

## **Hugh McGilvra Talk on Washington County Newspapers and Forest Grove History for the Tualatin Valley Historical Society**

An audio recording of Hugh McGilvra, journalist and newspaper publisher in Forest Grove, giving a talk to the Tualatin Plains Historical Society on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of work. He talks about the newspaper history of Washington County for the first 25 minutes; the final 27 minutes are about his experiences working on the newspaper in Forest Grove and the community there.

HM = Hugh McGilvra

[00:00:00]

[Recording begins mid-sentence]

[HM]: ...practically everything in Forest Grove is that you don't know which is the egg and which is the chicken as far as Forest Grove and Pacific University are related. Historically, we know that they are intertwined and there has always been a relationship. I think as has been suggested by the introduction, that journalism in Washington County goes back to this date of about 1848. With a rather irregular publication of what was known as the Oregon American and the Evangelical Union, started in Tualatin Plains. Even if we ignore this rather odd publication as a real newspaper, there of course is still the Oregonian, which was actually started in Washington County, if you want to get your history straight. For a while, Multnomah County was not carved up into Washington and Clackamas County, until 4 years after the Oregonian made its [bow?] in 1850.

This new county of Multnomah wasn't very highly -- was formed in spite of vigorous opposition of the Oregonian. Which regarded it as merely an opportunity for getting whatever the 1854 equivalent of the serving Democrats happened to be to get the opportunity for another office. The Oregonian rather referred to the new Multnomah County as the "boot" county, for its rather odd shape. And I think if you look at the map, you'll notice that there is a suggestion in the shape of Multnomah County -- it is a boot county.

[00:01:54]

Forest Grove, of course, takes the honors from its neighboring cities of Washington County as the seat of the first publication after the establishment of the county. Forest Grove and Hillsboro, Pacific University in its -- had a Forest Grove monthly. It was a little four-column publication. Practically a magazine. It existed as early as the fall of 1868. Now this was five years after

Pacific University had graduated Harvey Scott, who went on to become the editor of the Oregonian, and one of the greats of Oregon and Northwest journalism. The Oregonian Historical Society has a copy of volume 2, dated September 1869 of this little publication. I might say in this regard, that you'll find the source in the Oregon Historical Society, [which] has most of the early publications on microfilm.

[00:03:01]

The first actual newspaper in Forest Grove was called the Forest Grove Independent. It was published on Thursday, which was usual in the mid-week time for most weekly newspapers. It was launched by a couple of men known as Wheeler and Meyers. That was on March 22, 1873; 105 years ago. The third issue was dated April 5, 1875. Carried under the title on page 1, the express purpose of the paper: it says, "Our aim: the development of resources agricultural, commercial and educational of Washington County.

I think one of the characteristics of the early publishers was that they felt that they were the self-appointed promoters, developers, of their own communities. You can look at some of the files. Mary [Cowan?] has picked up a few odd ones out of our files. One of them at the top part of the headline, where the most important part of the paper, the Washington County News-Times, in 1914 says: "Pacific University; we have accredited high schools; Carnation Cream Condensary; the best soil in Oregon; courteous scenery; purest water on earth; municipal park land; the choicest fruit land anywhere; best climate; fire something...; fine trees, or some kind of fruit trees..."

[Audience member]: "Find page three!"

[00:04:52]

[HM]: "Find page three!" [Laughter.] Now this isn't part of my text, but I can remember when I first came to Forest Grove, that Forest Grove prided itself on the fact that it had more paved streets than any city in Washington County. There had been a very aggressive kind of a coalition I guess, between the Oregon Construction Company and some members of city council. They just paved streets. And then during the Depression, I think Forest Grove, the city, actually owned 1/3 of the vacant properties, or up to half of the vacant properties, in the city of Forest Grove was they got they to foreclose [inaudible] [Laughter].

[00:05:47]

A rather interesting sidelight to that was that, in view of our present attitude towards conflicts of interest and such things as that is, we just had probably maybe just one or two real estate people in this town at that time. It wasn't particularly, it wasn't a prosperous business which it is now, or in fact the number of followers that it has now. One man who is retired, [inaudible] change of administration from the postmastership became a real estate agent. And then he became [?], and then very quietly -- I mean it was entirely open knowledge -- he took the listings of city property and sold it for commission of 5%. And he managed to peddle quite a few off. Now that would have been a cause for scandal nowadays, but then it was accepted as a very practical arrangement. But you got me off [track] here. Or I got off. [Laughter]

[00:06:44]

You will find that these early newspapers had many changes, both in format [and] style. Didn't have too much style, but. They depended for their content to quite a large extent on clipping papers which they read. Larger papers, and things of that sort. They depended quite a bit on patent medicine advertising and sometimes they used what was called, "ready print." Which was the Western Newspaper Union style, which meant that you got your paper shipped to you each week, with one side already printed with some of this more-or-less syndicate material. It was the predecessor of some of our modern syndicate material which you still -- every newspaper depends on, for columnists, funny papers, and things of that sort.

