]

Long: Wow.

Frazer: Yeah.

Long: How was that?

Raiskin: No, complications?

Frazer: Nope. She was actually my second child. I have a sad story of having.... I had a child at 20, and he died when he was five months old. And that's part of my Jasper, Juniper's daddy. He took me... we met when I had a child that I had spent my whole pregnancy with my first lover. She said, "I'm going to New York." "And when are you coming back." "I don't know." And then it was like, "Whoa, I don't understand."

Frazer: And she was just leaving. So she broke my heart and I said, I'd never be with a woman again. So I came out and went back in that I had a baby boy and I said, "Well, I need a dad. I need a dad for this boy." And so I went shopping at the commune and I found this cute guy with a little gold cap

tooth and little bandanna and he worked at a Montessori school.

Frazer: Now I'm 20. I'm the youngest cousin in my family and I don't know anything about children, never even thought about having them. Just totally, whatever happens is groovy hippie life. And Oh, I was happy to be pregnant. I had nothing against it, you know? But I immediately was like, I mean, he had a dad, but I didn't want to be with him. I didn't even tell him that I was pregnant.

Frazer: I just took off, I was like, Ooh, I'm going to have a baby. So at any rate, Jasper, he was just a maybe four or five years older than me, but really, I'm sure you remember at that age, it seems so much bigger. I'm 20 I thought I was so on top of the world, but I'm 20.

Frazer: He took me in to his commune that he was a founder of where he had his own room and everything and then my son died he held me out, and then he gave me Juniper and then he exited and we made that great decision. I'm getting married for gas money, and I ended up with that social

security and that was a good help to getting me trained as a mechanic later.

Raiskin: So then you with Juniper alone or?

Frazer: So then after he died, well the other thing of the social security was I got a big fat check from them. \$3,000. I mean, I called him up and said, what is this? And they said, "Well, you should have been on disability a year ago before he died." Once he had had an operation and he was basically disabled from that point, when we did know, we ended up getting on welfare, nobody suggested social security.

Frazer: We didn't really know about it, and then I call up welfare and said, "Well do I get to pay you back?" I felt like I was getting double paid or something, you know? But they were like, "No, you didn't have it then." So, so I said, "Well great." And actually, I had already met some lesbians while I was juicing at the Emerald people's food co-op on 22nd and an Emerald street, first food co-op in this town.

Raiskin: Can I take just have a break and then take you back to your description?

Frazer: Sure.

Raiskin: Can you tell us when you had a sense that you were a lesbian?

Frazer: Oh goodness. Yes. I was six, but I didn't have a name for it. I knew at six because I met an eight-year-old and I was absolutely her slave, and she gave me all kinds of butterfly stomach. And I knew that I felt really differently about her. And then I looked around and I was like, "I feel differently about girls. I feel like the boys feel." But I never thought I was a boy and never wanted to be a boy.

Frazer: I just knew that I felt differently. I didn't have a name for it, but I was raised Catholic, so I did figure it went on the bad side since it's all black and white in that world. So I was like, I'm different and weren't as not going to deal with that. So in fact, through my childhood I decided that I was from another planet.

Frazer: And actually I'm a Gemini, so I'm like this actually many of us in here, Oh, I'm just from another planet. I'm like, that's why I'm so different. So, and that did okay.

Frazer: In high school I had a girlfriend and we were in love and we made out. It's was that. We never had any more sexual feelings than the wonderful long make-out sessions. We would cut school, she was the manager at the candy counter at the movie theater and I was an usher at, and we'd cut school and this was an old theater with actual dressing rooms.

Frazer: And so we would go back there where we had this little bed to lay down when you had your period and we lie around there, and make out and then we'd eat popcorn and candy.

Frazer: We even went on double dates with guys, bye and then we'd spend the night together, but we didn't have sex. And at any rate, and then I came out as a hippie. Then I did the acid and while she got sent away, actually I should include that arm. My mother, she picked up right away that

this was not a normal relationship. She actually didn't ever confront me directly.

Frazer: She just said, "You know, this is not normal." And then evidently she talked to her parents and she ended up getting sent to live with her brother in Washington. So yeah.

Raiskin: Did you ever talk to her?

Frazer: Well, I saw her years later, I found her working at a restaurant and I happily told her that I was a lesbian and she strangely told me that she had outgrown it. So I'm like, "Well, I never outgrew it." So, but I never forgot lovely, Rita Mitamek because the song was out and I had a Rita and she came from a very poor family. Her wages went to support the family, my wages were mine to spend. And so I spent my money on her taking her to the A&W beer.

Raiskin: And this is in San Francisco?

Frazer: This is San Rafael.

Raiskin: San Rafael.

Frazer: Marin County. I was born in the city but I grew up in Marin County, which is the bases in the Northern part of the County between San Rafael and Nevada, which used to be very country-ish, but now it's just freeways and people. Still got beautiful Hills and all that. At any rate yeah.

Raiskin: What did you know about Eugene before you came here?

Frazer: Really I knew nothing about Eugene, just at my mother's best friend's daughter lived here. And I don't even remember how she got here. She married somebody and ended up living here. And then she didn't even live here that long. I've been gone a long time. Their house was up on Columbia street.

Raiskin: So your index.

Frazer: So Let's finish up on the gay.

Raiskin: Okay.

Frazer: Because so high school and then that just got lost in the shuffle of tune in, turn on, drop out. No, I mean we

started smoking pot and then my brother went to get pot one day and he came back with capsules and he said, "Well the guy didn't have any weed, but he said this is better and it lasts longer." And we'd never heard of LSD, wasn't in the papers yet. And boy, it changed our lives.

Frazer: Now I don't recommend people take LSD to change their lives, although they are now using it psychological treatment, which I think is very interesting because as a repressed lesbian all my childhood, I realized that, well, I knew that I wanted to be with women.

Frazer: I also had a repetitive dream where I got on a bus and a very nice looking... I'm a kid, a very nice looking adult woman sits down next to me and says, "I know where you want to go." And takes me to a Victorian house, traditional San Francisco Victorian, just like a cartoon house.

Frazer: Women are pouring out of the windows and it's like a women Mecca. This was a wonderful dream because in my awake mind there were only two places where you found women, nuns and jail. And I didn't want to be a nun, so I

was a juvenile delinquent. And there's a little inner part of me it was getting my things up so I could go to jail and be with women.

Frazer: And that's what changed for me with LSD was ... That tied to negativity in your childhood. That you're spending a little bit on the wrong side of things and it gave me a whole new perspective. I mean I felt like I learned that everything is one regardless of what it is.

