

Interview With Raymond Bones

By
Dean Bones
April 6, 2002

Okay, so this is Dean Bones, and I am interviewing Raymond Bones about schools and life in Beaver, and today is April 6, 2002. So, you . . . the first school that you attended was where?

Meda School.

And tell us about that. Tell us how long you were there, your age, that kind of thing.

Well, I got in trouble right off the bat. I climbed up on a school roof, and I got in trouble over that. And, of course, when I went to school there in the first grade, I chased some girls into the toilet not knowin, you know, that I was gettin into trouble - and I really did – John Craven just reminded me that here awhile back.

How old were you when you went on the roof, then?

Oh, probably four or five. And that is the house where Clem Hurliman lives. At least it was. I haven't seen it lately, but I think he converted into a house after the school closed there.

So did the school set kind of behind where the cheese factory is, cuz I still see the foundation, I think, for the cheese factory?

Yes. We used to live in the cheese factory house, too, years ago before . . . before we moved across the river.

How many years, then, did you go to Meda?

I think only one year. But after reading that letter from my sister there today . . . she said that when she moved to Beaver she was in the fifth grade. I just don't . . . that would have made me in about the 2nd or 3rd grade . . . I don't know.

What are some other stories you remember about going to school at Meda?

One thing I remember was that they used to use a milk machine hose when they wanted to work somebody over, and . . . and those kids put me up to getting that milk machine hose and throwin it into the river. And I did that! And I . . . the water wasn't very high under the bridge there where I threw it, and it just bothered me for so long because the thing hung up on a limb down there for months before it ever went down the river 'fore the water ever came up high enough to take it out.

Did the teacher ever find out it was you?

No, and I was glad. Her name was Ella Blackerbe.

And, did ever replace the hose with something else?

I never followed her around to find out. I don't really know if she did, but . . . she probably did.

About what time . . . what year was this about?

Well, I don't really know. I was born in 1923. I would say I started school at five years of age . . . so about 1928 . . . I'm not sure. But now Wilma Dunn, who still lives down there, gave me a picture of the students, and I still have it somewhere, I just can't find it. And she knows a lot about that school.

So can you describe the school? Do you remember what it looked like, the building?

Well, not really that much, but . . . that's been so many years ago. But I can remember lots of different kids being there . . . the Reddekopp kids. And I can remember Chuck Phelps who had his hand cut off by his sister there one time. They lived up on the Bodyfelt place, there.

Okay. Any other families that you remember at the time at Meda?

The Reddekopp kids . . . they only went to school when they wanted to. They, they, they never had any set days to go to school. If they could go to school and then just take off and go home, that was fine with them. And there was quite a group of them Reddekopps.

So, okay, the building . . . did it have one room? Is that what I read?

No, it had two . . . oh, oh, that . . . yes, it did have one room.

And bathrooms, what about them?

I don't even remember. . . they were all outside bathrooms. That's where I got in trouble . . . chasing one of those girls there . . . some girls into a outside bath . . . toilet actually.

How did you get to school?

Walked! And it was a long walk for us. But I remember, you know, one time my dad pickin us up . . . and Mom had just bought 'em a car . . . a model T. And I swear to this day it had one door on one side and two doors on the other. And I can still remember them stoppin' to pick up my sister and I. We were walkin' home. Down by the bridge was where they picked us up.

So, I remember you telling a story about you and your sister riding in a car when you fell out. Was that about this time or was that another time?

That was before this. Up, up north of Tillamook.

And you were about how old?

Probably four. Just old enough that my sister said, "Mom, Dad fell out . . .uh. . . Ray fell out." (laughter)

And what . . . tell the rest of that story.

(more laughter) Well, I don't know how long I laid there, but it must have been quite awhile before they ever . . . my sister ever told the folks that I was gone. I was reachin' for thimble berries or salmon berries or somethin', I guess, when I fell out of this open touring car. Sounds funny now . . . (laughter) and maybe it was funny then.

How fast do you think the car would have been going?

Oh, I wouldn't think very fast . . . maybe 12, 15 miles an hour . . . I don't know, and that's a guess.

So, they found you . . .

Yes, they came back and picked me up. (more laughter)

So, other kids . . . did all the kids walk to school, or were there other ways kids got to school?

I think that kids all walked to school. I don't remember anybody riding to school in a car.