[00:07:53]

I guess, I think one thing which I realized when I came here was the large number of newspapers which had come and gone in the days which preceded me. I don't think they were too proud of the work that they did, because they didn't keep files. I can remember when I first came to Forest Grove, in the back room there was an old trunk, and there was a whole heap of papers like that. And in my leisure time, I managed to accumulate out of that a number of files which were previous to about 1924. Now they are not complete. On the other hand, as I say, the Oregon Historical Society has on microfilm, the University of Oregon has on microfilm, and the City Library -- if somebody endows them someday with a reader for microfilm -- we'll have those early editions of papers available to them.

[00:09:00]

Also another indication of this rather mixed heritage of newspapers in the Forest Grove area was attested to by the very great variety of type which we found in our typecases. I think we had about every font of what we called wooden display type that was ever put out. Apparently each

one of my predecessors had bought a small [?] but you could never set a complete line out of any of it, because the alphabets weren't very complete. [Laughter.]

However the Independent didn't stay very long in Forest Grove; it was transferred to Hillsboro. At that time, the editor was a man by the name of H. D. Luce, editor and proprietor. I think you all remember the name of Luce in the local history? I can remember when I first started to cover the courthouse that Ed Luce was probably connected with this family in one way or another. He was the county clerk. A very [?] little guy but a very efficient sort of fellow. He knew his business and kept his records straight.

[00:10:17]

These early publishers, as I said, viewed themselves as the promoters of the community. They were the unpaid Chamber of Commerce promoters. They engaged in politics, much more seriously than we do know. Fact is, I couldn't hardly keep my intellectual integrity and take my politics as seriously as some of those did back in that day.

Luce ran the Hillsboro Independent intermittently. In 1885, his paper was sold to Jones and Tosier. This Tosier was Albert Tosier. I don't know how many of you have lived in Washington County long enough to know who Albert Tosier was. [?] talking about going to Champoeg. He was the early curator at Champoeg who kept the records there. Each New Years Day he used to return to Hillsboro and ring the church bell to welcome the New Year in. I don't think he was a very systematic sort of a museum curator. I can remember going into his room or wherever he was. He just had apple boxes, apple boxes, stacked one after another with clippings and things of that sort. He collected everything but not always selectively.

[00:11:42]

Again, I think one of the ... The newspaper, Tosier, used to ... he continued this custom, as I said, of ringing in the New Year for about 64 years. S.T. Linklater was the publisher in 1890 of the Hillsboro Independent. M.C. [Galt?] in 1892. He published it for about 13 years.

The Forest Grove part of the paper was -- one of these papers was transferred from Hillsboro to Forest Grove. And E.H. Flag, who had a history of starting newspapers, launched the Washington County Democrat of Hillsboro in February 1869. And then in about a year, or a little later, he moved to Forest Grove. And then about the same time, the Forest Grove Times was started on February 14, 1889. It was published by the Forest Grove Pruning Company.

[00:12:46]

The political flavor, as they say, of these early papers was very evident. The fact is, any student of journalism realizes that Asahel Bush of the Salem Statesman and some of the rest had a peculiar type of journalism. You wouldn't use the language in describing your political opponents or your editorial competition which some of those gentlemen knew. Even Harvey Scott, with his classical Greek and Latin and the rest, wasn't above using a little vitriol now and then in editorial comment.

In launching this Washington County Democrat, Flagg stated: "It is hardly necessary to remind the Democrats in Washington County of the need for a party organ. The recent election is too fresh in your minds to need any reminders. No such misrepresentation hereafter will be possible, as the Democrats will be on hand to nail any slander from the unscrupulous political opponent." [Laughter.]

[00:13:59]

Now returning again to the Times of 1891, it shows the name of A. Rogers in the masthead as manager. Incidentally, the same name appears in a church directory as a pastor of a Congregational Church. Probably the two salaries together didn't represent too much. [Laughter.]