Frazer: I used to try to define it, but ... That whole love, peace, we're all one, it's all good, just love each other. And that's what ... Love the one you're with. That was real big with the hippie movement and it also fettered into lesbian times.

Frazer: So my coming out was in and out. I really came out with Kathy when I was pregnant with my son, Andon but she broke my heart. I just said, "If this is what it's like to love a woman, I'm not going to do it." You're already got 18, 19 years of repression. It's not that hard to repress again, and just say no. I mean, so I wasn't in denial of who I was. I just

was hurt. I was hurt and I just wasn't willing to take the risk again.

Frazer: And since I didn't really feel anything for man other than friendship, I just found a nice guy that worked at a Montessori school and I'm like, he knows about kids. That's a really good school they say. I didn't know anything. As it turns out, he didn't really get to be that dad and hands on.

Frazer: I mean he did what he did when he was alive. I mean he loved to hold Andon and no man, he know he hardly would put Juniper down because knew he was dying or fighting to stay alive. First you're fighting to stay alive then you're dying. You know what I mean?

Frazer: So at any rate, at the point when he died, I just completely came out again. I mean I'd had met lesbians at the food co op and real people's food co op and then I think I just started hanging with them. And I went back to New Mexico to take his ashes to put them where my son is buried.

Frazer: That was his request. And while I'm out there, I meet a bunch of lesbians living on what they were calling a goat farm. And then right after I left, lady who own the farm, kicked them all out and a bunch of them came out to Oregon and stayed with me.

Frazer: And thus began, well then I got into a relationship with Sage, who's Deb Huntley actually lives here in Eugene. We're both in chorus still and she had \$2,000. I got that \$3,000 we put \$4,000 down on a 40-acre plot of land in Williams, Oregon. And we moved down there with \$1,000 and my \$300 social security check a month. And we tried to develop our acreage. We were going to have a goat, dairy for milk, chicken, cheese.

Frazer: And then we were going to plant an apricots' orchard for a cash crop. We had wonderful Southern exposure. Grapes would have been good too, but I'm an anti grape person other than for food. I mean, just can only grow so much wine, you know, people need to eat.

Frazer: At any rate, unfortunately we didn't have enough money really to get things going. And the times we were trying to do at first, just the two of us. And then there was pressure within our community to not be monogamous. Now when we did our little falling in love, she wanted monogamy, she left somebody else for me. And then that just kind of blew up after about a year.

Frazer: Then it was like, well now we're having open relationship and we had a couple of different women come on to be with us for a while.

Frazer: And long of it all, basically we never got things together enough. And I ended up working for a farmer out at three years that we have that land. I spent two seasons working for a farmer in the second season, early spring all the way to the very end of the season. First year he hired me on for the heavy part of picking, but you hired me for my calluses, which was cool.

Frazer: And then he kept me on cause I was a good hard worker because I was raised as really hard working people

and I was raised, even if you got to clean toilets, any jobs, a good job. So anyways.

Raiskin: Can you tell what County is Williams?

Frazer: Williams is in Josephine County that that is part of the soul clap community. There is now women's share and a number of other, but we at the time we were the first women down there. The only other women group at the time was cabbage lane and then owl. In fact `we had the very first country women's music festival and that developed into a women's festival that happened here in Oregon every summer for a long time.

Frazer: It was small. It was mostly Southern Oregon. But see when we were all such a small community, why is pride celebrated on a different day all over? That was done purposely so we could all migrate to each other's prides.

Frazer: Because we used to go to Seattle, Portland, they'd come down here, we'd go down... Well there wasn't anything in Roseburg and Grant's pass but Ashland and

doesn't matter, I mean it still happens. Some women choose to go up, like go for the women's March, some of our women here chose to go to Portland instead of, I stay here because I'm a [inaudible 00:24:53] and those were gigs for us, which we're very happy to be invited to. So yeah.

Frazer: Life here in Eugene started for me as a total hippie, but it shroomed pretty quickly, you know, post and Jasper and back into lesbians, back still doing the back to the land, but that got all crazy. It was too hard work, I'm the one with the kid. And I also was the only one that was really doing any work. I'm out there working for the money, bringing in the social security. And then the crazy lover stuff, I just threw my hands up and said, "This is just crazy."

Frazer: And I actually got... I didn't put it on my little sheet. I, before I went to work for Starflower, I got an offer through someone I was sleeping with from up here to go to out in the country. Lorraine worked for a gentleman he had a machine shop in a welding shop, and he was retired, and he wanted to auction his equipment off.

Frazer: So he hired me to clean all of his equipment to get it ready to auction, big drills and machinery equipment. And he taught me how to weld. And actually that's how I got connected back to Starflower. I was seeing somebody that was there driving there, and she wrecked the truck and I fixed it, cut off some metal and closed it back up and then they offered me a job to work here.

Raiskin: And what year was that?

Frazer: I pretty sure that was like '75, 1975. Jane Elliott and I don't know if she's this project, but Jane Elliot and I were number 12 and number 13 at semantic, we were pretty much hired right at the same time. And that was pre collective procedure because that didn't happen that way after it was a collective procedure to get into Starflower whereas I was just asked by the two people that started it, "Would you come and work for us Christine?" because they knew-

Raiskin: You never interviewed at Starflower?

Frazer: I never interviewed, I was just offered a job. Yeah.

And then right away we had a company that was so I'm aware of Howser, I'm doing whatever anybody needs done, we're deliveries, that kind of thing. But we had a Mercedes Benz and an old cattle truck that's the one that had cut off the hay portion that sat over the cab because Susan smashed it in over a bank overhang. And we didn't have any other trucks.

Frazer: We just did our little deliveries in those. And we got our stuff hauled from San Francisco by a hippie group down there that was trucking up and they brought us supplies off the docks down there. And they went out of business suddenly and that left us in a very big lurch and we just jumped in. We rented a semi. Charlie and Debbie are the two people who started star Starflower. And-

Raiskin: What are there... Charlie?

Frazer: Charlie and Debbie... hack, it's not coming to you right now.

Raiskin: Glass?

Frazer: Glass. Absolutely. And Margaret and Tom Cormier who were married but both came out later. Now Tom died of AIDS and Margaret lives in California somewhere. But anyways, we suddenly, we rented a semi and a 40 foot trailer and Charlie had driven one once. We did a run to San Francisco where he trained me to drive.

Frazer: And then I was the truck driver and the trainer. So I trained everybody else and I, my most, my most proudest trading is Paula Jo Vaden because she went on after years of driving Starflower and she drove for one of the organically grown, I think it was, she drove for him. She made a career out of it, whereas me, I only did it two years.

