

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

(Note that Edward Creecy, Jr's great-granddaughter, Alora Cole-Bond, a 6th grader at Nestucca Valley Middle School, was in attendance for the interview and Darleen Cole, Edward Creecy, Jr's daughter transcribed this interview.)

**DB:** *Ok, so, we're here interviewing Edward Creecy, and where.. when were you born?*

**EC:** I was born in Tillamook, January the 19th, 1921.

**DB:** *In Tillamook.*

**EC:** In the old.... in the hospital.

**DB:** *Ok, and.... you can speak up a little, if you want....*

**EC:** Ok, I was kind of murmuring here... thinking.

**DB:** *Ok... no, that's fine. Ok... I forget... would you say... what year was it again?*

**EC:** 1921.

**DB:** *1921... ok.*

**EC:** So I'm 81 years old today.

**DB:** *Ohhhhh.... happy birthday!!!*

**EC:** No, no... I meant in January the 19th.... but I'm still 81... I'll be 82 next January.... cut it out!!!

**DB:** *(laughing) Ok....*

**EC:** I just heard one of my kids is gonna' have a birthday, so it makes me a year older... I mean, younger.

**DB:** *(chuckle)*

**EC:** Skip all that!

**DB:** *So, you lived in Tillamook at the time... where did you first start going to school?*

**EC:** My, uh... actually, my dad was working as a truck driver for the county, and he worked in the south Tillamook area, so he drove truck, and after I was born, we moved toward... we were in Cloverdale, and then we moved here into Beaver....

**DB:** *Ok...*

**EC:** .... and he drove truck for, uh, the county, and we had... rented a house right next to the county shops there... here in Beaver.... it was a parsonage... the old white parsonage right next to the old

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

Beaver repair shop there, and Noah Richards was driving a.... we called it a Yuma tractor, a little bitty tractor, and I used to go over there as a little four year old or five year old and get all dirty and muddy... or mess.... grease, and my mother would have fun cleaning me up... then when I reached... I started to school when I was... school opened in September of '26... 1926... then I went to the school here in... the old school here in Beaver...

**DB:** *Ok...*

**EC:** ... and that is what the picture shows there... and I went there a half a year, and at the same time my mother was a teacher, and she was teaching in a elementary school went up East Beaver... District 56, I believe was the name of it... of East Beaver... and she'd drive up there with her Model T Ford up there every day, so... anyway, somehow she decided I guess, after her work, and me coming home before she got home, and Dad working, it was kind of a problem with day care, so to speak, so she took me to school with her, and I went up there to East Beaver.

**DB:** *Ok, so if we can think for a minute back at Beaver... who was your teacher?*

**EC:** In Beaver?

**DB:** *Ya.*

**EC:** I do not remember her name.

**DB:** *Ok...*

**EC:** She's the lady in the picture there that was my teacher, and I think she had all eight grades at that time...

**DB:** *Ok...*

**EC:** 'Cause you see all those big children in that picture.

**DB:** *Right... so, I think we can find out her name. So then when you went to East Beaver, your Mom was your teacher, right?*

**EC:** Right.

**DB:** *Do you remember other students names?*

**EC:** Oh, yes... it was another area like Beaver would be a community or like Blaine would be....

**DB:** *Uh, huh (yes)...*

**EC:** ... the East Beaver area... as you turn there and went up by the Cheese Factory... the, uh... first house was the Lyster house.... uh... Valerie Lister was one of the people there... I'm not sure of the.... there was an Ed Lyster was older and his sister was around my age.... she was Musetta... went.... we went on....

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**DB:** *What was her first name again?*

**EC:** Musetta.

**DB:** *Musetta?*

**EC:** Uh, huh (yes)...

**DB:** *Oooh...*

**EC:** And... a different name, there... Musetta.... anyway, as you went further up... you went around, followed East Beaver highway, you followed the river, kinda'... and then there was up there on... another area... a house way on the left back there was the Stultz... S T U L T Z (spelling out the name) ... a Robert Stultz, and he had an older brother... I don't know if he ever went to school in that East Beaver school or not... but, anyway he was not going to school when I was there... uh... then as you went... picked him up and went past his house, on up and across the river at a bridge and on the right hand side was a people named Holgate...

**DB:** *Ok...*

**EC:** ... and they had a ... Nora was the daughter and the son was Marvin, and they all went to this school... and then there was another house... a big white house after you left their place... followed up... on the right side was a Mrs. Ely.... owned that land... and then she was elderly, but we remember her as a nice lady... and then there was another piece of property that was a ranch... I'm not sure exactly who rented it at the time... how many children... at one time there was some people that came out of Canada for about a year that rented it, and they lasted a year... and then a man by the name of Phil Porter bought it, and then there was Kenneth....

**DB:** *John and George...*

**EC:** Right... George was the older... you know the Porters... great... pardon?

**DB:** *And Tom.*

**EC:** Tom, the younger one... anyway, then that was about the end... the school then was just around the corner from them up there, and it was right close to the road, just set back away was this little white building... was a school house... and there was a big... closer to the road was a building called a play shed...

**DB:** *Ooooh....*

**EC:** ... was what it was built... and then there was a place for the wood, around the... somewhere right behind the play shed there... now, where the building was was fenced in, the school yard, but up on the hill there was a group of people lived there by the name of Phelps...

**DB:** *That's right...*

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**EC:** ... and there was, uh.... Anna Phelps, Rosalie Phelps, the older boys was... Gayton Phelps was the older... Jim... then... I mentioned the girls... then there was Charles Phelps or Chuck, and he's the boy that had two... four fingers cut off... his sister was cutting wood and he got in the way and got his hand in there and that's what did that... you probably know that story... anyway, and then Merle was my age...

**DB:** *Ooh...*

**EC:** And that about ended it... we used to... the road went up and then there was a group... uh, a house right at the end of the road called the Gilbert house, and that ended the road... there was no... the road... East Creek Road ended at the Gilbert property, 'cause they had it fenced off to keep their animals or cattle out....

**DB:** *Related to the Gilberts here in town?*

**EC:** That was the... the man was Allen Gilbert... was the son of Minnie and Bill Gilbert...

**DB:** *Ok... and Minnie and Bill had the place up East Beaver.. is that how that worked, or....*

**EC:** I imagine they loaned... or whoever owned that... I never really... but, whether Allen had money from his Dad or went and bought it or bought the land and they may have bought it, I never knew. But Allen was... uh, he used to be a truck . . . , I think, I don't know... anyway, he hurt his leg... but they used to live up there and had a nice home... and... well, Ed Gilbert, I think had died at that time and Minnie Gilbert lived up there with his son, and... she was... the woman that lived... the.. uh, Erma Gilbert is my aunt...

**DB:** *Yeah...*

**EC:** And she married Allen... uh.... so I don't know... I can't remember how the... at that time... that goes back... I'm not sure whether anybody was up there... the Gilberts, see, were living there... they just called it the Gilbert ranch... they... someone maintained and then... until Allen and them... Erma moved up there... I don't know... 'cause I thought she taught here at Beaver at one time...

**DB:** *Erma?*

**EC:** Uh, huh (yes)...

**DB:** *Yeah, she did...*

**EC:** But then, I don't know how she got to teaching at the district there at Hemlock... that's.... who was the teacher there at Hemlock? See, what happened... I'll go back here... I'm jumping... I'll go back up.... so, the years that I was at the school in East Beaver....

**DB:** *Right...*

**EC:** ...was all these older boys... my mother was teaching older boys, and so on, and they were ninth graders... and some was tenth... they'd come down and she was able to give them special things she

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

got from the state, so it could help them out, because in those days the only high school, I think, was in Cloverdale, and they could not go there unless they paid tuition, or no one could transport... they didn't have the money to transport...

**DB:** *So these boys she taught.. were they the Phelps boys, or....*

**EC:** Right... there was Gayton Phelps... and those were the bigger boys... they would help get the fire... Gayton had a deal with the district there... he'd go down and get the fire started and sweep the floor and clean up the school building, and keep the fire going in the... we had a nice wood stove... and then we had a water hole.... watering... he'd bring the down in a big tank we had there... or buckets.... and each one had their cup.... we had a dipper to put the water out of the... from the bucket into the... own drinking cup... and, we used to want to... I know when I got older... but they'd take turns hauling water down... but the only place we'd get water in there was from the Phelps' well...

**DB:** *Oooh...*

**EC:** ... clear up on the hill... so we'd have to take that bucket and hike up there... two of us... so Merle and I, quite often, when we got older, into the third grade or fourth grade, it would be... we'd go up there... and they had a huge apple tree that had nice big yellow apples in the fall... they were the sweetest, juiciest sweet apples you ever tasted... they'd be great, huge ones... you'd think of these red Delicious ... big ones... but these were all yellow sweet apples... so we'd come back with our pockets loaded with them, and eating them!

**DB:** *How many years did you go to East Beaver?*

**EC:** I went... we's up.... I was up there for grade one, two, three, and four.

**DB:** *Ok...*

**EC:** So, what happened, around that period of the third grade, the districts... there was East Beaver, Hemlock, and there was a little school called Sunnyside in... at the end of the... below the hill in the Sandlake Road as you turn off...

