

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #278 - Sides A & B & C

Subject: Wally Welcome Discusses Burns Main Street Then And Now

Place: Harney County Library, Burns, Oregon

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Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

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WALLY WELCOME: I have a picture of that.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Oh, on the side street there.

WALLY: Right on the corner, you know where the TV office is at?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

WALLY: Right on that corner was the White Front Livery Stable, and that's where that fire started. And it burnt up those twenty-seven horses. And I didn't get to go out; we watched it from our porch, that fire. It burnt out, that fire took the White Front out, and those buildings that way. And this was the French Hotel; this was the Levens Building, which is between that, you can't see. Burnt that, burnt that, it jumped the back, burnt the roof off. Took out the wooden buildings clear down to the stone building where the Elkhorn is. See the Elkhorn is a stone building. That stopped it, but it took the roofs off. The picture I was going to bring showed that, after. When I got home I had it, put some in a folder, and I was going to show you. It looks up the street after that. It's a pretty fair view after, and then what rebuilt after.

BARBARA: Well the thing is ---

WALLY: I don't know what you really want, or are interested in.

BARBARA: Yeah. I have gone down Main Street here and listed all the buildings as they

are right now. And we were wondering if we can, if there are maybe six or eight buildings down town that would have a history to go back, early --- Like the Brown Building, the Voegtly Building, and things like that, that we could --- I don't know if we could get early pictures of --- like the Brown Building and the Voegtly Building, and things like that.

WALLY: I've got pictures of both buildings that show them.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

WALLY: And also the --- and I have one --- most all pictures --- Now the first picture taken in 1889, was my grandfather's picture which is where the One Stop Service Station is at. And that showed it down the street.

BARBARA: Uh huh, well that's kind of like we would want to start it out with.

WALLY: And both of the pictures --- and I've got one picture that was taken from the opposite end, from the south looking up.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

WALLY: And at that time it shows what was later the Cole Hotel, which is where, in that block where the Central Hotel is at now, and the Highlander Cafe. And that Cole Hotel was built by Cole. And I ---

BARBARA: C O L E ?

WALLY: C O L E. Right next to it was the Royal Hotel, built by Beulah Clemens' father.

BARBARA: Oh, for goodness sakes.

WALLY: Do you know Beulah Clemens?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

WALLY: Her father Ray Smith built it. He built a lot of; he did a lot of building. He built that, and they called it the Royal Hotel. And that was right where the Central Hotel is at now, the Central Hotel is at. That Cole Hotel is a wooden building, and it had, it was kind

of a quaint building, you know, it caught fire, like most of the wood. On the other side of the street, right where, next to the Odd Fellows Building, I got a picture of the Odd Fellows Building too, you know. Between that and right where Sprouse Reitz is at was the Grand Hotel.

BARBARA: Certainly had a lot of hotels in the early days, didn't they?

WALLY: Yeah. Grand Hotel. And that caught fire on May 25th, 1930. And Jim Brinley burnt up in that fire. You know he burned up. And he and a fellow named Hickock was rooming together. And Hickock went out and he thought he was following him, but he wasn't. And it cleared that out. And the walls of those buildings are still up. You know that ---

DOROTHEA: And that was 1930?

WALLY: Clear on down to the bank, where the bank is. First National, the first bank here, built. And Garland has that as an office now. It was built in 1904.

BARBARA: Okay, so what would you say would be maybe the six, start with the six main buildings on main street?

WALLY: I would say on this side of the street, going down, of course where the Summit Hotel was over here where this --- later was the, I think --- beauty shop.

BARBARA: Whittier?

WALLY: Whittier.

BARBARA: Whittier.

WALLY: Whittier was later. Summit originally. But it's changed now, you see, it doesn't look like it did. And that building was built by Ray Smith, you know, Beulah Clemens' father. And I got pictures of Main Street showing those things. I looked last night, and I pulled pictures out, some of them on the centennial, and they used some, and some they

didn't. When I got back, I didn't get them back to where I had them, so I don't know where they are.

The six buildings I would say, going down from the Whittier Hotel that are left, there isn't anything left on that side except the Tonawama. And that's that building which is the Burnstowne Apartments now. And that building was built in 1911, and was owned by Julian Byrd, and I believe that Phil Smith was his partner. Because they had a lot of partnerships. Whether Phil owned any of that, I don't know. I know that Julian Byrd did ... had bought the Eastern Oregon Herald, which was the Times Herald. And that --- so that would be on that. That building was built in 1911. It had an upstairs, which was used as a dance hall. They roller-skated up there. They graduated from school. The last graduation from it was in 1918, I mean from that building. And why I know that, is because my cousin, young Pat Donegan graduated from it. So we had to go. (Laughter) But that was quite a building. They roller-skated, they played basketball in it, you know. Burns played, town team played Harney. They had a balcony in it; they had movies in it --

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BARBARA: Oh, my goodness.

WALLY: --- and as an all-purpose hall. And had a real good floor, real good dance floor. And that was still used, that building was still used even, they had old time dances in it in the early '30's. You know even up until 19 --- about 1937 or '38 they were having them.

And then, let's see, that was upstairs. Then in the downstairs of that building, the entrance, almost, not quite in the middle. But on the corner of that was an attorney's office, you know, right in the corner of that.

Next to that was the Times Herald, and next to that was the telephone office. And they were all in that one building, you know, on that one side. And the north side land

office was in it until that was moved in 1925; the records were moved to Vale. Vale, they went on into the government head.

But anyway that building was --- as I say they had masquerades in it, you know, they had three masquerades a year. One for the small children, pre-school, one for the grade school, and then high school or called adults, and one for the adults. People used to mask as different people. (Laughter) Or people around, you know. And so then down where the Richfield Service Station was, next to the Brown Building, there was another building in there, a brick building that has been torn down. You probably remember that building. It was right next to that, I mean a brick building in that. And that was Geer and Cummings Hardware Store, and they had a fire in 1916. And they moved down to the Masonic Building at that time. But that building of the ... I mean from --- I remember that was 1916, that fire.

An uncle and aunt built the Levens Hotel, which was later named the Arrowhead. It was across the street, and we watched it from the outside window, the flames coming up in that. But it left the walls up, so it was rebuilt.

And then after it was rebuilt, why then in the first part of 1917, why Joe Thompson opened a theater and called it the Cozy Theater. But he only operated that until October of 1917. And then Julian Byrd took it and named it the Liberty Theater. And that existed clear through, all the silent films.

Then the first sound picture that came in was by a fellow by the name of Lloyd Moore who was from Long Creek. And they opened the Oasis Theater, which is right where, the Oasis Hall which was built in 1926. It was right where the Copeland Lumber Company is at. I mean part of that --- it was torn down just a few years ago. And so, but anyway why, Moore brought, started that up later --- I was talking about theaters. Moore

and Ronald Beggs from Canyon City, Moore was from Long Creek, and they brought Warner Brothers film, that was when that was on a record and played. I remember it would get off, the picture would be talking --- the picture.

But they used that Oasis as a dance hall, that was built early 18 --- 19 --- built the service garage, which was the main part where Copeland was, later 1925. And they danced in there. And then the next year why he built the Oasis Hall, that's where we played basketball, I mean in that. And it had a little basement in it. Dance hall, good maple floor.

But when Moore opened that, he put those theater seats, with those wooden seats, and they had them on gliders. And they'd start the --- he'd start to run the movie, but on Saturday night he run a --- matinee, and then start the early show. And then about eight o'clock the dance would start and they'd slide these seats the other way and put them along the wall, you know, or where they would normally would be when they danced. And that building was in use quite a bit.

Then it later became, it was bought by Mel Kundert, and he called it the Highland Dairy. You may remember Mel Kundert. He had some property out east of Burns. And Ches Dalton and he was in partners on that. And then Ches went to Bend and was a Pepsi Cola Distributor. And Mel continued with that building. And then when he died why then it went into, I don't know who owned it then. But that was that building as the years --  
- But we'll get to that later.