What was the other, what were the closest other schools to Meda?

I would think probably Cloverdale was the closest one.

And that was in Cloverdale, wasn't it?

Yes, it was.

And then Oretown?

I can't remember a school at Oretown.

It actually, I think, started before Meda so it must have been there.

Oh it probably was.

Okay, so then your family moved to Beaver.

Yes.

What do you remember about the school you went to at Beaver?

Well it was two room school. My teacher was Ella J. Harris. An excellent, fine teacher . . . an older lady that didn't put up with any nonsense. She'd get me by the ear and lead me around once in awhile.

Why would she do that?

Well, I'd get into trouble, do something . . . (laughter) . . . something I shouldn't. And there was a . . . a course we had several teachers there. Mrs. Warmoth was a teacher later, and she lived up where Ron Powers lives. Her husband was a locomotive engineer from Tillamook. They used to have the railway goin' back in the hills pickin up logs, and he'd run that, that locomotive. I remember that.

So, what teacher was it that taught you the writing, the Palmer method?

Ella Harris. What a fabulous writer. . . she could . . . just, you couldn't believe it. Talk to Jack Kellow or, you know. She was just a . . . could really write. And, and I got to where I could do a good job, you know, but of course know I'm older . . . I can't. But I still remember her methods.

So at what grade was that that where you started learning how to write Palmer method?

I would say probably at the first grade, cause that's when I thought I came to Beaver. But maybe, maybe it was the second grade. But I don't really know.

And they taught handwriting then in second grade?

You bet. You bet. I mean really handwriting.

So where did the school sit exactly?

Well, it's hard to say because there was another house right across the street from it that Don Gilbert lived in, and a course there's no house there now.

So in relation to where the dog kennel is now, where was that house?

Well.

Closer to the gas station.

I would think so. I would think a little closer. I'd have to look, but . . .

Where that parking area is behind the station?

No, I don't think it was quite that area, but . . .

That first house that sets on Blaine Road to the left when you come from the station, would that be about where it was?

I'd have to look next time I go down there. Probably closer to that then . . .

Okay, and the school set, you said, really close to the road . . .

Very close to the road . . . just almost seemed to me like the front porch of that thing was, was almost out on the edge of the road. It was so close.

Kind of at the edge of where the playground or where the garden is now in front of the school?

I'd say, "Yes."

And it was two rooms?

Yes.

So what were the two rooms . . . how were they divided? Or what grades went to them?

One through four was in the back end of the school. And they tell me that there was a woodshed back there. I don't remember that woodshed. But then I do remember some nice second growth trees in the school yard there. 'Cause Charlie Munroe used to climb those trees and, and go clear to the top and grab a limb and go out on it and catch the next limb down, and that's the way he'd come out of those trees.

So were the trees to the east of the school building, then?

Well, yes.

Okay. So maybe that's why none of the school pictures show the front of the school because it was so close to the road?

I would say that's probably right.

Because most of the pictures are taken off to the side of the building.

I remember one time when there was three Cs who was up Niagra. (Is Mollie outside?) Anyway, and it was Easter time and this guy was walkin by and he held his hand out and everybody started throwin' eggs at him and he got hit with an egg, and he really lost it. I mean here he come. He was knockin' kids around on that front porch out there and, and went in the school and the teachers was trying to get ahold of him and I don't remember whether they finally did or what, but he . . . he just lost it.

Why would kids throw eggs at a person walking by? Was that a normal thing then?

Well, no, he held his hand out like he wanted to catch an egg as I remember. And maybe he did, but boy!

Why would you have had eggs?

I don't know. It was Easter time.

So do you do Easter egg hunts or something?

I don't recall that, no I don't.

So, as you walked in the front door . . . were there two separate doors to walk to the other ends or did you walk in one door, or what did it look like when you walked in?

As I remember, you walked in the front door . . . when I say front . . . out next to the road . . . you walked a long hallway. And it was roads . . . doors going into the first room right off of there.

Which . . . okay . . .

And then when you . . . the further back you got there was a door that went into the back room.

Was there any indoor water or bathrooms or anything?

No. Not that I remember.

Where did the water come from if you wanted a drink?

I just can't hardly remember. And there was probably water in there.

What about, uh, heat. How did they heat the building . . .

With a big ole round stove . . . wood.

And it heated both sides? Both rooms or did they have a stove in each room.