**DB:** *So it was Sunnyside, not Sunnydell?*

**EC:** Sunnyside... I've always called it... I'm not sure the number of it, anyway...

**DB:** *Oh, I could tell you the number of it... I've got it written down...*

**EC:** You'd probably have to go to the state... or I mean up at... Tillamook County would tell you that...

**DB:** *Oh, where is it?*

**EC:** Anyway....

**DB:** *It was District 36...*

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**EC:** 36... 56, 36, and 26.... now I remember... anyway, there was a very small number of people there at the time... there could have been some children by the name of Gilmore and Peterson... may have gone up there... they were living in that area, I think... I was living there... my dad and mother had bought a ranch in about '27 over there... then the only children that would have gone were the Tohl's that had a ranch... and there were Newberg children there... older people... I don't know if they went or not... he was a grown man... uh, Ernest Newberg... and... there was only two... a girl and a boy, I believe... of the Tohl children... and it was a one room school that just could not afford to maintain it, so they decided to consolidate and make one and build a building there at Hemlock, and that's what happened. That's why I was thinking that they hired Erma Gilbert to become the teacher after that building.... after... unless she was a teacher there at one time, because, I don't know... the Hemlock building... but I thought they kept her as teacher when they consolidated and built the building and my mother became the first grade, second grade, third grade and fourth grade teacher there.

**DB:** *So you mean sisters taught there....*

**EC:** And my aunt taught five, six, seven and eight... so being a son there, my aunt was my teacher in grades five, six, seven and eight... I had a real... I couldn't get... I couldn't do anything but get into trouble!

**DB:** *Now, I don't think we've said your mom's name, and that was....*

**EC:** My mother's name was Edith Creecy.

**DB:** *Right, ok....*

**EC:** Right.... and Erma Gilbert.... anyway....

**DB:** *So you went to Hemlock then, five grades?*

**EC:** Yeah, right... I finished up at Hemlock.

**DB:** *Ooooh....*

**EC:** And, I remember... I think my dad was a school director at one time, now when they were building that, or before that, I do not remember.... I do know he was a school... he was a director on the board there for the association... dairy board, there...

**DB:** *Yeah...*

**EC:** He could have... seems like he was involved somehow they made... and, so anyway... that... I can't remember when that building was built, but, let's see if I started as a fifth grader....that would be about... 11... uh, fifth grade, wait a minute... 10 years old... yeah, that would be about '31... '31.... so they must have built that... so the Depression hit around this time... and there was another vote came on that the Nestucca Union High School....

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**DB:** *Right....*

**EC:** ...about this same period of time, and I can remember the deal on that, and they voted that in, and that came around '32, I believe.... or maybe I... along there or '33, maybe, because....

**DB:** *So, did you attend Nestucca then?*

**EC:** Oh, yes.

**DB:** *All four years?*

**EC:** Four years.

**DB:** *Hmmmm....*

**EC:** So, that's when Leland was down there then, and uh....

**DB:** *So do you recall the Sunnyside School, what it looked like at all? All we have is one poor photo of that school, and we haven't met anybody we could talk to, whoever, had seen it or anything....*

**EC:** Uh.... it was a....

**DB:** *Or knows anybody who even went there.*

**EC:** The only people.... gosh.... no, I .... I don't know if I was ever up there... seemed like it was kind of a shack... they wanted to close it... it reminded me of... it was a one room school, built like... I think it had a little tower... could you remember... is that what the picture shows, the shadow.... and the front... they go through the front like a "v"....

**DB:** *Yes....*

**EC:** .... and.... now, the one that... probably the windows were all on one side.... it wasn't very big... if it could hold probably ten, fifteen children, I

guess.... I don't know...

**DB:** *And then your ranch, was it somewhere right near the school?*

**EC:** No, my.... well, yes in a way... we were a mile and a half from the highway into that road on the right hand... it used to be known as the Ed O'Neil ranch...

**DB:** *Ok...*

**EC:** ...and, we... Dad bought that in, uh... '27... right in that area of time, I think... the land... and there wasn't any buildings on it at all, so O'Neil was not living on land... he wanted to get rid of it, because he worked as a, uh... the big dredge... they dredged the bay down there in Tillamook so the people could go in.... the bay... the ships could come in and out of the harbor... dredged that open... did I

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

drop something... oh.... anyway, the harbor was dredged, he did that for a number of years, anyway... so we could live up there and use their barn, and Dad built a house....

**DB:** *Hmmm....*

**EC:** ... down there, and we got into the house, and then, that was back in '26, '27, '28... oh, wait a minute... '27, '28, I guess... I lost track of time... anyway... because we go into the house... seemed like '27 we built a barn, and man helped us... then there was '28.... had to be... if you'd look back in the records, didn't Tillamook have a big snowstorm in '28? Seemed like it was '28 when it snowed about a foot an hour, and they had drifts ten, twelve feet high...

**DB:** *Oh, my...*

**EC:** ...and the Model T Fords were... you couldn't.... I know at that time when we went... my mother was still teaching at East Beaver, we could get out of our ranch area, and get up on the highway around... and you could go part way on East Beaver Road, and up there where you passed Lysters, but up there about where the Stultz... the drifts got so bad, a man had his horse and... got a horse and a sled that he hauled wool and stuff on.. put the kids in that..

**DB:** *Ooooh...*

**EC:** ... and took us on to school... with the horse and sled....

**DB:** *So school wasn't canceled?*

**EC:** Oh, no... well, I don't know... they may have for a.... as far as I know we went all... and they didn't cancel... snow... and all that winter, I don't know how long it took, but we always did that... far as I know... how many days, I can't remember... we went there all the time, or.... because as long as we could get the Model T Ford out, mom would get.... we'd go into that, bundle everybody up... I know I had a lot of fun sitting in the back, dragging my feet in the snow and throwing snowballs, but that... ya, I think had to be '27 or '28... I'd have to look back... I saw some pictures in Salem years... and I thought of the State Street... and here was a Bishop's groc.... uh, men's clothing store...

**DB:** *Yeah...*

**EC:** ... and they had these awnings, you know, around... and here was a big pile of snow clear up above that awning, which would be like a story high, and....

**DB:** *So what was it like, being the son of the teacher, or being the son of the aunt, you know, who was a teacher... did you feel like you were treated differently, or not...*

**EC:** Well, the children that went to Hemlock... went up there to East Beaver School, everybody was just a bunch... they took me in, the big kids looked out after me, and I was the teacher's son, I guess, and I was a big shot, so to speak, and they looked after me, and I thought I was just one of their... because that was the first time I had boys to play with...

**DB:** *Yeah...*



# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**EC:** ... and... I remember the girls... how many girls there were... but there was the ones I've named... the Phelps girls and some of those had left that school... they got older, and then there was a Holgate girl, and... so, really, uh, mostly a lot of boys... Jim Phelps, Merle Phelps, and, uh... I think Gayton was down there too, I guess, yet... but we used to have games... let's see we played in there... Blackman... they called it Blackman... running back and forth across there... like Red Rover, Red Rover Come Over, but you get tagged and then you get... and they tag you...

**DB:** *Oh...*

**EC:** ... Blackman, they called it, and you'd get tagged and you'd have to go on to their side, and then you'd come back... then next thing you had a rubber ball... in those days you didn't have... had a small rubber ball... you'd have a flat bat to hit that... they'd whittle it out of a piece of board....

**DB:** *Oooh....*

**EC:** .... it was about six inches wide, and a handle on it... you'd hit it and you could run on the ball game... drive it way down... a big kid could drive it almost to the river... I used to get so blooming mad, I'd strike out... I'd get up there, work... I'd catch a fly, then I get up there and I'd get fanned out or I'd hit a fly and they'd catch me out and I'd grrrrr, grrrr, grrrr.... I'd go out there and stomp....

**DB:** *(laughing)...*

**EC:** ... then they had a game.... you'd take a piece of, uh... a stick... a nice stick... and make a better stick... nail a stick across the bottom of it... about six, eight, ten inches... eight inches wide, ten inches maybe, and then stand on it... and then you'd take a... off of these old buggies, there'd be a rim.. the big ones had the big rims and then off the little ones they had a small deal that held the... part of the wheel together on the buggy... on the outer part of the big wheel... I'm trying to think of what would describe it here.... you see, the... a lot of these...

**DB:** *A big hoop....*

**EC:** They had a big hoop, and then they had another smaller hoop on the outer part there that held some of the... on these big wagons... there were about so big around.... it was a lot of fun to push those around, keep them going and so on... and we used to play games with those, or see who could race with them... and race each other with those, or just practice, and if they tip over, you pick them up and go... you got so you could race... that was games you'd play at recess time....

**DB:** *Did that stay at school, or did you bring it every day with.. when you drove with your Mom?*

**EC:** Well, that was there at school... I don't know... I didn't have that...

**DB:** *Aaaahhh.....*

**EC:** ....I think the Phelps' boys is what had it...

**DB:** *Oh, I see...*

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**EC:** ... I don't know where they came from... because I know they had these great big ones... a wheel... and, I don't know... the, uh... I was probably about second grade, anyway, and I decided I wanted to stop that big one... it was running fast, and roll it myself... I found it didn't stop too easily... darn near cut the end of my finger off...

**DB:** *Ooh...*

**EC:** ... I don't know... and, so what did my mother... well, you gotta' have some old rags around there, like sheets... and bandage it up real good and tied it, and... dad.. when we got home, I think he put turpentine on it and kept clean bandages and it healed all right... why go... and... very seldom people... kids got hurt... they had a bloody nose... oh, this Bob Stultz, he used to get real bad bloody nose... I don't know... like some people... and they'd put a... you know.... hold his head back, mother.... and they'd put a compress back here, and they'd put cotton... she had cotton there, too... and stuff... put cotton up in his nose to keep it... to get it to clot...

**DB:** *Hmmm...*

**EC:** ...'cause he'd bleed... he was quite a bleeder for.. at that age... he was older... let's see... he was about three, four years older than I was, I believe... he later became a... he went to Nestucca and graduated, and then he became a... and, uh... he had a ranch down there in the Cloverdale area, and he finally sold the ranch, ended up becoming an attorney.

