

# Interview with Edna Cason Johnson Brust

Conducted by Dean Bones  
with Gwen Ayers Jones in Attendance  
in 2002 at Edna's home in Hillsboro, Oregon

**DB:** *This is Dean Bones and I'm interviewing Edna Cason Brust. OK?*

**EB:** Ok.

**DB:** *Ok, so, if you would just say the name of the grade school that you attended... you can sit right where you are.*

**EB:** I attended Blaine Grade when I attended school...

**DB:** *Ok.*

**EB:** ...but since I was so far from the grade school I only went to school a few weeks in the fall, and then I was home taught. I went to grade school at Blaine for two years... one year in the seventh and one in the eighth that I attended grade school.

**DB:** *Did your family move there, then, right before that, or were you home taught all the grades until seventh grade?*

**EB:** All the grades. My folks moved there in 1911.

**DB:** *Oh. Ok. And, this is going to be a little confusing, probably, because most of our questions are designed for people when they went to school, but I also am gonna'.... I really wanna' talk about when you taught at East Creek, too, so... um, ok... we already know about the building... let's see... so, East Creek School wasn't in existence at that time, was it, when you were in school?*

**EB:** Yes.

**DB:** *Oh, it was.*

**EB:** Uh, you have a pamphlet of it, and it was District #59, and it existed for several years, and I don't know how long.

**DB:** *Ok.*

**EB:** And then the families moved away from there, and there was only Gray family left, and Max Gray went to Blaine School one year... Blaine, uh, consolidated with the East Creek School and in the bargain, it was understood that if ever there was enough children moved into the area that was #59, that Blaine School would have to furnish them a school.

**DB:** *Oooh.*

**EB:** So, then in the summer of 1930 there was enough children moved into that area, and they demanded a school, so that Blaine District had to furnish... and there was already this school building in the district... it was just about the size of this building... this room.... it was very small, but it was well built.... of course there was no water, no electricity... it was... the playground was rock, and I mean big rock and stumps, so there was no playground...

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**DB:** *Was there any play equipment at all, of any kind?*

**EB:** Well.... no, 'cause it would have to come from the Blaine District, and the Blaine District didn't furnish it.

**DB:** *Oh. So probably just the stumps were the play equipment and things like that, huh?*

**EB:** That's right. And another thing... for play equipment ... there was five children in school...

**DB:** *When you were there... when you taught?*

**EB:** When I taught... when they opened up ... they opened up with five children... three Poole children and two Maxwell children, and the old... the one... they was a second grader and a seventh grader... in other words, those five children represented five different grades. You don't many games or play equipment or anything like that, and then you must remember that they had to walk about two miles through the woods, through the forest, up... and up a very steep hill, and through the wood... forest, morning and night...

**DB:** *Was the school on a hill?*

**EB:** No, the school was at the bottom of a hill...

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

**EB:** ...and the families lived up this hill and way back in the forest.

**DB:** *So did they live, like, further east from the school?*

**EB:** (whispering) Oh, don't ask me directions....

**DB:** *All the families did?*

**EB:** Ya... I guess it would be east.

**DB:** *And where did you live?*

**EB:** I taught two years... one year, I lived with one of the families... they didn't have an extra room so I slept on a cot in the living room ...

**DB:** *Humm..*

**EB:** ... that year...

**DB:** *Which family was that?*

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**EB:** Well, and I have to tell... I have to explain this.... that year.. first year... I taught there about a month or so... and the family that lived... the family that... the children I had... one of them was building a home... a new house, and they built it of split shakes, and... so they said we could have that as a school house for that year, so that first year, we moved up the hill to this building that was built of shakes... the only store bought thing in that building was the windows... I think the hinges on the door, but all the rest of it was split shakes.

**DB:** *Was that better than the other building?*

**EB:** No.

**DB:** *No.*

**EB:** It was different, because the other building was made of store bought or sawmill lumber, and it was a pretty well built house... but this one, up there... and it was about half way between the two families.

**DB:** *And what did you heat with in the schools?*

**EB:** Wood.

**DB:** *Potbelly... some kind of a stove, probably...*

**EB:** One of those great big round...

**DB:** *And did you have to bring in the wood and build the fires, or did you....*

**EB:** Well, I was janitor, but I got this older boy did a lot of that... and there was no plumbing, so we used a bucket and went out to the .... to the... to the little branch there... to the little creek out there and dipped up the water for our water, and then we had... as they say, we had a path...

