

Questions for Tigard Group Oral History

Present: Mary Brazil, Martha Duff, Don Duff, Marjorie Haglund, Betty Moore, Mary Payne, Ben Theall, Jackie Theall, Nancy Phay

The first question I have is 4th of July is usually a community celebration. Do you have any memories of a special 4th of July in Tigard? When and what was the celebration like. Did Tigard not make a big deal of the 4th of July?

Basically no.

Yes. Just ?? the ? started. At the High School. They're weren't any before that I remember at all.

No fireworks?

Town and Country Days, first, and then it went to Cruisin' Tigard, but uh,

Those were in August, they weren't in July.

I know they were. Both in August.

No picnics, no special recognition?

Family type things. People had large families.

But it wasn't a community holiday.

Not actually. Not at all. That's interesting. Considering how its celebrated on the east coast. Such a big thing. Still is.

Well over in Vancouver and places like that they do a bigger job.

Vancouver, Washington, ya. Across the river.

OK, since 4th of July is panning out a course here, can you remember any other event in your lifetime that Tigard really did come out and celebrate as a community? Any time, single event. VJ Day, anything like that? Nothing? The grange didn't do anything? Not really? Again, that's interesting. OK.

Was Tigard a city in the time that she's talking about?

No it wasn't incorporated till what?

1961. That made a big difference.

After it was incorporated, it seemed like uh, that was a big celebration because the bicentennial year was on the national register.

Ya, in fact it will be celebrating its birthday again this year, it will be thirty years, yeah. OK, well shall we try again? OK, this is very recent actually, its the end of the period we're looking at. We mentioned transportation on our list we did last week as being important to Tigard. Do you remember how the community responded to the event of I-5 becoming out Eastern boundary. The interstate going through the eastern edge of Tigard. Did that cause any stir in the community?

Boy are we really lively. I think I slept through all of that. Betty, you've been here all this time....

I could talk about the highway that went through this way.

99.

OK, tell me a little bit about 99W Betty?

Well that was of course when the war started that they really went to work on 99 and I lived with my parents right up behind where U.S. Bank is now on Scoffins. The house isn't there any more, but, in night and day, 24 hours a day, they were building that highway and keeping everybody ?? But uh, and of course there were lots of changes then on Main Street because it shut off, well I mean we didn't know that was Main Street then, but anyway, they shut off all these little side roads where the highway went. And uh, and then it just changed the whole area. It was a whole new thing to us to have this big....

Did it go out to the coast right away?

Well, 99 of course went through McMinnville and on down to the coast. Hwy 18.

So there were a lot of changes along there then. OK. Any other transportation events that any of you can remember.

Well there wasn't a high school here. For a lot of years. And so, when the trains came in, lots of them went to Portland to the high schools, or what they termed colleges

Or business schools. Beaverton.

Beaverton was the, was the place where they came next and then they uh, they had grade schools right there, in downtown Tigard, close to the railroad, wasn't it. Where the railroad went through, there was one log school. Then they moved it back on the property and Betty here used to play in there and uh, write on the chalkboard which still existed in the old log school and they built a new building in front. And Mabel McDonald told me that the kids used to peel the sap from the cherry trees, wild cherry trees across, about where that viaduct is now, and chew it. And they called it cherry gum. And it must have tasted terrible.

Well I don't know, I always chewed the tar off the road. I mean I ??

(Laughter!!!)

We used to do that.

We got all the germs that were floating around, and brought them home one way or another.

I'm sure glad to know somebody that chewed too.

Ya, we did it all the time.

Now kids sniff glue and take Niacin, the latest one. Kids don't change do they? We just change what we chew on.

The environment produces whatever you need. That's about right.

OK, so much for I-5. Um, we're going through the questions quickly here. OK, if you look back when you arrived in Tigard, can you just kind of close your eyes for a minute and visualize walking down Main Street, what stores you went into, who you would meet, and what you would be buying. It doesn't matter what time because Main Street changed, so all of you have your own recollection. Betty lived on Main Street.