We'll stop at the Tonawama, the building that was more used for different things. I mean, all the way from the upstairs then and the downstairs, was the Times-Herald office and the Land Office, telephone office. And on the front, see that front is what they call Broadway, you know now they call it Broadway, it fronted that. Well then the stairway

went up the middle, on the left side there was McCulloch and Duncan's Law office, and that was the only office upstairs. And on the other side there was a little office where Dr. Geary had an office.

Then after the fire, and that's --- Dick Racine owned it last. And I think that he gave that, I believe to Oregon State. I'm pretty sure he did, because when Scram Graham was out here, he wanted to know where that building was at.

And Bob Brown donated some land to Oregon State, which he owned. He was the son of the one, brother of Alfred Brown, Bob was the one --- Silver Springs, Maryland, he donated that to Oregon State.

BARBARA: So the next one down would probably, would be the Brown Building then.

WALLY: Brown Building, which is still there. And that Brown Building was a general merchandise store. They had, you know, general merchandise store, sold everything, you know, just everything they needed. And Nathan Brown was the father of, would be Alfred Brown's grandfather. Nathan Brown had two sons, Ben and Leon. And Alfred was Leon's son, I mean of that division of the Brown family. And they were still operating that, I think the last year, 1937. They went out of business in 1937. They came in, in 1884. Brown Building is 1884.

That wasn't the first general merchandise store, evidently the first one was Stenger and McGowan. But that was, his, Brown was 1884, and that was by far the longest one in the town that had existed as one.

The upstairs of that, during World War I, they had the ---they'd get up there and kids in school would cut out squares, bring cloth to school and cut out squares for gun wipes. And then cut up little, like confetti, for pillows, called them snips. And then every Friday why then we'd bring them down to the --- I was in the first grade on that.

And I think that when French was killed, I think they laid the body out first up there, before they took it to, ship it to ... they'd ship it out.

But it used, it had this upstairs in it, and the upstairs wasn't, it was kind of a little hall up there, you know, a little hall they'd use. Like the only use of that hall in my time that I ever remember of, was like the Red Cross was using that on Fridays. But in later years when the department of grazing came in, and they had an office over where the Arrowhead Hotel first, in one of those apartments. Then they used it a little bit. And then after they used it --- when the county built the courthouse, the courthouse moved down there. And they built that courthouse in 1942. But it was, it had uses as a --- different uses other than the grazing. Both the grazing department, and the courthouse, they only used the downtown, you know, part.

Right next to that where the building is torn down, I told you the Liberty Theater was at. I remember one night they had a stage there, and the curtain worked like ropes, you know. And so there was, you could get up on the roof, and then the roof where the curtain would go up through that corrugated iron structure where it would come up, it was supported by ropes, two would have to pull ---

SIDE B

WALLY: ... Liberty, that was, that building --- it's too bad, I mean, it was still --- Eagles used it. The church used it, that was the original Geer and Cummings Hardware Store. But after that, that Liberty Theater had a lot of uses too. The classes, after the, that graduated from Tonawama, they graduated from the Liberty Theater. And two classes out of the Ideal Theater, which is where the restaurant is at. The Silver Sage Restaurant is at now, was the Ideal Theater. That had some uses, when we get to that.



But now to get down to where Alice Tudor is at, that building was built by Weinstein's. But that corner where that is at was where the Stenger and McGowan building was built, which was the first building of any size ever built on Main Street in Burns.

BARBARA: Now is that structure the same that, where Alice's Vogue ---

WALLY: That was torn down ---

BARBARA: That was torn down.

WALLY: --- in 1929, and they built what they called the Wilburn Building where Alice is at. Built that in 1929.

And that was the biggest change the town ever made in my time was '29 when they found out that Hines got the contract in 1928. Herrick got it in, the way the mill happened to come in was by a man named Ed Barnes that was a promoter, had come in 1919 after World War I. And he wanted this timber cruise up here. And he wanted the county to do it, but the county court turned it down. Then judge died, and a new judge, why then they did bring --- had that timber cruise made.

Well then in 1923, they opened up that ... and Herrick got the bid, I think it was 287. And I remember I was in the 7th grade then, they turned school out. And they had a dance on the corner right --- which is in there now where Schillinger is at. I mean what was originally the Welcome Drug Store. Then it became Cork's Drug Store, forty years later. But part of that was, a partition in that. I remember they had a free dance.

DOROTHEA: That's where Nyleen's is now?

WALLY: Pardon?

DOROTHEA: Is that where Nyleen's is now?

WALLY: No, that's, Nyleen's were in there at one time, but that building, that building

when we come to it --- that building was built in 1904. And then the building next to it was built, and George Frye --- it was called the Frye Building. George Frye, do you remember the Bardwell's, you remember Bill Bardwell?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

WALLY: It was his grandfather. It was his grandfather. Was from mother's side was George Frye. And he also owned the building next to it where the post office was at. That would be right now where the flower shop is at, you know, in there. I have a picture, I have pictures home of that block, on that corner, and half of it from there to the Elkhorn.

See now when that fire, I told you about in 1914, took out all the roofs and burnt out the wooden buildings between the bank and where the Elkhorn Building, that stone building. But ---

BARBARA: So where the Vogue is, where Alice is, that building was redone in 1929.

WALLY: Yeah.

BARBARA: And how far did it go down --- like where Ranch Supply is, and where the old Nyleen's Building is? How much of that was done in '29?

WALLY: That's the only thing that was ever in where Alice is at. There were two different other buildings in between there. There was two, the walls are still at --- one where, the Reed building was one, the other building in that now, that wooden building in there. There was a wooden building between where that building is at, where the Vogue is at, and down where the Graphics are at.

BARBARA: Desert Graphics, uh huh.

WALLY: The stone building. Between that building there was one stone building, and one wooden building.

BARBARA: But those aren't there now, so ---

WALLY: The stone building is, but it has been modified some. Then what happened in that one building, it was all the same building, had a partition in it.

Then they had a grocery store, Richardson's, they called it, in one part. The north side they had a clothing store. Then in 1924, why then Weinstein's, you've heard of Weinstein's, haven't you? They came up from Lawen. Well they started a, well that's the other side of the street, I mean where the Elkhorn is at. That was first place they were at. Then they come across on that building I was talking about, and knocked out the partitions, and made it all one building in that.

BARBARA: So that stone in there, where the Desert Graphics is, and that's where they were?

WALLY: Yeah. That building, and that was in there --- Reeds had a --- you remember Lee Reed?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

WALLY: His father, his father and he had those --- his son, three sons, that was the Reed Building. That was stone. They had a grocery store in that; both of those grocery stores were general merchandise stores. And they had a fountain in it, soda fountain in it, you know.

Well that existed as a grocery store after Reed sold it to Keizer. Keizer sold it to Dewey Robinson. Dewey called it Dewey's Cash Store. From there it was called the Bi-Rite. And George Hughet is still alive, and he was manager of it, the Bi-Rite Store. But most of them had eliminated the dry goods, you know, on it, and kept it.

Well then right next to it, there was a partition in that building, and Gus Bardwell, or I mean Culver Page first had a confectionery shop in it. He had been across the street, he moved across the street in 1920. It was called Page's Sweet Shop. His son Bud is

still alive. He was superintendent of Lebanon for several years until he retired, five years ago I guess.

BARBARA: So about how many of the stores that are in there right now were the original stone building then? You say from Desert Graphics to --- about where Alice is, or not that far?

WALLY: The walls are the same, but the interiors have been changed tremendously.