**DB:** *Um... so was that East Creek that you got your water from, or was a different little...*

**EB:** No... no, no... we were far from East Creek by that time....

**DB:** *Someday Gwen (Jones) is going to show me where that school is, 'cause I don't know exactly ... I know kinda', but not exactly...*

**Gwen:** I could never get to it...

**DB:** *Oh, I got some other people that can...*

**Gwen:** Probably Quentin or Lyle would be the ones...

**EB:** You can tell where the building is, but I understand that it is down now...

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**DB:** *Ya, that's what I heard. Um, so the two years that you taught there, it was the Poole and the Maxwell families, there was nobody else who moved in?*

**EB:** Uh, the second year, Ladessa Gray started the first grade, so we had to go back to the original building then... so, uh, there was, uh... and then there was a Poole youngster started, so I think there was about seven youngsters that second year.

**DB:** *Ok. So why did the people live way up there? Did they have farms, or why were they there?*

**EB:** It was during the Depression time... the Maxwell family... she had owned that ranch... she was married before, and... her... and I think they had homesteaded... she and her husband, and then he was killed, and she and her two boys moved ... I don't know... Portland, someplace... they moved away... but then after she married and had these three children... and ... the ... that I suspect.... that it was Depression time, and I 'spect they didn't have money, and... they was a house... they was buildings on it so they moved so they moved into it. Now that is my....

**DB:** *So they probably didn't have any animals that they took care of... livestock, or....*

**EB:** They had some, but they kinda' collected them through the time.

**DB:** *And the other family ... the Poole family?*

**EB:** They... he ... they mostly peeled bark...

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

**EB:** And I think he went out a time or two and worked a while, but, uh... but they had their garden... they both had gardens, and uh, I think that they both had a cow.

**DB:** *OK... go ahead Gwen...*

**Gwen:** ...suggest about the cedar chest... the cedar chest?

**EB:** That's right... the... Mr. Poole... uh, they found ... in the woods back there, they found an old cedar log that had been downed, and they cut that up and split it into shakes, and Mr. Poole made cedar chests out of this cedar log. It was... it was down, I don't think they felled it, I think it was already down, but they found it in the woods and he made cedar chests.

**DB:** *Just for them, or he sold some of them?*

**EB:** He sold 'em...

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

**EB:** He sold 'em.

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**DB:** *Wonder if any are still around anywhere.*

**EB:** My daughter has one of them.

**DB:** *Really?! Hmmm...*

**Gwen:** My mom had one... he made, and I imagine he paid for groceries...

**DB:** *Oh, by...*

**Gwen:** With these cedar chests... it's a regular sized cedar chest. I have... I sent the gal... (chuckle)... I don't want all of this on... can you turn it off for a minute?

**DB:** *No.... just keep going... (Just a note in 2011 . . . I am flabbergasted that I told Gwen to just keep going. I remember the interview and imagine she was laughing some. db)*

**Gwen:** I've got a lot of stuff to say that don't really need to be on there. It's about this gal that came, uh...

**DB:** *You don't want people to know about it, huh?*

**Gwen:** Well, I don't care if they know.

**DB:** Ah, go ahead, it's fine. So this is Gwen Jones talking, Darleen. (The person who is doing the transcribing.)

**Gwen:** Oh, last year... uh, what's her name.... a gal from Grants Pass called me, and her mother had gone to school to Edna at East Creek...

**DB:** Ooooh....

**Gwen:** ... and it was her grandfather that made these cedar chests, and my mother had one... after she passed away and after Alma passed away, Kenny Spidell, her son, took it. After this gal met me, I wrote Kenny and he sent me pictures of that cedar chest.

**DB:** *I would love to get a picture that I could copy so I could, uh, have that in our files... of the ... of the chest he made. It would be wonderful.*

**Gwen:** Well, I could probably get it.

**EB:** He made me one, too.

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

**EB:** ... before my daughter... before my baby was born... it was a suitor chest in the top and then the bottom of it has two drawers, and my daughter has it.