**DB:** *Was it S T U ....*

**EC:** S T U L T Z ...

**DB:** *Ok...*

**EC:** Have you heard that name before?

**DB:** *Uh, yeah.. I've had some other people talk about them.*

**EC:** Yeah...

**DB:** *So, do you remember ever getting disciplined by your mom at school, or your aunt?*

**EC:** Disciplined....

**DB:** *You probably were such a well-behaved...*

**EC:** Well.... uh.... usually up there when I was a ele... a little kid like that... uh, everybody was so good... seemed like they were cooperative.. they wanted to learn... I can't.... and the big boys were around there... if anybody ever got in trouble, I guess they were supposed to paddle them, or whatever... their little brothers and so on... but, we were all like a big family....

**DB:** *Ok...*

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**EC:** .... that's what it was, and no one seemed to get into any trouble ... they cooperated... took turns dust... we used to... well, they used to let me and... myself and, uh... Merle Phelps, we'd go out and dust the erasers and clean the boards... that was a big honor...

**DB:** *Yeah...*

**EC:** ...and the big boys... uh, Gayton would sweep the building and clean it up, then, and keep the wood on the... going in the stove in the wintertime, good and hot, and uh.... for lunches, we carried a... whatever... some of them would have an old lard pail, you know, they'd keep clean... they'd buy their lard years ago... and the mothers would clean that up and put the lid back on, put your sandwiches and whatever in there and an apple or some cookies or whatever they could bake... cake... and that was... I don't know what... peanut butter sandwiches were common in those days, and we had jelly... homemade bread and jelly sandwiches, I don't know... whatever you had... maybe an apple, or an oran.... oranges, no...

**DB:** *Right...*

**EC:** There'd be apples.... uh, venison sandwich, maybe, if the guy... the dads were lucky, which they always were... fish... they might have had a... I don't remember kids eating fish sandwich or not.... I don't think they ever did... some of them.... oh, they might bring a piece of smoked salmon once in a while... they'd have to.... they were lucky... but, uh... I don't know... up there didn't... I can't remember... most the kids had just basic food that we'd say... mothers made the bread, and then they made the butter... probably churned their own butter, I think, in those days... and, uh, really, that's about all I can remem.... we never thought much about food... cookies, maybe they'd bake cookies, or something like that, and we'd trade things around, once in a while...

**DB:** *Did you ever have homework to do, and especially with your mom being a teacher, did that....*

**EC:** Most of the children there.... they did all... see what happened... in a one room school you would be doing your lessons with the teacher, and teaching the reading and going over, remembering and math and stuff and showing you things to do... then you got your assignment and you went back to your desk... in the meantime, the other grade... she may combine first and second, then the older kids would be up there and you'd be doing your work right there at your desk, or if you got into trouble, well, then, uh.... most everybody was busy get... wanting to get their work done, 'cause when they got home, a lot of those kids had a lot of work to do, like cleaning houses, cleaning barns, or... they worked like they were young men, the boys... and the girls did with their mothers... a lot of housework... take care of the younger babies, or so on.... so they didn't have chan... much time to do what we'd call homework, 'cause they were called agricultural background of people, not a city at all.... like we have today... there's nothing for our children to do when they... they come home at three something... now, let's see.... the hours... I'm trying to think.... I think we had to start at nine.... o'clock.... we would be up there... start at nine... ringing an outdoor bell... and then we got done about four o'clock or four thirty... I can't remember... like that.. uh... but by that time, they... of course, it was getting dark.... we had standard time... and, uh... but then, mother would drive back home... so when I got home... uh... real late, at that time, I can remember, I had things I could read... I liked to read.. she'd help me, or, if I needed to... uh, I think, because I had books and magazines and I could read and I'd do that on my own.

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**DB:** *Now you had a sister...*

**EC:** Right... she was five years younger than I... Margaret....

**DB:** *Now, were those the... the two of you?*

**EC:** That's right, yes, and she.... yes, let's see... 1926.... so we must have went on that ranch after or right at that time, because she was a small baby... and we were still living here in Beaver...

**DB:** *Hmmm....*

**EC:** ... and renting a house... that brown house where LaFond's.... used to be the Gilbert house, on that side of the road... dad rented that for a while until we got the parsonage.... I'll tell you a good story... I shouldn't... (chuckle).... I don't know if my daughter even knows this...

**DB:** *Do you not want it in....*

**EC:** I don't know... well, Margaret was five years... a baby.. I was five years younger... older than she was, so that was what it would be.. so I was a .... that was about the time we lived here and I was going back to school here at that time... anyway... '26... so, I know mother used to rock her, and I guess I was... I could have been a little jealous at the time, who knows, I don't know... and I would help mom rock, and almost tipped her over in the rocking chair... made her... well, it... scared me, too...

So anyway, when we were down there in Cloverdale my dad liked to have guns and hunt and he grew up with that type, so he had a nice .22... it was a pump gun, and he put a little magazine in the back... but anyway, he always said that was my gun, and he taught me how to use it and how to point it down... so, sometime, I don't know whether mom was... my mother was in there rocking, and I went in the back bedroom where dad had the gun, well, I... anyway, and I crawled up on the chair and found where the... he had kept the ammunition hid, supposedly, and I got the ammunition.. I knew how to put it in the clip, put the clip in, took this gun, pumped it and shot a couple holes in the floor down there in the closet.... so I know ... anyway, so I put it back in there but I never told anybody... oh, my dad was mad a month... weeks later, 'cause those old bullets... it turned the... caused the barrel to pent... it turned green... oh, it was all right, but... and... I did have sense enough, and, but he really gave me a scolding... never paddled me or anything, but I was scared spitless after that, 'cause... guns, it's a wonder... I could have shot someone, and I understood, but I had sense enough with my training to put it down, and of course, being close... mother couldn't hear it....

**DB:** Ok...

**EC:** .... in the closet... but that was in that... there... then we moved at the parsonage... and I guess it was that winter I was here... maybe I... was it Christmas time.... anyway, I remember I got the croup, and they had to have the doctor, and he gave me some black pills and they me for that to take two drops of kerosene in this sugar and take that.... pffft.... delicious....

**DB:** Oh.... it sounds terrible!

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**EC:** That was what the doctor... I got over it, and lived....

**DB:** (chuckling)...

**EC:** .... and so on.... but we live... I live... and that.. then they... and that could be... maybe then about that time was when they... so '27 was when we got up on the ranch, then.... I'm getting it straightened out, now....

**DB:** *You have great memory of stories, and that's one thing that we'd really like to hear....*

**EC:** Well, I try....

**DB:** .... *is uh, you know, stories... things that happened that maybe only you know, or....*

**EC:** Well, it happened to me... but, my dad... of course, where my dad lived as a young man up there in Blaine, they... see, his dad was a Civil War veteran....

**DB:** *What was his name?*

**EC:** James Brown Creecy....

**DB:** *Ok...*

**EC:** They.... uh, I, uh... there should be a better monument and I've tried to talk to my sister... up there in the Beaver Cemetery... Blaine Cemetery... his... my grandmother was named Lydia Creecy...

**DB:** *Ok, so....*

**EC:** ... and there's no marker in the plot for them... we used to go up there when I was a kid, and then dad got older, and we just... back then... he worked in... after the war years, I don't know what happened... they didn't go up there.... I remembered it, but now it's so grown up....

**DB:** *So, your grandparents are buried at Blaine....*

**EC:** Right.

**DB:** *What about your dad?*

**EC:** He was buried in Tillamook... dad and mother are buried in Tillamook... in the Tillamook Cemetery.... (Sunset Heights)

**DB:** *So, what's your ancestry, then? Uh, the Creecys... where did they come from? Do you know?*

**EC:** Well, best I can find from... I found some history one time... there was one man by the name of Creecy... I think, anyway... he came out of the Virginia area in the 17... something or other... 56 or

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

something like that... he got down into Tennessee, and I believe he could have married a woman by the name of... oh, boy, I forgot... Brown would be the mai... parents... her last name was Brown... uh, and she... her parents, Brown, he had quite a bit of land there in Tennessee at that time...

**DB:** *Hmmm...*

**EC:** ... that was back there in, uh, well... it would put it in the 1820's.... something like that....

**DB:** *What about your mom's maiden name... what was...*

**EC:** Myers...

**DB:** *Myers....*

**EC:** So, anyway.... keeping on this...

**DB:** *Ok...*

**EC:** ... so the Creecys.... the Brown... had married, and then his wife, the father of the, uh.... I'm trying to think... Brown... miss... whatever became of Creecy... uh, his wife died, and then they decided his age and everything.... and then some other children, they migrated out of there to Missouri.... my grandad Creecy was born down there in 1829... so they migrate... and I never knew... my dad didn't know about that... uh, his dad was about six foot one or two... but anyway, he came from there... the apple... one of the... I think one of the Applegate wagon trains... they joined that.... believe it was one of the Applegate.... they came to Oregon... what got the idea to that, they came to Oregon, and... they didn't come down the.... I guess they rafted down the Columbia River, is what they had to do in those days....

**DB:** *Oooh....*

**EC:** ... the way they went through... I didn't know much about that.... they don't know much about that trip, particularly.... but, see now, my grand... I discovered in going through the, uh... what I found in the archives here in Portland, they had the, uh... they had the homestead rights of the Creecys then, and, uh.... now my dad's.... my granddad's brothers and some of them, they had to make their mark... they could not write or read, I don't think... so they... that goes way back there and gives you an idea of schooling in those areas. Now my Granddad Creecy could write his name, and so could my Dad... well, of course, Grandad Creecy, how he got... and his wife... well, that comes differently... many years later... but then they homesteaded there in Columbia County, and the other Creecys close by... and there was a name of Schimmenhouser that married a Creecy that came with them... but they did not want that land... they had to say they did... by my dad... but my Granddad Creecy proved up on his land and he was able to keep... but they run a road or something for a number of years... some way, the state or the county, or someone did, and cut the land and they had to sell it or get rid of it, so this one Creecy, I kinda' think, he moved over to Washington there on the Columbia River there... they moved into Washington... he lived over there... and then there was Bennett Creecy that I discovered... and I'm not sure about James Brown... some way they came and went into Portland... and lost... I don't know how they did that... I mean, I lost track... but while they were in Portland, my dad said there was a little village at the end of the St. John's Bridge there... there was a town by

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

itself... that they lived there... where my dad was born there... but Granddad Creecy... seemed like the time he was there, he was a Civil War Veteran and they went in and he took care of horses for a number of years, until after the Civil War... and from the Oregon... Oregon Guard they called it the... I can't think...