BARBARA: Right, uh huh. I'm trying to get a picture as to the original frame that was there years ago, to what we are now, so that we can get a ---

WALLY: Yeah. I've got, I could go home and get those pictures and show you the original frames of those. You know, those that I picked out to bring up, I didn't pick them up. I put them all in an envelope and didn't --- Dera told me to be sure and mail a letter for her, and I picked up the letter and left the pictures. But if you want to wait five minutes or so, I can go down and get those pictures that shows some of those buildings. I mean on that side of the street. And you could see the walls, and some of them are fired, but others you could see what --- you could see that wooden building out there, between where the Vogue is and where the Graphics are at.

Then next to that was the Masonic Building.

BARBARA: Now that's where Baird's, Baird's corner, that's the Masonic Building?

WALLY: 1910, that was built in 1910. And that had a, that building had a --- a man named Schwartz was across the street, and he moved a general merchandise store in on the corner of it. And in 1910 --- and Schwartz stayed in there until 1918. Then he closed that up and a lady had a millinery shop in that, named Mrs. Millar, M I L L A R. And she had that in that part of it. Then on the other part of it, I told you they had a fire in 1916?

BARBARA: Un huh.

WALLY: A hardware store moved down into that building, out of that where they had that fire. Irving Geer, and Geer's had a hardware store in that one section in there. That building, the old Masonic Building, there is one thing about that you can't tell --- in 1926, you remember Grover Jameson I know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

WALLY: And Ali Dillard and Ernest Musick, you remember those three?

DOROTHEA: I remember Ernest.

WALLY: Well on the side they put a service station in that building, and they broke out the brick, I mean on the south side. You could look at that building; you could still see where they opened that up see. And they had the cars on the inside, you know, on the floor. And they had a gas pump on the outside of that. But you could look at that building sometime; you could see where it is a little different. The reason why they knocked that brick out, and they called it the Dillard Chevrolet. And they had the Chevrolet Agency at that time. That was Grover Jameson, Ali Dillard and Ernest Musick.

And Musick was connected up with the Schwartz that had a grocery store in, part, one time. They had that, run that about two years I think, maybe three. I only think two. Because then after that, then when Geer's went out of the hardware business in that building, the building was vacant. And it was vacant until 1934 when Dillman, Ermin Dillman bought it. Helen Dillman, Ermin Dillman bought it, opened as a hardware store. And then Dillman's operated that as a hardware store until they sold that to Hale Baird and Jinks Harris. Helen Dillman, Dillman still owned that. So that part of it, section of it, was a hardware store. Then Orville --- at one time there was three drug stores in Burns, Lancaster's and Reed's and Home Drug. And that's on, yeah would be Lancaster, Reed's Drug was right where, next to the Brown Building. And they built that building.

That building was there. Morgan Timms had bought it.

And Reeds went out of business in 1942, and Morgan Timms and Miller took over that building and used it as a --- to store their supply of beer and so forth in that building.

That building was

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Then let's see, we stopped at the Masonic Building, didn't we. Well we'll go down the street to the bank. That bank, that building was built as I think in 1904.

BARBARA: That's where Garland Real Estate is?

WALLY: Yes. Citizen's National Bank was across the street in a wooden building, between where Times Herald and Jordan's office is at. So they had a Citizen's Bank. And they moved into that bank before it was the First National, before it became --- It had existed as a bank, the First National Bank which was later, until July 5th, 1932 when it went broke during the depression, went broke. And Gus Bardwell, after the receiver, I mean when assets were distributed and everything, why then it was bought by Gus Bardwell. And he bought that during World War II, and I wasn't here then.

BARBARA: So that really just entailed, about how far down would it have included like where Ruthie is, or is it just about the size of what Garlands is now? As it was built ---

WALLY: No, they added on. They put a, added on to that building. That little building that goes up that street, you know, right where, right from that, it joined that. Well that was all a vacant lot until 1925. Then they built those buildings in 1925.

BARBARA: The ones that go behind --- like where B & H Drug is and Oster's.

WALLY: Yeah, Oster's in there.

BARBARA: That was all vacant behind there.

WALLY: And on the corner, I think on the corner up there, I believe the bars are still up

on the window. But those buildings were built in 1925. I mean ... buildings. And then they have had different uses.

BARBARA: Uh huh. I'm saying that the original --- in 1904 when it was built, originally where Garland's is now, was it about the same size as the Garland Real Estate is now, or did it go farther?

WALLY: Yeah, when originally, when the main part of where Garland's is now. But Bardwell had some built.

BARBARA: Behind it then?

WALLY: West, westward.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Okay, okay.

WALLY: In fact I've got a picture of the inside of that bank, a snapshot of the way it was. And I've got one that shows as it was. It looks just about the same as it always did from that part of it on the outside.

Next to that is the Gemberling building. It was a jewelry, a jewelry store, had a jewelry store in there, John Gemberling. He came I think in 1901 or 1902, and built the building that is there now. Had it built, which is stone. And that was the only stone building next to the bank, because what was next to that --- at the time there was a blacksmith shop in there. The blacksmith shop in there which would be right back up to where the Odd Fellows Building is at, you know, that stone building there.

And in between, I remember a blacksmith shop in that, and there was some other building in there, but I don't remember what it was. I don't remember what it was. The blacksmith shop went out in 1918.

BARBARA: So about where Micheline's Dress Shop and where the Bennett's Saddlery, and right there, that's the Masonic Building, what you call ---

WALLY: Well now this building that I was talking about down there, they had a fire, that's where the Grand Hotel was built. Between the Odd Fellow's Building and the Gemberling building, ... one blacksmith shop was there ... some of it, I don't know. That was torn down and the Grand Hotel was built in 1920. And that walls are still up. And then that had a fire. One of the ones that burnt up. (Laughter)

Well then right after it was built, why my father moved his harness shop down into part of it. Next to it was Vaughn Schmaltz Attorney At Law Office. Upstairs was a hotel part. And the steps went right up, something like the Tonawama, right up the middle. Then in the upstairs of it there were, was rooms, the hotel. And on the north side only, on the south side was a couple of law offices. So it wasn't too many rooms. They called it the Grand Hotel. And then that burnt on May 25th, 1930, that's when it was destroyed by fire.

And then Ray Voegtly bought those, bought that property. Built the building, which sits there now. Didn't build it, he remodeled it, faced it. Took out the partitions between them, where Sprouse Reitz is at. But the Grand Hotel had a ... restaurant at one time, called the Blue Bucket Restaurant. Had a blue bucket out in front of it. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh my. That's a crazy name for a restaurant.

WALLY: Then to the Odd Fellows Building, the Odd Fellows Building, the Commercial Club met in the ground floor of that. That was precursive of the Chamber of Commerce you could say. Odd Fellow Building I think was built about 1909. And upstairs were, their meeting room was upstairs, and law offices. Over twice the number of attorneys back there in that era as there is now. There were fourteen attorneys here at one time, during the bootleg days.

BARBARA: For goodness sakes.



WALLY: Prohibition.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

WALLY: But --- Grand, that building, Voegtly had it, and he bought it during the war, right after the war he bought it. And then the Odd Fellows Building, that's where the Commercial Club--- and that wasn't anything except the Commercial Club until 1923. And Harry Smith put a Palace Pool Hall; the Palace Pool Hall went there then. You remember Norma Smith?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

WALLY: Do you remember Bobby, her husband?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

WALLY: Well his father put the Palace Pool Hall, opened the Palace Pool Hall, and that's where --- in that building, 1923. Well then he sold it to Roy Bogard and Joe Lathrope in 1925. Then the Palace, then they had a restaurant, just a counter, restaurant counter in the north side of it. That was used as a pool hall, and that one restaurant went out.

In that Odd Fellows Building, there was one little section in that where the mortuary was at. (Laughter) Clevenger's Mortuary. Small room right in between there. And the --- Sandy Anderson had a shoe shop in that at one time, later. Later years he had his shoe shop. I think the shoe shop is still there, isn't it?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, where John Bennett is, yeah.