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**DB:** *Sounds wonderful. So you were not married when you were teaching?*

**EB:** Oh, yes, I was married.

**DB:** *Oh, you were married.*

**EB:** I was married.

**DB:** *You lived away from home then, during the week?*

**EB:** Uh, I lived away from home, yes, and my husband lived with my parents.

**DB:** *And was that still on East Creek?*

**EB:** Well, where my parents...

**DB:** *On Cason Road?*

**EB:** ...up on Cason Road, up on a hill there...

**DB:** *So how far is... was that from the school?*

**EB:** Oh, I would say about three miles.

**DB:** *Really. So you weren't too far from home, but it still must have been hard, not being home all the time.*

**EB:** I lived in a little... the second year I lived in a little shack, or a little house there...

**DB:** *By the school?*

**EB:** Quite close to the school.

**DB:** *Alone...*

**EB:** Well.... uh... I had a girl come and stay with me, 'cause I was pregnant...

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

**EB:** ... and I was up in the mountains there, by myself..

**DB:** *Ya..*

**EB:** ... and so I had a little girl come and live with me that winter.

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**DB:** *A little girl... about how old?*

**EB:** Well, she was in the fifth grade, I think.

**DB:** *Was she one of your students?*

**EB:** Yep.

**DB:** *Oooh.. ya, 'cause I would think that would be difficult just... for anybody, being alone for that long. Maybe after a school you'd enjoy the peace and quiet, I don't know.*

**EB:** (chuckle) I don't think I thought either way about it... it was just to be done... it was just something that had to be done, and I don't think I... I don't think then it bothered me. Now as I think back about it, I....

**DB :** *Ya.*

**Gwen:** Do you want to mention Matt Thompson?

**DB:** *Matt Thompson, Gwen said?*

**Gwen:** Do you want to mention that you lived in his house?

**EB:** Ya, this house that I lived in belonged to Matt Thompson. The school house was built on the western end of his place, and he had raised Hereford cattle, but.... and he had built this little house that I lived in, but then later he built another house at the... would be... I suppose the east end of his property, and he lived up there.

**DB:** *Hmmm... did he have children at one time that went to school...*

**EB:** No...

**DB:** *Oh, he didn't, huh?*

**EB:** No, as far as I know he never married.

**DB:** *Then why did he live up there?*

**Gwen:** (chuckling)

**DB:** *You don't... ok...*

**EB:** I don't.... I don't have any idea... they was rumors at that time, but then I wouldn't tell that because they was just neighborhood rumors.

**DB:** *Then why did your parents move there? And where did you move from?*

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**EB:** From Silverton... my... my parents lived in Silverton...

**DB:** *And could you say what their names were, also? Your parent's names...*

**EB:** My parents were Walter Cason... Walter and Lilla Cason...

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

**EB:** ... and, uh.... but they lived at Silverton... and at Silverton where they lived, my... both sets of grandparents lived side by side... but... and I don't know why they just... well, I think that the place that my folks lived on really belonged either to my grandfather and then he sold it, and so then my folks moved over to the... over there.

**DB:** *But how could they even hear about an area way up there?*

**EB:** That is something that I have never been able to understand.

**DB:** *Hmm...*

**EB:** I've always wondered why they went up in there. My father had owned or... we thought he homesteaded property up near Condon, but we went up there one time to find out about it, and they couldn't find any property that he had homesteaded, but he did own property... a ranch up there.

**DB:** *Hmm..*

**EB:** And.. you know what that country is... as I sat there and looked at those dry, dry hills, and then I thought of the property there at Blaine... he owned... he bought 160 acres, and on that 160 acres I thought there was eight springs... water... little branches of water...

**DB:** *Ya...*

**EB:** ... there was just water everywhere..... so I reason now that he... that is the reason he went there... he saw all that water, and after being in Condon where all that dry was, well, that water just looked like gold to him.

**DB:** *And what did your dad do, then, with the property, or how did he earn a living?*

**EB:** Oh, raised cows and milked cows.

**DB:** *Hmm.. so a farm.*

**EB:** Ya.

**Gwen:** You want to tell who he bought it from?

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**DB:** *Who did he buy the farm from?*

**EB:** Oh, he bought the farm from ... uh.... Bob Richards, and Bob Richards moved from... left there and went to a house down in Blaine, and then from Blaine Bob Richards went to Beaver, and you may have heard...