Frazer: And for me, unfortunately I enjoyed driving a lot, but I had a problem with getting real sleepy about half an hour out. And then the other big problem was just I had a child and she was too young to leave and too young to take. I tried it both ways and they were collective issues, it's good to put these things on the record.

Frazer: This was my, "Okay, I'm done. I'm stepping out and collective meeting, discussion on giving. There were two children attached to my child and acquired, adopted child that had been dumped in our community, giving them health benefits.

Frazer: And there was women who were wanted, it said with the children are gonna get benefits. We want our dogs to have health benefits. I mean, there were no health benefits for dogs back then. But it's didn't sit well with me. I mean, I'd already had separatists lesbians in my face telling me I'd smile on the seat of man.

Frazer: And I used to like to push that point. If somebody I knew, could it be, if it was worth irritating them, not to be super mean, but I used to even say I'm a bisexual, which is totally not true. I mean I had sex with men, but I never had any juice for them.

Frazer: And people ask me what does it mean straight, but what does it... I can say, you know what? It's very simple for me. It's like this, I don't dislike man. And there's men that

are handsome, beautiful, that could even get turned me on, but I have no passion for them. My passion runs with women and I think that's how you define that you're a lesbian. At least that's how I define myself as a lesbian.

Frazer: But it's not all about sex, obviously. It's not just about sex. It's about the nature of what kind of relationship you're comfortable in. And yeah. So working at Starflower and then two years, loved the driving and all, but we had a pretty good crew going at that point. We hired a lot more. I had trained quite a few women, all the Jovian one, and I'd set up all the truck maintenance.

Raiskin: How did you know how to do that?

Frazer: Well, when my husband died, the first time my vehicle broke down was when I took his ashes out to New Mexico. I blew an actual bearing on a 49 Chevy panel truck. I called my dad, I had a Jasper toolbox and he had like spare parts under the seat, but I didn't know anything about cars other than, I knew that you had spark plugs and carburetor.

Frazer: I knew a few little things, but not, no real knowledge. And I didn't have any money really. I mean, I called my dad and he walked me through it and he told me to go buy a motor's manual. Told me I had to jack it up and, you know, get the axle supported.

Frazer: And so I'm up in a Royal Hondo, New Mexico at new Buffalo commune, jacking my car up with the bumper jack and putting it on chunks of wood and yeah, I pulled the axle, I took it into town and had the bearing put on, like my dad told me to. I managed to put it back together. If I remember right, I think the brakes were mechanical rear, so they didn't have any fluid to bleed. I just don't really remember the details, but I did it.

Frazer: And basically that's what I did. Every time my car needed something, I did it. And then I taught myself, my dad told me to get a book, I got a book and then every time I had something go wrong. And then I learned that I needed to do regular maintenance. And I was self taught and after I quit working at Starflower, Juniper was five.

Frazer: I had sent her up to the school for kindergarten, but she had been in our hippie daycare, which a bunch of lesbians worked at like Enid left. And they put her in first grade without even telling me.

Frazer: We just lived down the street from the school so I'm like watching, I'm waiting for my little five-year-old. I'm trotting back from school after 12 o'clock. She don't come, she don't come. Ooh. I'm the one that lost a baby. So I knew the loss. I'm like, I get up there and they're like, "Oh, we put her in first grade. She was, obviously socialized."

Frazer: Because back then kindergarten was about socializing your child with other children, not the way it is now where you practically have to have a degree to get into kindergarten. So at any rate Junny is in school all day. I got a lot more time on my hands.

Raiskin: Which school did she go to?

Frazer: Laurel Hill, we lived on Augusta street and Laurel Hill, she went there first and second grade. Yeah, she went

to all our schools here in Eugene every two years at different school. I don't know why, just turned out that way from where we were living. Yeah, well my neighbor, this was the big light bulb went off.

Frazer: My neighbor came out when I was tuned in my car, a woman, and she said, "What are doing?" And then I'm like, "I'm tuning my car." And she said, "Oh my gosh, I would pay you if you would do that to my car." And I just went ding, ding. I could make a living fixing cars. Dad made it a whole career out of it, airplanes.

Frazer: But I was smart enough to know that I didn't know enough. And I had the fortune of not hippie marriage with the social security. I did have to take out a small loan, got a little grant based on my low income and a small student loan. And I put myself through automotive technology at LCC and I came out of there as their top pick, but nobody would hire me. But the hippy garage.

Frazer: So I found country VW and they had a policy of the in 50% women and, which they struggled too, and they had a

second need that I shoot into, which is that the Rabbits were out a couple of years. I think they came out in '75 or six. At any rate, they were starting to see him on the aftermarket. Back then nobody knew that they didn't have to go to the dealer for the first year or two. The dealer had everybody fooled into thinking it was required. It's only required for warranty.

Raiskin: The Volkswagen Rabbit car.

Frazer: Right.

Raiskin: Yeah.

Frazer: That's a water cool car. And these were air cooled mechanics. All the previous Volkswagen were air cooled engines, air cooled engines and water-cooled engines are completely different beasts. And they needed a woman mechanic and someone who knew water-cooled and that I was a straight shoo-in. In fact, I finished my last term of the pre schooling by working in the shop.

Frazer: And then the woman who was my supervisor became my lover. And I worked there for 14 years until we died on the vine of Reaganomics and the depression of the late '80s, '90s recession for the country, depression for the Northwest.

Frazer: I actually was the very first non woodworking enrollee to the Lane Community College Displaced Workers program. It was, it started out where it was just mill workers and loggers. I mean we basically went out of business because business got too thin and yeah. And we weren't on the high end of the auto industry anyway.

Frazer: We did all the broken down. We did a women's space for free. We had a handful of university people that make the Trek all the way out West 11th, just to be support our shop, but we just didn't have a big enough pool to make it through part-time.

Frazer: And we and many other businesses went out. I mean, I don't know the stats on that time, but I know there were many businesses that... and some of it was people letting go. Like my partner who we were together seven years, we

stayed working together in the shop for 14 years. We're still very good friends.

Frazer: She's the caretaker at Owl farm and he wanted out and I wasn't tired of it, but so she got out the last two years I switched because I had started having trouble with my hands from my feet. We didn't make a connection yet, but I couldn't hold my tools.

Frazer: So the last two years I service managed in the shop and hired other people and she helped me on the back end with books and I wanted them all to become co-op members and wanted them to... we were in the red at the time and I said, "If you will help me get this shop in the black, I'll give you ownership.