Well I moved to Main Street in 1926, I was three years old. And uh, before that my mother had a little farm up where the new theater is now. She had some acreage up there. And then my dad went into the grocery business. He worked for the grocer down on Main Street. It seems so funny to call it Main Street. And uh, then he bought the business so we moved down there behind the store. It was a building that's very similar to where the uh, Italian restaurant is now, or the French restaurant was. We lived there too. It was a building like that and then it burned down, and so we lived where the Italian restaurant is now for a while. But my dad had the grocery store. Everybody lived behind the stores.

Mostly families.

My dad had the grocery store, but I liked to go over to Mr. Tigard's store across the street because the candy was cheaper over there, even though my dad gave me the candy in our store, it was more fun going over to Mr. Tigard and it didn't take long to find out that you could get as much for a penny as you could for a nickel from Mr. Tigard. He just gave you the same amount. So that's where I bought my candy.

A little competition. Well Mary you came at a later date.

Right. I arrived in 1937. And there wasn't anyplace to rent. Mr. Johnson owned all the rentals and they were all occupied. So I had to assume the responsibility of the cafeteria for the high school, which was the building where Albertsons recently moved from. And uh, I went in there, somebody asked me, they said we didn't know teachers could cook. And I said, but most of us read. So, that's how I got one of my wedding presents. And got the recipes. I found out, kids really liked good soup. It had all the food elements in it, and was good for them. We had milkshakes and a lady down Greenburg Road came every morning with these little individual pies, homemade. We had good food for them and in the back room, where we ate our meals in a little nook, the teachers assembled. They just walked through the kitchen and went back and sat down, see what's in the casserole, coffee pot was on the table, and then if they wanted to go out and get pie and ice cream, milkshakes, that was about the menu.

So, in essence with the school in that area, you lived on Main Street too.

Yes, oh yes. Right at the end of Greenburg Road. It ended right, night after night the headlights came in

What other businesses were along ...

The barber shop, what else Betty? There were a lot of things there. The blacksmith shop, the pool hall, and the Methodists were up of the pool hall.

They also did wrestling and stuff up there. We used to play up there. The uh, two rooms that were upstairs, according to Mr. Shamoni, and his family built the first structures on that street, I think, starting with the railroad tracks on this side, they built their hotel with a restaurant in the front, and the two stories farther up, upstairs, and in the second floor were two bedrooms that salespersons, called drummers in those days, used to come from the city in the evening, with all their sample cases, and eat their dinner, go upstairs and rest, then come down in the morning, take their sample cases to the livery stable, which was on the opposite side of the street and down from there. The Shamonis had built a livery stable on their of the street, but Harry Cooney and his sister came into some money when their parent died, and they invested it in the livery stable and moved it across where that car wash is. It was a big building. It never was that little restaurant, because, I think of Avis and these car rentals, how much space they need to park different types of cars for different needs, well that was the same thing.

What was the building that now is the saw shop, right next to Fanno Creek?

It was a mill. A lumber mill, remember that?

Oh. Oh. Oh, yes. That wasn't very old, I mean.

Not comparatively. No. That's where we used to go down and swim in the creek. I mean there wasn't anything there.

Well Mary, the cafeteria that you had, was this, did they buy the food or...

The kids that could afford it did, and some of them brought their lunch. Many of them brought their lunches. See that was the middle of depression years. But people that talk about the hard times during depression, I think I had more making your own fun, which we all find out in time, you can't buy it. You have to make it. And we did really stupid, dumb things. I had a pair of overalls, there was a character in the comics call Skippy, remember him? This little kid with all his sleeves rolled up from some older brothers outfit. He had coveralls on. But I got a pair of white coveralls, I wasn't too tall, and the pants were rolled up, the sleeves were rolled up. I had a dahlia that big in the button hole, and a funny hat on, and a bunch of us went over to visit a friend that was recently married. And when we got there, they had company. We didn't want to go in. People we didn't know. But eventually we got nerve enough to go and all of us seemed to enjoy our parents more than kids seem to relate to theirs today. My parents used to go with us to dances, everything.

It still happens. We go to Ty Valley once in a while. It's the whole family thing.

Then the little ones put to bed on.....

OK, Don and Martha, 19 years in Tigard. You must remember Main Street in different ways too.

Oh, yeah. It's changed over the years. There was Copeland lumber, Tigard Lumber is gone, Valley Auto Parts just closed. That was a blow. I thought they'd be there forever. Things keep changing all the time. All those little businesses there on the upper side of the creek there, that you were talking about, the mill, they keep coming and going. I think when we came here that they had pretty well written off Main Street, fade away, but it hasn't.