**DB:** *So... the R... I forgot his name... the R. W. Richards Road...*

**Gwen:** R. O. Richards, I think.

**DB:** *R. O. Richards... is that the same...*

**EB:** Ya... Bob Richards... that's Robert Richards...

**DB:** *So Mary Jane Widenoja's dad?*

**EB:** That's right.

**DB:** *Wow. What a small world. Huh.*

**Gwen:** I'm sorry, I can't keep from buttin' in!

**DB:** *That's fine! So the ways that kids got to school were just walking.*

**EB:** Ya.

**DB:** *Did they ever ride horses or anything, or...*

**EB:** No, they didn't have horses... they didn't have...

**DB:** *And how did you get to school? Walked, huh?*

**EB:** Uh, huh (yes)

**DB:** *What if it was pouring down rain?*

**Gwen:** (chuckling)

**DB:** *And what time did school start and what time did it get out when you were teaching?*

**EB:** Nine... it started at nine and we went 'til about four.

**DB:** *Long day. Did you have a bell in the school?*

**EB:** No.

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**DB:** *How did you signal for the kids to start?*

**EB:** Hey, come on in!

**DB:** *(laughing) Ok... and... oh, they all brought their lunches, I assume...*

**EB:** Oh, yes...

**DB:** *Ummm... so... did kids take turns getting the water for the school?*

**EB:** Well, no because most of them were too little... the older boy that was in the seventh grade, and then the next year he was in the eighth grade... he was a big boy.... and that gave him status.

**DB:** *Right (chuckle)... ok... I assume they probably had several recesses and a noon recess?*

**EB:** Oh, ya... we had the morning recess about ten, and then in the afternoon... about two... two-thirty.... something.... I don't remember just when....

**DB:** *What kind of games would the kids play?*

**EB:** Well, that's what I said... I don't remember that they played any....

**DB:** *...they were all different ages....*

**EB:** ... but what games would they play? Their ages was from seventh grade to first grade.

**DB:** *Ya. Did you have any playground balls or anything like that? No.*

**EB:** No.

**DB:** *Ok.*

**EB:** I think I bought some. Anything like that we had, I bought.

**DB:** *Ok.*

**EB:** And I think I did... I don't remember....

**DB:** *Did you ever do any programs for the parents or anything?*

**EB:** Ya.

**DB:** *Like at, what time.... Christmas or something?*

**EB:** I think we had a Christmas program, and then in the spring we had a spring program.

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

**EB:** I remember I bought a record player with some music... had music... and... and.... I don't remember... we had...

**DB:** *Did you have to crank it?*

**EB:** Oh, yes, of course you had to crank it.

**DB:** *Right. And did the parents come to see the ....*

**EB:** They were.... they were pretty good... they were good about coming. This was outside... we had it outside... I don't remember whether it was an Arbor Day program or a Memorial.... no, it was.... I don't remember, but I remember we had this program and we sang, and I'm no musician, but we....

**DB:** *Did the county superintendent ever come visit your school?*

**EB:** No.

**DB:** *No... too far for him, or something....*

**EB:** He kept saying he was going to come, but he never did.

**DB:** *Was there actually a road that went up to the school, or was it just a trail?*

**EB:** No... it was just a trail.

**DB:** *Ok... and, how old were you when you started teaching at East Creek School?*

**EB:** Well, I was born in 1909 and this was 1930, so I was about 20... 21...

**DB:** *And... did you teach before that, or was this your first school?*

**EB:** No, this was my first school.

**DB:** *Oh. And did you have any training to teach... I know some people went out of high school and taught...*

**EB:** No... I went to Monmouth.... to Oregon Normal School... and at that time the state issued what they called a temporary teaching certificate, and you could teach one year on that, and then if you were recommended by your board or what... then it could be renewed, and I had mine renewed...

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

**EB:** And, uh... then, uh... after my daughter was born, and I went back to school and, uh... first I got my life certificate...

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**DB:** *Hmm...*

**EB:** ...which I am very thankful for... I really think that it's wise not to have a life certificate, but then I had one, and I was happy I had it. But anyway, I started my college that fall of 1927, and I taught... but what I'm trying to get at is I started this school in 1927, and in 1962 I got my Bachelor of Arts degree.