Frazer: Right now Nancy and I are the last co-op owners." So we basically owned it. We weren't a co-op anymore either. Another Reaganomics fallout was it became too expensive to be a co-op. So we became an S corp.

Raiskin: What's the difference and why was it more expensive to be a co-op?

Frazer: Double taxation as a co-op after Reaganomics, after they changed the tax code, we were paying way too high of taxes. So all we had to do was incorporate as an S Corp and still run ourselves like a co-op collective, and beat out that better taxing, lower tax bracket and yeah.

Raiskin: This whole time that you're working and your daughter's going to school, what are you doing socially?

Frazer: So yeah, I mean those years at the shop were really what I call the heyday of the lesbian community in Eugene. I mean, I don't know at what point when we, when we tried to tally and came up with we're 50, 55 lesbians. I mean well there were the tree planting crews and then our hippy, compadre, the hoe dads and then there was Zoo zoo Boo and there was mom's home fried Truck stop and all of them employed hippies and lesbians and gay guys and Amazon Kung Fu. I was A kung Fu, my feet killed me for Kung Fu.

Raiskin: What was that truck stop Like?

Frazer: Mama's home fried truck stop. I think it was right off the 13th and it was started by a... oh, God name. What's the name? They were country fair starters. Bill and I can't remember her name. She started mama's home fried truck stop.

Raiskin: Did they serve particular kinds of food or?

Frazer: Yeah, they did the hippie breakfast and it was some brown rice and, but it wasn't all vegan like everything is now or vegetarian, but you could have it either way. Yeah. And well mother collies goes way back. Mother collie started out over in the Whitaker. I mean the Whitaker was the center of everything. Well my daughter lives there now.

Frazer: We lived in two houses together when she was a child in the Whitaker and she's lived in two or three houses there. But she owns a house right down in there. Yeah. It was right on the corner of Blair and fourth street, no, fifth.

Long: What was the mother Kelly's bookstore like?

Frazer: Oh, well it was, I mean, all women's books, books by women about women, about things women are interested in, About lesbians, lots of small publishers. I mean it was a wonderful thing. Eazy created and she was... I'm trying to remember what her first name was? Ann before she became Eazy and not quite sure what she died, when she died, who she was. People changed their names.

Long: She was Eazy when she died?

Frazer: Yeah. I think she was it.

Long: Where you are reader?

Frazer: Yes.

Long: You remember what you were reading then?

Frazer: Oh gosh. I have a terrible memory so probably not.

And you know, probably wasn't reading a ton when I was working on cards. It was a pretty absorbing now, plus having a kid. But reading would periodically, I mean all the women's, the different women's newsletters that came in

through mothers collies, from different places in the country.

We always wanted to read the newspapers.

Frazer: Of course, we were reading Jack rabbit press and then women's press. That was the one illegal thing that we did at Starflower. We were not allowed... we were a worker owned company. We were not commercially licensed drivers, but we could drive semis, we could drive anything our company was owned or leased because we were worker owned. So we only needed a chauffeur's license.

Frazer: We weren't allowed to haul anybody else's goods though. But we used to take both Jack Rabbit press and stuff. And I'm trying to remember what the hippie paper was back then. I can't remember. And then women's press and we would take them up to Seattle and down to San Francisco.

Long: You distributed them?

Frazer: We distributed them illegally. We dropped to stores that were on our route anyway because they were ours, but just to no charge. We're not doing that.

Long: Do you remember what Jack Rabbit press printed?

Frazer: I can't. They printed the hippie paper, which I can't remember what it was called, but they printed a couple of other things and they also printed, if you wanted to put together a little storybook or something, they printed different things. And Kate, Jack Rabbit, I thought I mentioned to her, somebody mentioned her name, like she was maybe being tapped about some of the history for this.

Frazer: I haven't seen her in years, but I read her cool book she wrote about some cars. I'd love to see her again. Been a long time you know. When you've been in this community, Pretty much my whole lesbian adult life, you lose touch with people. People move on. Last I heard she was living in Seattle so.

Frazer: Yeah, but I mean mother collie was a center point of just to go women's calendars. You wanted to buy a gift. You'd go to mother Polly's. We didn't have another places to shop except for well, then Kiva, the trinkets, we had the lesbian and alternative community, the gay lesbian

alternative community hook in through the natural food stores. Starflower was a big prominence for that. And then country VW, and then you throw in the tree plant and gals and zoos and was it wild? Iris came along a little later.

Frazer: We were an incredible, this town's incredible, both on the alternative, the hippie side, the lesbian, gay side for creating businesses. We created the energy bank, a country VW though I did a lot more stuff active community stuff through the years at country VW because I was only two years at Starflower and it was very busy driving training people.

Frazer: And we expanded so much during that period of time. I'm very proud though. That Starflower went on for so long. It's too bad that got killed. But the industry just change.

Long: The energy bank. What was that?

Frazer: And the energy bank, well, it was an exchange bank for services. So you could join the energy banks, list out what services you have to offer and then you provide those

services, which gives you the credits to then get services from somebody else in the energy bank.

Raiskin: So there was no money.

Frazer: No money.

Raiskin: It was exchange of services.

Frazer: It was an exchange of services.

Raiskin: Where was it?

Frazer: Well, it wasn't anywhere.

Raiskin: But somebody had to organize it to co-ordinate it.

Frazer: Well, I'm trying to remember. It seemed like we must have had like a little group put it together and maybe a little board.

Long: How do you determine how many points each service?

Frazer: Yeah. And I unfortunately I wasn't involved in organizing any of it. I was involved in, yes, we'll join and

monitoring the back and forth unfortunately for the energy bank or for us, I should say, our services were in high demand. And we could only absorb so many of the other services, you know what I mean? Because we had to make money to have the doors open and make our salaries and automotive shops not was-

Long: [crosstalk 00:47:47] VW was in high demand?

Frazer: Yes. Our services were in high demand for exchange like that. There were a lot more hippie, gay, lesbian people with little money than there were with big money. You know what I mean? And everybody just loved the idea and it's too bad that, that we don't have more of that. The other thing that we did in that time period with country Volkswagen, the women's tree planning groups were part of it.

Frazer: I think zoos was part of it. Some of the men and the hoe dads. We formed the insurance trust. We formed a group and we purchased insurance for our businesses

individually, medical insurance, not, I mean, we had insurances as businesses.

Frazer: We formed an insurance trust and figured out that Robert Des pain is a hippie man that unfortunately just died suddenly of an aneurysm, but it's an old country fair guy. And he was someone that, that's where I got to know him. We worked together getting that together. So we had to learn about insurance, how did it work and what do we have to do legally? We had some help.