Again, I'll divert a bit from the text. I don't know how many of you have read Clifford Drury's Elkanah Walker: The Walker Family of Forest Grove. Anyway, Elkanah Walker as I remember, was intermittently the pastor of the Congregationalist Church. And one of his sons, I believe, said "The only thing that would satisfy the Forest Grove Congregational Church, would be Henry Ward Beecher at \$600 a year." [Laughter.]

[00:15:05]

As I say, papers moved back and forth; they began, and then they started, and they flipped. I think, as a commentary, you have to realize this, with the passing of... In those days, a man had a political idea that he wanted to forward, he'd get somebody to subsidize a little newspaper and they'd start. He'd have a shirttail full of type and a hand press or something like that, and why, he was in business. With the passing of years, that's no longer possible. A newspaper is a business. Not always the best business and not always the most profitable business, but it's a business. And it requires considerable investment. As a result of that fact, you find one newspaper even in larger cities and the rest, it's only possible under present conditions.

[00:15:59]

One of the rather colorful editors of the time, for a very short time, was Austin Craig. He was the son of David Watson Craig, an Oregon pioneer and printing editor. He established the Washington County Hatchet April 12, 1895. I can't get too many facts about this man, Craig, but I think that what little I read in the files, he was probably the sharpest editor of all these early-day people. He was a Pacific University graduate. Apparently he had a fight with the president, who withheld his diploma for a short time. [Laughter.] Then he doubled as editor of the paper for a short time and also as county school superintendent. I think later he went to the Philippines and was [dean of the something?] University of Philippines. I never did follow exactly [?].

[00:17:03]

Austin Craig didn't ... the Hatchet didn't last too long, but what did exist was an interesting paper. At the head of his editorial column, he said "Readable, Reliable, Republican." [Laughter.] After about 2 years, the Hatchet was merged with The Times, and the lengthy title "The Washington County Hatchet and The Times" was used for a short time. On the retirement of Craig in 1899, the new publishers buried the Hatchet. [Laughter, groans.] They called the paper The Times until 1901. George H. Hines and R. H. Pratt were the publishers. Pratt continued as editor until 1901. Walter [Hogue?] succeeded him, and remained until 1906, when W.T. Fogle bought out his partner with Manche Langley as editor for a while. If you look at one of these papers here, you'll see that Manche Langley was an editor for a short time.

[00:18:10]

Manche Langley was, to put it mildly, a local character. [Inaudible audience comments.]

I'll have to digress here. Well let's see. I'll put that in later. [Laughter.]

When I first came here, was of the pieces of advice that was given to me by my predecessor, [?], was he said: "Never talk about anybody." He said, "You'll find they're related." [Laughter]

So I have some hesitancy for some of my smart Alec remarks, which will probably be exposed during this discourse. But his particular experience was based on this fact: At that time, the News-Times, this was 1928, was published in what was in the words now, "the [lounge?] for the coffee grinder." It shared half of the space with a commercial printing plant. And right directly across the street, I can't remember whether it was where that book store is now, or whether it was where the building they're building the Forest Grove [?], was the post office. And each Thursday noon when you got the paper out and you rushed across the street to get it over there before the paper carriers, I mean the mail carriers, took it out in the afternoon. The service was better then. [Laughter.]

[00:19:58]

But anyway, one of the assistant postmasters was a very charming looking lady, quite a handsome woman, Mrs. Curtis. She was both officious and efficient. And [Brownly?] didn't get along too well with her and one day he was complaining to Harry Giltman about Mrs. Curtis. And [Harry?] let him go on and go on and go on, and finally he said, "You know that's my sister?" [Laughter.] So I've always remembered that particular piece of advice. I haven't always followed it, but sometimes I wished I had.

[00:20:43]

Now, let's see. Then the Washington County News was another paper which appeared on the scene about 1903. J.F. Woods, formerly of Springfield, became editor. In 1908, Gerald [?] purchased the Washington County News. And then afterwards it was sold to A.D. Scott. [Inaudible audience comments and laughter.] Who at once absorbed the Times by changing the name to the Washington County News-Times.