**DB:** *That's wonderful. So you went on to teach in other schools after East Creek...*

**EB:** Oh, yes.

**DB:** *Where else did you teach?*

**EB:** Well, I taught at... let's see... I taught at Waupeneesha in... up near Maupin, and I taught at Fairview, I taught at Canby, I taught... um..... I taught those... with my life certificate, but I didn't get my degree...

**DB:** *Um, hum... (yes)..*

**EB:** ... but then I got a school at, uh....

**Gwen:** While she's thinking... we moved her to Waupeneesha with her dad's old cow trailer.

**EB:** I taught at Bay City then... I taught at Bay City first grade for twelve years, and then I taught at Molalla first grade for ten years before I retired.

**DB:** *How many years did you teach all together then?*

**EB:** Oh, I figured it out two or three times, and I think it was about thirty-five years.

**DB:** *That's enough, isn't it?*

**EB:** What?

**DB:** *That's enough, isn't it?*

**EB:** Ya... but I...

**DB:** *This was my thirty-first...*

**EB:** Huh?

**DB:** *I just finished my thirty-first year of teaching.*

**EB:** Did you?

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**DB:** Ya.

**EB:** Oh, shoot... no, I ... I enjoyed it... (intercom interruption...) well...

**Gwen:** The seamstress is here.

**EB:** Oh... I thought she was going to say...

**DB:** *And when did you get married?*

**EB:** In 1930.

**DB:** *Ok... and I see the flag... is that from your husband or from you? From your husband...*

**EB:** It's from my son...

**DB:** *Oh, your son... and what was his name?*

**EB:** Benton Johnson.

**DB:** *So how many children did you have?*

**EB:** Three... two girls and a boy.

**DB:** *And what are the girls' names?*

**EB:** Shelly Lou is the oldest one, and then came Benton, and then Lynette.

**DB:** *Ok... so you were Edna Cason, and then you became Johnson... Edna Johnson...*

**EB:** Ya... uh, huh...

**DB:** *And then you became...*

**EB:** Westcot...

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

**EB:** And then I became Brust.

**DB:** *Ok. Uh... did you ever have any kids that misbehaved at East Creek School?*

**EB:** You know, I've been thinking about that, and I don't remember that they ever did.

**DB:** *That's what most people say about most of the schools... they can't remember...*

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**Gwen:** You don't remember the bad things...

**DB:** *Uh...*

**EB:** In one of your cards it said how did you discipline them... as I remember the only thing you did was make them stay in at recess if something happened.

**DB:** *Ok. Do you remember ever any kids getting really seriously hurt?*

**EB:** No.

**DB:** *No. Uh... do you know who taught at East Creek School after you?*

**EB:** Fannie Smith... her aunt...

**DB:** *Oh, ya... ok... she taught about everywhere, I think.*

**EB:** Ya... she taught two years... so that... it was open four years... it ran four years.

**DB:** *Are there any stories of... anything that you remember happening or something that kinda' sticks in your mind that you could talk to us about... like if you had a grandchild sitting here and you were just telling him a story about those days... something about that happened...*

**EB:** (chuckle)...

**DB:** *I know it's been a few days ago...*

**EB:** I have stories every once in a while, but my mind's just blank on 'em now...

**DB:** *If you think about it in a little bit, we'll just go ahead and you can tell your story in a little bit... what is your ancestry? You know, Irish, or ...*

**EB:** Norwegian... my mother's family was born in Norway.

**DB:** *Ok... but she was... she was not born in Norway, or was she...*

**EB:** No, she was born in South Dakota.

**DB:** *Ahhh... and then they moved...*

**EB:** Then they moved.

**DB:** *And your dad's... and what was her maiden name?*

**EB:** Annonson.

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**DB:** *Ok. And what about your dad's ancestry?*

**EB:** He said... Scotch, Irish, English, and Dutch... he was .... his family came from Kentucky, but he was born near Silverton.

**DB:** *Ok. That's good to know. Um... what about during your childhood? Are there any events or stories that you remember during your childhood that you can share?*

**EB:** Well, I guess the one that hits me that I remember.... uh.... they had women's... I guess kinda' quilting bees, and my mother wanted to go to one, so she and I walked down to the neighbors, and the neighbor had a buggy, and she was going to take us to it... and my mother and the neighbor sat in the seat, but there wasn't room for me and I sat in a little box in the back. And they started out and the road went around kind of a hill and a bluff like that... the horse went around this bluff, and this... was down there, and was meeting some boys, and the horse got scared and backed up, and the buggy turned and went over the bank, and I went down with it... mother and the friend jumped out of the buggy, but I went down with it, and landed in the middle of a creek....