**DB:** *Hmmm...*

**EC:** ...I should know it... Oregon... they weren't the reserves, they volunteered... is what they were... the first Oregon Volunteer Civil War Veteran... so he drew... he drew a Civil War Veteran's pension when he got older.

**DB:** *So, then, did he move out here?*

**EC:** Right. They... out of Portland... he worked around Portland there and Sauvie's Island and drove oxen and drove logs, and I thought at one time he went up towards Gresham and worked. Well, anyway, he married a Lydia.... oh, brother, hold it a minute.... I can't think of her last name, now... I know it, too... anyway her... her dad and so on, they came from Ohio... how... where... I don't know much more about her background... but in the death certificate, her mother was from England...

**DB:** *Hmmm.....*

**EC:** ...Lydia's background is from England... anyway... but, now my dad's name... Creecy... uh, is hard... there was... hard to say where the... there could have been a little Irish mixture... well, Heinz 59, we'll call it... 57... but, according to this genealogy that this woman... this cousin that is related to the Creecys... her mother... her great-great-grandmother was my Aunt Sarah... my dad's older sister... one of them... and her mother was... had a daughter... and her daughter, I think, is the one that... this cousin that's related was her mother, I believe... anyway, I'd have to check back and make sure on that... and she went to Provo, Utah and did this genealogy stuff...

**DB:** *Hmmm....*

**EC:** ... and I've got a book that she put up... some of it... she made some mistakes in there she didn't find, because she left... she did not know about what I'm telling you today about the Creecy... this James Brown Creecy... she didn't know anything about that at all.

**DB:** *So why did he move to this area?*

**EC:** Well.... each... I was trying to think... watching these young boys... I'm trying to think why my dad didn't know... he worked there... he was... his daughters were old... they were older than my dad... he was the baby of the family... he was born in 1889 there in the Portland area.... now, what happened... let me see... my Granddad Creecy... he was up in his late fifties at that time... middle fifties... but he got talking to people that he heard of land over here, so maybe he got itchy and decided he'd better get out of the city.... well, he had an older son by the name of John, and they were in an area where the railroad were by, there, and John was kind of... I don't know... maybe he got in a lot of trouble... dad used to tell stories about him... because back there in 1889 and 1900... well, dad was probably... see, he'd be ten years old... in 1899, he'd be nineteen... ten years old, so really about that time, John.... he

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

remembers things, and John was the one that was about twenty years older than my dad... so, anyway, he was the oldest of the children...

There was some of them died in between in birth or after birth... disease... or illnesses that caused death... but, uh, he'd go along with his sling shot, and these women would have their canary birds hanging out, you know, he loved to take his sling shot and hit a canary bird... and he was good at it, I guess... so I kinda'.... the story... I think that might have been why Granddad Creecy decided... and maybe some of the wild stories of Tillamook County, and so on... and I think he came into Tillamook... how he... what year, I'm not.... 19... he may have been there before 1900... it could have been about that time, because he could have stopped in Tillamook, and it seemed like for a year or so he rented a ranch... or worked on a ranch there in the... oh, uh... there's a Brickyard Road... maybe you've heard of that there, and there was a... across the road from that ranch was the Hanenkrat ranch, and on the other side, I'm not sure what they called that... I think... from what I remember it seemed like he owned... he ran that for a little while... or worked on that... the family... then they moved on because he got a fancy deal... some guy with a little money shystered him out of this plan up here in Blaine, up Moon Creek and East Creek... and he thought it was something fancy, and they got up there and it was a hill with hardly any... there was a little open spot, but nothing on it, I don't think... well, they had to build their own house, and so on... it seems like they did... there may have been a shack, or small building, but... anyway, he was a....

**DB:** *How long did he live there, then?*

**EC:** 'Til he died.

**DB:** *Oh, he did...*

**EC:** Oh, yeah... my dad...

**DB:** *What about John, did he come to this area?*

**EC:** Oh, yeah... he was with his dad... he... he was... the oldest son was actually like the old timers, you'd say... he was the one that guided the... the dad turned everything over to him.

**DB:** *So, does... are there descendants of John in the area?*

**EC:** John never married.

**DB:** *Oooh...*

**EC:** He lived here... my dad, up on the ranch... let's see, there was Mary, Sarah, Margaret... I should start with John... John, then Mary was a daughter, Sarah, and Margaret was a... was next, then my dad... Margaret was about two years older than my dad... they were very close... and lived up there... then Margaret... some of the older... Mary and them, I don't know what happened to her... John and my dad worked the ranch... my dad... John was the father there... my dad hated his brother... he said, ok, they had to pry stumps by hand, drag things... ok, push a little harder... push a little harder... dad said he darn near broke his back, and his brother... and so on... but they had to peel chittum bark, and they made... and they made... they'd dry it and sell that to make money to live... they, uh... he



# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

went to school there... in the Blaine School... and I think about five and half months was about all the school was open...

**DB:** *Hmmm...*

**EC:** ... and they would do their numbers and their reading and they... I don't know whether they had... they had slates they wrote on... I'm pretty sure then... 'cause paper they couldn't buy... and erase them... uh, then in the summer they would work when the weather was good and plant their little crop up there... I don't know what kind of crops... vegetable crops to live... uh, timber... I'm not sure whether they did... they didn't sell any timber... they peeled chittum... then they would hitch up the bag... well, John would get... well, he was old enough, my grandfather... and get a little pension and then John would take the money and they'd go... at least some of the girls would go into Tillamook to get the necessities that they would need... and... that would be about a three or four day trip.. they'd have to take one day to get in there, another day to shop around, and then on the morning of the third day they could start back...

**DB:** *Hmmmm.....*

**EC:** ... something like that....

**DB:** *Do you have any pictures of that time?*

**EC:** No... uh... the only picture... I do have an old picture showing early of Hebo when it was mud on the road... 19... something... 10, I think it said... I happened to run across it... it would be a good picture to archive it... I don't know... anyway.... then they'd go over to Netarts and camp for the summer a lot of times and dig clams... can 'em while they was over there and bring 'em back in jars... I guess they did that... dad was an excellent clam digger.... (chuckle).... anyway... and they'd hunt up there... they could have deer meat, you know, once in a while... I'm not sure if they had beef or anything like that... they raised any animals, I can't remember... but, uh.... then this house... I had a picture of them sitting... the house was very rudiment... it was clapboards, you'd say, put together... and how warm it would be, I don't know... but he was a man that... older and he let his... he had a big, long beard...

**DB:** *Is this your grandpa?*

**EC:** Yes... and he'd sit... I have a picture of his rocking chair... well, as my dad said as he grew up, they... every Sunday they had the Bible and that they would read the Bible and fast all day... now, I don't know what religion... they never... I never realized that... but, he said, he grew up with "Children are to be seen and not heard", and if you opened your mouth and interrupted your parents, you got slapped across the mouth, and that.... so you were quite... and then after sundown, they could eat... I guess they'd have something to eat... but they sat there and prayed and read the Bible, that was what he did, and way... I guess he did that back there in Portland... when they were in that little villa.... town just across from St. John... I should know the name of that, but I can't remember....

**DB:** *But that tradition... did that carry on with...*

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**EC:** By my dad? No... uh, he... after they... his dad died... the girls had migrated back to Portland... John stayed up there, and my dad, and I know Margaret did, too, I think, quite a bit... but then after his dad died, his mother was there, too... I don't know how she died... about three years later... two or three years later... and it was.... liquid that filled up with... the disease you call now... I can't remember the name... Bryce disease or something like that... anyway, so he was the one that had to take care of his mother all this time, while she was sick in there and so on... and when the homestead... when the home broke up... uh, I don't know... John took the... dad had very little of the home... of the keepsakes of his parents... he had one... he had a... a trunk that they brought with them from Missouri, supposedly, he had the Bible and he had a... his sisters one time when he was a child... gave him a painted egg... that was an Easter egg out of Portland... and he had the clock that his dad had there... his clock that he had there in Portland... that he got in Portland.... but Margaret checked back with it... she took that after he died, and they found it was made in Portland, probably... older type... anyway... so John, then, and dad left.... and he... I don't know... he lived around Tillamook here and he worked as a mechanical work, and he used to ride his bicycle... I don't know...

When they had dances around, he had one pair of shoes... a young man... and he'd put his old... uh... dancing shoes, the good shoes and ride his bicycle... all... he could ride that and go to the dances... they'd dance all night at these grange halls around Beaver and Blaine up there, and then they'd ride home, and fix his tire... he did a lot of that.. then when he was a young man, they used to go to Independence and pick hops, too... they did that... and he got... he was a young boy in his twenties then, and uh.... see, that's be in 19.... yeah, in 1910 he'd be twenty years old, and uh.... things like that... and they worked in Tillamook, working on cars... I'm not sure... dad didn't say much about him... he lived up there and then where he lived after... he'd work here and there, and kept... I just never got into it with him where he migrated after his parents died.