Long: Who was the underwriter?

Frazer: And I don't remember those kinds of details but we got ourselves medical insurance at a better rate because, then we could of doing it with small groups we made ourselves a larger group.

Long: And did you have workers' compensation?

Frazer: Yes. We paid into that. That's required by state I mean to be illegal business.

Long: Yeah.

Frazer: Yeah. And we did all our own books at country VW.

We run ourselves quite differently because we were co-op.

All the mechanics did a certain portion of inventory. They

did their own invoicing up until the very end when I

couldn't hold my wrenches anymore than I took over his

service manager and took over that area. Then I got a

computer and that's how I first learned about computers.

That's then I ended up in computers because I got one from

the shop.

Raiskin: Can you let us know if there were other lesbian

mothers in the community that you might connected.

Frazer: Ah, yes. Well they were not a lot of lesbian children in

our generation. We have our gold stars that never had sex

with man. And a lot of women just never managed to come

out before that. And some women later decided to have

children, but those of us that had children and then before

we came out, I don't think I ever knew anybody at that time

of life that said, "Oh, I want to have a kid."

Frazer: I'll go get one with a man." When that started happening, it was the Turkey Beyster in the anonymous donations by a group of gay men into the bowl. And then later I have some friends that have kids that are siblings to each other because they had the same gay father. Sadly, all those men are debt from AIDS.

Frazer: So we didn't have a lot of children. Kinder Morgan had a daughter. We had all Maloca, who her mother was a crazy job who just dumped her off in our community and she was taken care of by different groups of women and she hung out with Juniper a lot.

Frazer: And Jade, The Amazon Kung Fu club is where all the kids... When Juniper went to Lincoln school, that would be third and fourth grade. That's when we had Eugene for J school district got its first educational round of dealing with gay children, gay and lesbian children.

Raiskin: You mean children of the gay and lesbian parents.

Frazer: Yes. The children of gay and lesbian parents squabbles on the school yard. Things said like queer and our kids weren't going back down. We had Royce, black boy. They were the twins. Jesse and I can't remember the other one. And then Junny and other several other, they hung with each other and they protected each other. And that started a row in the school. And that opened up a tremendous dialogue of our needs as a community.

Raiskin: Did you talk to teachers and principals?

Frazer: Yes. Teachers and principals Four J school district was marvelous. The school was marvelous and it was the beginning of diversity for gay children and awareness of we. And on the other side, the hippie thing that was going on was children's house was a little hippie commune where they were schooling their kids at home. And somehow the school district found out somebody who worked with the school district in some other capacity.

Frazer: They had kids that they were having big problems with and they didn't know what to do with them. We had no

special schools within the schools right that time. And they sent those kids up to children's house and they ended up doing really, really well. And children's house ended up becoming one of those first special little schools. There was a lot of them.

Raiskin: So it was a school ran by a hippies?

Frazer: There wasn't an official school.

Raiskin: But the school district would send the children that were having behavioral problems to that school.

Frazer: You'd have to talk to somebody like Nancy Lewis. My partner from S country VW and my ex-lover who's at Owl farm now, she was part of children's house as to this more specifics. But I know that they're, the educational model was that they didn't have a set curriculum, they gave the kids choices and they got to pick from those choices.

Frazer: And so it was a real, I think, consequences you do, and then you have consequences of what you did and the kids seem to work with kids that had problems. And of

course our heavy kids were, they were used to having more freedom and having that kind of choice, choosing to learn.

Frazer: But it worked and spread and then they started having, like Juniper went to magnet arts for fifth, six at Condon school and then Roosevelt, they had special programs but all kinds of little special schools started developing. So it was another meld of the hippie and the gay community working together.

Raiskin: Well the Ford J school district had a number of alternative schools as part of the regular school choices and people at school choice and in Eugene. So It's interesting that that came out that we still have that.

Frazer: Oh yeah. Because it came out of that and we had nothing then and then it bloom and there were several different. I mean, now there's a lot, I mean, I don't know because I don't have schoolkids anymore, but yeah. And of course, gay pride was big back then. Eugene celebration, which we don't have any more, sadly.

Frazer: Dykes on bikes. I was a motorcycle rider. We love to go to anything. Anybody want dykes on bikes? And let's see, one time I wore a coat with tails shirt, shirt and bow tie with blue jeans. Look great. Look great on the motorcycle.

Raiskin: And when did you join ceremony?

Frazer: So I joined ceremony when it started, when it was in CaRMS living room and we were just basically changing the words to rock and roll songs to make them lesbian.

Raiskin: Do you remember any of those songs?

Frazer: Oh no, but they were probably all 50 stuff that we all grew up on. She's my girl and whatever. Yeah. And I have stayed with the chorus. I dropped out a couple of times. Once I got into computers I was too exhausted for a while. My job was very busy.

Frazer: At first, it was the phones and then other responsibilities, but I kept coming back and I know it's been a very good thing for me retired, especially having, I retired as my father went down. And so I never, I didn't get to start

really living as a retired person freely until my mother died, five-year-olds later.

Frazer: And in that same time period, my only sibling, brother, he died a year after my brother and then a six months after him, my wife. And then my mom hung in there for a few years. And so then when I came home to Eugene, after being gone for five years. I had gone back to ceremony at the 20th anniversary and I had to quit when I went down to take care of my mom.

Frazer: It was a great thing for me to have that community because I came home to our home, but alone. And I was used to her being gone by then, but it's still different to come home to the home that you've lived in together and have-

Raiskin: So your partner died?

Frazer: Yeah. In while we were in California. And you adjust, it's not the retired life. I mean, we had a retired life plan. We had thoughts and ideas about when I wasn't working

anymore and she was disabled and wasn't able to work anymore but perfectly fit, and present and all that.

Frazer: So she really wanted me not to have to work anymore, but we had to get there first. And I would have kept working however, even though she would've wanted me, I would've kept working till I was 70, but I got disabled out.

Raiskin: Where were you working after?

Frazer: After I closed the shop a, well, I actually went to work for the guy who wrote the software I was using. I went to work for an automotive software developer and I ran all over a Northern cow, Louie up into Washington selling automotive software system to automotive shops.

Frazer: And let me tell you, I worked with some of the best men in the world because I worked with good people. There was a lot of shops out there, that got some ugly people in it and it wasn't a pleasant experience when it was bad. And

the worst was for me was I had a sale that ended up not happening cause I just didn't care at that point.