There has been big change though because 99W is where most of the upscale and discount stores, video stores....

The traffic is also upscale.

But it was interesting here because of Girards was still here. That was quite a focus in the downtown area. Girards Market.

Well he had another small market when we first, when I first came to Tigard in 50's. It was across the street from ?? and then Lotes had their drug store down their with the soda fountain. Oh and there was a big variety store, and I can't think of those peoples name. Tallent.

Well Lifefires was up there too. Tallent is the one I think you were thinking of.

?? the Ford dealership.

Right.

And the ?? was where the Chamber of Commerce is now. And they had a real good bakery. Oh yes. Where the liquor store is, that was the post office. But they had a bakery in there.

Not where the liquor store is.

On the corner of...

Right in the middle of town.

What was the use of the building before A-Boy had it?

What was there?

That big square building has gone through a metamorphosis.

The old library building?

It was just kind of a vacant lot. Never was anything important. But that concrete building was a mattress factory?

Ya. Really? Ya. Boy this has changed.

My husband worked there for a while.

I can't remember when it closed.

Well, he used, the man who started it, it was an automobile dealership years back, before Ford came in. Mr. Vermillia took over that building. My husband worked there. We had the restaurant, because he used to come home at noon to help me, and then I had all

the books, and the things that teachers would order, they, the kids would come there to buy.

?? Chevy dealership when I first came here.

Mel's Chevrolet?

Years and years. Used to be called Lone Oak.

Who had it before then?

Lone Oak.

My father in law named it.

The Lone Oak has quite a history, doesn't it?

Yes it does. And there's a Hostetler boy living down there in the nice white house behind it on Hall.

The one with the pillars on it right behind...

Hall Blvd. is named after them. It was. Hostetler was too hard to spell so they just left it Hall.

Actually there was Hall already. They figured it made better sense to kind of follow it through, but it made me kind of upset.

It was hard to spell is what Anna said.

The original Hosburger house was where the mortuary is.

Too bad they couldn't spell it.

I was trying to remember the other day, what business was in there before Schoolhouse Furniture...

It was Safeway.

Before they moved across the street.

That's the original Safeway store?

There was an ice cream place on the corner where all the high school kids went for ice

cream after the game.

Right at the corner where Safeway is now. OK.

Where was the high school.

The high school was where Payless is about now.

That's where it was?

Albertsons. Yah. The original 1920 they built that and the boys and girls didn't have to go to Beaverton.

Oh, I see.

My sister was in first grade when they built ??

Mary do you remember how many students were in the high school then?

No, but an interesting story in that book is about one of these famous world known, or nationally known teachers in business. And that was Nellie Elwert. Nellie was everybody in town teacher, but she ruled with an iron hand. If the boys had a basketball game, and she had a typing contest, they didn't play.

And she probably got that from her parents, too.

She had so many prizes that the rest of the high school, in the whole state, refused to compete anymore with her.

I used to be on here typing team, so I know. We carried our typewriters ... on the bread boards, she'd slide the bread boards out of the cooking class.

And she'd pound out ribbons with here foot and she was upstairs, and teachers downstairs couldn't have a chance. She was a real character.

She was the most devoted teacher I ever knew in my life because in the middle of the depression she went to the downtown Portland area and asked if her students could come in there and work in the business office for experience, because without experience you can't get a job and you can't get experience till you get a job. She took her noon hour, went to Portland with a whole big batch of sandwiches, meeting those kids in the parking lots, they'd tell her what problems they thought they were having in the morning, she'd give them all pointers on how to work it out, then she'd go back in the evening, well she took them in there first in the morning before school hours and so they were very well prepared both in experience in the field and otherwise and Mr.

That was early on the job schooling.

Mr. Bellu said he got a letter from some business person in Chicago and this girl said that they asked her which business college she graduated from, and she said I did not go to business college, Mrs. Elworth was my teacher. He said you're hired. She got the government offices, people were in high places from her class in government offices.

There's an Elworth Street in town somewhere isn't there?

It's not in town. It's down past six corners. Down towards Sherwood. And the boys who were in her classes built the house for her down there. She owned two farms and built another home. And I went down there to interview her. But I really admired her greatly. She was a very hard worker.