I just don't remember that for sure.

And was the school painted at all?

I suppose that it was, but I don't know.

Now that I think about it I've seen pictures of it being white, so I guess it must have been.

Now Meda School also had a big . . . a great huge stove in it. And that was of course just one room.

Who brought the wood?

I don't remember.

And did the kids have any jobs with doing anything with the wood in the school? Do you remember . . .

I'm sure they did, but I don't know.

Okay. Can you describe about what a day was like in school?

Well, I was such an onery little guy, you know, that my days were probably different than most people but . . . I don't know. I just had lots of friends there. But one thing I do remember . . . that when I first went to school there coming from Meda . . . somebody thought I was a pretty tough kid, and they got me in a wrestling match with Charlie Munroe and he worked me over so bad. I still remember that to this day. He was tough and a course he was my friend too, you know.

He later became your friend?

Oh yes!

So how did the teacher work with kids if they were different ages? Did you all have the same lessons or did she call people up to her desk or how did she teach?

Well, I just can't quite remember, but I think she probably talked universally to all the kids.

Okay. And what about recess? Did you have any?

It seemed like we did. And I remember that we had swings out there.

Where were the swings, again to the east of the school or behind?

Just to the east toward the old play shed.

And was that the only equipment you had?

I think so. I think so. My dad was a school board member when they built that new school which is now a part of the school.

Okay, so, so they built, they built it for a gymnasium, didn't they?

Yes. I think actually what they built it for was . . . in those days people used to love to dance, especially my folks. And I bet you that my dad was on that school board for that reason. But I don't know that. I mean . . . they really liked to dance, you know.

So they held dances in the . . .

Oh yes, you bet.

What would a dance be like? Did they just dance or did they have food or, or what? And where did they get the music from?

Local, huh I think, Jack Graff, who is now dead, lived up at Pleasant Valley. I go by there and see his house every time. He had an orchestra, as I remember. And, good music, you know. I believe he played the drums, though, if I remember right, but, but they had good music. And lots of people, lots of people came to those dances.

Would it be only people from the Beaver area?

No, it was just from all over.

Did other schools also have dances? Other areas of the south county?

Not that I really know of.

Okay, so they built that as a gym. Was it also for games? Did you do sports or anything in it.

Well it seems like they did, but . . . I remember Wes Schumerich, of course, living right there. He used to get over there, and we'd play catch with him some times in the gym.

Now was he older than you?

Oh yes, Wes was a lot older than us.

And he was a baseball player, right?

Yes.

Did he play professionally?

Oh yes, you bet, you bet he did. I asked Cuter (Schumerich) , course she's dead now.

Ya, I heard that.

About, I said, "Your dad was on a Wheaties' box," because I used to babysit her and her sister, and I saw a Wheaties box in there with 'ole Wes's picture on there, and last year I asked her about that and she said, "Yes, her dad and Michael Jordan were both on the Wheaties boxes."

Um, so there's a picture of you in . . . playing . . . as a basketball team.

Oh, that was terrible. I wasn't a good basketball player, but Jack and those . . . Bill Gilbert and Ralph Speece were . . . Jack Kellow, of course, was really good. They were good basketball players.

So, about how old were you when that picture was taken?

Oh, I don't know. Maybe ten, I don't know.

And some of them look a lot taller than you. So were . . .

They were a lot taller than me.

Were they the same age or were they older?

Oh, no, they were older . . . Ralph Speece and . . .

Did you play other schools?

I can't remember that. You'd have to ask Jack cause he was on the team. I . . .

Aunt Leta wrote down that you played some games with Blaine.

I can't hardly remember that, and maybe . . . and that's probably so, I don't know.

What other games did kids play then. I've heard people talk about Auntie, Auntie Over (Annie, Annie Over?) and stuff. Can you think of other things kids did for games?

I used to have a hoop and a, and a deal I made to run that hoop around. That was lots of fun in those days. And all the boys had those things.

At school, or at home, or both?

Oh, both.

So out behind the school now there's a big field. What was that . . . when you were in school, what was that field? Was it trees or what?

I would think it was trees.

Was it part of the school property?

I would say, yes, but I just don't really know, but, they got that from LeRoy Woods, you know.

So it was part of the Woods farm or something?

I would say it was.

Were there many discipline problems with kids in those days that you can remember?