WALLY: Before they built it down where it is at now. Well that --- then next to it, oh it is called the Dalton Building. I mean you remember Lunaburg and Dalton, now it's the --- it's had a couple names since.

BARBARA: The Farm Store?

WALLY: Pardon.

BARBARA: The Farm Store?

WALLY: Before that it was --- after Penney's went out.

BARBARA: Hirsch's.

WALLY: Yeah, Hirsch's.

BARBARA: Hirsch's and Penney's.

WALLY: But Dalton had a ---

BARBARA: That was originally the Dalton's ---

WALLY: Yeah, Lunaburg and Dalton. They were partners. Lunaburg, Fred Lunaburg, L  
U N A B U R G. Lunaburg and Dalton. And that was a general merchandise store. Then  
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BARBARA: That was put in about when?

WALLY: That --- let's see, I was trying to think on that. I think that was about 1908  
maybe, '08 or '09, right in there, sometime in there. I got the figures some place. I was  
born in 1910. I know --- I got the dates someplace in my notes, someplace at home on all  
of them. I think it was about 1908. Then that building after Dalton's went out, Vic  
Marshall took it over and called it the Consumer's Cash Store. V I C  
M A R --- Vic Marshall. That was in 1926. And then he operated that until, just about a  
year. Then Penney's came in, in the fall of 1927. And then they were into it until ---  
Penney's moved out, you know, I mean. And that store was remodeled some on the  
inside. Penney's came in, in September 1927.

Well now we jump down to the block where the Palace is at now. On that corner,  
on the corner the Nazarene Church, I mean which was originally the, that building where  
the ballpark was out, out here is Miller Cove. They moved the schoolhouse up there and  
put it on that corner, on that corner. And then there was a shooting gallery in there. And

then the Nazarene Church met in there in later years, up until oh about through, up until about 1929, where they met in that building. That's right on the corner there.

And next to that there was, the next building was the Oregon Hotel, a wooden building, it burnt down in 1930. And the Palace started by Roy Bogard, who had taken over the Palace from Harry Smith. And then after that building had burnt down where --- why he built that in 1930. And that's been remodeled, but it's been a pool hall, restaurant, you know, all the time, all the time. Then next to it ---

DOROTHEA: Now who built the Oregon Hotel?

WALLY: Pardon?

DOROTHEA: Who built the Oregon Hotel?

WALLY: The Oregon Hotel was built by Calkins. Calkins took it over. I think it was built by --- I know who it is --- preceded Calkins that built it --- Let's see ---

DOROTHEA: But it was built in 1930.

WALLY: Carl --- Fegtly. Fegtly --- F E G T L Y. Carl Fegtly built it. Then Calkins got it. He built it and had a shoe shop in it. I mean the ... the shoe shop. And then Calkins come and put in a hotel, and it had a --- changed the name and they had --- all these hotels at that time had dining rooms. Like the Summit Hotel and all those had dining rooms. I mean they would serve a family style meal. And that building burnt down.

(Laughter)

BARBARA: As everything did, unless they were stone.

WALLY: Wooden ones, yeah those wooden ones. And so, then that lot where the post office is at, the only thing that I can ever remember that was in there was a house, a small house. And maybe a three or four-room house, and it was about right in the center of that block. But then on the corner there now where Charlie Downs, in 1924, built a building,

which is still, which is moved off of that property, and it's up on the hill. And it's apartments now on Egan Street, just as you go down the hill, it's still there. Charlie Downs, was Opal Gowan's father. You know Opal Downs?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

WALLY: Her father. And he built that in 19 --- either late '24 or beginning of '25, I've forgotten. It got moved in, in '25, and it had, oh a card room and candy and pop and stuff. And then that had another room to it; I mean a partition to it, which had two uses in that property. One of them was Capt. A. W. Gowan's Real Estate Office, for a while. Then the other, why that's --- Harney County News moved down in there one time, but not for very long.

So Gowan had that longer than any --- Charlie finally took that partition out, enlarged it, kept it all. But then they moved that up on the hill, and they sold the property to the government to put the federal building there, the federal building. Everyone had their property up for sale.

BARBARA: Trying to make a dollar.

WALLY: Ed Brown donated the property where the bus station was at, if they would build it there. They put it about where it should have been. That's the property back of the old city hall, I mean where those housing projects are at, you know. They offered their property --- fairly well, close to the courthouse I guess, you know. But a group went back to Washington, D. C. on that to the government. And that's how come it happened to be built where it is at. They got a delegation for that.

Now the Burns Garage has been that building --- first on that corner was the, Robin's --- Water and Robbin's General Merchandise Store, a wooden building. And in 1910, or '11 I think, is when Harry Smith, I sold Harry the --- you know the oldest Harry, to

Archie McGowan, started the Burns Garage in it. And that was the old Robbins and --- partner, I don't know what the partner's name was now. Robbins and something, a grocery store. But the same building was used as a garage up until 1927.

And in 19 --- but in 1920 on the storage part of it, why Archie McGowan and Harry Smith, it was his father-in-law, they built the storage part of that which was stone. But the old grocery store part they used the other, but for the storage part for the cars --- and they built that in 1920.

And they --- 1923 that caught fire, and they burnt up about --- well someone drove some cars out, and it destroyed some. The stone building too. And they saved the wooden part. (Laughter) I mean, put in the wooden part, the mechanics side. But it got the cars, and all the walls were still up. It's still in use; they still use it for storage there. Those walls are still there. But that had --- that was in 1923. That was cars, some of them --- they got some out, some burnt, destroyed them, you know, anyway.

Then next to it, the corner in there, were wooden buildings, I mean a harness shop was on the corner, and different things. But anyway, that building burned down. Fred Haines owned that building.

And they put up a stone building, and the Club Cafe, which is operated by Yee Quong, who is, relatives still have the Highlander. And in that, there is two places in that, and he built that in 1926. And in, a variety store, the first variety, which later would be a succession of owners. But the variety store was in the south part of the building, and the cafe, the Club Cafe was in the north side of the building. And that existed as that way until 1937, '36 or '37. I believe it was '36 or '37, right in between, '37 I think. Then they moved across and built where they are at now, the Highlander. Then that building, after

they moved out a barbershop was moved in, a grocery store.

And then they --- a stone building in 1929 next to it was built by Fred Haines, in 1930. And that's on the property where the Elks is at. And that stone building was up and --- And they had a --- in that building a restaurant and a pool hall. And then later, not for very long. Well then later, when the Welcome Hotel burnt, they moved the post office in it, I mean in that building. So that building is --- on the property where the Elks was at. The Elks bought it in 1945, and rented part of it. Built the new --- next, it existed until 1963. But that building ---

Then you get down on the other side of the street where the Ideal Theater is at. On the north corner of that, why there was a wooden building which was the second hand store, and different purposes, second hand store was one use of it. Most of the time that's what it was. And that was all --- the only business building that was on it. Because on the corner was a residence. I mean right where the station is at, the service station, stoplight, there was a residence on that side. So that completes that side of the street.

Safeway parking lot is where the Anderson Hotel was at, on Monroe Street, a wooden building. That was there until later. But those, now ---

BARBARA: Well if we start down the other side of the street where Fulton's Athletic, and where the Chevrolet Garage was at one time

----

WALLY: Yeah, right up above there is where the Locher Hall was.

BARBARA: Oh, where Dalton's ---

WALLY: Right south of Dalton's.

BARBARA: Okay.

WALLY: On that corner.

BARBARA: Oh, on that corner, oh okay, I'm with you.

WALLY: It burned in 1913. But ---

DOROTHEA: What Locher, what ---

WALLY: Pardon?

DOROTHEA: It was the Locher Hotel?

