

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #466

Interviewee: Cal Mosley

Interviewer:

Subject: Life Sketch

Date: December 12, 2008

Place: Chester & Helen Felt Recording Room, Harney County Library, Burns, Oregon

CAL MOSLEY: My life story. I, Cal Mosley, was born in Bend, Oregon, on October 20th, 1924. I moved to Harney County as a young boy with my mother Ellen Moore, step- father John Moore, and brother Harvey Mosley.

My stepfather soon went to work as a lumber grader at Edward Hines Lumber Company.

I finished the first grade in Burns. My family moved to Hines where we lived for many years. I graduated from Hines Grade School in 1938, and Burns High School in May 1942. Growing up in the depression years was quite different than today, as we all know.

The spring of 1937, I wanted very much to attend 4-H summer school for two weeks in Corvallis, but didn't have a scholarship, which was \$24 plus transportation and other costs.

About this time Mr. R. H. Anderson, the principal of the Hines Grade School, told us kids about a 4-H scholarship being offered by Mr. Archie McGowan who was the owner of the Burns Garage. The scholarship was an essay on the life of Henry Ford. I entered the contest, and not only won the scholarship, but also received a personal letter from Mr. Ford. A copy of that letter can be seen at the Harney County Museum.

After the war --- shortly after graduating from Burns High School I joined the Navy, and served 3 years, with 23 months of sea duty. I was a radioman in the armed guard with duty in both the Atlantic and Pacific areas.

After the war I went to school at the University of Portland for two and a half years, where I met Janet Stearns, a student nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital which is affiliated with the University of Portland. We were married February the 20<sup>th</sup> 1949, in her hometown of Grangeville, Idaho. Our daughter Carolyn Ann was born in Burns, Oregon, on June the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1953. She and her husband Steve Gurnsey who live in Eagle, Idaho, have two daughters. The oldest daughter Nicole was born May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1984, and was married to Brian Hodson on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005. They live in LaGrande, Oregon. Lisa was born June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1989, and was married to Ben Blair on August the 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008, and they live in Eagle, Idaho.

My parents are deceased, and also my brother Harvey. They are all buried in the Burns Cemetery.

Community service is extremely important to me. I strongly believe that we should all work to make our community a better place to live and raise our families. Some of the organizations I have been active in until my health started to decline,

including membership in the Burns Lions Club for over fifty years. I held every elective and appointive office in the club. I was a member and secretary of the Lions Club Scholarship committee from 1999 until 2004. I was Lion of the Year for 1962-63, and was presented the Distinguished Service Award for 1978-79. Honored by Lions International for dedicated humanitarian and service in 1991. And I received the Helen Keller Benefactor award by the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation in 2005, and the Burns Outstanding Lion in 2006.

I spent seven years in the Hines Grade School Board of Directors, including four years as chairman. When Carolyn graduated from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade I thought I was going to kiss her when I presented her diploma. In return she threatened to boycott the graduation so I moved on to plan B.

For ten years I was a licensed lay reader at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, and also served on the vestry as Junior Warden for five years. During my business career I served the Harney County Chamber of Commerce as a Board Member, and Chamber of Commerce president in 1971. In 1975 I was elected the first Harney County Man of the Year. Also I served eight years on the Harney District Hospital Board, with four years as chairman.

After selling our business, Mosley's Family Shoe Store, in 1984, I served two years as Chamber of Commerce Manager before being elected the Harney County Treasurer. I served one term, four years, then retired.

This is my life story, I'm Cal Mosley.