**DB:** *What about the horse?*

**EB:** It went down... evidently didn't hit me, and it got out of there without it being... but the buggy was a complete... mashed up.

**DB:** *That sounds horrible. There's steep places along that road...*

**EB:** Uh, huh (yes)

**DB:** *... I know down to the creek. And who was the neighbor, do you remember?*

**EB:** Slikas... Mrs. Slikas.

**DB:** *Mrs. Slikas.*

**EB:** They're the ones that...

**Gwen:** Lived right underneath...

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

**EB:** *Who lives there now, do you know?*

**Gwen:** I don't know who does... I don't know.

**DB:** *And do you remember where the quilting bee was going to be held?*

**EB:** It was going to be held down on Boulder Creek, but I don't know who it was now.

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**DB:** *Really? I know the Jensens would have lived there, and...*

**EB:** Ya, but I don't think it was the Jensens... I don't remember that...

**DB:** *That's a great story. Any other stories you can think of.... any things happening.....*

**EB:** As I say, my mind goes blank.

**DB:** *So does mine!*

**Gwen:** What about when Mr. Hagg died... your birthday party...

**EB:** *What?*

**Gwen:** Your birthday party when Mr. Hagg died. When Mr. Hagg died. Your birthday party.

**EB:** Oh... ya.... Mr. Hagg is a part of my life there, and my childhood... I wrote quite an article about him, but he was a... was a single man, and he had lived back of the folkses... he was alone... and in his last few years, his heart give out and he lived with my parents, so when my daughter was gonna' have ... I don't remember what birthday it was... do you remember? I suppose about a seventh birthday... we got all ready for that... we had balloons, and we had cake and we had things all ready, Gwen and I... her kids and my kids were together... and, uh... Mr. Hagg was in the hospital... and that morning of the birthday in a big... big deal birthday... we got word.... the hospital called her folks, and they came up and told us he was dying, or he was very bad and for us to come, so... I gathered up all of this birthday stuff.... I remember it was a whole tub full of balloons... and the cake and all of the stuff... and I went down to Gwen's... I walked in her house with all of the balloons and all of it, and I said, "Here... I've got to town... will you do the party?" I moved her par... the party down to her place, and she had the party.

**DB:** *So probably the first take out birthday party, kind of...*

**EB:** Ya... that is... I had never thought of saying that, but that's what it was! It was a take out birthday party. (laughing)

**DB:** *So actually you lived up there quite a while after you quit teaching at East Creek School, then.*

**EB:** My parents lived there, and they sold their place in '46, and I was in and out of there right up to their last...

**DB:** *Ok.*

**EB:** See, when I was teaching, I went to school in the summer sometimes, and I'd leave my youngsters with the folks... then sometimes I'd work during the summer... when you have three children, they eat during the summer, too.

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with Gwen Ayers Jones in Attendance  
in 2002 at Edna's home in Hillsboro, Oregon

**DB:** *(chuckle)* Great. What kind of jobs would you have during the summer?

**EB:** Oh, one time I worked a bakery... in a bakery... I guess I worked the bakery two different summers.

**DB:** *And was that on the coast, do you mean, or...*

**EB:** In Tillamook.

**DB:** *Oh. Which bakery?*

**EB:** It was Savin's bakery.

**DB:** *Oh, ya.*

**EB:** ... and I, uh, waited tables...

**DB:** *That was quite a ways to drive, wasn't it?*

**EB:** Well, I didn't drive... I stayed... I left the kids with my folks and I stayed in there.. and then I waited tables two or three summers.

**DB:** *How long would it take, about, to get from your place to Tillamook at that time?*

**EB:** Well, uh, I had a car by that time... during the...

**DB:** *It was still a long trip, though...*

**EB:** When, uh... when I was a youngster, uh, we went with a horse and wagon, and when I was a youngster, and you went to town, as we called it, it took about a day to go in, then you took a day to do whatever business you had and did your shopping, and then a day to come home, so a trip to Tillamook took three days.