The school wasn't named after her.

Well she had a hard time staying in the school.

A bit of a rebel eh?

Well the first principal didn't care for her. She didn't know anything but German when she was small. She had a hard time getting through school herself. But she was a worker. She overcame every problem. She used to carry heavy golf bags, and caddied over at the Tualatin County Club. They lived in Tualatin, and she could carry four bags. Now that was a Portland downtown Jewish clubhouse, because they wouldn't take them in from Multnomah? And uh, if she could carry four bags, and they were made out of leather, full of golf sticks, she got a whole dollar.

Amazing lady.

She walked with a stride.

She had an iron will, that's for sure.

She had no children of her own, they were all her children. ya.

My daughter took typing from her too.

Marge, your daughter took typing from her too?

Yes, and she's thirty six now. But she took typing before she retired not too long after that.

Her walls were covered with banners that she won year after year after year. And

nobody else had them and they were going to throw them out at the other high school down on Durham Road. She went down and captured them.

Good for her.

Good for her.

OK

Can I ask one question about transportation.

Sure.

The kids going to Beaverton School ...

They went on the school bus. All but my husband. He had to walk home. His mother wanted him to work in the yard. The kids stayed for a ball game, he walked home, which I thought was pretty unfair.

Kind of a long hike.

It was a long hike.

OK, anything else to add to that?

Could I ask one more question?

Sure. This is your class.

Well the old character I liked down on Tigard Street from the feed store.

He's not an old character! It's only in his head.

I like him!

I do too! I knew him before he bought that place. And he is...he loves that attitude.

But as far as any gardening questions you've got about anything, he does know.

He's been there for quite a while.

He's been there quite a few years, alright, but not, not like Betty's family, and people like that.

Oh no. My dad built that building and I used to roller skate in it.

Of course it was always the feed store. Sold hay and all that. Oil...

Betty, sounds like you had quite a gang of kids on Main Street. \

Oh, ya. We had a bunch of kids. We had more fun, like Mary said. Just playing kick the can, hide and seek, in the summer time, all evening long we'd play. In the summertime, we'd swim in the creek and uh, some of the boys would skinny dip, but I don't think any of us girls ever did. If it ever froze over, which it did occasionally, well then of course that was fun too in the winter time.

It wasn't so polluted back then.

It was a crawdad hole. You could catch fish in it

It was good to take the bacon rind and tie it on a string you know, and dip it in there for the crawfish to grab onto and just whip out into a can or something, take them home. My mother would be horrified.

In the 50's there were still fish in Fanno?

Ya, but I think there were more there because you remember where ?? She had a trout pond and raised them and then he'd dump some in the creek.

And then they caught a salmon on the Tualatin River, right where the bend is, oh about 20 years ago, we were told about that and this man said it was a good sized salmon. How it got up there...of course he had to come upstream from the Willamette.

Wonder how it got across the dam.

Well, you mean the dam that feeds Oswego Lake? Or Sucker Lake?

Ya. Ya. Ya.

Well I don't know.

But there was some salmon.

OK, lets try another question. That was a good one. Finally. OK, um, natural disasters are something that usually bring a community together and I can think of three that probably affect Oregonians in general, some more closely than others. Probably one that did have an affect was the Columbus Day storm in 62. How badly did Tigard get hit?