Then Uncle Sam took him and he went in the Army in WWI, and he went overseas with that... he went over and got... came back... so he got back in 1919... he was in there a little over a year, I think it was... and then, after that, he, uh... well, he knew Lloyd Kellow somehow, 'cause of the Kellows being in the south end of the county and there is some... so he got to working... got a job for... with Lloyd... had a mail job... had an old Cadillac... and my dad would pick up... there was mail sacks there, I guess, down in that area....

(end of side one of the tape)

**EC:** .... see my... Edith Myers was a... uh, her parents ended up... my grandad Myers (laughing) uh... Iowa... they lived in Iowa... the Creecys... oh, I started to tell you... wait a minute... the Creecys... actually what I know there... may have come out of France... the name Creesay... they may have had some relationship with the Eng... the French that fought in England back there before the English got rid of the French... in that history period, remember... and then, after they did that they could have had the right of working for these people and got certain land rights, and so on, then they may have migrated... how they got to the United States, uh... they probably could have come as indentured servants, I'm guessing... but they... or they may have come with a religious group... we don't... I don't know... there's a vacancy and a void and no one seems to have been able to find, because... ability to write, and so on... and the name has been so changed... you've got C R E A S Y... C R E S E Y, I believe... Cresy or Creasy with the EA or CR... so the C R E E C Y was the way my dad spelled it, I noticed... so... when my... she has a lot of these that are all related to the Creecys of names that... I don't know how many.. hundred or two hundred names that this genealogy person of mine that found

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

them... that should be related, and they come around the Tennessee area... there's lots of them back in that area... but, that's all I know about that... it's just... someday I'd like to... maybe before I get too old... I'd like to get back in there and do some... see what I could discover... but, anyway... some of the Creecys... this one Creecy came through and landed in Albany, who was related to this other part, and they're buried... there's a Creecy buried out here in the old Albany cemetery, and I'm sure that's Bennett Creecy, of what I run across in the... in the archives up here in the... in the.... uh....

**DB:** *Museum, you mean?*

**EC:** In Tilla... there in Salem...

**DB:** *Oh, in Salem...*

**EC:** Yeah, the archi... there in Salem.... I was there in....

**DB:** *The state archives...*

**EC:** State archives, I got into that, and I run across that and I didn't... I don't know... I had to... time up on my car, and I ran out and I didn't get a chance to get back, and the guy was helping me, and I can't prove it, but I'm sure that he said that was in the Albany area, and then my... I found this cousin... she found the... someone discovered that, too, so it ties together there on that... anyway, then the Myers part of it came out of Iowa, and they came west and landed here and finally he ended up in Tillamook... my grandad Cr... Myers...

**DB:** *What was his name?*

**EC:** Oscar... Oscar Myers... and he had two boys.. Ralph and Oswald Myers...

**DB:** *So, he also lived down here.... in Beaver...*

**EC:** Oscar Myers?

**DB:** *Yeah... my dad talked about Oscar Myers....*

**EC:** Sure... he lived right next... right there... he rented the parsonage right next to the tool shed of the pars.... uh... in 1930... 29.... yeah, in there... 1929 and 19... let's see... four years.... 30 to 34... right... around 29... he drove truck...

**DB:** *Uh, huh (yes)...*

**EC:** I think it was two dol... a dollar... two dollars a day he was getting driving truck... he was a big husky man... he... yeah, your dad might... well, yeah, your grandfa... your dad's grandf... your d... your dad's father...

**DB:** *Right... Walter....*

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**EC:** Walt... yeah, Walt Bones... oh, yeah, Walt... yeah, he knew him... he knew Walt... he knew Oscar...

**DB:** *Yeah, Dad remembers him as well...*

**EC:** Right... well, he's probably like me... age... Ray would have known him... but, see, I had two uncles there... Oswald and Ralph Myers... they went to high school... and, uh... who was some... there was some Lewallens... there was some boys around here... I'm trying to think of a name of some... uh, young... any, I guess... but, uh... yeah, they... that was when the CCC's came in, too, during that era of time....

**DB:** *So, what do you remember most about your mother? Is there anything that really stands out about your mom?*

**EC:** Huh... everything, I guess... the two of them... husband and wife were very well... worked hard together... she was, uh, big... and, she... her... Oscar Myers was a... he landed here in Beaver at one time, and while he was here in Beaver he had a house that was out... as you go out of Beaver there's a little ranch out of there... they had a white... back in there, right on the right hand side... I don't know who owned it... he stayed there, and where my mother... let's see, there was Nora, I think was there then... my mother was second, and Erma... and two of the other girls... or maybe they weren't... Oswald was born there... one of triplets...

**DB:** *Hmmm...*

**EC:** She had a set of triplets... my mother... and the other two died... I think it was a girl and a boy... and Oswald was the third, and my mother used to help take care of... rubbed him and kept him warm in the winter time, and so he lived... and he... then later, two years, it was... about two... Ralph was born... that was the last of the family.

**DB:** *So, in the Beaver Cemetery it has... is where those two little babies are buried.*

**EC:** You know where it's at up on the hill, right before you get to the old covered bridge....

**DB:** *Right...*

**EC:** ... up on the hill up there... there's an old, old cemetery... I don't know how you get up there anymore...

**DB:** *Right here...*

**EC:** You go up the hill there to it, but we used to go up there and there's a cement around it, and here are the names of 'em...

**DB:** *Yeah...*

**EC:** Was there any names on those?

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**DB:** *Yeah...*

**EC:** What's.... Do you remember the names?

**DB:** *Well, uh... it says, the, uh...*

**EC:** First name.... my uncle...

**DB:** *First names...*

**EC:** Ralph said they had Babe was one or something like that, and I never did... I remember seeing Myers... I never did know...

**DB:** *I don't remember first names, but I know that they mentioned that they were part of triplets.*

**EC:** Right... the Myers triplets... Oswald was the one that lived...

**DB:** *Huh....*

**EC:** ... and my grand... and Hattie Myers, the mother, was there, and Oscar was the father, and my mother took care of them... and uh.... anyway, in moving with her age at that time.. anyway, she decided to stay here in Tillamook county... he took off later on... I don't know where... went down to Harney county... he had a big deal going down there, and he ended up there wasn't enough water in the land and it was cold in the winter time... well, mother went and worked for a maid for... oh, boy... some of the... anyway... people there in Tillamook... that, uh... try and think of the name and they were Swiss... Swise... Switzers... Switzers and German Swiss... that were, uh.. well known... I should know the name... and she worked there and went to high school...

**DB:** *Hmmm...*

**EC:** ... and 'til she got... and there was a Mrs. Finley... was one of the teachers there... in Tillamook High School... the old, old high school... and she liked mom, my mother, quite well, so Edith then... she got her interested in becoming an educator and be teacher...

**DB:** *Hmmm....*

**EC:** So that is what... so she then... after she got out... graduated from high school, she was given special classes that the state required for Reading Circle, they called 'em, to study to become a teacher... and high schools could... so when she was... at that time... see, that'd be 1918, and by 19... then she got a job teaching ... and guess where? There was a Trask River school that was open up the Trask River, and it was like another community... Trask River was like the Blaine or Hemlock or East Beaver... the Wilkses, and I don't know who else were some of the people that lived up there she mentions, and that's where I have a picture of her... some of them shot a nice brown bear, and here she's standing with a pistol wrapped around her skirt, and she's got a pistol and the bear was hanging up like she shot the bear...

**DB:** *(laughing)...*

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**EC:** ... and so on... but that was one of the years she taught there... then she did... I don't know if she taught at Cloverdale or not... seemed like it, 'cause we were living down there... of course, I was a baby at that time and I don't think she did, but uh... uhhh... then my dad moved out of... from there... anyway... I think she did... she was teaching at Bla... at Cloverdale, and stayed there at the Kellow's... and that's after the war years... 1919, 1920, 'cause see... the, uh... my dad going... that's how they got acquainted, then, so on... so they got acquainted there and then later they got married, and then I came along (chuckle) so... and then's when they... then my dad moved up here... uh, Bob Richards was the... he... uh... was the... he would drive an old quad trucks... so I think... I know he went up on Blaine... they had a big crushers working there and they camped out one summer... I was a little kid then, at that time, and then we came back down here... I don't know whether Margaret was born... had to have been... no, that was before her... so we lived here, and... in that... and then they moved over to the parsonage...

So my mother, actually, she was always the teacher... took out a time of year for when my sister was born in '26... then we got on the ranch, and uh... she got the job ... she was teaching then up East Beaver... and, uh... well, she was teaching here and she continued teaching up there, too, and driving back and forth, and my dad working and getting the ranch fixed up, and there was kinda' rough going, and uh... we carried water to the... for a while... we finally got water into the house... cold water... where we could finally heat it... know how to heat it... and they got the barn built, and mom used to help dad milk cows, and we used to shock hay, and during the Depression Era, we'd go out there and my dad at that time... he had no heavy ... he didn't... couldn't afford... we were just getting going well, and that's when we were getting fifty some cents a pound for butterfat at the factory, and then the... that's when we had twelve cows... we were doing great... then when the Depression hit, you was lucky to get twenty-five cents or twenty cents a pound for butterfat... twenty-two cents...

**DB:** *Hmmmm...*

**EC:** ... and he had to get rid of some of the cows, 'cause about all the cows would bring in... by the time you had to buy grain, and... and we could raise our own hay, 'cause you wouldn't want to buy... one winter we had to buy quite a bit of hay, and that put them in debt quite a bit, 'cause then the cows had to milk and pay off the Association and the grain they bought in Tillamook, and uh... so we could buy butter and chee... butter... they were making butter at that time, too, at the Association... they learned how to make whey butter... they started that about that same era of the Depression time... before that they were taking the whey and you could bring the whey home and feed little piggies... it was rich, sugar... we were... and raise animals... well, they took... they decided to make the butter, so they separated that... the fat out of the but... out of the whey and made butter out... and sent it in, then they made, uh... made butter out of it... and then you could buy it there, and they made cheese... you could buy it at the factory and charge it... charge it off against your income. And that went on and....