Not that I can remember. I mean the teachers really clamped down on you. When you screwed up you got in trouble. I mean they, they took care of it.

Were parents supportive of the teachers or not really?

Oh, I think so. I think so. We had some onery kids. Charlie Munroe, AC Munroe, and, what was another brother's name? Oh they were . . .some of those kids were really onery kids, you know.

Onery in what way?

Oh just no limit to what they would do, you know.

Can you think of an example of something they might do?

Ken Munroe was another one. There was three or four of em. I can't really think of anything that they did.

What might the teacher do to discipline a student?

I think probably spank em good.

Did you ever get a spanking in school?

Oh I'm sure I did, you know. I was not an angel, but I tried not to be the oneriest one in the school too.

So as far as technology in the school, was there even a phone or anything there?

I don't think so.

What would happen if somebody got hurt?

Well, I don't know. But I imagine that they would probably get the community all riled up probably. I would think they would probably ask for help from the parents.

And, um, some schools I've seen have stages in some of the classrooms where they'd put on programs. Do you remember any programs being held at Beaver?

No, I don't. I don't really.

Christmas or anything?

Well, I'm sure they did.

Were there parent groups at that time that met about the school?

I believe so, I believe so.

Okay, what are some other stories of when you lived at Beaver? First of all, when you first moved to Beaver, where did you live?

I lived just across from Betty Strong.

Okay, and then you moved from there. About how old were you when you moved?

I spose about ten. I'm guessing. I don't know.

Around 1933.

Probably. And there used to be a nice house up John Blanchard's road. It was owned by the Fish and Game commission I'm told. It was a plastered house up there on the hill. It was a nice house.

So on Bunn Creek.

Ya.

How far up past John Blanchard's?

Oh, from John's house you could actually look up and see it, I think.

Okay.

It wasn't too far up there.

I understand there used to be a fish hatchery up Bunn Creek Road.

Yes.

Maybe that was the house that went with it.

Probably. And there used to be one in Beaver.

Right. Okay, so you moved there and lived there how long?

Not too long as I remember.

And then where did ya move?

Back to Beaver I think maybe in the Alan Gilbert house across from Boggs' house. That was a nice house.

Is that where you lived when you jumped out in front of that lady on the bicycle?

No, I lived in the house that Dad built when I jumped out in front of that gal on the bicycle.

And about how old were you then? You must have been older!

(laughter) Old enough to know better, I'll tell you that.

Why don't you tell about that whole story?

Well, I saw her go up the road towards the grocery store.

And who was this lady, do you know?

I don't know. She was new in town. And I thought well I'll just get acquainted with her, you know, so. There was a big bush across from (laughter) our house over there on the edge of the highway. And so I hid behind it and when she came up the road with her basket full of groceries I jumped out, but I jumped too far and she ran over me with that confounded bicycle and just upset everything she had in the basket. It was terrible, you know, I mean I was an onery darn kid. That's all it was too it.

So what happened?

Oh my mother then, as I recall, she took over, and she made a few marks on me. (laughter)

Okay. So you lived . . . that house was a little east of where Beaver Community Church sits right now,

Yes.

and it's still there?

Helen and Ralph Cook, who was Jack Graff's sister lived right across the road from us in over there in another house. And she's the one who hollered at me when I . . . Leta just give me a thumpin' in the house, and I took her out the front door with a stick of stove wood. And she hollered over and says, "Don't kill her, Raymond, don't kill her." Well, I was stayin back far enough that I wasn't goin' to get too involved 'cause I thought she'd probably stomp me again. So anyway, I ran her clear down through Beaver down past the post office. I remember that.

And the post office was where at that time?

Where Barbara Heitsman lives . . . Barbara Johnson lives.

The 2nd house to the west of the church.

Yes. But now there used to be a little house right between where she lives and mom's house was where my grandparents used to live, Grant and Mary Dawson.

How could there be that much room?

There wasn't much room, but it was there.

Is it on the site where Grandma's house used to be?

Kind of . . . a little bit towards Barbara's house, though, and Grandpa Dawson, he was just funny . . . one day I went there and he said, "Well, I've read the Bible, and I'm ready to go." And he didn't live too long.

And he was about how old?

He was an old man. I mean . . . I don't know. I suppose in his early 70's, I don't know.

Okay. So you said that there was a house across from your house in Beaver.