Badly. Very badly. My son was at home. The fir trees broke the limbs of. He said they were shooting across the river towards the house. We lived on the bank of the north side and he said they shot across there like arrows before they fell into the water just before they reached the far bank. And that was where, uh, there was a park there. It was kind of far from the bank of the river. One fifteen foot stump there when we bought it. And uh, he said it was just amazing. We couldn't get down. There were log branches as big as that. Fir trees were brittle. It dropped on our lane into the house. And uh, I was in Portland at the time it hit, and when I got home, why, I couldn't believe it. And my husband was the only adult killed in that storm in Portland, because he was on the Columbia River working at the marina, managing. And when the storm hit, I don't know if you remember, it was the 1949, it was a big centennial for Oregon, or 48 or something like that, anyway they built this marina with all glass, and the glass went out of that, the top of my car, it looked like you'd taken razor blades to this rag top, brand new oldsmobile with a white top, it was just cut through. And uh, I was in Meier and Frank store, waiting for him to come buy a pair of shoes. He didn't come, he was always so punctual, and I couldn't figure it out. The shoe man, uh, going in the back room where the shoes were stacked, and they were listening on the radio. They heard he was dead. They knew I was waiting for him. But when the store closed at 10:00, an older man working there asked me if I minded riding home with one of the young fellas. So I said no, I don't mind. Because I didn't know how I was going to get home. I was watching from the window on the fifth floor, and all the power was off, except their sub power, you know, big generators. So we walked down the steps, five flights, there weren't any elevators, or escalators. And uh, we got in his car and eventually he parked way up out of town for the day ?? and uh, came out, and he wouldn't let me go home alone. I asked him, he lives in Garden Home, and when we got to that place, I said my friend there on uh, Pfaffle Road, I said take me there. She's a nurse, and I was having a severe asthma attack, because I had run up there, and the wind was still blowing from Meier & Frank clear up to the Park blocks. And I told the young fella, don't get alarmed, I said it's just a noise, and it's very scary because people aren't used to it. And I said, when we get to Tigard, I'll go to her house, she has a daughter that takes the same medication I was taking. So he took me to her house, and he wouldn't let me go any farther with here or anybody. Of course she had to get the dosage, and her phone was still in operation. She was able to do that, but she did give me a shot, and the attack subsided and he drove me home but he couldn't drive his little sports car over those big logs lying across, so we had to walk down the hill. When we got to the door he said is there an adult in the house? Well my son had come home from high school in Portland, and gathered up all the firewood and put it on the carpet in front of the fireplace. We didn't have any power. We didn't have any water because we had an electric pump and uh, no electricity, so I decided to make a cheese sandwich. I remember it was on a Friday night and a friend from the Franciscan church, St. Anthony's down here, had come by to baptize Dr. Thompson's two adopted sons. One was about six, and one eight. And he said it was too distracting for the boys, they were old enough to realize this disturbance, he'd wait until morning. So he came to the house where he always like to stay when he was here. He was really stationed in Washington at that time, but he and Dr. Thompson were good

friends. So, anyhow, he was there. And pretty soon headlights came to the top of the hill, and I said to my son, go up and pull those branches off the road so your dad can come down. But it wasn't his father, it was the police. And uh they had this medicine ? and came in the house and they said they wanted to talk to Father Coleman who'd been stationed here for six or eight years and I didn't question it. So, he went out, came right back in and said Donny died in that storm. And I went on making cheese sandwiches. And pretty soon he got me by the shoulders and shook me. He said you're not listening to me. I said, yes I am. I said, I heard what you said. But I said, I'm not going to get hysterical or do anything to upset the rest of you. It was hard enough to give me that message. So, he got real upset, and he started walking diagonally through the room and picked the phone up every time he went by it. And he got my daughter in Anchorage, Alaska and got a message through. He as very demanding. I wouldn't have been, because I was in shock. So they all ate cheese sandwiches. I don't know what else they had. I can't remember.

Wow. I didn't realize that asking a question....

Maybe I shouldn't say that much.

No..that's ok. That's what an oral history is all about.

And I have the newspaper with the story on the front page on the following Sunday. It was very well written. A two year old child was also killed when a tree limb or something fell.

That's amazing for how violent the storm is.

Oh, it was.

But you know everybody became closer. All the neighbors....my teetotaler friend brought me a beer case with water in it, and set it on the edge of the porch so we could drink water and make our own coffee or tea or whatever. People just did things. They didn't ask, they just got busy if they had trailers or mobile homes or anything like that. They'd have gas in it to cook, and they shared it. All of the parents that I talked with in school set up base when they would bring in meals. How many will be there, they brought in the food. Three times a day. We had no way to heat it or anything.

And that's the time of year when it's getting pretty cold.

And I heard it said all over the area and into the big city.

How long was it before everything was

Well it was ten days before we could get to the cemetery to bury my husband, and uh,

I think it was hours and hours after he died before they could get him to the hospital to pronounce him dead.

The storm, for those of you who don't know anything about it, the storm was a top force hurricane force. It went through...

Eighty mile an hour winds...

Eighty to ninety to one hundred mile an hour winds.