Now the Washington County News-Times appeared at about the same time the Hillsboro Argus was started. Or, the Washington County \*News\* appeared at about the same time the Hillsboro Argus was started. However you have to remember that the Argus dates its older history back to the Independent. About 1930 I think, the Hillsboro Argus purchased the Hillsboro Independent from A.C. Killings. The Argus was the much more aggressive newspaper at that time, but Killin had most of the political following in the county. He existed practically on legal advertising. And when the Argus combined the two, [?], it paid for its purchase within a few years on the basis of what he got from legal advertising, which was quite an important part. Fact is, in the early days, legal advertising, like from timber claims and things of that sort, was quite an important source of income.

[00:22:17]

All right. Then in 1910 A.E. Scott became the partner in the paper. In 1911 he purchased the [?] from his partner Hogue, and J.P. Early operated as Scott's editor for a short time.

Now this is where I can begin to document some files and things of that sort actually a little bit with what took place. Scott installed Earl Brownley as editor in 1924. Brownley had been editor of the Oregon City Courier, and also for about 7 years he'd been city editor of the Oregon Journal. He was an experienced newspaper man.

[00:23:07]

Anyway, Scott went to the hospital for operation from which he failed to rally, and he died. And then Brownley, who had been installed as publisher and editor, took over and purchased the paper and continued with it for 4 years.

And at this particular time, why, was the period in which I appeared on the scenes. I came here with a partner by the name of C.J. Gillette, or "Jeer" Gillette as we used to call him. He was a man a little bit older than I. Much more outgoing personality and a [?] and things of that sort. Which was a good introduction and a kind of a foil for myself, who was willing to do the work. Kind of acquired a little bit of maturity in the meantime.

Fact is, Early Brownley, announcing the transfer, said something about C.J. Gillette coming from Marshfield -- now Coos Bay -- where he'd been principal of the high school. Then said something about Hugh McGilvra "fresh from scholastic honors at Willamette University." I thought that was an older man's way of saying that I wasn't quite dry behind the ears. Anyway, that's how it all started.

[00:24:27]

Well when I started out to prepare for this particular dissertation, I thought, well I'll cover about 50 years. Then I got going and I got kind of tired out. And I figured that you might be interested in a few chapters, but you didn't want the whole book. But anyway I did go through about 10 years of the back files, of those early years which I thought would be interesting. Sometime, if I haven't bored you to death, I might come back and give you the sequel.

[00:25:02]

Anyway, what would Forest Grove look like in 1928? I kind of feel when I try to discuss the years which follows, I think it was Virgil who said, "All of which I knew, and much of which I was a part." I used that quotation one time, and Marshall Dana of the Editor Journal, said it was Virgil. I almost thought it was scripture, but I looked at a concordance and I never could substantiate it, so I guess it was Virgil. [Laughter.] I should have known because I had the benefit of about 7 years of Latin, but anyway, we'll go from there. "All of which I knew, and some of which I was a part."

[00:25:52]



I came to Forest Grove to the newspaper, that's I suppose what I'm supposed to talk about. But I think I'll probably talk more about the community. The staff consisted of C.J. or "Jeer" Gillette, who was advertising, did the billing business; myself, who was the editor; and then a part-time assistant who later became full time, one Mary L. Roberts. This [pointing to someone in the audience?] is W.S. Roberts. She came from a very proper Philadelphia family. She had her ideas of the ways things she should be done. I was a Republican, she was a Democrat. That didn't bother us very much. She was a good defender. Fact is, she would defend me sometimes when I wished she'd kept quiet. [Laughter.] But anyway, she taught me quite a few things.

[00:26:58]

One thing that I never could break her of, and I didn't try very hard; in fact I didn't break myself. Whenever she reported a social item, she felt it should be "Mrs.", then the husband's name, then the last name. That was the only proper way to do it. A lot of [?], but I believed it. Fact is, I never got converted. But she would go through telephone books and references and clippings -- 15 or 20 minutes trying to identify it for us, so we'd have a proper designation. What she considered proper. I never got broken of that thing that she taught me until years later when I started an association with a paper in Beaverton. I started to cover Cedar Hills as one of my beats. Those people down there, those suburbanites, just hadn't been reared properly. [Laughter.] They [CALLED?] women by their first name and their husband's name and everything else. And from then on, I decided, to heck with it. I'm not gonna waste my time trying to run down and make proper ladies out of them. [Laughter.] But this is according to Mrs. Roberts.

