

HAROLD SEIFFERT

September 5, 1996

TAPE 2, Side 1

M.O'R.: This is Michael O'Rourke continuing the interview with Harold Seiffert on September the 5th, 1996.

So you say you'd pack two days up to the Trask?

H.S.: Well, it would take one day to go back and one day to come, you know. Gosh, you know, it must have been ten, twelve - at least twelve miles back there. We had all those old holes named in the Trask River, you know, like the Frying Pan Hole and different things like that.

M.O'R.: Oh yeah. These are fishing spots along the river, then?

H.S.: Yeah. Well, we didn't do it legally, really, in those days. We generally had a piece of net, you know, and we'd - it had ripples, so we'd wade up just where the water's deep, and we'd bang on the river beyond there, you know, and then the salmon would take off and go down and get in this net, old gillnet. And when we got what we wanted, we'd load it up and come home.

M.O'R.: So you'd stretch the net across the channel, then, and just chase the salmon in that direction?

H.S.: Yeah. And then we'd take what we wanted of the best, and just let [the rest] go. And that was a yearly occurrence for several years. You know. That was our winter's fish. You'd smoke it up and everything. Can some.

M.O'R.: And even in those days, that wasn't a legal way to catch them?

H.S.: Well, no. Nothing was legal, you know. But it was for us. Well, you know, in those days - this would be back in the 30's, and early 40's - anything was legal, if you had to survive, to eat. That was the way we looked at it. And sometimes you'd

have a game guy that you knew, and he'd just turn his back, you know.

M.O'R.: Of course, there was a lot more fish in the river, then.

H.S.: Oh, gosh, the river - you pretty near walk across on the fish, they were so thick.

M.O'R.: And you fished the Tualatin a little bit, too?

H.S.: Well, nothing illegal there, outside of we'd fish when the fish was there.

You never took a good fishing pole with you, because you never knew when you had to ditch it.

M.O'R.: [laughs] So the hickory poles are the ones you brought, eh?

H.S.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: Well, of course, probably living up here as you do, on the river, the river doesn't look that bad, even in later years, because you get the water coming down off the mountain. I wonder if you'd noticed any change in the water quality over the years.

H.S.: Not really. I would say, in from here back is still very good clean water. Because it's all rock. You don't get - till you get down to Gaston, then it starts to get sluggish. And this is all fast-moving water.

M.O'R.: Right.

H.S.: There's nobody lives back of me here. Well, you - on the Lee Falls Road, you got some up here. But as far as the valley here and up Roaring Creek that way, there's nothing between here and Tillamook. So you got good clean water.

The only thing they do up here - well, they monitor it every day, you know, the Hillsboro Water Works - you know, for anything dead comes in it or something like that, they take samples every

day. And then they have a sand filter that filters it. Our water's all filtered now.

M.O'R.: So you get your water from the Hillsboro Water District?

H.S.: Mm-hmm. But we're on the Tualatin line. From Forest Grove area, all that takes it takes out of the river down there. You know, it's not piped anymore; they was cut off. They've got a treatment plant down there. And our water comes direct from the intake up here.

M.O'R.: I see. And so it doesn't go through any treatment?

H.S.: No. Well, they check for chlorine, if it needs to be, you know. But it's got a sand filter, so we get no sediment.

But down there, they've got quite a treatment plant in Forest Grove. But they've got that - oh, there's a lot of sewers and what-have-you can dump in and pollution from chemicals from the fields and what-have-you is in the water down there. I mean, we've got the best water up here.

M.O'R.: Sounds like it.

H.S.: Because there's nothing up here to pollute it.

M.O'R.: Right. Has the water on this place always come from the river?

H.S.: Well, originally, when I first bought the house, they had what they called the Cherry Grove Water System, and right across the hill here they had a spring and it was piped over, and another spring up above here. And that was our water system.

M.O'R.: I see.

H.S.: But in - you know, I don't remember just exactly what year that Hillsboro took this over. It's been quite a while now, probably about 10, 15 years ago, maybe, when Hillsboro bought Cherry Grove system out.

M.O'R.: I see.

H.S.: And then they hooked their pipelines to our feeder lines. And of course now, since then, they've replaced all the lines.

M.O'R.: So you've got a whole new system now.

H.S.: It's a whole new system now.

M.O'R.: But you still take your water from just up the river here?