Yes.

Near the church.

We lived there. We lived in that house, too. It's over on LaFond's there now.

Okay, when did that mill go in though. Was that after that?

Oh ya. Ya.

And that was Angell Mill?

Yes. And they built several houses, mill houses just across from the church, you know, across on the other side. There was probably four of them along there. Nice little houses.

Okay, let's finish with the school and then I'm going to ask you questions about Beaver. So is there anything you remember . . . did you graduate from Beaver?

Yes, I did.

Any other school stories you remember . . . 8th grade or 7th grade or anything?

Not really, other than I had my appendix taken out and Jock Armbrust moved to this area about that time, and one day he was out on the swing and he swung and kicked me and just about broke my incision open accidentally, of course, you know, and I've never forgotten that either.

About how old were you when your appendix was taken out?

12, and we lived in the Gilbert house then.

Okay. Why don't you tell . . . you mentioned the community having chicken feeds. Why don't you tell about how they had chicken feeds.

That was just a thing of the times that they would, would all get together, I say all, a bunch of 'em would get together and go steal somebody's chickens and then kill 'em and have a big chicken feed. Bill Owens was always in on it, and I think my dad was too. But in this house down here across from Betty Strong's we had a dog there by the name of Pal. . . .was a beautiful big police dog and I taught him to pack my wood in cause Mom cooked with wood. And he would just pack that in there and then I'd give him somethin' to eat every once in a while. And he died the next day after they came and stole our chickens. And we thought they must have fed him something . . . ground glass or something . . . we never did, of course, know. But anyway, that's when our dog died.

So it sounds like it wasn't necessarily in fun. It was kind of mean.

Oh it was fun. Those guys had fun stealing those confounded chickens.

But what about your dog?

Well, I felt bad about the dog because I don't know that they did anything to her, but why in the world would she have died, you know. Just an awfully nice dog.

How often do you think they did these chicken feeds?

Oh, whenever somebody got the notion . . . every few weeks. Some guys would eat their own dang chickens and wouldn't know it. That used to happen. (laughter)

Wow.

I think Bud Kellow . . . he was probably in on it too.

Was that a hardship for some people to lose their chickens?

Oh I would imagine it was, you know. I don't know how many chickens they'd get, but they'd get a bunch of 'em.

Any other stories of growing up in your elementary years, growing up in the community that you can remember things happening, funny things or interesting things happening?

Well, I started working at the Beaver Cheese Factory when I was a young kid. I started . . .

About how old?

I don't think I was maybe even twelve . . . thirteen maybe making cheese boxes. And of course Reed Ferris was the cheese maker, and he'd pay me. Another thing that Reed did, I remember, in grade school, taught us how to work with planes, and squares, and levels and stuff like that. And I've never forgotten that, and he was pretty good at it.

He taught the whole school?

All the boys that wanted to learn. And I learned a lot from him.

So you'd make boxes. Why? What were they for?

For cheeses . . . cheese, you know, they would put three trips, what they call trips, in a box, and they weighed about 24 pounds. And they would put three of them in there.

Is that the round cheese?

Yes.

And what would they do with it?

They would ship it . . . Tillamook trucks would come and pick it up, and they'd ship it all over the country you know. And of course we made five pound loaves like they do now, and they would put five of those in a box about that long.

So about a foot and a half long.

Yes, and then baby loaf. Then they later started baby loaf and that became quite a thing then.

Was this like an after school job, or was this a summer job?

Well, to start with, of course, just a summer job or probably after school. But when I was about 15 I started working there. And I was the second helper there for several years with Alex Walker who was the first helper, Jack Kellow and Jock were there too, and I can tell ya another funny thing that happened there. They had a boiler, of course, that they heated the water. I mean that was Alex's job. . . had four foot cord wood. Chet Stewart, he would take a contract of filling that shed clear full of wood to where he could just park a car in there. And ol Alex used to park his car there. Well one day I put one of those whistlin' bombs on ole Alex's car and I still laugh about that when I think about it. And Jock Armbrust, I think, and Jack were workin there too. Anyway, Alex would always ding around when the day was done and finally pick up his stuff and he'd go out there and get in his car. Well he did that day, and we were up on the wood pile watchin' him, and a course he didn't know we was up there. But he finally got in that thing and hit that starter button. And when he did that sucker started screamin' (laughter) and whistlin' and smokin' and I thought I was going to have a coronary. I laughed so hard. And he jumped out of there and went around that sucker (laughter) three or four times, and he finally got calmed down enough that he got back in it . . . about the time it whistled big and went KA BOOM!!! And ol Alex about had a heart attack right there. And of course us guys . . . I don't remember who was up there with me, but I'm sure it was Jock and Jack, and that was really funny.