Frazer: I'd gone back to my hotel after a big delivery of pitching and we're going to think on it. I don't like sales. See, I like you come into my shop cause you got your car's broken. I'll tell you what's wrong with it. I'll fix it. You can choose to fix it or not. But just to walk into your place and say and tell some old guy with a hammer, you need a pooter, you need a computer.

Frazer: It was a daunting world to step into from I'm having been working in the lesbian shop. And that conversation that blew me off the wall was when they started talking about sand niggas because we were in the Gulf war and I just did, I went back to my hotel and I had a little talk.

Frazer: "I'm like, really, really Christine, it doesn't what you have to do, you got to put up with people talking like this racist crap and you can't say anything cause you're going to get a sale." Not for me, not for me. So I actually went to work in another automotive shop as a service manager.

Frazer: I went to for Sandpiper because John who owns Sandpiper used to work in the co op and he asked me to come work for him but I didn't like being a service manager. I liked working on cars, it was really boring for me. So I had my taste of computers. I took a DOS class, I learned a little bit about that black hole and I just looked around and said where's the money and jobs were in computers.

Frazer: So I said, well, back to LCC and the only thing they had back then was computer programming. So I took computer programming and I learned it and do it, but I couldn't imagine I got to the last term and I'm like, "Ah, I don't think I could even do this."

Frazer: And thankfully Symantec came to town and hired pretty much everybody in my class, they hired 150 people. They came here with 50 and they hired 150 people, mostly from LCC and a few older guys who'd been in the military and had some computer. And we all started the Semantic up. There were four of us on Norton antivirus.

Frazer: Yeah. And we didn't know anything. We didn't have shit. We were really left hanging. But I'll tell you, it was a great experience because we all just jumped into it. I created the first database. I'm like, "I made notes, I made notes for myself and the computer." And then people are coming to me and I'm looking at my note and then, "I can have a copy of that note."

Frazer: And then we make it stupid little note database and eventually this all mushrooms into big stuff. And I worked there for 13 years, became aS antivirus specialist and a senior technical specialist and they flew me all around to lots of different places and had some fun with my corporate card, you get tired of motels, hotels, even big fancy ones. Like it gets old.

Raiskin: Was the pay good?

Frazer: Oh, well not at first. I made \$12 an hour as a mechanic. I started at semantic at 8.45 an hour. I left there making 25 an hour plus big perks. That was a 60, 65 grand

package. Unfortunately they have to my first disc surgery, they and them having to buy me a \$5,000 chair to sit in.

Frazer: They suddenly didn't need my 110% performance every quarter for 13 years anymore. Nothing personal. Half my age for half my wage, I made big money there because I had two 14% increases in my first five years and that was huge, huge increases because of my mechanical background and while I was at LCC learning about programming and software stuff, I took a hardware class and that cemented this, a thorough world of software and this crazy electronic on and off pulse recording, and it put it together for me in a way, say I have to see things visually to be able to see it.

Frazer: So that I was able to see how that software translation turns into hardware, how the hardware stores it and then spits it back out. It's essential to fixing anything as understanding something about the nature of how it works. You don't have to know everything. You have to know enough to know and I got good quotes, I got good fast.

Raiskin: I did you ever think about fixing hardware?

Frazer: I did later in life just to keep myself employed. After I got laid off there, I mean I worked at HP and, but you hang your own shingle out and I always helped friends and we fixed our... well we built an antivirus lab. It's Semantic out of junk machine.

Frazer: And actually, we had something that nobody else anywhere in semantic outside of Santa Monica had a full, complete library of all the viruses that existed at the time. A lot of which were not out in the wild at all. The majority of viruses at that time were written by university professionals as looking at what you can do. And they were very dangerous some of them.

Frazer: But we convince them that we're like, "How do you expect us to support anti virus when we don't ever work with a virus? We work with people that shouldn't even have computers and we're supposed to clean up the virus." So we got them allow us to build a lab and be able to see what happens when you take an actual virus and infect a machine.

Frazer: Because, that's the key to cleaning up behind it. And eventually the company... Because what we did here in Eugene was really, I think remarkable for four or five of us started an antivirus when I, when I moved out of support into other aspects of the company.

Frazer: At the heyday we had 55 Norton antivirus agents in Eugene and 35 in Toronto and I flew back and forth between the two places to manage and more supervise, not supervise on a supervisory as technical supervisor, how's the operation running? Where are the holes? Usually it was knowledge issues.

Frazer: We're not in the knowledge flow. You have to have information to fix things. And so we built some really great things. The Semantic that was built here was phenomenal, what it would achieved. Sadly, when they laid me off in 19... no wait a minute, in 2005, that was the beginning of tremendous changes at Semantic.

Frazer: We weren't supposed to have a layoffs because of the merger that we did. And I was one of the first and only the

beginning. I got what we called the Royal boot. I got six months severance package, six months salary, six months benefits for myself, my partner and our child.

Frazer: So she had a child, Aaron, my partner and she was 10 when we got together. So I have a 33-year-old second daughter. Just nice. See one of those gifts I wasn't expecting in life.

Long: Are you following the current news about hacking and viruses and all that. It's interesting to you?

Frazer: It's interesting. It's a pitiful shame. I actually I saw what's his name, one of our congressmen or senators talking about taking Oregon, making us the first state to go off of electronic voting and go back to paper ballot. I don't know if I agree with that, but I do because I did basically what they now call cyber war. I mean viruses are real, but there the whole thing is bullshit.

Frazer: That it is war and data is valuable and I mean they can shut down power grids, they can do all kinds of things.

People who get all worried about their security. I mean I've operated from a very long time from the man in the eye, in the sky. I just assume, I can be seen. It can all be seen and you want to see my one eye Jack? Fine.

Frazer: I don't have anything to hide, I just try to, but computer security it's a layered thing. Good habits are the best way to protect yourself and yeah, it's some serious stuff. I don't know how it's going to end up resolving because what can be done by one can be undone by another. And that's where real money is now. I'm out of the game.

Long: And when did you retire?

Frazer: At 62 and I'm 69 so yeah, actually I retired at 62. I actually threw the towel in six months early. I figured out how much money I needed for six months because you don't have money coming in. There just was no jobs in computers and I would go to job fairs and there'd be 500 people. A huge percentage of everybody's over 50 and I'm pushing 62. I mean, it just felt futile.

Frazer: And basically the way it looked to me was that I was back to where I was after cars. The only way I was going to get a job that wasn't standing on my feet as a Walmart greeter was going to be, going back to retrain and I don't have it in me.