[00:28:11]

Mechanically, at that time, the newspaper had W.G. Mackenzie as a printer and a linotype operator who was Hazel Cormac. She knew everybody's name within 40 miles and could spell. Blessings on her. I appreciated that very much. She could take [?] correspondence and make sense out of it. She at one time -- she was a musician and played -- she at one time played in the theater to accompany the silent movies. She did all her operating with her left hand. I didn't know why. She taught herself how to run the linotype. She was rapid, she was accurate. As a young publisher who didn't know the community, I had reason to thank her many times.

[00:29:10]

Another [?] to the acquisition was some body in the front desk, who had a desk in the window, was one called J. W. [?], who was the auctioneer. That gave him a place for somebody to answer his calls. Also it provided a source of some business in the fact that auction sales at certain periods of the year were a reasonably substantial part of the business.

When that mechanical crew wasn't able to do the job, we could step just across the aisle which ran down this 25 x 75 building, and call on some of the members of the staff of [Thayer & Spalding?] who were commercial printers. They called them job printers then. I've always resisted the name using job printers. I always like to say I was a commercial printer. But most people said I was a job printer. Kind of suggested a dirty thumb and a few other things [Laughter], which I didn't like particularly.

[00:30:25]

Anyway then there was the first reserve we'd call would be one big Walker, who was a pressman and one of the scions of the early days of Forest Grove. Then sometimes we'd use Spalding or some other [?].

In 1930, a change took place in the management of Coos Bay Times and I became the publisher as well as the editor and the rest, in 1930. Then we combined the printing press with the newspaper.

Now that's another thing at that time I think we should remember is the population of Forest Grove was less than 2,000. I can remember that first summer once I came ...

[00:31:14]

[Recording cuts out briefly and restarts mid-sentence. In this section, Hugh McGilvra appears to have been showing clippings from the newspaper and speaking about each one briefly.]

"... and the right of a common law wife to inherit the estate of one Ed Naylor." Now, just out of college and then the first week, that was the first story I had to cover. I did it with a little bit of worrying. Now today probably I wouldn't bother people, but in those days that was a somewhat different type of morays which we observed. Well anyway, I got through it. [Laughter.] I didn't go into very many details, but it was a rather interesting story and one which I well remember. I hope nobody's related. [Laughter.]

[00:32:12]

Back then, Forest Grove was known as Daffodil Town. You think of this as Ballad Town, USA. Then it was Daffodil Town. That was a man by the name of Martin, a florist, and one Bob Warrens and the rest who were very active in growing daffodils. The town's promotional group

was known as the Daffy-dils. They would march in the Rose Festival Parade and things of that sort. Yeah, they had little [yam-yama?] suits.

[George Williams, local dentist]: I marched in that parade [laughs].

[HM]: One side was yellow and one side was green. [Laughter.]

Another big event in town in Forest Grove at that time was the annual gladiola show. Emma Penfield told me it should be "gladiol-i". Well I knew "-us" in Latin was the singular and "i" was the plural, but I still used "gladiolas". [Laughter.]

[00:33:18]

Anyway, that was at that time ... Forest Grove was a good place for a young person to start in journalism. I sometimes have had ambitions to move other places, but after I really got going, the community and the [auditors?] grew rapidly enough, so I've been satisfied. And also my credit wouldn't let me move anyway.

Dairy farming was a big part of our business. I imagine within a radius of a few miles we had probably 15 or 20 small saw mills. I don't know how many, anyway we had a number of them.

Speaking of dairy farming, this was not part of our remarks, but when I see here, I remember that the Forest Grove Creamery, Helen [?]'s father operated the Forest Grove Creamery down on Pacific Avenue. The suggestion that the size of the dairies of that time, is suggested by the fact of those little creamery checks we used to issue. 79 cents, 89 cents, 99 cents. They'd bring in a quart or two quarts, or a gallon, or whatever it was, and they'd test it and then they'd write them out a check. Always paid cash, it was very appreciated, that. Also when we were in the printing business later, it became a rather substantial part of printing those checks. Not a bad account. [Laughter]

[00:34:48]

The big event of the summer in Forest Grove at that time was the Adventist Camp Meeting. The Chataqua had gone out, but that was out there, the equivalent of Patterson's home or woods out there, and they held the Adventist Camp Meeting there. It later moved to Gladstone.

The community issues of that time: while, they'd have Sunday movie picture shows. That was quite a battle. The Sunday ...

The county assessed value in 1928 was \$24 million. The county budget was \$363,000. Even under its present straitened circumstances, I think it runs about \$15 million, and the valuation of the county runs over \$3 billion.