H.S.: Yeah, it's taken from up here; it's about five miles up there from here.

M.O'R.: And so there's a little separate treatment plant for Cherry Grove, then?

H.S.: Well, outside of the sand filter. And then they have a chlorine plant, if it needs chlorine. But very seldom you ever taste chlorine in it, except when there's a heavy storm or something, and then they might put - you might taste some chlorine.

M.O'R.: And they just put it in when they need it, then?

H.S.: Yeah. Like I say, it's monitored every day.

M.O'R.: Right.

H.S.: And if it needs something, they get - it goes in, if it don't -. But that big sand filter's quite an operation.

M.O'R.: What do you mean by that?

H.S.: Well, it's I guess close to two acres, this concrete encampment, you know? Like a pond, all concrete. And then it's filled - well, originally, they put in at least four feet of sand, a certain type of sand that the water will seep through, and then it drips into another reservoir underneath, all enclosed, can't see it. And that's supposed to be clean water out of that, and it is. We don't have no sediments of any kind.

M.O'R.: Do they have to, then, clean the sand filter every now and then?

H.S.: Yes. They scoop that every couple weeks. They take off a little, about a quarter of an inch or less, with a machine. They'll drain this one tank, and then feed out of the other one. And then they'll fill this one, and then the other one. So it's about every two weeks they skim one of them. They call it skimming.

M.O'R.: They take off the top quarter inch and then they just throw that away?

H.S.: Yeah, it's in a pile, I've got a lot of it in my garden.

M.O'R.: Oh yeah? I imagine it would be pretty good for the soil.

H.S.: Oh yeah, it's good for the soil. It has all the nutrients that come down on the top they skim off.

M.O'R.: Right. Plus a little bit of sand too.

H.S.: Yes. Quite a bit of sand, in fact.

M.O'R.: Right. So that helps kind of break up the clay a little bit.

H.S.: Yeah. Yeah. Oh, I've got one full truckload and I don't know how many pickup loads, probably 15, 20, that I got out there.

M.O'R.: So you can get the sand from them?

H.S.: Oh yeah, they let me have all I want. Matter of fact, they give me keys to get through the gates to get it.

M.O'R.: Well, that's good. And is that because you're an ex-employee?

H.S.: Not necessarily. But I happen to know - when you work for a water district, you know, you know one another, more or less. And that helps.

M.O'R.: Sure.

H.S.: No, they're real nice people, and - well, they've told us, Ainer and I, that they like to have us drive up there, in case we see anything that's out of the way.

M.O'R.: Now you mentioned Ainer, that's your friend here in Cherry Grove?

H.S.: Well, he lives in Dilly now, but he owns property here in Cherry Grove.

M.O'R.: I see. And you've known him since the early days?

H.S.: I've known him since 1934.

M.O'R.: Since you moved here, then.

H.S.: But he's been here longer than that. I mean, he was born here, and he's 80 years old now, or will be this month.

M.O'R.: So he's about your age, but he's lived here all his life.

H.S.: Yeah, he's six months - or I guess it's three months younger than I am. Three or four. Let's see. His birthday is this month, I think it is, and mine was in June.

M.O'R.: And now why did the Water District ask him too to keep an eye on things?

H.S.: Well, it's being as we're old-timers and lived here all our lives, you might say, the biggest part - he's lived here all his life, or did, till he moved down to Dilly - and there's just - they know when we're up there, things is going to be okay. You know.

M.O'R.: Well now, back to when you made the move to working for - was it Hillsboro Implement?

H.S.: Right. At that time they were a Caterpillar / John Deere dealer when I went to work for them.

M.O'R.: And you went to work for them because your work at the lumber camp?

H.S.: Yeah, well, I didn't want to go down - away from home in the woods. And here, this was right here at Hillsboro, it was an 18-mile drive. And I did a lot of mechanical work, anyway, maintained log trucks and the Cats and what have you, you know, down here, for Alder Creek. And that's in the wintertime, when they shut down for the woods, and then we'd work there in the shops.

M.O'R.: I see. So you worked as a mechanic for the timber company, too?

H.S.: Yeah. And so anyway, when the woods quit and I had to go away from home, I went up there and asked about a job and they looked at me a little bit and, well, they didn't know for sure just when. And then the next day they called me to work. You know, so, and then I worked there 13- $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

M.O'R.: And what did you do for them, then? You were mostly a mechanic?