WALLY: The Locher Hall. L O C H E R. Locher Hall. It burned in 1913. They used to graduate from there, you know. And it was an all-purpose hall. They had a --- widely used from the time that it --- used up until the fire. Then he went out and built his castle. Paul Locher. Fulton's, on that property where Fulton's corner is at, the buildings faced south. They didn't face west. On the corner where Fulton's is at is where the Billy Grace Drug Store was at, 1887. And ---

BARBARA: So that is a real old building on that corner then?

WALLY: Well the site is.

BARBARA: Oh, the site is, okay.

WALLY: Nothing left of it.

BARBARA: Oh, okay.

WALLY: It was a wooden building. Well then next to it where those other buildings --- some of them had fallen down right there. There was a laundry in there. Lampshire had a corrugated tin garage built in about 1913 in there. Those are all gone. But where Fulton is at, at one time is the location of --- then the last thing, exactly where Fulton is at, was Dr. Brown's Dental Office. He moved to Corvallis. A dentist in Corvallis. He was upstairs, right across from the Whiteside Theater.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right. Oh, okay, I know where that is.

WALLY: Where, the building across the street, he had an office upstairs. He sent his two

sons to school, and he closed his dental office here, and they moved to Corvallis, and he opened one there. He was still a dentist when I was going to school there. Dr. Clare Brown.

BARBARA: I was trying to think if I remember him over there or not.

WALLY: Right across from Nolan's.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

WALLY: Next, down that block, all that block was taken out in 1914, that I told you, had that picture, you know, of where the

---

BARBARA: Where the Body Wise is.

WALLY: Uh huh.

BARBARA: That whole lot was burned in 1914.

WALLY: Yeah, the whole block, and not only that, but part of those other blocks were taken out.

BARBARA: So the White Front was where the Cable Office is?

WALLY: That's right.

BARBARA: And then on the other corner, before it was the Red Front, before it became the Arrowhead Hotel.

WALLY: Red Front.

BARBARA: Red Front.

WALLY: And the French Hotel.

BARBARA: And the French Hotel.

WALLY: Right in there. And then the other buildings had a stage office in it, the Central Oregon Drilling Company, all those wooden buildings in there. There is nothing there



now.

BARBARA: So nothing on that block is really original structure?

WALLY: No.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

WALLY: Not original. I mean 1929, part of it is. Cal Clemens

--- that lot was vacant from 1914 until 1929. Cal Clemens built those buildings in there, you know. The light office used to be in there, Tijuana was in there. They are not occupied, I don't think. I think the Body Wise has about all of it. It was in use up until a few years ago, you know. A dress shop, I mean a yarn shop was in there, wasn't they Dorothy?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

WALLY: Remember that?

BARBARA: When I moved here, Candy's Fashions was in there, a dress shop.

WALLY: Yeah, the property was in use. That vacant lot had a lot of history to it. That's where the Chautauqua's used to pitch their tent when they came.

DOROTHEA: Chautauqua, it has been a long time since I heard that name. It took me a long time to learn how to spell it.

BARBARA: Oh, yeah.

WALLY: Do you want to start another day to get the other side of the street?

BARBARA: We can.

WALLY: I don't care, it don't make any difference.

BARBARA: Well, however your time is.

WALLY: Well I'm not ---

BARBARA: Oh, okay.

WALLY: I don't --- I don't have any priority.

BARBARA: Well we can kind of maybe get through it, and then we can decide --- you say you have histories written out, do you in written form on some of these?

WALLY: No, I don't. Nothing. Notes. Just a note or two.

BARBARA: Notes. Uh huh.

WALLY: I got just a few notes. But I haven't written anything. I just noted something that I thought was important.

Well down the side of the street on the other side then where the bank is at, that bank was built in 1907. It was still a bank. It has been added on to. The property between that and where the Elkhorn is, was wooden, which was taken off by fire, and that was vacant until the bank built the buildings in 1929, and it had brick facing.

And Cashman came over from Bend and had a men's clothing store in the north side, and a ladies apparel shop in the south side. And so that was the first use of that. I mean of the apparel shops. And then the ladies shop went out during the depression, and the man's went out in 1936.

By then they ... on that over there, why there was a card room in part of it, and different uses, you know, in part of it. And then later years, Bradeen had an insurance office; Bill Bradeen had an insurance office in part of that. Building next to it, that's where the Elkhorn is, was built by Lee Caldwell.

TAPE 2, SIDE B

WALLY: ... Bennett's living in the apartment. Then the Firestone Store moved out of the bank building, which was up where Bradeen was at. You know I told you next to the bank, between that and the Elkhorn. Firestone Store first operated in there. Frank

Huffman was the first manager. He is here now, Frank is. They go to Arizona about every winter, you know.

Then next --- Mrs. Fenley had a beauty shop upstairs, in an apartment upstairs. And then after the bowling alley went out, and the restaurant part, well then Firestone moved down, the Firestone Building moved in that. Do you remember that?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, uh huh.

WALLY: Then they had a fire. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Of course they had to have a fire.

WALLY: The insurance adjuster came in that one year, and they had those fires, and he said this town is well named. (Laughter) Now let's see ---

Now the corner where the Highlander is at, that's where the Cole Hotel has --- and sometimes you will see a picture on --- but the name on that, called the Overland Hotel on that. I mean there will be a sign out, say Overland Hotel. And that was right on the corner where the Highlander is at now. But they had a fire on that. Then that --- Yee, I think I told you they had the Club Cafe across the street, built that building, and moved a restaurant in there, and called it the Club Cafe. And then on the other part of it was a grocery store there.

Well then next to it was the Central Hotel, which was built by John Ebar. Ebar's are still here, John Ebar. And that was built in 1930. And the occupants of, Felix Urizar I mean, I think operated that hotel first, he didn't own it, John Ebar owned it. But there was a little jewelry shop right in part of it, which is part of the lobby now. That lobby was a jewelry --- Then on the, there was a restaurant on the other part of it. There was a, Felix Urizar had a pool hall in it, in that south part of it. And the lobby would be in the north part of it.

But then on down to the corner, that's where the Welcome Hotel was, on that block. It faced the whole block. It burned down on July 15th, 1937.

BARBARA: That's the corner where the Smyth Market was? That was when we first moved here, was the Smyth Grocery Store, was on that corner.

WALLY: Well they, Smyth's was up in the, Smyth's Market was up in the, yeah clear up in the Central Hotel ---

DOROTHEA: On that corner.

WALLY: Part too, up in there. They were up in there too. The last place they were at, were down on that property, I think. Then there was a service station in there too. And that was the occupation of the famous shingle house, or the bordello.

DOROTHEA: That house ---

WALLY: It was a humorous thing about that ---

DOROTHEA: There is nothing left of that anymore, they've torn that down, haven't they?

WALLY: Yeah, they tore it down. You remember the NRA, during the depression; they had the National Recovery Act, called NRA. And so they would all, the stores would put this sign --- NRA, and under it, we do our part, you know, under it, for the --- Hire as many people as they could, you know. And so in the shingle house there was a sign that had NRA, sign, you know. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh, dear.

WALLY: ... was saying --- Doug White and I were real good friends, I mean real good friends. He told me one time --- he wrote that story up. He didn't write it like it was, it was a confidence act, you know, where people were always going --- always a third member coming in and selling stuff. I'm not going to mention this person's name. But anyway, he was a bachelor, and he had a --- out in the county, you know, and he had a little money.