[00:35:41]

The school district then according to its budget -- and they revealed more in their budgets now [sic?] than they do now in their kind of process of concealing -- they paid the school superintendent \$2700 a year, and the high school principal \$1800.

Washington County moved into the new addition to the court house after spending \$150,000. And in this year, two precincts in Washington County voted for Al Smith. [Laughter.]

At the city hall, where the municipal news was originated, H. G. Bond was city recorder. He kept the books for the light department, he kept the city council records, I guess he was sitting judge with his wife's assistance. Paul Parson was the city police. Paul [?] started his long tenure as fire chief, working part-time and probably for years he subsidized the fire department by the fact that he made half the equipment in his shop. It was only a short dash from the machine shop on Main Street to the fire equipment on Council Street.

[00:36:54]

The Southern Pacific passenger ran its last passenger train into Forest Grove about that time, about 1928. By 1930, the Oregon Electric had disappeared.

Carl Broderson reported on his trip to Germany, here, there and back.

1928 was the first year for Forest Hill Golf Course. It had 9 holes and the rest of it was strawberry patch. Bill Martin was wondering whether he could afford to have that particular activity. Did very well after a while.

The city issues as I remember then when I stepped into them, somewhat unwisely sometimes, was whether they'd pay their sewer assessments. Apparently they had a sewer system which had a been condemned. They'd gone to court and said it was no good, and then they turned around and bought it. And then people wouldn't pay for it. It was a long, long battle.

[00:38:00]

I can remember going to a city council meeting and they were complaining about the leaks in the water lines in Clear Creek. Farmers wanted damages and the rest, and then they'd give them free water. That haunted them for years. Then they finally got that straightened out and then about 30 years later they started making the same mistake over again.

In 1928, we find the beginning of chain banks, in the fact that W.C. Schumer of Hillsboro Commercial National here [inaudible] ... with Bill Christianson started out by acquiring banks and [credit unions?] in North Plains and Sherwood and a few other places like that. Which was the beginning of the Commercial National Bank chain, and then it was taken over by the United States National Bank.

[00:38:59]

I suggested at the beginning there's always been a very close relationship between Pacific University and Forest Grove. I think one of the practices at that time which always contributed to what I call -- what I always feared in the summer -- summer sloth. Dr. John F. Dobbs was the president of Pacific University. As soon as commencement was over about May or June, whichever date they'd close up, he'd lock up tight and head to the hills of the Adirondacks to renew his spirit in good old New England. The college was closed down till next September, when he opened. That was a, as I say, [?] summer schedule which Pacific University now carries on.

Speaking of Pacific University and Dr. Dobbs, one of the interesting parts for anyone interested in history of the local community, would come from Mrs. Dobbs, Carolyn Dobbs, who was a very enthusiastic D.A.R. [i.e. Daughter of the American Revolution]. As I said, a converted historian. About as much as a zealot as a converted person in religion. She became very much interested in Oregon history. And so each weekend, she, and when she could persuade the good Doctor to go with her, they would pursue the history of the 52 people I think it was who voted at Champoeg for affiliation with Oregon. And then she went around and held dedication ceremonies with a little plaque to mark the places where these illustrious forebears had [been] buried. And then she would publish a little program. She came to me and I started publishing those programs. Then later she collected them in a more formal manner, which was "Men of Old Champoeg," which is a book which is now out of print. But it was very, I mean it was one of the books on Oregon history which you'll find in a library which is quite important.

[00:41:40]

Well... anytime you want to ring the bell... [Laughter]

One of the interesting things about my second issue [?], they went around and made a survey. Kind of, of public opinion. It asked people what they expected of their local newspaper. Well some of them were rather colorless statements, but it gave an opportunity to quote some people and get acquainted and a few things like that. But [?] with Manche Langley which I've already mentioned. She said, "Well you shouldn't ask me. I never made money out of a newspaper or anything else. But if you ask to know, I like 'em raw, if you know what I mean. Why be afraid to say it's a sunny day just because it's cloudy to some preacher? And I don't have it in for preachers any more than I have it in for Republicans or prohibitionists or old maids. I say, say what you think and keep thinking." [Laughter]

[00:42:54]

Well I can say that's good advice for a newspaper publisher who wants to be short-lived in a small community.

I can't leave this discussion without emphasizing to you the fact a newspaper, what you think of as your newspaper: you are free to criticize and free to think what you think of it. You are free to write letters to the editor and do everything else. [But] a newspaper is a business and its independence depends somewhat on its ability to pay its bills.