So Alex did a lot of bird displays in the Pioneer Museum. When you worked with him, was he interested in birds then?

Oh, he used to pay me for getting birds' nests. You know he could get robins' about anywhere, but humminbirds – he was really interested in humminbird nests or something you know. Oh he was a great guy. Alex was a good man.

Did he teach you anything about the birds or animals at all? Do you remember.

Oh, I don't know. He has so much stuff in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, you know. He was really known all over the world for his works.

So he lived at the house at the corner of 101 and Bunn Creek didn't he? Is that where . . .

No, Alex lived where Gene Porter lives. That was Alex's house.

So he'd drive down to the cheese factory.

Yes. He had two boys. One of 'em was named Baird, who was a college professor, and I forgot the other boy's name.

And when did he then start at the museum instead of working at the cheese factory?

Well, I . . . I guess when he, when he must have retired from the factory. I don't really remember that. But he was a good man, just a great guy.

In what way was he good or great?

Well, he was just good . . . he'd tell you everything about the birds or what they were doin' you know or . . . I don't know. I just really liked Alex.

So when you were . . . you said you started working at about 15 or you worked . . .

I quit one year from high school. And then I went back and finished it.

Did you then . . . were you a year behind when you went back? Did you have to make up that year or how did that work?

Ya, I made it up, didn't I Mom?

You were so young anyway.

Ya.

So the class you graduated with wasn't the class that you went through school with?

No. Right. I actually should have graduated in 1940.

Oh. Okay, so then when you went back did you work just afternoons or summer then still?

Oh, I worked summers. I worked for . . . I got a hundred and thirty-six dollars a month for a twelve hour day. You'd think you were all done and about time you'd start out the door Reed'd say, "Hey we've got 75 or a hundred trips to put up. Oh that used to just scald me.

So you weren't paid by the hour.

No. I got a hundred thirty six dollars a month.

Okay.

And I had a little trouble with Reed's wife, Margaret. She was a good lady and a good friend of Mom, but she came to the door one day and dropped a glass milk bottle, and course it was all cement and just scattered that thing all over and told me to pick it up. And I got so fightin' mad I couldn't believe. I think I quit that night. You know, I mean it was bad enough getting along with Reed, but . . .

Did you go back after that or that was your last . . .

Oh, no, I went back. I think I went back. But then the next time I quit I went to drivin' log truck out of the Blaine country.

So when farmers came with their milk to the factory did you get the chance to visit with some them.

Oh, sometimes yes, yes. And I remember all those guys.

So you got to know quite a few of em.

Ed Anderson, the guy that owned this place. (Nestucca Meadows) His name was McPherson. Was a big red headed guy. And Jack told me the other day that him and Ed Egger got into a fist fight out there one day when he was workin' there. I don't remember that, but. Lots of fights in those days. Those guys had . . . if they had somethin' to say, they did er.

So fights being actually throwin punches, or . . .

Oh, you bet. Oh you bet.

More punches than . . .

Well, I remember Ray Measor and uh, Bunn, which Bunn was it? Anyway, Ralph Bunn and him got into a fight one day and there was quite a few of 'em around you know. And old Ed Egger, he wouldn't hurt a flea, but he got into a fight, what Jack says, with this McPherson that owned this place here.

So what would other people do when a fight was going on? Would they try to stop it?

Oh, I don't think so. They just let 'em go.

Huh. Okay, so.

You don't see that anymore like you used to.

What about memories of high school?

Well, I course wasn't very old when I started high school. That's where I met Mama. She used to beat me in ping pong, she said.

In high school?

Oh ya. Didn't you Mom!

And what about sports or band or anything there. Did you participate?

I got into band. My folks bought me a new Eb alto saxophone . . . a really nice saxophone. And that's somethin' that's always bothered me because one day I took that thing to Portland with Mom and sold that sucker. When they had paid for it! It wasn't mine! And that's somethin' I shouldn't a done. And I got in a wreck out there in Tigard. 'Member that Mom?