H.S.: Yeah. Mechanic. I worked in the shop for just a very short time, and then they put me on the road as a service man. First it was selling new equip - well, I wasn't a salesman, but I demonstrated new equipment to these loggers that was around the Vernonia area and Tongue Point, Astoria. Pne time we had fifty-four of those little Cats out. New ones, you know, for what's called gyppo loggers. And -

M.O'R.: What's a gyppo logger exactly?

H.S.: A gyppo logger's a contract logger for a big outfit.

M.O'R.: Okay, I see.

H.S.: Mostly it was Crown Zellerbach at that time down there. Well, the International Paper too, but Crown was the biggest then. Now they've practically sold out everything. Well, they logged everything off. So I don't who owns it now, but they sold, though, their holdings.

M.O'R.: So these gyppo loggers then would be hired on contract.

H.S.: Yeah. Crown would map out a little area here and so they would pay them so much a thousand for what's called decking. In other words, they cut it and logged it and put it in a pile. Then Crown would come along with their loaders and load it out. And so they call it decking. They logged it and decked the logs. So these little cats, which these little John Deere cats, did the work like that.

M.O'R.: And they used them to haul the timber out of the forest and to put it into piles?

H.S.: Yeah, right. And pile it up along the road. They'd either have trails or roads in there, you know, and they put along the road. Crown built the roads.

M.O'R.: So you were selling mostly equipment to these loggers, then, right?

H.S.: I wasn't no salesman. The salesman would go with me lots of times, and go down there, and I would run the thing and demonstrate it what it would do.

M.O'R.: I see.

H.S.: You know. And then, nine times out of ten, left it there. You know. Because, see, if you're interested, and if it suits you, you're going to buy it. Otherwise, they wouldn't take it down unless they was really thought there was a chance.

M.O'R.: Sure.

H.S.: In other words, he had to have something that was better than what they had to work with.

M.O'R.: And so you'd also do maintenance work for these outfits?

H.S.: Right, afterwards, see. They take the new equipment, and then there's a certain amount of warranty periods on all of it,

you know. And I'd do that work, and then, of course, later you did a certain amount of service work. If you could do it there, you did it. Unless it was time to take a final drive off or something like that, and you repaired it right there on the spot. And if it was something a little more major, you'd go down and check it out, and then you'd have a truck come down, or maybe you'd have to go down with the truck the next day, and pick it up and bring it home - bring it to the shop. But as much as you could, you fixed it on the job.

M.O'R.: So would you actually get into overhauling the engines and stuff like that?

H.S.: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Overhauled a lot of them.

M.O'R.: Diesel?

H.S.: Diesel, yeah. They all of these practically were diesel.

M.O'R.: Sure. I've got some friends who run a marine diesel operation in Portland, and so they're always out on the river working on diesel engines.

H.S.: Yeah, actually, there's no difference much working on diesel than there is gas, it's all basically the same because your injection system, you don't work on that, you know, like the injection pumps or the injectors.

M.O'R.: You just change them out, then?

H.S.: You change them out and then you send them in and get them repaired, and they charge them what it costs to repair the others. You don't have the equipment to - there's very fine mechanisms in there, and you don't monkey with them if you don't have the equipment to do it with. It's like computers on your car, what-have-you now. No oak tree mechanic, you know, can work on them. You've got to have the equipment to test it, to know what you're doing.

M.O'R.: I imagine the close tolerances and all that.

H.S.: Yeah. Oh, yeah. It's complicated, but it's much better than the old system, because it's less maintenance. You know, you can run a car for maybe a hundred thousand miles now, and no problems whatsoever with any of that.

M.O'R.: That's right.

H.S.: Before, you know, with the old system, well, every thousand miles you had to do this or that.

M.O'R.: No, I know. Things have gotten a lot more reliable - and that's true probably in the heavy equipment, too.

H.S.: Yes, it is.

M.O'R.: Did you work much on it with farmers during this period, or mostly with timber folks?

H.S.: No, it was mostly timber. I did a little bit of what's called ag. work, you know, in the shop. There's times when there's things that was running good and you've nothing much to do, well, you'd work on an ag. tractor.

M.O'R.: But they had other mechanics that would take care of that most of the time?

H.S.: Oh, yeah. There was - I forget - there was around 30 of us, I think, working in there.