Later he got murdered. But anyway why he came to town and he went into one of those bordellos, which was located right across from where the Elks was. That's the parking lot, cars, called the outhouse. Doug said he had been out, hadn't been in for about two years, and he went into the Times-Herald to renew his subscription, you know. And he said, "What are you going to do?" "Well," he said, "I worked ... I think I will look around to see if I can find something, maybe go into business." He went down to this yellow house that night, and it looked pretty busy, you know. He got a room at the Central Hotel see. So when he found out, they asked him what he was going to do. He said he was looking for a business. Well they sold him a half interest in their business for three hundred dollars. So he went back to the hotel. When he went back, they were all gone. (Laughter) The girls were all gone. All he had --- (Laughter) So Doug wrote that up as a confidence story, but he didn't mention, he mentioned that he had lost this money in a confidence game. But he didn't tell him --- (Laughter) So he said he didn't have money -- - left. That's something you can't put in print.

BARBARA: Right.

WALLY: But it is a true fact. I plucked that story out ... he had written about it. I knew about it. (Laughter) (Looking at photographs) Do you know all these? This was --- that would be Del Clemens' great-grandfather.

BARBARA: Oh.

WALLY: Tom Vickers. This fellow Rush Frazier got killed by Stenger out in Egan. Which was right on out --- Broadie Johnson was --- you knew Blanche McCulloch?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

WALLY: Her grandfather. Broadie Johnson ... Smelcer, and --- but I was looking for that street, or that --- I thought that this book had a picture of that. I remember this, driving the

spike.

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah.

WALLY: The train that came in. Mrs. ... There is Pete Clemens. DOROTHEA: And his first pair of Levis.

WALLY: That's Pete Clemens. My head here, right here.

BARBARA: Yes sir.

WALLY: I'm pretty sure that picture of ... pictures that didn't list it, but I thought for sure there was one in here. I guess not.

Dillard had that property, and then right where, the block we were talking about is vacant. It burnt where that fire was. He had Harney Valley Items, but I don't think --- the thing that I don't know, I'm not too sure where that Harney Valley Items is located. It shows him sitting on a rock, and I've been trying to orient it. You can see the sagebrush around. That's a good picture. You can see out along Burns, and one building that --- two buildings on that, that I can pick out, that I remember. My time is the Stenger-McGowan Building where, that big building where Alice Tudor's Vogue is at. And then the --- and where the Richfield Station used to be, that building there, which burnt down in 1929. Those two buildings, it shows both of them ... And that was the second building on Main Street that burned.

I want --- don't know whatever happened to Brimlow's notes. He had a lot of notes that he got --- that didn't get into the book. But he had a lot of --- he did a pretty good job. But he had some notes that didn't get in. But if something ... that they didn't agree on or something. But he had about the same notes that ... He came up and --- was around here for quite awhile.

DOROTHEA: Now are you writing a book on Harney County?

WALLY: Pardon?

DOROTHEA: Are you writing a book on Harney County?

WALLY: No. I started to do it, and I made some notes, and did some looking. You know, I wished I --- the thing that, the mistake that I tell my kids, you know, you ought to write things down, and write names on pictures. When I had so many opportunities to talk to so many people in my life, I wasn't interested, you know. I remember Morris Fitzgerald.

DOROTHEA: When you're younger, right, you're not interested.

WALLY: All the history that we have of Harney County, the best source of it is Morris Fitzgerald. And --- because he was in the Army out at Fort Harney, or Camp Harney. And then he just stayed, when he got discharged, he just stayed. He stayed here. And he was here until about 1901 or '02. And he came back when they had that lake suit, over the State of Oregon and the government over the property of Malheur Lake property. And he was subpoenaed back on some of it. He come in the store, talked to my uncle. I could have talked to him, but I wasn't interested. And then came back a couple pioneer days and talked. And --- but he had such a wide, I mean --- when he tells about when he was at Harney, when he and Bendire go down on the lakes, about the birds, you know, and what he did. And I know when the State of Oregon, when they --- he knew all the country, like Canyon City and Burns, that area. There was some convict escaped and murdered a couple of squaws up in the Pendleton area. And they got a deputy, U.S. Marshall to go hunt them. And the governor recommended he come by and get Fitzgerald to go with him. And they did, he did go with him. And he writes, you know ---

And then he refutes some things, which usually --- I find what I've read, you read something on some account on something, and the account is a fact. But the stories will vary on it, you know, will vary on it quite a bit. And you'll see, so someone else gets that

book, and they copy that, so they're copying the same errors out of it. Copying the same errors out of it. And I found a few in Brimlow's book here in my lifetime that I knew. I mean minor things, but in my book I corrected them for my kids, you know.

But anyway, why as I say when Brimlow was out here that time, all the notes he had, I don't know what happened, whatever happened to the notes he had.

But I started to write a book. I started to do two things. I started to write a book, and I started to write a --- complete, write a history on our army unit, you know. And I didn't do either one. (Laughter) I didn't do either one, but I started one when I got out. And I started one, I had some, and I can't even find what I started.

I mean I got --- but I had Tebo, I remember when Tebo --- you've heard of Tebo? I remember my uncle was a blacksmith at the "P" Ranch, and Tebo was at the "P" Ranch. And my uncle had an appendectomy, and he was a bachelor. There was two Pat Donegan's. He was my Uncle Pat, and the other, the attorney was my cousin. And he brought him down to the house, and I heard him talk about Tebo, and I had never seen him, you know. And in 19 --- I knew how old he was, because this is 1922, and my uncle, and he come down to the house to see him. And he did a lot of card tricks, and my sisters, two older sisters, Eleanor and Mary; I mean did the card tricks one right after the other. And so he told me, he said, "I'll bet you," he said, "I can do a trick you can't do." And I said, "Well what is it?" He said, "Get a broom stick," you know, see. I got that broomstick like this, and held it like this, like out that. And he said, "Now I'm sixty-six years old, see." This was 1922, see. And he jumped over it. I couldn't any more do it than I could fly, see. But he was sixty-six years old see, and he was a wiry tall Mexican, you know.

And he had --- then after he retired he came to Burns, you know. He came to



Burns; he came down to the drug store about every day. And he lived in a house that a lady had, kept older bachelors, you know. He come down, I had a lot of opportunity to talk to him, I didn't. Fitzgerald, I could have talked to, and I didn't. And so many people, there was Alpheus Venator, you know, and all --- You get to thinking, you don't do it, you know.

DOROTHEA: Not when you're young, nope. Nope, that's what I tell Barbara, you know.

WALLY: Just like pictures. I see pictures now and identify them; at one time I could of got them identified. And my aunt, Mrs. Levens, you know, she had the best memory. She was the oldest one of my --- there was only one girl, and the rest were all brothers in my father's family. And I could have talked to her a lot, because she had, did some stuff, kept stuff, and I wasn't any more interested than --- didn't do it. And the same way in pictures. And then later, when I did find some pictures, she lived to be eighty-four, and I would take something down and she couldn't remember, you know. She said I just can't -- I know, but I don't know what it is, see. And that's --- so it's too bad.

That picture that's in here on that poker game, you know, I got someone to identify them. I didn't know who they were. I wrote those names out, if I can find the picture.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

WALLY: I like history, I like history. I didn't take, I only took one. I stayed out of high school four years before I went, and started working in the drug store in my high school, in 1927. And then I went to --- I would have been better off when I went to college if I could have gone out of the eighth grade. I really would. High school, I did absolutely nothing.

BARBARA: You screwed up, is what you did, huh?

WALLY: Absolutely nothing. My sister came home, Eleanor, I'll never forget my mother -- and I was a sophomore, she was a senior, and they mailed the department cards out,

you know, the cards out. And she had straight A's all through high school, except one B in chemistry, see. And so my mother come back, had got this report card, she had all A's. She is taking five; I'm taking five subjects. And they used to give an F, you know, an F was a polite passing. A red F was a flunk, see. And they went up, instead of A's it was E's, and went on down. My mother, I remember they mailed them out, and she put her report card out, and she put mine out, and I had three flunks, an incomplete, and a condition in department. I'll never forget, three flunks, see.

BARBARA: Oh, Wally!