**DB:** *And you remember some of those trips?*

**EB:** Just vaguely.

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

**EB:** I remember more by people telling me things. And I should tell you, in all of this, that I am not absolutely sure about some of the details... now I remember Gwen learning to walk... but, when we compare things, she lived in Tillamook and I lived up Blaine... she couldn't have... I couldn't have... but I can see her learning to walk... so what I'm trying to say is... my memory is sometimes mixed up with what people have said.

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**DB:** *Ya. And... all of ours are. You're right. That's a good observation. Um... what chores or responsibilities did you have when you grew up? As a little kid?*

**EB:** As a little kid... well, I think I helped my mother in the house, and then as I grew bigger, I learned to milk and I helped with the milking.

**DB:** *Did you have brothers and sisters?*

**EB:** No. I was alone.

**DB:** *You were it. Oooh...*

**EB:** I was it. And I was alone, because there was no neighbors, and I didn't go to school.

**DB:** *Was that a hard thing, do you think, or do you look back on that with fond memories?*

**EB:** I look back on that as a vacant time... I can't remember much about it, really... I just remember that I had a dog, and we played together... you know, ran together and did things... and then, Snap liked to dig, and he liked to dig for gray diggers, so we'd go out and dig, and he'd dig and then he'd run into a root or something, and I'd cut it out of his way, and then... but, uh... the gray diggers were pretty safe. I don't think we ever did catch one.

**DB:** *(chuckle) That's great. What was the best... uh, well, what do you remember most about your father?*

**EB:** That he worked very hard, and that he was... he had bronchiectasis from the time he was a youngster, which is similar to pneumonia on his chest, but he worked very hard.

**DB:** *What do you remember most about your mother?*

**EB:** That she worked hard, and uh... and she had a way about her of bossing you, but you didn't know it. She would tell you... if you wanted a blue shirt, she'd say, uh, oh, this white shirt is real pretty, it would look nice on you... you see, what she did?

**DB:** *Ya.*

**EB:** And I didn't realize 'til after she was dead how much she did boss me, and how much she influenced...

**DB:** *In a polite way.*

**EB:** In a polite way.

**DB:** *Ya.*

**Gwen:** She painted china, too.

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**DB:** *She painted china?*

**EB:** Uh, huh (yes). Ya, she painted china.

**DB:** *Where did she get the china?*

**EB:** She sent for it.

**DB:** *Oh, like a plain china, or something, and then she would paint on it?*

**EB:** Dishes... china dishes, plates and cups and saucers, and that like...

**DB:** *What would she paint on them?*

**EB:** Flowers... mostly flowers.

**Gwen:** She had a great flower garden.

**DB:** *So she had a garden, then, with flowers.*

**EB:** Oh, she raised a big garden, and she plan.... she canned an awful lot of stuff.

**DB:** *Were there ever community functions in the Blaine area that your family would attend, then?*

**EB:** Ya, uh, huh. The folks went to grange... they belonged to grange.. and in the early part... the early years... I suppose you've heard about the Wilmont store before....

**DB:** *Is that what it was called? Ok.*

**Gwen:** The first one was up where Punk Fletcher lives now.

**DB:** *Oh, I didn't know that. Really?*

**EB:** What's that?

**Gwen:** I said the first store was up where Punk Fletcher lives now.

**EB:** Oh, ya.

**Gwen:** And I have a picture that just shows the corner of it, and that's all that I can find.

**EB:** But anyway, that was the big building, he had his store in the lower part, and the upstairs was just a hall.

**DB:** *Now are you talking about where Punk Fletcher is...*

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**EB:** Ya.

**DB:** *Ok, I've seen a picture of a double storied one, but I thought it was where...*

**Gwen:** It was right at Blaine.

**DB:** *Oh, ok, ok.*

**EB:** And speaking of recreation... those days there was no street lights and there wasn't any streets, so if they had a... they had a dance every once in a while in this hall, and they went.... they'd just dance all night, they didn't come home 'til daylight. I.. I think maybe that that isn't typ... I mean, that I think that other places did it then.