M.O'R.: And you say you worked that job for thirteen years?

H.S.: Well, I started there in '59.

M.O'R.: 1959 until 1962. And then that would be the time when you got involved with the Water District?

H.S.: Right. I was doing all the Water District service - see, they had quite a bit of John Deere equipment, backhoes and cats and what-have-you, you know. And I was doing their service work over there on that stuff, on the John Deere diesels, you know.

And so Cicero Smith was the superintendent at the time, and he says, "You just as well come over here and work," he says, "you're over here all the time, anyway."

And I says, "Well, I can't do that because I got a pension over here started and everything." And I said, "My wife wouldn't stand for that, to change jobs." I was already past 50, you know, and if something didn't work out, it's pretty hard to get a job in those days, you know.

Well, he says, "I'll take care of that." So he had his secretary in there dictate a letter and mailed it to my wife, and she okayed it. So then that's how come I went over there. And he said I had a job there regardless, as long as I wanted to stay.

M.O'R.: What did you do about your pension?

H.S.: Well, they took care of it. What I did was took it out here - it didn't amount to that much, I think \$4,000 or something like that that I had built up - and they put it in on theirs. You know, in other words, I added up there and helped mine. My pension that I get now.

M.O'R.: And so you went then to work for the Wolf Creek Water District? And you were hired by the manager then? Who was that again?

H.S.: Cicero Smith.

M.O'R.: Okay, that's right, you just mentioned him. So he was Gene Seibel's ...

H.S.: Well, Gene Seibel followed him.

M.O'R.: Right.

H.S.: When Cicero retired, then Gene took over.

M.O'R.: And Gene was already working there when you went to work?

H.S.: Yeah, he was a meter reader when I went to work there.

M.O'R.: Okay. That would be early in his career, then.

H.S.: Gosh, I don't know, he must have worked there 30 years or more. He was there a long time.

M.O'R.: And what kind of maintenance work were you doing for the Water District?

H.S.: Well, I'd help keep up all the equipment, and of course, I had a little help now and then, but I also got the bids for all new equipment. In other words, want to buy a new car, new pickups, you know - well, I had a budget to work on there. And I'd go get the bids and then they in there would tell me which ones they want, and then I took care of all of that.

M.O'R.: Okay. I want to ask you probably a little bit more about the Water District, but actually, before I do, let me just ask you a little bit about what was going on around here on the Tualatin around that time, because I know that this would have been about the time you went to work for the Water District - that was what? 1962? No, 1969.

H.S.: No, 1969. Yeah.

M.O'R.: Well, that was just a few years before the Scoggins project was built.

H.S.: Yeah. Okay. They was going to build a dam - they had three different sites located for here. They had one right here above my house on this ridge right here went across. That was one. They had one down here by Mount Richmond Road, and the other one was clear down close to Gaston, where the old prune drier is down there. That was the big one, and that would flood clear up into here too. But they finally phased it out. There was a lot of opposition. The Cherry Grove Coalition, you know. But they had this all surveyed out. There was stakes right here in my front yard where the water level would be on the Mount Richmond dam down here.

M.O'R.: So would it have flooded you out?

H.S.: Oh yeah. Anything where the land sloped - see, I own this up above. But any land that sloped to the water, they wouldn't let you live [on] on account of the sewer system. There was no sewer system; it's all septic.

M.O'R.: Yeah. That's right. So you're out septic tanks still here; is that right.

H.S.: Yeah. But anyway, they had the road surveyed right through the middle of my house here. They couldn't use what I had up here for a street, but the road was surveyed through my house and went out right past the garage. And then they was going to build a bridge across from behind my garage there, and across back on the other side.

M.O'R.: So the possibility of building that dam down at Gaston, then, was one of the probably four or five different sites they were looking at?

H.S.: Well, they had three that they looked at close.

M.O'R.: And then they had the Hagg Lake site.

H.S.: Well, yeah. When they give up here, it was - just all at once they was going over there. They probably had it in mind all the time.

M.O'R.: And had you - when did you first hear about these plans; do you recall about when it was?

H.S.: Well, gosh almighty, they've been talking about building a dam here almost from the time I moved here. Years. You know, they always - they're speculating on the dam.

M.O'R.: So it was in the wind a little bit for all that time?

H.S.: Yeah. But you never believed it.