So we worked there, and dad would take... he would have a guy come down that would... from Newberg up there... come down with his team and horses and old mow machine and mow the hay for us, and he'd work one day and dad would work two days, 'cause they had hay he had to mow with the old fashioned scythe... so while dad was up there working his... working that off, and so on... the hay would be drying and then in the evening or something he'd... we had a hay rake... we'd have to rake it up in rows so we could stack it and shock it... then it got... that... he had to do that... well, that

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

cost time, too, so dad had this hay rake, and he fixed up to put it behind an old car he had there, so then I could sit on the hay rake and... I was old enough... and twick it... we could rake it up, and I was riding that so he would do that.. wouldn't have to mow by hand... but when he was mowing by hand, then the hay would be raked up and so on, and mother and I would go out... my mother would go out and we'd shock that up....

**DB:** *Hmmm.....*

**EC:** ... and then after that, after the haying season, or even during... yeah, right after that... there was a lot of alder trees on our ranch, so we cut down alder trees and cut it up for wood, to burn in the cook stove and, uh... heat our house with it... we had the two stoves... and alder is the best wood you could get to... it was not pitchy... we'd have a little fir... well, dad would have the drag saw, he called it, and power... the old fashioned drag saw... he could run that and cut up some old.... old timbers that had been fallen years ago, during the war years... it was still good... we'd get the fir out of that, so we could have the fir to start the fires, and so on.... but, uh, then, uh... the crosscut saw was all you had... you didn't have a chainsaw in those days... used that old hand crosscut to.. dad could file it to make it sharp, and fall the... and I got so that when I got to be a teenager I could fall 'em, and, while dad was working on making up his time for the haying, I could go out and fall a tree and trim it up and get it cut up in the right length, then there was a guy who had a wood saw... a buzz saw... and he'd cut it up into wood length... we had it in four foot lengths... break it up to cut it, then he'd... that way you could get a cord, and... so I got so I was pretty good at splitting those up before they, uh... those chunks of wood... and I could have done it with a wedge... sledge and wedge, but anyway, that's the way we spent....

And then when the winters come, it got snowy and... I know a few times you'd get a nice east wind and it rained and blew ice... we started to school at the high school.... (chuckle).... and we got as far as the cheese factory and the bus was going one was in the back end and the front end was going the other way... so they got it turned around, and got it back, and everybody came home. You'd step out on that and it was a sheet of ice...

**DB:** *Hmmmm....*

**EC:** I don't know how the bus got that far.... young man driving it... I don't know what year that... I think I was about a sophomore in high school at that time... anyway... so anyway, this Oscar Myers, he lived there, and his boys, Ralph and Oswald graduated in nineteen thirty ... oh... four... and Harold Skulie was one of their good friends... now, whether he lived around here, I don't know... he could have lived down towards Hebo more, I think... there was the Lewallens.... uh.... oh, uh... Woods... Junior Woods lived up there... what was their dad's name... Woods....

**DB:** *Was that Lloyd?*

**EC:** Lloyd Woods.... my dad knew him real well... Lloyd Woods, Sr. and Junior... and then he had a daughter, there... there was Lloyd's sister... that uh... Helen Woods... she had tuberculosis... she developed a case of that....

**DB:** *What, uh... it sounds like your parents were really hard workers...*

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**EC:** They had....

**DB:** *What do you think was the best advice that your dad and your mom ever gave you? Or was it just by example, or lessons you learned from them?*

**EC:** It came by their example, and I think... there was a... people that were around you in my... that I knew and maybe associated with, and my parents associated with, which would be like the Woodses... Lloyd Woods... or the Kellows, or name those people... whether it would be the... up... up and down the river... of Blaine here... they were honest people... in other words, if you owed somebody a debt, you paid your debt... you worked for them to pay it, uh... you didn't try to skin 'em out of their money... if you did, you got named, and people knew these guys... a kid that would... if you wanted to be a horse trader, they... they knew who you were, if you... would say... course, that was a game, if you could trade a horse and get someone, uh... a horse that wouldn't be worked too well, you could trade it to him and con him into it, you were doing a pretty good job... that was a... you know, like a game in those days, 'cause horses were important as laborers... they pulled the wagons and the plows and the... so on... and it was the... it goes way, way back... but, if you owed anybody money, you were honest is the way... I, I just grew up that way, and I think my dad was the same way... if he owed... his... his money was his main... he felt was right... I'm trying to think of what to say here... the word I'm trying to say here... you know what I'm trying to say... if your credit rating...

**DB:** *Right...*

**EC:** ... if you have a good credit rating, you're... people know it, and you're highly respected in the community... and if you tend to finagle and have a little sticky fingers, people don't like much of you... and that's why I say today... today, I guess being of the old time background like that, and that's the way I felt and I taught my children the same way, and they are the... they seem to do the same... like Darleen, and like... well, like Bob Cole and Bob's dad... the same way... he was of the old timers... I'll tell you, if he owed somebody, he made sure he paid him back.... my dad and them, they got along great... they were the... they talked the same language, and Bob does, too, and that's why I like him as a son-in-law, really... we get along great... but, uh... really that's basically... and these people today that... that live... and they can't make a earning for themselves, and they go out there and it's too darn easy to go get it from the... down from the federal government... I know it's great... some of those people need it... I'm not downgrading... that's a great help... but some of them that just stay on it year after year, and the school feeds them and so on.... blah....

**DB:** So, let's talk about you... what, what occupations have you had throughout your life, or accomplishments that you've had?

**EC:** Well, let's see... I worked for my dad... on the ran... dad and on the ranch and we worked together, and then they helped me... after I got out of high school... I did.. they did provide for a musical lessons for my sister and I... she learned to play the piano and they got me a saxophone, and I learned to play the saxophone and enjoyed that... and, played it at Nestucca High School... played it there... and FFA, I was in that... involved in that... Bob Stultz was always the president... he was the... and we won the state championship on Parliamentary procedure... the two of us, there... and they'd have the big banquets... fathers and daughters or son... or big banquets for the parents... and I'd always play the saxophone for them... the tunes... the poor people had to listen to that... but...



# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

**DB:** Do you still play?

**EC:** Oh... I gave my saxophone to Travis... or... Darleen... she used it... was it Darleen.... or... yeah, I think she did, then Travis took it, anyway... Darleen played, then Travis... so he could have it in high school, and then I... anyway... so after I went to college... I thought I'd have one year of chemistry and I was going to be in pharmacy work, I thought I'd like that... well, I didn't have enough chemistry... and I went to Oregon State, and I could see chemistry... I had a heck of a time working that, and I managed to... I was in a five hour course, and I dropped back to a three hour, and I managed to get a "D" out of it, and I was lucky to do that, I said... work my tail off, but I managed to get about... hardly got a... I think I had a two point average... it was terrible, so I tran... I dropped that, and I went into general... where you could take a general...

I wasn't sure what I wanted to be... I could see I wasn't going to make a pharmacist there... I didn't have enough science background, 'cause I only got one year there at Nestucca... but, uh... and I didn't enough higher... I did get a little bit of algebra, there, I think... very little... so we didn't have enough background that the students would need that came out of Portland and these other areas... anyway, so I had general education and I messed around with that... I just... and, actually I wasn't... I was only seventeen when I went into.... graduated out of high school and got into college when I was eighteen... I always figured I should have been a year or two older... but... so, after spending that second term at Oregon State... it was.. I was averaging... getting a "C" average, but boy, I don't know... the parents and I decided.... well, it's cheaper... I could go to Monmouth... Oregon... Monmouth school.... in 19... see, that was '39... so anyway...

*(Ed and Dean take a break, who knows what we were were talking about for the next minute or two!  
db)*

**DB:** I love to do sign language...

**EC:** There's a good CD out... rom out there, I think on that that helps...

**DB:** Oooh...

**EC:** I know... or she brought, maybe... her dau... her mother... see, her mother has forgotten so darn much of it... way back when she... her mother was a child, her da... her mother's dad had a sister that... he could very well, and so, anyway, Kim's the mother of this granddaughter... she had to pick it up as a child from her dad 'cause around there was some people that had the... that's all they learned was sign language, so she picked... she's real good at it... as a kid...

**DB:** Maybe Alora will come... will learn some this year... so, you were telling about your, uh... occupations you've had, or accomplishments...

**EC:** Mostly occupations... (laughing)... well, after college, I was at Monmouth, and, well... so I stayed... I was there for... what years were... now... I have to stop and think... uh... '39... '40.... '39 and '40, and... I don't know... going to school, I was getting kinda' tired... seemed like college, and I, uh... they didn't have band... I did play in the band there at Oregon State... but they didn't have any band.... music... so I couldn't use my saxophone, but... anyway, then I'd come out of the... out of coll... I did spend one summer session there... I had to make up some basic, because I transferred from

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

Oregon State, then they wouldn't accept the coll... some of those cre.... a lot of those credits, so I was going back and making up credits... and one summer... so, in, uh... '40 was when I did that, uh... then in '41 came and that's when over the hill by October... Uncle... we had to worry about war years... and the guys... a lot of the guys joined the Nation... the, uh... the National Guard, or something there, and I stayed away from that...

Oh... so, after that... in that year, I came home and was working in was working in a sawmill area... or... no, it wasn't either... I came home there and I applied for a chance... well, I had worked in sawmills in the woo.... summertime... one summer... I can't remember... I'm kinda' mixing up here... I've forgotten myself! But anyway, I got a chance then, in the summer of '41 to, uh.... they were taking people who could learn how to become sheet metal workers up there towards Oregon City... I applied for a deal on that... I'd gone into Tillamook, there, and applied on that... I guess that's where... and they accepted me... so, then, it was out of Oregon City... so, there... I, uh... went and got me a job I could do for... I was first aid... I had that classes... I could do my first aid, and qualified on that from school... and, so I got a job in the Oregon City Hospital... had board and room, there, and cleaning up the surgery rooms.... I'd go in there and medically keep 'em spic and spa... clean... then I could go up there and do my training at the... the sheet metal school...