So I looked at the business community of Forest Grove when I came here in 1928. We had only the newspaper and no printing department. Subscribers of course are desirable and necessary, but advertisers are also a must. I can't mention them all, but I ... What did we have as a basis for continuing our business, for assuring business stability in Forest Grove, at that time? The first thing that impressed me was that we had a reasonable diversity, particularly in our economic background and our agriculture. I appreciated that particularly in the 30s when I had to pay for my newspaper out of the profits of the Depression. That diversity was very welcome.

[00:44:39]

What were some of the people that we depended on for advertising at that time? I list first the Forest Grove National Bank. It had resources of less than \$1,945,000. I think it's about \$32 million now, maybe more than that. During the Depression, it went down to less than half a million. I mention this because my concept of a local community bank is that it's what I might say, in kind of high-falutin' language, the impressio of the productive energy of the community. In other words, I mean, that determines whether you have business, whether you sustain it, and whether it grows.

So I can say I came to Forest Grove because the Forest Grove National Bank loaned me some money. My dad co-signed the note, and there were some other things involved in it, but anyway. It kind of reminds me of the story of the banker who was asked to be the pall-bearer for a certain businessman. And he says, well, I might as well stay with him to the end: I've carried him this far. [Laughter.]

[00:45:51]

First, there was the First National Bank, and there was a rather powerful, I mean a very energetic community citizen there at that time. Old [?], who was associated with M.R. Johnson, which then also was an independent bank. There were hardware stores: [Loomis Mo Dean?] and [Fendell?]. Forest Grove has always had good hardware stores. A rather interesting little thing there: one little ad which appeared in the paper of 1928 was an ad to "learn to fly." It was Bill [Forbis?] and Gordon [Burlingham?]. [Laughter.] Which was a temporary flyer, I guess, for both of them. [Laughter.] They used the little landing strip out by [Sills?].

[00:46:34]

The grocers who advertised were 20th Century, a thrift grocer. [Skagg's?] Safeway came in about July 1928, which I greatly appreciated the fact. We had Pacific Market with Louis [?] who carried a small ad. H.D. Hiltner always gave us token support, said well, he never quoted a price in his life, I think. Then we had some others which I remember. C.S. [McNutt?] and [D.F. Fleck?] which were non-advertisers. Incidentally, if you want to get in the records of MY history book, you have to advertise! [Laughter.] That's the only way I can...

J.C. Penney, which had been located on Main Street, moved down to A.G. Hoffmann's Building, which they now still occupy, which had formerly been a mercantile store.

[00:47:25]

One of the very consistent advertisers which I had, in a small way, but which I always enjoyed calling on him on Monday morning, was C.C. Condon: "Cold Cash Condon." "We buy and sell for cash." He only carried a 2x4 column ad, but he always had it ready, and he always paid his bill. It was kind of a pleasure to go up and talk to him.

During the period of the Depression, I remember I hired a circulation solicitor. He had an old tumble-down car, and he would take it and go out in the country. He put a crate for chickens in the back of it. Well, if he couldn't get a dollar or two dollars for a subscription, he'd take some

chickens. Each night he'd come with feathers flying into town to C.C. Condon's, weigh those chickens up, and change them for cash. [Laughter.]

[00:48:32]

The lumberyards were O.F. Tipton and W.J. McCready's.

For a while there, the doctors were not so worried about being so professional as they are now. They carried cards. There was J.S. Bishop who said he was a homeopathic physician. I always remember him as a very distinguished gentleman who rode a bicycle, had a goatee. He also had an x-ray, which was, well, talk about radioactive exposure. [Laughter.] I think he exceeded anything which [inaudible] -- [Laughter] -- ever subjected any of his workmen to. There was W.G. Cole, which I remember was probably old and not very active. And [?] who was a character himself. Roswell Waltz, C.E. Hoff, Quentin Tucker. The hospital was conducted by Mrs. [Sadler?] and was known as the Forest Grove Hospital.

[00:49:34]

Right next door to us was the U.S. Auto Delivery, where Mike [Warwick?] and his [boots?] provided both taxi and ambulance service. The ambulance wasn't paramedical status, but it would get the logger or the farmer to the hospital in one form or another.