Matter of fact, my neighbor used to live up here - Brewer was his name - in the house above me here, he was so sure that they were going to have the dam here - this was, gosh, it must be 20

years ago, pretty near - he went and sold his house and moved. Yeah.

He had a son that worked in for the Bureau of Reclamation in Boise, and he moved to Boise in fact, from here. And man, they had this dam already built, practically, you know what I mean. Oh, he got out of here, he wasn't going to be around here. He was going to sell before they started building the dam. Yeah.

M.O'R.: He figured he'd get a better price if he sold?

H.S.: I don't know. He might have figured it. He figured he wouldn't get anything, probably, if the government was going to buy him out, see. Which - well, I even had letters, still probably got them around here someplace, where they told what they'd do. They was going to buy you out at market value, the current market value, and then they was going to give you \$1,500 for moving and what-have-you. And then they come around once, they was going to just relocate you, and what-have-you, you know what I mean. Well, it's all gone now. But I'm not saying that - I still look for a dam down here, eventually.

M.O'R.: Well, people are still thinking about it.

H.S.: Yeah, oh yeah. Because this - building this Barney Reservoir up back here in the Trask, they only claim that's going to be good for about 10 years, you know, and then they're going to look for water again. Well, we got the Tualatin River, and it's - you know, there's a lot of water runs down there, to catch in the winter time. Matter of fact, it floods half of Hillsboro round there, you know, all that ground down there.

M.O'R.: All those low-lying farms, that's right.

H.S.: So eventually they're going to have to have more water.

M.O'R.: Now, the Scoggins project, of course, the lake is named for Henry Hague, because he's one of the principal ...

H.S.: Well, he's the one that suggested the dam to start with, way back in the 50's, I believe it was.

M.O'R.: And did you know him?

H.S.: I met him, yeah, and I knew a brother of his.

M.O'R.: Oscar?

H.S.: Or was it a son? I don't remember, a son or a brother.

M.O'R.: Oscar was his brother, but I'm not sure who his son was.

H.S.: Well, I knew him quite well. He had this place out here on - towards North Plains up there.

M.O'R.: And so you's heard about the plans then to build something?

H.S.: Oh yeah, yeah.

M.O'R.: But you weren't directly involved in any of it yourself?

H.S.: No, no. I used to go over and watch them work when they was building it.

M.O'R.: Actually, you mentioned that there was a real resistance here in the community to the plan of putting a dam here.

H.S.: Oh, there was a lot of resistance.

M.O'R.: And how did that get organized?

H.S.: Well, Mrs. Nixon had a lot to do with it. And then this fellow over in - oh, you know, I can't even place his name now. It's in Williams Canyon over here. He was the head of this deal there at last. Gosh, I wish, and I know it real well too. He built a big log house up there in Williams Canyon.

M.O'R.: Let me just see, I may have the name here.

H.S.: Charles, what's his name, Charles - that's his first name.

M.O'R.: I have a name of somebody here that's associated with the organization called the Patton Valley Association or something. Well, maybe I can't find it.

But anyway, so this person whose name we're still trying to think of along with Mrs. Nixon were sort of spearheading the opposition?

H.S.: Yeah, yeah. He was quite a speaker on these CPO meetings, you know. We had a lot of them. Well, they still have one once in a while around here.

M.O'R.: Did you get involved in that?

H.S.: No, I stayed away. I thought, well, if they're going to build a dam, what the heck, let them build it. You can't stop progress, you know what I mean.

M.O'R.: And you figured that if it happened you'd just move?

H.S.: Well, yeah. If they want to buy me out, I guess I could go live in a rest home some place, retirement home. [laughing]

M.O'R.: Well, you probably weren't quite ready for that then.

H.S.: I wasn't quite ready, no, but - and I'm still not ready, as far as that goes. I might want to stay here another year or two.

[end of side one]

HAROLD SEIFFERT

September 5, 1996

TAPE 2, Side 2

H.S.: I should stay here for at least 60 years. I've got a little bit to go.

M.O'R.: That's right. You got a few more years to go.

H.S.: If the old house stands up that long.

M.O'R.: That would be what, 2002?

H.S.: Yeah, I guess it would be. Yeah. No, well, it's a good old house yet, as far as that goes.

M.O'R.: It seems to be in pretty good shape. But a lot of other residents were not too happy about this dam idea, though?

H.S.: All the old-timers that lived here, you know, for any length of time, they was all against it.