**DB:** *Hmmm...*

**EC:** ... and, uh... so, was there... that was in the... July and August, I believe it was... nice and hot... and I'd run backup ambulance... this one guy ran the ambulance... couple of times, we had the... I was glad knew first aid... pick up a big guy... there was a couple of people that got kill.... in a car wreck, you know, and injured and stopping flow of blood and first aid... you could get the pressure points, and hold it down and let it go and let it.... and of course the doggone kid driving the ambulance... it was a good thing I had my patients strapped down... he hit a overpass, and here I was.... darn near hit the, uh... I know... this poor guy was groaning back there, and they bounced him... I hollered at the guy driving... what he was doing, but, anyway... didn't really cause any problem... he had a slight concussion, too, so I knew that... but, anyway, we, uh... I enjoyed that... it was hot and so on... and scrubbin' those darn... surgical rooms... big operating rooms down... I had to... Ha! I was really working on that and being clean, and the nurses gave me a bad time, make sure I kept everything spic and... spotless clean...

But then came an order... they wanted us in Boeing Aircraft in Seattle... one... there was... the order came in for either California... Lockheed, or going up to Boeing... some of the guys did go to Lockheed, I think... I got... I went to Boeing... so then I... they closed.... I went down home and I... I had, uh... my dad had got ahold of a pretty good two... one seated coupe... Plymouth... that had been overhauled... so I could have transportation.... I got a pretty good deal on that... and, uh... so I took that, and there was another kid there that I... that was taking this same class... we both went to together to Seattle, and I drove up there to Seattle... well, that was a... this car I've got... this '36 Plymouth was not in good repair... I should have broke it in... the motor was too tight, and that long trip... and caused a valve problem... but anyway, we stayed all night... it was all right, the car was, but we stayed in a motel... a hotel...

And then we had to go down to Boeing Aircraft there in plant two there in Seattle... the old... where they were B-17's... and get ourselves lined up, and they got us in and all the tools we needed, and we had to find a place to stay, so we found over in west Seattle... oh, private property... this woman was

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

renting out rooms for to stay, and we'd get a meal there, but we didn't have anything... meals on the weekend... or Sundays... so, uh... and I guess she'd pack us a lunch... so we rented that... went and... went down and bought our tools and checked in at Boeing Aircraft and they put us to work, and I was working... very expens.... (laughing)... idiot job... standing there with a drill and drilling ho... it was framework... I think it went someplace in the fuselage... I knew that... we had to drill holes in that and put them in a pattern... drill holes and put 'em... all day long... but we got paid for it, and pretty good money at that time... dollar... I don't know... we was making a dollar twenty-five and hour, or a dollar thirty-five an hour, and... so, finally, anyway I was staying at that place... we was working, then came... the December came around, and we had the week... that off, this other kid and I... we didn't have to work until... was Sunday... so, we didn't have to work on Sundays then... so, we went down... got to go to a show... 'cause we get to a night shows there...

That's when Uncle Sam... December 7th... that's when the war hit, and we didn't know anything about it... right there, then, on the screen they began to call all these guys off of the... that were back there aroun... there's a lot of anti-aircraft and a lot of army... and people around Seattle at that time, and they were calling them to report to duty immediately, so when we got out, we picked.... I got a... picked up a paper and kept it about Pearl Harbor....

**DB:** *Hmmmm....*

**EC:** ...so we had to register and then... then that woman wasn't too happy with having young men in there... we were coming and going at odd hours... (laughing)... so, anyway... I looked around and I found another place to live that took, uh... men in... they had an upstairs and downstairs and they fed them and pretty reasonable... I wished I remembered... it wasn't... board and room a month was a hundred... less then a hundred dollars or something like that... I know... and I don't know... think she did the laundry or we... I can't remember... sending it out, maybe... anyway, that was over on the... where the University of Washington was located in Seattle... was right close to it... and there... so I stayed there during the... uh, registered and course working for Boeing they gave me a deferment because I was working in the army... uh, aircraft flat... and all of '42... well, that car I had, I got back to... had to have a valve fixed up and I got it back and we traded it off...

My dad found another car that was a '39 Chevrolet that worked much better... I kept that and drove it... it was a two... four door, and of course the gas rationing came on and all that and you didn't drive... we got enough... I had enough gas to get back and forth to Boeing Aircraft... where I lived, down to Boeing and back run me about thirty-some... thirty-five miles a complete.. .round trip... er... ya... uh... anyway, so I stayed there at Boeing Aircraft until the... all of '42... they moved me out of that.. I got moved out of the place that I was first working and I went to the Boeing B-17s and I was putting the tail... gunner's section on the tail section on a B-17... bolting those on... and putting stuff around... and getting them all bolted in... fastened in... and then I'd go up and put armor plating on the pilot and co-pilot's seat... and the idiot that decided to make the holes for the armor plating did not match the holes that they came... that the idiot had put on the seat... of the aluminum seat that pilot and co-pilot sat in... they were way off... 'cause they had to have rubber grommets and stuff to balance in there... and so I'd have to get a drill and ream the hole out to put it in, and...

And, anyway.. so what happened... I got drafted, then, in the... I, uh... Uncle Sam wanted me... so I spent Christmas at home and the first of the year I reported to Fort Lewis up here... then I went down and did my basic training... and so on... I got to do some armament training over in, uh, Denver,

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

Colorado... Buckley Field... we trained there... and I learned how to put machine guns together and how to... what the fuses were like in bombs... and what it'd be... what a twenty millimeter cannon looked like... one pounders and all that... I was getting ready to fight a war, I guess... anyway, they took me out of that... I managed to get on furlough home from there, and they wanted me... then I ended up at Salt Lake City during the summer time for overseas replacement... and I had about twenty-five, thirty pound packs they'd run us up and toward... twenty mile... twenty-five, thirty mile hikes, you know... and that was good exercise... course when I got to Denver, it was in February... middle of February and I was at California and it was nice... seventy degree temperature... got over there in Denver, Colorado... a mile high... and while we were there, uh... one... it was cold, and they had a blizzard one time... we were supposed to do squads left and right out there after our training or so on, and they didn't... they had squads left and right, and I don't know what this lieutenant was trying to do and the first sergeant... you couldn't... you couldn't see... it was a blizzard... you couldn't see your hand, hardly, in front of your face... everybody got lost... we all ended up back at our barracks...

**DB:** *(chuckling)*...

**EC:** ... *(laughing)*... I don't know the sergeant... the heck with him! Anyway, so we.. then from Denver, we went back to Salt Lake City, and I liked it there real well.. all that high altitude, I really enjoyed it, and the Wasatch Mountains at Denv... or, Salt Lake... and, we stayed there and then in, uh.. when was it... September... they decided they'd send us... they put us on a train, and they sent me clear to... where was it... oh, we went back to Fort.... Camp... back to New York state for shipping out to go overseas... that's what they did... I can't... Kilmer, I believe it was, or Fort Dix... I guess it was Camp... Fort Dix was is where they sent us... so we spent a few days there, and I did get a chance to see New York, but it was in August... not September, it was August when we were there... humid and hot and sticky, and.... it was... eighty degree temperature day and night... I hated it...

So we... anyway, by the last of September they finally put us on a boat... got us up at midnight, or we had to get on a train... all dark, and... put us on the ferry... the Staten Island Ferry *(laughing)* I called it, but it was a... anyway, they brought us out to ... got on this boat that was going to take us overseas, and so that was the second part of September we shipped out... they wouldn't let us be on deck because the Germans or somebody might spy... might see us so we had to go down... there were about... what was it... four holds or five holds down, and we were supposed to go down and down.... they were loading us, and finally I got down about... this guy and I got down and we could smell what was below us... looked like some guys had been sick... I don't know... been on earlier... so we stopped about the second or third and put our barracks bags... sat down there and waited... and, finally ended up and carried everything that was... once we carried it up, we spent most of all that cruise.. the nice cruise that Uncle Sam provided us...

We took the southern route... we got to see the Canary Islands... by then the sun was nice, you know, and sunny.... we slept right up on the top deck on top of a steel hatch, and we'd get hot, or so on... it did rain once or twice, but we had pup tents... canvas... so we could keep ourselves dry, or we ran down a flight of stairs, so to speak... that's not what you call 'em on a boat... and stayed there... it was only a just a light shower... and got a good tan while we was up there, and uh.... so, anyway.... we got... I got to see a beautiful sight going in... as we came into the... North Africa was where we were heading.... ha!.... and here's all those lights and stuff and flashing and all the boats going in and all the signaling ... we right in by the Straits of Gibraltar.... the Strait of Gibraltar... and right up the

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

Mediterranean... right... and got there early in the morning... it was about six o'clock in the morning, when we went through, finally... all ... how many hours it took us there.... and the Mediterranean was just like a beautiful lake... beautiful blue... swimmin' ahead of us was a nice big whale, leading us in...

**DB:** *Hmmmm....*

**EC:** It wasn't a submarine.... and they took us on up to Iran, and we stayed there for, oh about two or three weeks before... then I joined an outfit that was B-17s again.... and these B-17s, they would come out of England and train... they were the first group that ever pulled a daylight mission out of... over France, and the British said you couldn't pull daylight missions, you'd be shot to... but the B-17s taught the Germans that you could... they can't mess around with them like you did the British, 'cause they had the ball turret and they had the stinger in the tail with the two-fifties that went out there that the tail gunner was in, and they had this ball top turret, and... of course, the dead spot on the British was, uh... they'd come in on the tail end... there wasn't anybody back there... they couldn't take care of 'em... they tried that with the B-17, it was like shooting... the tail gunner... was like shooting ducks in the county fair... he sat in the lake... he had a ball, for a while... they learned to stay away from him...