Also at that time the U.S. Garage was operated by L.P. Bush. He was pumping Shell gasoline from a curb pump on Main Street. When business got slack, he'd go up and down the street to see if he could spot a tire, or a car with a smooth tire on it. He'd wait for the fellow to come back and then he'd try to sell him a tire. Which was a bit of enterprise which he carried on for some time. Probably accounts for the fact that he's president, or at least has the title of president, of Forest Grove National Bank. [Laughter.]

[00:50:43]

C.A. Broderton had a paint store. The Chamber of Commerce met upstairs and the Rotary Club met there. I guess it was the Congregational Church and the Methodists alternated serving dinners. The Congregationalists paid for their organ; I don't know what the Methodists did with their money. [Laughter.]

The sixth high school music tournament was held then.



In 1929 the old Legion Building set out to raise \$12,500; then they found the bids were \$17,400 above their estimates. They revised their plans. Then later they raised enough money to get started. In 1930 the building was dedicated. I think that dedication -- talk about Lexington and shots heard all the way around the world -- I think that celebration was heard for quite some time, because the Legionnaires were younger then. [Laughter.]

[00:51:43]

In 1930 ... I'm gonna quit here pretty soon ... In 1930, the Union High School was proposed. At that time, Forest Grove had 19 school districts in its area. It was suggested that they could have a union high school district with a valuation of about \$6 million. Of course, the \$6 million included -- a great part of it was timber in the Tillamook Burn. Probably the largest area of virgin timber available at that time in any place. I shouldn't have said Tillamook Burn; I'm anticipating things.

They had an election. It carried in 11 of the 19 districts, with a majority of the voters. At the same time, when they started to form the Forest Grove Union High School district, Gaston got into the act, and they wanted it. They formed a union high school district with 5 districts. And also engaged in a series of litigation which ran for a couple years. The result is that the First Union High School district had to operate for the first year without any money. However, for us nowadays to look at the amount of money involved, it didn't mean very much anyway. I mean, by the present-day standards.

[00:53:04]

For example, they sold the old high school, which was a School District 15 property, to the Union High School for \$30,000. Then Forest Grove School District had \$20,000 accumulated in funds. For \$50,000, they built what is now presently the Central School.

Now I could go on for a considerable length of time here. I thought this was just an introduction to some of the background of early Forest Grove history. I could go on and continue the next 40 years ... [Laughter]. But I heard a story today that I thought might be apropos for cutting this off. Someday later, I'll come back and bore you with some more of it, someday.

But anyway the story is of a minister who had a lack of "terminal facilities." One day he came in and stacked his sermon notes up on the pulpit. Then he went away and the janitor came and thought, well I'll just shorten this up a bit for this particular sermon. So he pulled out a few notes from his notes. The minister began the reading, and he got to his sermon, and he was talking about Adam and Eve, and how they were driven from the garden. They made leaves to cover

their nakedness, and so forth. He started to read his notes, and he said, "As Adam and Eve left the garden...", he said, and turned it over. Then he said, ""As Adam and Eve left the garden..." Then he started again: "Adam and Eve left the garden... they must have left some leaves out." [Laughter.]

[00:55:21]

Now as I say, I haven't any more than just touched the subject. I might say that on June 15th of this year I will have observed 50 years as, I don't know, publisher, editor, compensator for members of the crew, and janitor, and anything else that has been necessary to do. It's been a pleasant experience. Forest Grove has treated me kindly. I found it a good place to live. Sometimes I have wished it is much more aggressive commercially than it is and I've been a little bit restive about that, but I've found other fields in which to experiment as well.

I feel kindly toward this community, and as I say, it has treated me kindly. There are certain things which I doubt if would ... kind of like that play Outward Bound. Where the people go out, and you find out that if they were going to live their life over again, they'd probably do the same thing over again. So I've kind of reached that stage of maturity. I like Forest Grove and I like the people there, and enough of them like me. So it's been a good place to live. As I say, it's been a rewarding 50 years. Somebody asked me: If you quit, or if you retired, or if you're emeritus. No I'm not. I still continue to pursue it. Maybe someday I'll have a little bit more leisure, but I don't know if that day will ever arrive. Anyway, it's a pleasure to talk to you, it's a pleasure to share some of these memories. I'm sure for you who are here, who have been here for a time, that it invokes and recalls many memories for you.

I thank you for your attention. I have cut my remarks short, but I see what the time ... I mean, shorter than what I prepared! [Laughter] But if you ever want to, someday you can go read all this on microfilm and dig it up for yourselves! Thank you. [Applause.]

[00:57:56]