Well, in the first place, you know, you stop and think of all the good farm ground that was going to flood. And we don't have any too much around here anyway; it's getting all used up. And this Tualatin Valley down here, where they're going to build the dam, it would take in all this farm ground. And it would be a shame.

I always said they should build a dam right here. This has got this high ridge and a big basin back, but they said that would cost too much because to have the same acre-feet of water, they'd have to go about 300 feet high here.

M.O'R.: I see. This is the higher site that you're talking about.

H.S.: Yeah. That'd be the upper. And I said that'd be the place - it would take me out, but then, you know what I mean, and a few others around here, but ...

M.O'R.: It would take you out? Wouldn't the dam be above you though?

H.S.: Well, I'd be right underneath it.

M.O'R.: Oh yeah, I see. So that would probably still take you out.

H.S.: I wouldn't want it, you know. See, from this ridge right here, this is just a little narrow ridge across here that's all rock and what-have-you - well, it's wide enough it'd hold water, you know. And then it's just a narrow gap right over here across the other hill. It'd be ideal for a dam, it wouldn't be over about four or five hundred feet long. But they said it'd have to be 300 feet high, which would be easy. And it would cost too much money to build a high dam rather than a low dam. So that's why they want to go down. But anyway, nowadays, what the heck is the cost? They'll blow it for something else if they don't blow it here.

M.O'R.: That's right. Well, they'd have to buy a lot of farmland down below.

H.S.: Yeah, and think of all the people that live down here they'd have to buy out.

M.O'R.: Yeah, that's right.

H.S.: There's quite a few people live in this area.

M.O'R.: This, I think, affected people down the river more, but there was also a plan - this would be back in the 50's, I think - that the Army Corps of Engineers had for improving the Tualatin, they were going to ...

H.S.: Straighten it out.

M.O'R.: Straighten it out, exactly.

H.S.: And clean it out. Yeah.

M.O'R.: Yeah. You'd heard about that, then?

H.S.: Oh, yeah.

M.O'R.: And had you heard much comment about that plan?

H.S.: Not too much. But there was a lot of opposition down in the lower end, Lake Oswego area. You know, where a lot of people got fancy homes on the riverbank down there.

M.O'R.: Yeah. They weren't too ...

H.S.: And they didn't want nothing disturbed.

M.O'R.: That's right.

H.S.: So that was a big opposition there, just like this Cherry Grove here, flooding it out. But it really needs cleaned out in areas, actually. There's lots of places from - well, from Dilly on down that's it's almost stagnant, you know, there's so much junk in the river that it don't hardly flow.

M.O'R.: And by junk you mean just ...

H.S.: Oh, it's all the trees and stuff, stumps and everything else, and even garbage stuff, you know. It would be nice if it was cleaned out, but it takes a lot of money.

M.O'R.: Although I guess, actually, if it's natural garbage, I guess the present thinking is that it actually provides habitat for fish and ...

H.S.: Yeah, now they - you know, when they logged back in the Trask area, a lot of stuff they logged right up the river, you know, and chunks and everything flew in there. Well, the tate made old Kenneke of Alder Creek Lumber clean out the whole thing. They had to get down there with the equipment and take every piece of stuff out until it was clean. And then, here a few years back, they was back there with equipment putting junk back in the river, see. You know, he spent a lot of money back there trying to clean up the river to satisfy them, and now they dump logs in there and even put cables on so they won't wash out, of course, but to make these pools. You know. It's just a complete turnaround.

M.O'R.: Yeah, I guess the thinking or the science behind this is changing.

H.S.: Yes, I know.

M.O'R.: Well, so then another event that you might have been familiar with, especially since you were working at the Water District and everything, you probably were at least aware of it, was the moratorium that the State slapped on Washington County, I guess it was in 1970, a building moratorium that forced the formation of the Unified Sewerage Agency, got all these small sewer districts - put them out of business? Do you remember that?

H.S.: Yes. It was probably a good deal, though, because a lot of - like Gaston, they had their own setup down here for the town, more or less, you know, in the area there, and they couldn't afford it, really.

M.O'R.: Couldn't afford to upgrade, you mean?

H.S.: Yeah. To satisfy them. So now when they come in, now it's - they've got nothing to do with it, it's all taken care of at one head, you know, instead of many of them.

M.O'R.: And do you remember anything about the Gaston plant down there?