**DB:** *Right. I heard that about, um... oh, Oretown and other places, too... it was an all night thing, then they would leave in the morning. What about you.. what would you do, as a child?*

**EB:** They had kinda' booths built built in one corner, and, uh, they'd put the kids to sleep in there.

**DB:** *Huh!*

**EB:** Ya, there was four or five kids in one.. you know, it was...

**DB:** *Ya.*

**Gwen:** I remember doing that, too.

**EB:** Huh?

**Gwen:** I did that, too.

**DB:** *What was the best advice that your mother or father ever gave you, or what were good lessons you learned from them?*

**EB:** I don't know. Just to be honest and to work hard, and...

**DB:** *Anything else you want to share about your own family?*

**EB:** Well, I'm real proud of my family.. I had the three youngsters, and they grew up to be... all of them.... are producing citizens, and uh... their families are grown, and I had five grandchildren, now I've got nine great-grandchildren, and I am proud of the fact that none of them have ever been in trouble, and they're all ... have religious faith, and they... none of them smoke... that I know of.

**DB:** *What interests do you have, or have you had? You mentioned your mom liked to grow flowers and garden... what about you? What are some of the interests you've had? Well, teaching took a lot of time, I'm sure.*

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**EB:** Well, at different times I've done a lot of sewing, and for a while I decorated cakes, and I decorated several for different people.

**Gwen:** She just crocheted an afghan for her grandson's wedding.

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

**EB:** Great-grandson's wedding. But I never stayed with anything to be really expert at it.

**DB:** *Do you have any community or religious activities that you'd like to tell us about?*

**EB:** Not now.

**Gwen:** Here's your picture.

**EB:** That's my great-grandson's wedding.

**DB:** *And where did he get married?*

**EB:** Near Gaston, at a winery there... Eagle Cove Winery, or...

**DB:** *That's wonderful. Ok... are there any... any other stories you can think of that you might want to share at all... about anything... you don't have to... it's just if there's something comes to mind...*

**EB:** As I say, my mind goes blank... I... I... I have stories, but....

**DB:** *I like that you're writing some things down, I appreciate that.*

**Gwen:** She wrote this about Mr. Hagg, and he was the neighbor, and she...

**EB:** Show him my book...

**Gwen:** Ya... and she has written a story about herself...

**DB:** *Really?? Wow!!!*

**Gwen:** And you wonder why you hear from me about her! (laughing)

**DB:** *When did you finish this?*

**EB:** Oh, a couple years ago.

**Gwen:** She's ninety-three now. Did you turn the thing off?

**DB:** *No, did you want me to?*

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**Gwen:** No, I don't care.

**DB:** *So, is this also stories... some of the... oh, the Berkeys.. this is stories of when you lived over there, isn't it, also?*

**EB:** Ya... the... the Berkeys... Fred Berkey... Fred and Ethel Berkey... Mildred's parents... they lived right next to my folks.

**DB:** *So did you know them when she was little?*

**EB:** Oh, yes... oh, yes.

**DB:** *She was ornery wasn't she?*

**EB:** Oh, I don't think she was ornery.

**DB:** *I'm only saying that so she can read this. I'm kidding, Mildred!*

**Gwen:** There was a lot of people lived up there behind them.

**EB:** Ya... a lot of... a lot of people up in there.

**DB:** *Can you think of any other names of families that lived up there?*

**EB:** Oh, there was Sturgeons, and there was Smiths, and there was Robinsons, and there was...

**Gwen:** Mitchells...

**EB:** Huh?

**Gwen:** Mitchells...

**EB:** Mitchells.... and, uh.... you see, my lived at the top of the hill, and then these homesteaders went back in there and they took up homesteads. They closed down the Homestead Act about that time, but there was quite a few moved back in there.

**DB:** *How could I buy a copy of this?*

**Gwen:** Now, that's my copy, and after she gets it written in, why, I'd let you use it. I'm sure she wouldn't care.

**DB:** *I would love to have a copy for our archives for information, and I see you have pictures in here of East Creek School that we don't have.*

**Gwen:** Now that's the one she was talking about, you know, there... the first school.

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**DB:** *Right... we don't have any of those... I... and.... one thing that we've done, and maybe Gwen's told you, but we've copied a lot of photos, and then we have them online, so if your daughter is online or your grandkids, they could actually see the photos.*

**EB:** Uh... somewhere around, I had those pictures, and they could be copied... I don't know just... I have a little companion, or a little friend that comes in once a week, and uh... she straightens me up... she tidies me up... and that.... (side one of tape ends)

Transcribed by Darleen Creecy Cole on July 1, 2002