Frazer: And I was disabled anyway. So I mean in that I had gimpy issues, the walking in my hands, a lot of problems with numbness and just hard to keyboard and mouse, but I went on to a 62 year old retirement, one month later my disability claim that was two years old, kicked in. So they popped me off of disability and put me on, I mean off of retired and put me on disabled and until I turned 65.

Frazer: And now I'm just back to regular old. But the good news about that was that it gave me, based on my earnings at that point, and it gave me a draw instead of what I would have earned at 62, it gave me what I would have had at 65 and a nice chunk of two years of benefits that they pay you. Nice cash role.

Raiskin: And what's your living situation now?

Frazer: I live alone in a house that I bought 30 years ago. I have achieved my retirement goals except for losing my partner. That wasn't planned, but, which is my advice to young people, which is to be out of debt. If you get your house paid off, don't be in debt, have a good car. I used my little inheritance from my parents to buy a brand new Prius. Said this last car I'm going to buy after this car, it's going to be carts and buses and you handy carts stuff.

Frazer: And I don't have a high income back to that VW co-op. Well, we were hippy go up and we were always training, especially. See we started out, 50-50, but we ended up gravitating and becoming all women. I believe we were always all, I don't think any straight women ever came and worked with us.

Frazer: But lots of women thought they, I don't know, lawyer, Indian, chief mechanic, I'll try mechanic. And then a lot of women weren't suited to it. You know what I mean? Curiously enough, out of the women that I worked with, Nancy, Jesse and myself were the only ones that stayed there

for years and years and all of us fathers were mechanics and that, I thought it was a very interesting sociology perspective.

Frazer: So we all, we obviously inherited a talent around ability to understand things. Some people were good with understanding it. We couldn't physically perform it well enough or could do that part, but they could never understand what they were doing and they just didn't enjoy it.

Frazer: You have to enjoy your work or you should anyway. I feel fortunate I enjoyed my work all my life and I feel bad for the young people of today because nobody invests in them. But then I say, "Well, Christine, who invested in you? You invested in yourself." But when I got to Semantic, they invested in me.

Frazer: I brought tremendous assets to them, but they also trained me and expanded me or helped me to expand, I should say. [crosstalk 01:12:23] I help the co-op, I use my social security instead of drawing a full salary and letting

my social security Peter off, I supplemented the co-op with my social security earnings for out of 15 years.

Raiskin: So you contributed more than the other member?

Frazer: Yeah. I took less salary than the rest for our cashflow, because I had the social security. Yeah. What I didn't think about was that I was screwing myself on social security credits because they didn't give me credit for my widow's benefits. You know what I mean? And I think that's unfair of course, because as a mother, I mean, I was working but I wasn't paying social security.

Frazer: I was using social security. So I hurt myself a little bit and I didn't make good money at Semantic til halfway through those 13 years. It took a little while before to get up there to where I was making the big bucks.

Frazer: I had people there with me came from money and they're like, you should be buying stocks. And I always got frustrated with people like that. Because what don't you understand about a budget, and about rent, food, clothing,

the kids' needs? You don't always have a room for things like stocks and stuff.

Frazer: But I did later. I mean, I became a dink double income, no kids, you know, my daughter grew up and moved on and my partner at the time had a good job. Yeah, dings. Now I must sync single income two kids, but they don't live at home.

Long: What's your relationship with lesbians in Eugene now.

Frazer: Well, ceremondy is my most active point of interaction and we do a lot. I mean, we sing our, anywhere we can. I love what we're about, it gives me a sense of community and connection and we have our little socials. It's been a great thing for me. I also go every other week, I belong to the rainbow women's, I call it the rainbow women's group of dinner club.

Frazer: Basically we get together every other Saturday for dinner out somewhere. And then there's alternate days,

Tuesdays and Thursdays you can go to a happy hour on River Road or up to what's that one that's off the Amazon. It was another place people go, I never go to that one.

Frazer: So basically those are the really, the two things that keep me connected to community now is the rainbow women's group. And then out of that group and chorus, then there's those of us that go to the basketball games, those if it's like go to the softball games at the university, the women's sports.

Frazer: That's another thing I'm doing that I didn't use to do. I didn't have time for sports when I was a working woman. Now I'm I got permanent seat for basketball and for softball. That's something like, yeah, I got that. I enjoy it. So, and I don't have a lover that doesn't like sports.

Frazer: Unfortunately, most of my lovers didn't like sports, so I kind of pushed away from watching. Now I'm like, and I enjoy watching my sports. I'm watching the women's national basketball playoffs right now.

Raiskin: Do you ever think about living more communally or?

Frazer: Absolutely.

Raiskin: What are your visions for that?

Frazer: I do. I have an idea of the house. I don't just put it out as an idea. I see. I'd like to join in with a group of other women or we could all sell our houses and invest in a community with tiny houses. They don't have to be teeny tiny but little houses and like where it's all individual.

Frazer: You own your lot, or whatever, I mean something. And then you have a central, you have a little clubhouse that pay, everybody pays a little dues to maintain the clubhouse to have a place to gather in.

Raiskin: Do you imagined communal eating?

Frazer: Communal eating, assisting each other with other things. What I see happening or, I used to say that we would all be taken care of by the younger lesbians, but community has changed a lot. It's just because I came out of commune and took that commune into women's community and been

involved with the women's lands of Southern Oregon where it's collectively and communally type stuff.

Frazer: Oh, the other one thing is that I'm on the farm team for Owl farm, Oregon women's land trust. So I just raised the money and we had the pond repaired it out. So, this is the shape of water and there is no life without water and there's no life for Owl. There's no future for Owl without water and the pond was in bad repair. And we need to see how much water that land has. So very exciting. Raised the money, get the works, been done. We just need the winter to come and see how it works out.

Frazer: But I'm interested in, I got interested with, and I'm always interested in lesbian projects and I always thought Owl was a wonderful thing. I had actually never been there. I've been to cabbage lane, I've been to women's share. I'd never been to Owl. During the time when Owl was full of women living out there.

Frazer: I was busy fixing cars and theN you got a kid, you're doing kid things, things with the kid on the weekend. So I

really, I enjoy being involved with Owl. Unfortunately because of my physical issues, like I'm not as helpful as I wanted to be in terms of fixing some things around there and prune and trees and I can't even do my own. So, but I got the water project going and now and I'm focusing on while you both would appreciate, which is that I am focused as they are too, but I have specific focuses.

Frazer: Mine is with the farm team. Why I joined the farm team is getting it all documented, how the farm functions, mapping the water system as it exists now and then, so it can be upgraded, getting everything into electronic form, trying to secure Owl so that it can be passed on because we are all gonna pass on and we're all getting up there. I'm say
69.