It was a wind storm essentially.

Well, yeah. A little bit of rain.

It had been terribly wet before that so a lot of trees ??

Fir trees have very shallow roots.

This country just isn't built for that high of winds. Trees and everything went down. I know most everybody that lived through that has stories about what happened at that time. I didn't realize, as I say, but uh, the Tillamook Burn.

That was all summer long black out. Practically.

Do you remember that? The dark smoke that came from that all summer. It was terrible.

A lot of young men from this area go to fight the fire?

I don't remember that. But I know that the tree planting was done by many of the kids in grade school, about sixth grade up, would go out with a hundred little seedlings and plant trees.

Then again, those that are new to the area, in 1933, the coastal forest around Tillamook, covered a huge, huge area, just burned all summer long. They just get one fire stopped and under control, and then it would break out. It was a very dry summer with a lot of limbs and they just couldn't keep ahead of the fires in the coastal range, the northern part of it. It just all burned.

Even if had been on the news, I would have been too young to remember.

And the thing, talking with people that I found they remember replanting it. Because the whole state turned out. Boy scouts, girl scouts, it was let's get the burn replanted. It was the first big reforestation project for the state.

Those trees are ready now to be harvested.

Uh-huh (yes). Yep, they're starting to take the logs to thin them and get them ready for old growth.

OK. Um, the first question really kind of goes along with the last question that I have. How are we doing on time? Well, I'll hurry through this if I can. And it's real interesting to me we didn't have any 4th of July to speak of and that type of more organized community doesn't seem to be really evident in Tigard's early history. You were community as far as people sharing your lives together, but not so much an organized community.

I think churches did more of that. Don't you?

Oh, yeah. The Methodist Church would have their summer picnic and the Evangelical Church and the oldest church, it had a group and they used to go over to Sucker Lake.

Laughter !!!

I love it! When I found that out it was

We used to have picnics down on the pond at Louies.

Avalon.

Oh yes. We'd come from Beaverton. I lived in Beaverton before I married. We'd come from Beaverton to swim here in the Tualatin. The river was warm and it didn't run fast.

Where are those places? I know where Roamers Ridge is.

Avalon is across on this side of the road and they're building big condominiums there.

I think they call it that.

OK, on the opposite side, and everything was still there.

What was the name of the one we were on?

That was the park too and it was more of a ...

You mean Louie?

No, not Louie.

Fishers Park.

There was Fishers....

That's were local court is.

On Fisher Road.

No not on Fisher Road.

It's spelled differently. It's Fisher and the other is Fischer. There was two different families.

And then Elsner had their park farther on down.

Oh yes. Elsner's. That's where the Catholics went for picnics.

Oh, I went there too, and I'm...

You were a ?

I know.

And the Catholics let you in their park? I can't believe it.

Mary, where do you see all this? You said you liked Avalon or Louies?

We used to go to Louies, but mostly we went to Avalon. My nieces and nephews liked to pedal those swans around.

Yes, they had big white swans that you pedaled.

And they had a children's wading pool. Away from the river, not right in the

John Fredericks was a baseball hero in those days. And uh, he had two sons and uh, they had, the boys had to beat the lifeguards. And they had a dance hall...

When we went there he was always around the park.

Who was that?

Johnny.

Well that old building that stood there for so long belonged to the highway department,

not to the Fredericks, yes. And it was a disgrace. There was no paint left.

That one right by the road.

Tight up against the street.

Oh it was a terrible looking thing. Just falling, just melting.

But they had a dance hall there. The top part would be...the lower part would be boarded up, and then they had screening around the top because the mosquitos were bad in the summer.

Along the river there, ya.

Right where the schools were.

Do you know who built the house originally?

Yes. It was a place, it was Dr. Jones. And uh, his wife. They lived there and my husband was about five years old and he used to go up there and watch this man dig the basement with mules, and uh, and they'd pick it out and he hold the shovel face down and the mules would pull it. And when he went home, he lived next to the evangelical church so the five year old, he started talking like the muleskinners. (Laughter!!) And the minister said to him, he said, you have, you mustn't talk like that. He said how else do you get mules to go? (Laughter!!!)

I love it!!!