WALLY: My sister had all A's and that's the way it was, see. I was taking geometry, and Caesar and biology, and had an incomplete in English. Caesar, you get a zero if the teacher corrected you. And I couldn't, and I couldn't imagine how I got that flunk in that. I did pretty good in first year Latin, you know, as a freshman. And she gave us that exam over construction, you know, which was --- I had to study like heck to ever graduate after that. You know, I mean the next term; this was the mid-semester exam, the second term. And that time on that, that time, this paper she gave us this nine-week one, you know, and it was over construction. And I think fifty was possible, and I got forty-eight out of the fifty on it, see. Well that was daily grades, well that I flunked see. She thought it was the daily grade, two thirds, and she said, "Do you want to know what your daily grades are?" And I said, "Yes." She said, "They are zero." (Laughter) And she flunked me; pulled me down to a flunk, see. Well that's what happened see. And I had to get in to even graduate.

The same teacher I had in geometry was in Latin, and I wasn't doing that --- didn't do absolutely nothing. (Laughter) My record in high school --- like I say I would have been better off if I'd gone out of the eighth grade. I would have been, when I went out of --

- when I was, freshman year, you had to take English or --- if you didn't pass that, it was called English-K, you know. They called it bonehead English in college, English-K. Well the only reason I passed it was on account of what I had learned, remembered in grade school.

BARBARA: Yeah. English 10 instead of English 101. (Laughter)

WALLY: But that was an era, you know.

BARBARA: Do you like to write? Do you like to write now?

WALLY: No. I don't. No, I was going to take --- went to school, I was going to take pre-med. I don't know why, I was going to take pre-med. And I took my first year at Columbia, which is now Portland University. And in high school when I was there, they would alternate chemistry and physics. One year they would teach chemistry; the next year they would take physics. And so this year, why I was taking physics, and I knocked my knee out. I had two bad knees, and I knocked one out. That was the year I knocked the first one out. Knocked it out the next one, left and right. And so that year, my junior year, when I knocked the first one out, and I was out until after January, and I was taking physics. And the teacher's name was Leah Roundsville. And so she said, "Well," she said, "you got a lot of experiments to make up, you know. And you've got some tests to take, so you have to get in and make up those experiments and take those exams." I said, "Well I think I'll just drop the course." I dropped it.

So then the next year, I thought well what's the matter with that. Well the next year I was going to take chemistry, because they alternated, see, signed up for chemistry, and there wasn't enough to sign up, they didn't teach it.

BARBARA: Oh, dear.

WALLY: Didn't teach the course. So I thought, well I'd talk to Dr. Homan, you know, who

was a physician here. And he said oh,--- I might go down and take pre-med when I go to school. But I hadn't had any chemistry and any physics. He said, "That don't make any difference, it will just make you study harder your first year there." So I thought, well let's see, I'll go down and take pre-med.

So I went to Columbia, which is now the University of Portland. And I hadn't had chemistry in high school, see. Why they said, "You can't take chemistry, you haven't had it in high school." I said, "Well I can take chemistry if I go to Oregon State." And I said, "I know a kid that is doing it." "Well you can't here," he said, "you'd never pass it." And I said, "No." He said, "Well I wanted you to know how many was in the chemistry class last year that had high school chemistry that passed out of fifty?" And I said, "No." He said, "Six passed."

BARBARA: Oh dear.

WALLY: Well I said well I have no chance there so I thought I'll change my course, I'll take pre-law. So I did, I took German, Political Science, Biology, Rectory, Speaking, and I took that. And then when I came back, and then I'd worked in the drug store all that time, and then I came back. But I still was going to go back. And so then I stayed out two more years, I'd been out two, stayed out two, and I stayed out two when I run out of money when the depression was on. I stayed out, so I worked and I was going back.

One time my uncle said, "Why don't you go down to Oregon State and take pharmacy?" And I said, "Well I don't know whether I want to be any pharmacist or not." Well then there was only two of us running the store, and they had one girl on the fountain. And I would go down in the mornings and sweep it out, and wash the showcases, you know. That time they manufactured quite a lot of things. And under him, I mean you know, I did a lot of things I could do. Make ointments and solutions and stuff.

Well anyway this morning I was sweeping out and this fellow come in the store, you know, and he said, "Are you a registered pharmacist?" And I said, "No." "Who is?" And I said, "My uncle." He said, "You know you're against the law for you to be in this store with the doors open?" I said, "No." He said, "Well it," he said, "it is." He said, "I think you better go down and take your junior board of pharmacy, and then you'll be allowed to be in charge of his store." He said, "Well I'll wait until your uncle comes." (Laughter)

I'd go down, see at seven in the morning and build the fire, and wash the showcases. He had all glass display; everything was open display behind glass. Washed those and dusted, you know. And he showed up, and he told him, you know. And he said when this is over with, I mean, so my uncle there when he left, he said, "Why don't you transfer down and take pharmacy?" I said, "Well I haven't got any money, I got to work."

Well Home Drug then was owned by my aunt and two uncles, and all the stock was owned except the one in the family. And so he said, "Well, I'll talk to them about it, and we'll provide enough for you. And you go down and see if you can get a job, and which you can't get, write us and let us know what it was, see."

Well I transferred my credits down, and went down. Couldn't get a job with the depression, there wasn't any, you know, it was impossible, I mean your freshman year. So that's how I happened to take pharmacy. Then I come back and worked during vacations, in the spring. I mean I didn't come home spring, just winter and summertime.

Then went back, and the doggone Dean Ziefle fowled me up, you know, he was the pharmacy dean. And I didn't know when I transferred down, when I transferred down, there was a four-year course then. And I said, "I don't want to be here four years, I want

to be here three years." I got one year, and you have electives, I got enough electives. And he looked it over, and he said, well we can figure --- he made this schedule out. He got me into these courses where there was two years of chemistry, a prerequisite for them. I hadn't had any. (Laughter) That first term, see. Later Gilfillan, you remember the Gilfillan's?

BARBARA: Yes, oh yeah.

WALLY: Well Gilfillan was on the scholarship committee. And he didn't know what was happening, or I wouldn't ever even get in. I lucked out on the deal the way it was, because I wouldn't have been able to --- but I finished in three years. But hell, I didn't have any background, you know, and I got on probation, you know. And I didn't flunk anything, but I wasn't accumulating any grade point. And so anyway, why I got the first term, and Gilfillan was head of the scholarship committee. You got on probation, dean signed me up for some more courses, but I knew pretty much what he was then. But anyway, Gilfillan got the record out and looked at it, you know. He said, looked at what I had transferred down. I had transferred down a pretty good record when I transferred out of that pre-law down there. He said, "Well looks like it is a lot tougher down here." I said, "Why I don't think it's a lot tougher, I just think it is different courses I'm taking."

And so anyway, why we become good friends after that, you know. But anyway, so I got, I saved the paper, I got a ninety-nine, and I got exempt out of history. I mean when I, at Columbia, in history, the Western Europe, they used the same book they used at Oregon State. I was ready to take the final, you know, and he was tough, you know, he was a priest, Father Lyons. They would have to force him out on the golf course. And the kids would copy, you know. He would give you those quizzes, you know, and they seated you alphabetically, you know. I remember the guy Weber sat next to me, you know, and

right on down the line. The paper, they'd copy this. So when it came that one exam, they sent some upstairs see, he sent some upstairs. And anyway, I got a ninety-nine on that exam from him, so I was already to take the final.

And so when I left, I'd already taken it, and it was starting Monday, and I went that Friday. He said, "I'll tell you what I'm going to do with you." It was semesters then; it wasn't terms, two semesters, two semesters. He said, "Well," I'd got a ninety-nine in the mid semester, he said, "I'll tell you what I'm going to do." He said, "I'm going to exempt you from the final exam unless you want to, and give you the same grade, you know, which you got on your mid-semester, unless you want to take my exam and try and raise your grade." (Laughter) He had a sense of humor.