So, did you get pretty good at it?

Not really.

Was, and tell about the band at the high school. What was that like? Very big or anything?

We had a good band. Uh, Turner, the barber. His daughter was an excellent trombone player.

Dixie.

Yes, and Bob Holman could play a clarinet. And he still can to this day, I mean, really, really, good you know.

Did you put on concerts or did you march in parades or what did you do?

I think we did kind a everything like that, didn't we and participated in band contests. I never got really good at it, you know. I'd like to of, but I didn't.

Okay, what else did you do in high school. What other participation..? What about cheerleading?

Yes, I was a cheerleader. Me and Bob Dunn. And Bob Dunn was my friend, and he . . . we could raise more Cain and make more racket than anybody in the country. And one time we went to Wheeler, and you've probably heard me tell this, at a football game. And Bob and I was a givin that ole referee a bad time and when I was walkin' off the field at the high school up there . . . I was walkin' kind a uphill . . . that guy grabbed me and threw me in the blackberry bush. And when I come to Bob Dunn had him down just a poundin' the socks off him. Bob was a one tough guy. He was really a tough guy. You hear of these guys that think they're tough, but Bob was tough.

Were there also girl cheerleaders . . . at that time?

Not at that time, just Bob and I. And we could make them people hollar I'm goin' tell ya.

How many years did you do that?

I don't know. Couple of years, probably. I don't know. I'd say probably just about two years.

Okay, what do you remember about the Alma Mater song.

I think I helped write that song. I really think that, that Golda Hammel and I wrote that song.

That's the one that starts, 'High above Nestucca's waters, towering to the sky, "

Ya.

I can't repeat the whole thing.

I can't remember either now.

Okay.

And they used to give us time off from classes to go and do stuff like that in high school.

To, to what . . . write songs or practice . . .

Ya, ya, or to practice. Ya.

Remember any special teachers in high school that stand out in your mind?

Well, I was walking down the street in Naples, Italy, when I ran into Miss Seavy who was my typing teacher, and we had quite a talk over there. And of course afterwards I went to a reunion and she was there and we had quite a talk. She was a real slender lady, but the most efficient person you ever saw at shorthand or anything like that. She was really a good gal.

So she taught you typing in high school?

Yes, she did.

Do you think your high school was pretty modern at that time with equipment and the building and stuff?

Oh I think so. I got to where I could really type. I don't know how many words a minute, but I was pretty good at it, wasn't I Mom?

How did you get to school in high school?

Well, I rode the school bus or I got to where I drove a lot. I had a model A Ford then with a rumble seat. And a course then I got a '37 chev. But I had a little tough luck with it once in awhile . . . get it bent up. Right Mom? Oh, ya, other people did. Ya, they did, didn't they! Elton and Bob Holman and all them guys wrecked my car.

So what about your experiences as an adult with schools because your kids went to Beaver School. What do you remember when your kids were in school about being on the school board or the programs or PTAs or anything?

Oh, I don't remember anything about grade school. I don't think I was on the sch . . . Yes I was on the school board. I remember that.

What about you talked about watching for planes near the school. The shelter during the war when you watched for planes. About how old were you at that point?

Well, I was probably 15 maybe even 16.

Can you describe what that was like?

Well it was just east of where the fire hall is now . . . was this building, and I don't even know who built it but the community always just worked together. It was a small maybe 4 x 4 building. It had windows almost all around it. And it had a telephone in it. And I was over there almost every morning at 4:00 or a lot of mornings at 4:00. Jack Kellow said he was there . . . his dad was always such an early bird that he'd get up at 3:00 and get ol Jack and take him down there. And you'd listen for planes. You know, you'd think they was maybe goin' to bomb or make an attack along the coastline. And so, you, Mrs. Warmoth, one night she came down there about four in the morning. She . . . all the local people were in on that, and I thought that was a good deal.

So, how . . . did you tell me, did they have posters of planes up or pictures or something? Did that have that or not?

No, not that I remember.

And were phones common in people's houses at that point or was that an unusual thing to have phones?

Oh, I think it was pretty common then, I think it was.

What were you supposed to do if you heard a plane?

Call a, I think you had to call Tillamook, if I remember right. And just report that there was a plane. Of course you wouldn't hear a plane at night.