That was quite a house. Ballroom. And all those plate glass windows and it was beautifully done. And these people when they did move in, got very well acquainted with him and they gave him this big old music box with twelve ?? (tape ran out).

Do you still have it?

Yes, isn't that lucky?

Oh....

It's heavy. It's just full of metal. My son has it now because he took the penny thing off, then it just played on and on. (Laughter) It was all mechanical. The other thing he got was a rocking horse that wasn't really, it rocked in a frame. It was pure horsetail hair and mane and little bitty stirrups and my son used to get on that, he'd wind up the music box and sit on that horse and just be happy as a clam. Never made a sound. All alone.

How wonderful.

This is, we're talking about Tigard becoming a city rather late in 1961. And uh, I moved here just shortly after that and I know there was some contention. Why, and I think we partially answered this, but, maybe you have some other things to add. Why do you think that this area was so late to incorporate into a city when Sherwood and Tualatin had done so fifty years before?

Well, it just didn't happen to be someone in power that knew how to go about it. And Wilbur Bishop was mayor at that time and highly criticized. But he also was instrumental in the campaign with Howell Apply who was running for Secretary of State early on when Hatfield - Hatfield and Apply and they had traveled together and did a lot of those things. But he was active politically in California before that and knew how to attack that. He was also the youngest editor of the Emerald down at Corvallis, when he going to college there.

So you think that lack of politically aware leadership....

A person politically aware of how to do those things

I don't think that that was the whole story. I think that even in those days, there were a lot of people who moved out here from Portland. They were getting away from the city scene. They wanted to be out here in the county. And they weren't the least bit interested. My husband was on the council at the time and we had several meetings at our house, kind of on the quiet about incorporating, because they were trying to get the process going and they didn't want people to get all upset about it before they had some pretty definite plans made. And I remember, I kept wondering if anybody would notice that all the council member's cars were parked out in front of our house. (laughter)

A lot of people were really opposed to it and Metzger was even worse than Tigard.

Oh ya.

And now its taken into Tigard. Oh those people...

They won't even use Tigard on their addresses now over there in Metzger. It's Portland. 97224.

Ours could be Portland too.

Well sure, but boy, I'm not going to put Portland on mine!

I don't either.

Anyway I think that was partly it.

We were too far away from Portland, you know, we could still be country and they couldn't see...

That's was more the idea. They thought that they just wanted to be in the country out here in the county. Suburbs.

They must have been happy with the ? government then.

But you know, when I was a kid, I remember my dad, my dad helped get electricity, he helped get the water in, he helped, and they were talking about incorporating then and that was back in the 30's you know. And look how long it took.

Well right after they had the fire down on Main Street, they wanted to get a fire department started here and they couldn't get it off the ground. They had just a, they'd pull a hose

It was in my dad's garage.

Anyway Walter Upshaw put a roaring halt to that because he lived up on another hill, and he didn't see why, they'd never do him any good.

Dr. Davis, dentist, his wife was in one of those upper floors, they rented that and he'd gone back to Hermiston, I think is where they came from in eastern Oregon. And uh he moved back to Hermiston closing out his office there and when he got back, she told him she had to carry the baby in the high chair, and she still didn't know how she did it, down the back steps and out on the middle of the street for safety and I guess they just had the first one, they had two but.....

Are you talking about Patty?

Patty ya. I don't know it doesn't make any difference. But she wasn't a very large lady. And a high chair with a baby in it?

This happened about one or two in the morning.

Well she thought she could run back up and get other things of value out of the place but you couldn't put the baby in the middle of the street.

Well that was a good thought!!

The lady remembered to restrain her child during the fire.

Well my mother got her canaries out. I remember that. And I saved my doll by throwing it down the stairs in a blanket and my sis had a fit because there were more important things to save than my doll.

Not to you.

I remember when my mother looked out of the bedroom window and saw.. actually it started in the building this way from us, there was an alley way between and um, on the farther side of that building, they had an outdoor stairway going up, and I don't know how it started, except they said the daughter and this Mildred Kruger had been and was smoking a cigarette, put the cigarette in the grass and that's how the fire started. I don't know, but anyway, that's how. And so that building burned first then my dad's grocery store and our living quarters and uh, we got all the groceries, everybody helped getting everything out of the store as best they could out on the street. The next morning people came into town and started putting all the groceries in their cars and driving away....They thought, you know, here it is out on the street, might as well have it. My poor dad.