BARBARA: Oh, sure, yeah.

WALLY: So anyway, that's how I got those --- So anyway, and Gilfillan said, "Well it looks like it's a bit tougher, you know, here." And I said, "Well it's all the difference on the course you got in."

So anyway, he had a roommate of mine named Leonard Hamner. He was quite a character, you know, I mean. So one time why --- that first year it was tough, you know, to have labs, you know, a five-credit chemistry course, labs, bacteriology labs. Then I got into qualitative analysis, quantitative analysis, and I had a little background in it. Got into organic, that was all right. But you had to study quite a bit.

So anyway, we used to kid Gilfillan, you know. I mean Leonard Hamner and I --- we told him we belonged to pharmacy ... and he was --- I always called him an intellectual genius, you know. You could ask him any word and he could derive it. He could tell you the root. And he, the same way you could ask him any question in science. A marvelous, as I say an intellectual genius.

So one time he got us together as seniors, and Leonard and I said, you guys usually speak your mind out, what do you think is the matter? He said ... called him Doc. I said, "Well Doc, I think the biggest trouble that you have is the fact that --- is your evaluation. You like the students that are good students, that don't need any help, and the students that need the help, you're not as much time with them." "Well maybe you're right," he said.

So when he asked Hamner, this Leonard Hamner was something, anybody could take a joke ... He'd go up to him and say, "Doc, I'll make you a proposition with you. You give me my "A" now, and then you won't have to correct my paper, because I'm going to take the highest grade in the class anyway." See, he just needled him, see. Two-hour exam, he'd stay about an hour. And he'd write on it, Gilly, he always called him Gilly. Gilly why don't you give something hard. See, he just needled him, needled him.

Well that time, after that when Doc said that, and Leonard told him, he called him -- - see he evaluated us, and he told Leonard, he said, "Hamner," he said, "you could go a long way, you could go a long way in the world." But he said, "You never will." (Laughter) Leonard said, "Why?" And he said, "How do you mean, I never will?" He said, "Well sometimes when I call for a question in class, someone to answer it, you won't answer. I know you know the answer. Why don't you answer?" And Leonard said, "Well it takes too much time to answer those questions, I'm not interested in it." And I remember Gilfillan said, "You should be more public spirited."

So what I was going to tell you about Leonard Hamner, and the jobs opened up, the highest paid job in pharmacy was Willet's store in Salem. And the turnover was terrific, I mean he was always hiring. And someone had worked a year for him. When jobs opened up, Leonard says that's the job I want, go there. And he worked there a year



and a day for him, and quit.

He come out to Burns hunting, you know. He worked a year and a day and he quit. And Willets found out where he was at, and wrote him a letter and wanted to raise his wages to come back to work for him. And he did, and went back and that's the only fellow he ever worked for until he bought a store in Newberg. During World War II he bought a store in Newberg.

But he (Gilfillan) was quite a person. I called on him, you know, when I went down to a seminar. And he said --- I'll show you a picture, but they had their --- they were married in 1929, and they were having their fiftieth wedding anniversary, and I was down on a seminar. And I told you, I think when I went down in his basement, golly, it was amazing, you know. Have you ever been down in their basement?

BARBARA: Oh, yeah.

WALLY: Well I ---

BARBARA: Yeah. Of course one of his daughters, Nan, was in my class, and we were good friends. So I was in their house a lot, yeah.

WALLY: Yeah. I got a lot more out of that.

BARBARA: They are a neat family.

WALLY: He called me --- Yeah, and I phoned him up, you know, why he'd come out ... And he said only one other student of my pharmacy ever looked me up. I said who was the other? It was Mel Breese.

BARBARA: Yeah, they are a nice family.

WALLY: But I liked him, I liked him. He was a good teacher.

BARBARA: Yeah. All the girls were very, very smart too.

WALLY: Were they?

BARBARA: Uh huh. Yeah.

WALLY: The daughter Ellen, I think, and my niece in Boise, and her husband were Air Corp at the same time. Down in Texas, I think. Because I remember my youngest niece was telling me, had met Ellen Gilfillan. Then they were just there a short while.

I remember when she was a baby, you know. I remember the girl named Dorothy ... the baby sitter, was taking professional home ec. Working on her master's degree, and she baby-sit, you know, Ellen. I think Ellen was the one, because she was telling her what a little sharp, little tiny baby she was, I mean.

What do you do all the time besides work, Dorothy?

DOROTHEA: What do I do?

WALLY: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Try to keep up on the ranch a little bit.

WALLY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Just run around there until I run out of time, then I come in and work. It keeps me pretty busy.

WALLY: How is the range, pretty dry?

DOROTHEA: I haven't heard. It's not too bad, no, not yet. But I really haven't heard all that much, so --- I haven't been up at all this year. Clint has been doing it all, so --- but I haven't been up at all.

WALLY: What --- the young Billy McKinney was out here last, or two years ago. That was McKinney's son who used to have the mill.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

WALLY: I don't mean son, I mean grandson. He was out here from --- lived down in the Oakland area.

DOROTHEA: Oh, do they?

WALLY: California. He's quite a chemist, I guess. McKinney, they had a house that had deer horns all over the house.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

WALLY: Had deer horns all over the house. And that house burned down in 1938, in April.

BARBARA: I think George Hibbard said something about that in one of the tapes I transcribed. He mentioned about all the deer horns that were on this building.

WALLY: Yeah, he had that whole thing ---

BARBARA: Uh huh.

WALLY: --- on C. F. McKinney, on that house. He had a stroke, I remember he used to sit out in the yard in the springtime in a chair, and he died that summer. That house was burned down. And that was located where; it was next to the Holland house, which was the PLS Company house that was moved over from Harney. McKinney ---

BARBARA: Well I think we will kind of, Wally, go through these and maybe pick out six that we think would be the best ones. See we're going to take our video camera, and we will want to maybe get some of your pictures, you know, your early pictures of some of main street, different ones, and try to take a video of the pictures. And then when we decide on which one of these buildings to do, maybe we can get you to write down the year that it was built, and by who, and maybe some of the main people that used the building up until the present time.

WALLY: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And then we'll show whatever early pictures you might have of these, and then we'll show it how it looks today. And see if we can't kind of piece something

together that way.

WALLY: Yeah, I see.

BARBARA: Do you think you could help us with that?

WALLY: Oh, I'll try; I'll do my best. If I can find my pictures, you know.

BARBARA: Well that will give you a little bit of time to maybe look through them.

WALLY: I mean it's hard for you to visualize anything if you don't ---

BARBARA: If you can't see what it looked like before. Uh huh.

WALLY: And I can --- that one picture, those two pictures --- I've got a big picture. I could have brought that one of 1889, that was my granddad's picture. Furniture shop was right where that One Stop Service Station is at. It was taken right on down the street.

BARBARA: Well that kind of thing would be good, that we could use.

WALLY: That's a big picture, but originally it was a small one. I remember when it was just a small one, in a frame. My dad had it enlarged. But that first picture is a good picture too, and it shows you just how much change there was in the town in that number of years.

DOROTHEA: Now there is one in the museum.

WALLY: And then '29.

DOROTHEA: There is one in the museum, over there just before the Hanley, no let's see, the Ilda May Hayes room. Do you remember what that one is?

WALLY: The picture in that, I'll go take a look at it.

DOROTHEA: Marcus framed it, and it's a picture of Burns town from ---

BARBARA: That's right by the Peter French corner.

WALLY: Oh, that's got all of them in it.

BARBARA: It's right inside the front door, on the, by the Peter

---

WALLY: I'll go take a look at that now.

DOROTHEA: Let's see.

BARBARA: That's just inside the door there.

DOROTHEA: Let's go walk and see with him.

WALLY: Yeah, I'll take a look at it.

(END OF TAPE)

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