Frazer: Nancy is eight years older than me. She's the caretaker living out there off the grid. All the women involved with Owl are older and we're trying to get younger women involved. It's not easy.

Raiskin: What's status of the gas pipeline that was supposed to go through Owl?

Frazer: Well, it's not been finally approved. They're preparing access by fixing the road on the backside of Owl, but that's not going through Owl anymore. It was going across our top Northern Ridge, right through our old growth, but is no longer, it's now supposed to go right in front of our property and cross the road down in front of us. So it really won't. It might be an ugly ice sore site from Nancy's coop, but the land's all up.

Raiskin: It's not going to have a big impact.

Frazer: No, it's not really going to have a big impact other than it will be a sad thing because it's a ridiculous idea. Volcanic country. But what are you going to do? All kinds of idiots are out there doing all kinds of idiotic things and they have been all of my adult life, very frustrated about it.

Frazer: It's been real big de ja VU flashbacks for me from the '60s. First I was upset with myself that I had thought people

were smarter than they are. Then after I got over that, then I'm like just appalled at the fact that so many people are willing to stick their heads in the sand and, but then I stopped and said, well, the reality is that you've always been in the minority is the minority politically, socially in all ways.

Frazer: So, and that's back to the first point number one, I thought people were really grown up and doing much better than they really are. Now that being said, we live in Eugene, but I like to call the liberal Mecca of the West. So we have a lot of good things going on here, but it's sad. I watch BBC world news every day.

Frazer: That's where I get my humility for the suffering that goes on in the world and keep up on a broader spectrum. And then I'll watch PBS news and they give a good mix and they give some positive stuff. Some days I just say, okay, it's okay. You don't have to see it every day and day.

Frazer: But I feel a certain social responsibility to stay informed. Even though I also feel as an aging lesbian and as

an aging person in my generation is this time for these young people is time for you millennials and everybody under you. You've got to pick up the Baton.

Frazer: You got to fight for your rights because people are trying to take them away and they've always been trying to take our rights away. There's always has been those ugly, nasty people try and take gay rights away. Now they're trying to step back even further, the fights aren't even really on, it's still a shadow fight.

Frazer: But I'm back to saying there's war going on a war between men and women, but it's mostly these old white men think they can control women who think that they are better than us and there are so narrow that isn't their narrow minds. It's their narrow religion perspectives. And they're a threat. Me, I got another 20, 25 years, maybe of a good life. The ocean might die while I'm alive. I hate to see that. I'm glad my children don't want children. That's a sad thing to say, but I'm saying it.

Frazer: I'm glad my daughters are choosing not to have children because I don't want to have to worry about anybody else left behind my own issue. It's hard enough having daughters and knowing you can't protect them fully, but I did all right. I gave them both eyes in the back of their heads and enough to not be afraid and not to be a victim. That's about the best she can do really well.

Raiskin: Well, on a happy thought. Can you tell us, when you look back on your life living in the Eugene lesbian community, what would you say was your greatest joy?

Frazer: It's really easy. The greatest joy I think is the early days in this community when so many women were felt so free to be out and live. That contrast to what we were raised as growing up under the umbrella of being what we were, was abnormal, very wrong, extremely wrong to some.

Frazer: And having so many, even though it was a small number, but that fruition and then what we, what we did with it here, creating businesses, creating things like energy bank, working with the alternative community. I mean, we

didn't have barriers. We would work with anybody, but we found kind redness with the alternative hippie community.

Frazer: And yeah, I mean, I think back to your question at the end, I think community is missing now. I think it's missing for us. Yeah, a little too big, a little too spread out. I don't know. And I think as we age, we just tend to, it's a construct of aging that you've come more isolated.

Frazer: So having been a lesbian who was in relationship predominantly, I was alone from 18 to 20, and from 20 up until my partner's death, I was in relationships, back to back, serial monogamy as we call it. Maybe a little break here and there depending, you know and now I'm not and it's a whole different thing.

Frazer: Now I look at the community and I see something that people used to tell me about which is couple-ism is how when I go to like rainbow dinner things, inevitably nobody invites the single person to, "Hey, why don't you come over some time?" The couples don't. So that's a lacking in our

community that I heard people talk about before, but I didn't have an experience of it.

Frazer: I don't know. So I don't know. Aging is an issue for, I think is it's a real issue. It's really the first large lesbian generation to age plus then we're boomers to boot. I mean, which is the largest aging population ever. So we don't have the answers, but I think need to capture that old with what the community was like back there in the late '70s and into the '80s this town was a thriving, throbbing heart of activity, activism, hope and all kinds of stuff.

Raiskin: Looking back over your very rich life in community and in relationship, is their advice that you would give to a young person watching this video?

Frazer: A young person, a young lesbian? Anybody? Young-

Raiskin: Whenever you imagine.

Frazer: Yeah. Well, what I say to young people is, Know yourself. Try to know yourself. Try to find work that's rewarding and meaningful. You know yourself Then you're

going to connect with other people like you. If you have work that's meaningful, then you don't have a large chunk of your life tied up with something that's just misery and you're doing it for a buck and then you can build your life around that.

Frazer: That's what I see when I look at my life. Starflower country V dub, these were great jobs that they were hooked into. Great community too. Then when I went into computers it was a different kind of community. Didn't have that same buzz and charm, didn't hold the same. When I left there, yes a few people were still friends that I connect with, but it wasn't the same.

Raiskin: Is there something specific you would say to a young lesbian?

Frazer: I would say educate yourself on politics. Understand your constitution and laws, and stand up be heard, speak out. Freedom isn't free and democracy isn't free. We have to fight for it. We get our rights because we stand up and fight

for them. Lot of young women don't ... They don't realize the work that we did.

Frazer: The privileges that they are free to experience that we didn't have, that we had to fight to make that happen for them. And I see them waking up. So, that's what I say to young people. I like the new term woke. Get woke. Wake up and smell the roses, and make a difference. Get out there and be active.

Frazer: And I think that old and young need to mingle more. My mother loved young people. I love young people, but one of my challenges at OWL is how to get young people involved. And I brought in a friend my age because I'm like, "Eva, you know more young people than I do."

Frazer: And she's going ... So we're trying. We're trying to make that happen. Carry on, grab the baton and carry on. Because, the fight will always be there. No matter what, no matter where you are, you're going to have to stand up for yourself. That's the most important thing. Stand up for yourself.

Long: Thank you so much.

Raiskin: Yes, Thank you very much.

Frazer: Thank you. [crosstalk 01:29:30] It was a wonderful
privilege to share like this.

[END OF INTERVIEW]