Sounds like the big city.

But then I remember hollering through the other window across from Mrs. Davis to wake them up, you know, about the fire. It was a pretty scary thing. The fire bell was situated kind of where the City Hall, I mean the Chamber of Commerce is now, kind of a space in there and uh, they rang the fire bell. And everybody came then. The fire engines had to come out from Portland. So, they were lucky to save as much as they did.

When was that?

About 1930 I think. It was a real scary time.

And it was Tualatin that has the district here now. It should have been Tigard, but it wasn't. Tualatin Grove Fire District.

But we had lots of fires. You see the Catholic School burn down. The school burned down. ?? burned down. Knouses' burned down.

The wooden buildings just get old and

The school. I have some pictures here. And uh...here's the, this is the same school building, and that bothers me alot. You might pass that around. The Butteville School.

All those people around the front steps, well Mr. Omara and Mr. oh fiddle, give me a hint, you know me... the blacksmith.....

Oh Erick?

No. No. The other one. Way out there by where Tigardville started. Anyway they were only in the second grade

Gaarde.

Uh huh (yes)

Anyway, they were in the second and they named every teacher and every kid on that step, they called back and forth for a week, puzzling it out, because they were only in the second grade when they knew each other. Both born in 1901.

Martha has discovered the problem with that picture. And I thought at first there must be a mislabeled picture. I got those at the Oregon Historical Society because one, you have a single story building (laughter) ?? two story building. And I said, hey wait, there's a problem here. But they added a story and moved the belfry up about, what 1913, did I have it written on there?

1905 and oh, 1895 with a question mark and then 1905 also with a question mark.

So really, there's two different, the same building, but they added a story.

They did. They figured out who everybody was in the picture.

My heavens.

They're built alike.

Well that is a very good thing.

No this is a xerox picture. Here's another picture that I got from the Portland, both the Washington County and the Oregon Historical Society, but there's a picture of the store at McDonald, um, when the Tigard's had it and then this just the last picture of the more deteriorated one, just before they tore the building down in 1955.

Old post office.

Ya.

And they called it East Butte School. And this was Tigardville.

There was an East Butte Grange too wasn't there?

Uh-huh (yes).

Remember I asked last week, and I still want to know where that butte is? And I still haven't got any closer. Here's an aerial photograph of Tigard in '64 and you can see all the open land looking from the General Motors building towards downtown.

I really enjoy seeing pictures of vacant land for some time, and my husband thought I was nuts, I think. When they get built up then I will go around and take pictures and put them together.

How long has Tigard been getting so many people coming in and houses being built?

It started when the freeway opened into Portland.

And that was when?

196....

I-5 ya.

So it happened in just the last few years.

Yeah.

But you know what I think. I thing though... this is very recent, but when they had the street of dreams up on Bull Mountain, I think that that's when the wealthier people in Portland finally woke up to the fact there was a westside. They just always thought eastside because I think they thought it was easier to get into town, and finally they realized, and then it really started.

I see. Ya.

So, Bull Mountain has always been the... because we moved here in 1966 and people were really, we saw the backside of the mountain when we bought this house. We came in from Beaverton with our realtor who was from Beaverton, saw the house and our children were real small, we weren't too concerned with schools yet and we bought the house and then we found out that Tigard was over the hill from where we lived and when we started, I started associating with the people in Tigard, or you're from Bull Mountain. It's always had a reputation as being the wealthy section of Tigard.

Well not earlier.

Farming was there.

As soon as the farms...even in the early times, there were some beautiful big homes up there.

They'd pick Bull Mountain potatoes. I mean that's where you always got your ... and strawberries.

They didn't have any bulls though.

Oh well there was a bull.

I thought maybe they raised bulls or something.

Well there was a bull that wandered around up there.

Oh sure. There was a dairy down below. A good sized dairy. That's how come he went to a convention I think in Chicago and discovered the telephone. And he came back and the big story, and put telephones here in 1901. The crank type. And the girls used to fight to be the telephone operator. They'd know all the gossip (laughter!!!) They had no trouble, no pay, but oh boy!!!

Well, we're past our time for the questions. This has been fun. I've enjoyed this.

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