But, anyway, I joined them, and they were there in North Africa before I ever got there, right after... well, there was still war going on around, uh... Ital... Cape Bonn had not... had just been cleared before they moved back... there were in an area called Bisker (?)... right outside of the... at the end of the Sahara Desert over there, and... when I joined these guys, they were... had been overseas for quite a few months and they were riding around... guess what? They got chances... went over to where the Germans had left... Cape Bonn, around... they were not too far away... they picked up these German jeeps that they'd left... the Germans left... and they put 'em together, and they were... they run great on 100 octane gasoline they had around there... so, those guys were running around on motorcycles or German jeeps and stuff... they were havin' a ball... and every once in a while, though, we'd have to go out and sleep outside of our... there'd be an airplane come over... call him Photo Joe.. takin' pictures... and, thought they might... we thought we might get bombed, but we never did get bombed there, but I guess some of the other guy... groups that were all around there... B-17s... other than the one I was in... there were three or four different groups... squadrons there... they did get bombed, I think, they said... but anyway, you'd hear of Axis Sally... we could listen to her at night on the radios from the... we'd get in the airplanes and we could turn them on and listen to the radio... they have there.... hear Axis Sally tell us all about who they'd shot up and what they'd done... the German propoganda machine... well, we left there, and, uh... we had Thanksgiving and they took us out of there and they moved us over Italy...

**DB:** *Hmmmm...*

**EC:** .... and went from Italy... we were in Italy the rest of the war... we landed in one spot, they moved us out... they... was on the plains of the southern part... of where they had the big German and Italian airport... around Foggia... and that's where we finally stayed there until the war was over, and I stayed over there... so, when I... I, uh... didn't have enough points... I left there in August of '45...

I landed back in the United States September 2nd, the day I'd left two years... in '45 I'd left... er, I mean in 40... was it.. ya, '43 it'd be... '42, it'd be '43... I'd left New York and got back two years later... so, anyway, then I.. and I'll tell you, to be away from the United States, it was rather a shock... the

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

thing.... to come back to a country that was your home country and it was... things had changed... you hadn't, really... you wanted things to be what they were when you left, or... I mean, you imagined it... you didn't know what, but when you came back, it was different... singing commercials....

**DB:** *Ooohhh...*

**EC:** It was the weirdest thing I ever heard...

**DB:** *(chuckle)...*

**EC:** ... and the music... we heard a lot... of course, the music was still Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller... that was still going... there might be some others... but the singing commercials on the radio was so.. and the way they carried 'em, it was much strange on the radio... music, and the advertising, and you really had to become adjusted... well, they... we took us in... and then I had... I stayed there in New York at Camp Dix, and then they flew us... no, it was Camp Kilmer, excuse me... and then they.. finally after about three or four days they, uh... there they got it straightened out and then they flew us clear across the.. I landed here... I was supposed to land in the... in... here in Salt... in Seattle, but it was fogged in so bad, they took us on up to Peyton Field, and landed there, and then they bussed us back to Fort Lewis... so we spent... time we got on the plane... all day... we didn't... and... got us up early in the morning... we had to wait to leave New York, and that's when, if you look back, there was a airplane that flew into one of the big... was the.. what was the name of the... Empire State Building... oh, fiftieth floor or someth... an airplane hit it... flew in there... you'll find that in one of the Life Magazine pictures... it happened just about the time we... it happened before I took off... we heard about it... I think we could see the black from the plane...

But we had to wait around because the fog was so bad, and they took us off... took off and went... and we had to land to get refueled... we had a DC-3, like the paratroopers would go in, and bucket seats, like the paratroopers would sit on, not canvas... anyway, we landed here in Peyton Field, they trucked us back... it must have been a good... almost twenty-four hours... seemed like we'd been up... no sleep... I slept some, there... and on the way... then they began to process us... put us to... I guess they fed, let us take a... go to sleep, but anyway... then they started processing us in a way... and we some... two or three days before we got... then I finally got discharged about eleven o'clock at night and had to catch a ride... I had a friend that picked me up and we went home... oh, it was kinda' interesting... then after that I had spent that much time away from my education, so what'd I do? I managed to get a job working in a sawmill... they had an alder mill here in... in, uh... Beaver, I believe it was...

**DB:** *Oh, really.....*

**EC:** ... a little alder mill around here some... anyway, and I worked at that, and made money, then I went back to Monmouth and went... got my... become a teacher...

**DB:** *Hmmmm...*

**EC:** I went into the field of education, and I got my bachelor's, and a little bit more, and I was teaching at Estacada... I made a big sum of \$2780 a year... fantastic.... and bought a little house up

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

there... well, I got married, and bought a little house, and that's when I... Marg... Darleen's mother had her husband, and I think... he was killed in the war... I don't know what really happened... see, maybe... or, maybe he was... seemed like... no, not... like he went south for some reason... trying to get a job... whether he went... he didn't get to go overseas... he was in... that cavalry area around the Salem area, and then they went up to... he was up there in, uh... Vanport area, and they lived there, and they... I guess he... that was after the war... so, anyway, I think he was trying to get a job, and he wasn't working, and he ended up leaving her stranded... anyway, so, anyway I looked Marge's... er, Darleen's mother up, found... 'cause we went to college together at Monmouth for a while, and we got married later... there was Bryan... and so I adopted Bryan and Darleen... that's so... that's why she calls me dad... but, anyway... then, Andrea, my other daughter was born up there, and uh... so I sold a little piece of property that I had up there and went to Tillamook...

Ward Hammersly was the superintendent of schools there, then, he was an old army man, and he was hiring army men around there... good GI's made good teachers... so I was elementary school, and they had so many... I was going to be with another... they had this one principal, and they had a principal of a middle school... junior high, they called it then... and they had the... also the elementary was part of that... he was over both of 'em, and he wanted me to take over that... but, I don't know.. he wasn't too eager to do it... well, they put me first with another elementary principal, then they moved me over there, because we were sittin' on the stage... everything was so crowded in those days... I had thirty-two, thirty-three students and on a stage of a... of the school...

**DB:** *Which school?*

**EC:** I was there in Tillamook...

**DB:** *Which... which...*

**EC:** At Wilson... Wilson Elementary... on a stage... and we were wall... we had... if a fire marshal had come in there, I'd don't know how we'd have got out, because we had tables to sit at... some of the students could go this way... I don't know... I guess that's the only way... but, I... if I was the teacher, we could go on this way, the other students could go on out the door and go on down the hall... we had to work fire drill that way... but really, it was a mess... 'cause you got into the stage... you could have jumped off the stage, broke a leg... a kid in an emergency... there were steps to go down... anyway... then you could go on outdoors... so I was there for... and then I moved over to Liberty... and, I didn't get along too good, I guess, so I went back and the superintendent said well, we needed that principal to become more of a principal and I could take over a lot of the duties of the sixth grade and do the PE work and so on... which I was doing there for him, and he could be... he would come... he liked to do PE, so we traded off... so he wanted to do his PE work and I took some class he had with the fifth grade and let the fifth grade teacher become uh... librarian for that half day...

**DB:** *Hmmmm....*

**EC:** So I was teaching fifth grade and the... and sixth grade, 'til it come to the PE time, then he took all the PE... and it was nice... I worked there for quite a number of years... then I moved into the junior high... taught seventh graders there... which I was under another principal... he was a good man, too... and worked there at the junior high for a number of years, 'til I thought... gosh, I'd been there fourteen years, I think, fifteen years at Tillamook... and decided to go to.. I applied for... I wanted to

# Interview with Edward Creecy, Jr.

Conducted by Dean Bones

August 19, 2002

get out of Tillamook... seemed like I was stagnating, and I went to Salem... and the children needed to be older... there was Bryan and Darleen were in high school... they could finish... oh, they finished up high school in Tillamook... they went to Tillamook High... right... they finished up high....

(end of tape)

Transcribed by Darleen Creecy Cole (Ed's daughter)

August 25, 2002

*Additional information gathered from conversations with Daddy ---*

*He moved to Salem in 1964 and taught junior high at Waldo Junior High School until he retired in 1980. He and Carmen were divorced a few years after their move to Salem, and in 1975 Daddy married Nadine Pittman. She died of cancer in 1980. Daddy then met and married Marge Rickards in 1986. He and Marge still live in Salem. Daddy always liked to square dance, and that's where he met Marge. He also said that he and Mom (Carmen) used to square dance, and that she was a very good dancer.*

*According to Aunt Margaret, Daddy's sister, there was a rift in his mother's family after all the kids were grown. Apparently their mother and father, Oscar Myers and his wife, Hattie, were not able to care for themselves, and so Grandma Edith's sister, Erma, took them into her home in Tillamook to care for them. Erma felt that she should receive financial help from the other siblings, but they evidently didn't feel that way, and so Aunt Erma felt betrayed and didn't speak to the rest of the family for years. In fact, when Aunt Erma died her funeral was held in Tillamook, and nobody from Daddy's side of the family was planning on attending, so Travis and I went to "represent" them. Travis was only about two or three years old, and after the funeral the minister came up to us and was remarking on how well-behaved he had been during the service. He was a good boy!*

*Daddy taught at Wilson Elementary School, and also at the Junior High School, which was then part of Liberty Grade School. He also drove school bus for a while, he worked for the school district during the summer painting buildings, he also worked in a gas station during the summer, and there were times when he went to Forest Grove to further his education during the summer. He was a very busy man, and extremely knowledgeable.*

*Darleen Creecy Cole*