H.S.: Not too much. At that time I wasn't that much interested in it because we had our own worries up here.

M.O'R.: Your septic system, you mean?

H.S.: Yeah. Well, mine has never bothered me at all. I had to put a new top on it one time, but outside of that, in all the years I've lived here, I've never had no problem. I've had it pumped twice in fifty some years, and it didn't need it the last time at all.

M.O'R.: Well, it sounds like it's working pretty good, then.

H.S.: And it didn't really need it the first time. But the only reason I had it pumped then is the guy come out looking for

work. He was from Aloha Sanitary System, whatever they called it. They have a truck pump. And so he made me an offer: he said, "I'll pump it for \$50."

And I said, well, you couldn't go wrong on that. And he figured he'd only get one truckload. It took three. And - But they went down here and dumped it in the field.

M.O'R.: Oh yeah? Dumped it in what field?

H.S.: Right down here where these Christmas trees are. Sucked it out and spread it.

And he said, "I didn't realize it was so big," he said. It took three loads. Normally, one load would do it, you know what I mean, out of the - but mine is real big. It's a homemade affair.

M.O'R.: Did you - I mean, it was here when you bought the property?

H.S.: Yeah, it was here when I bought the property. And the fellow I bought it from, was Leo Wickstrom - he said, he told me how long it had been there, and he said he never had no problem with it then. Well, I really didn't either, but he talked me into pumping it that time. I thought maybe it needed it, but it really didn't.

M.O'R.: So it wouldd just be a big tanker truck and then he'd bring it down and spread it on the fields down below?

H.S.: Mm-hmm. You're not allowed to do anything like that, now.

M.O'R.: No, I imagine not.

H.S.: No, it's got to go into the treatment plant.

M.O'R.: Although at least putting it in the fields, it's better than dumping it straight into the river.

H.S.: Well, yeah.

M.O'R.: I guess there used to be quite a few outfalls along the river?

H.S.: Oh, yeah. Shoot, there was a lot of them. All the way down the Tualatin, in fact.

M.O'R.: And I guess during the peak troubles on the Tualatin in terms of water quality, that would probably be maybe in the 60's or something?

H.S.: Well, you take in the early days, you could do it, and there was enough water and flow and everything, it didn't bother. But you know, now we've got so many people that you have to do it. You know what I mean. There used to be one or two or three going down the line, it didn't amount to anything. But now, if you get a thousand, why, you'd ruin it completely. That's the difference.

M.O'R.: It's just too much burden for that river to absorb. And the other thing, I guess, that changed, too, is that the flows aren't what they used to be because they're drawing so much out for irrigation.

H.S.: No, no. The flow is - well, when they logged all the timber off, that made quite a difference in the river, Tualatin.

When I first come to Cherry Grove in 1934, up by Lee Falls up two miles from here, up the road, river here, they had pretty near - I would say close to an acre of pool below the falls. We used to have rafts; you'd build a raft, you know, and we'd paddle around in the raft and we'd go swimming in there and everything. Now, why, there's no space at all. It's all filled in.

M.O'R.: So there's less flow over the falls, you think?

H.S.: Yeah. Well, after they logged, there's - when you get a heavy rain and what-have-you, you see, the water all comes down and it filled it all in. Trash and what-have-you.

M.O'R.: And soil and topsoil and the rest of it?

H.S.: Yeah. Everything. Why, now that hole there that used to be about an acre is - why, I don't think it's over about 15 feet in depth and maybe 30 feet wide. There was no way I could paddle

around there. And this was still water in there, you know, below it. Now it's a current all the way through.

M.O'R.: So a big pool back in the old days?

H.S.: Yeah, oh yeah. Shoot, we used to go swimming up there and everything and play in the water when we was kids.

M.O'R.: Was that your favorite swimming hole then up there?

H.S.: Well, at one time. But now you got nothing.

M.O'R.: Did you go swimming any other places on the river?

H.S.: Well, when that got filled in, more or less, we had a place we called Sucker Dam down here, we used to go in there some. But now, there's nothing. When you get a big storm or rain, you get high water comes through, and two days later it's gone. Before you had a river running here all winter.

M.O'R.: I guess that's one of the reasons that the logging practices needed to be changed, too.

H.S.: Of course they've got trees planted now when they log, so that's helping, you know, this young trees.

[end of tape]