

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School
May 8, 2002

RD: I'm Ray Davis. This is May, 2002.

Student: *Please tell the name of the grade school you attended and describe, if you can, the exact location of the school.*

RD: Well, our school was Castle Rock. Now, it was the second Castle Rock School... the first one was at.. actually at Castle Rock on the Three Rivers. But our school... it was about four miles from Hebo.... but, our school was a mile and a half down the road... in other words, say five and a half miles from Hebo. And, we lived up... down the road a little further... we were two and a half miles from school. In other words, it was eight miles from our place to Hebo, and that... that didn't have a name in those days... that's Highway 22 now.

But anyway, we walked to school rain or shine - didn't make any difference... I can't ever remember of not... of having the school closed because of weather. Occasionally we got a ride, but very seldom... I can't remember any time that we had regular rides to school. But, it wasn't bad... we enjoyed it. And it was a nice, nice road... and the road is a lot different nowadays.

But anyway, we went to this school... Castle Rock, which was a one room school.... one teacher for eight grades. And I went all my eight grades there.... from 1918 to graduation in 1926. That year, for the first time, and maybe the only time, all the kids from Tillamook County went to the Tillamook County Fairgrounds to receive our diplomas. And that was a nice sunny day out there in the fairgrounds.

I had various teachers... I could name the teachers... my first teacher was Fay Hornshoe, and she was a neighbor... she lived only a quarter of a mile from school. My second teacher was Esther Cornell, and she lived up near Dolph up in the hills, and she was local... and Dolph, by the way, was a little town... or, not a town actually... it was three miles down further from Hebo than we were, for instance, and there was about eleven miles to Hebo. And, there was a school... later there was a school at Dolph, but not originally.

Anyway, ... Cornell was our second teacher. My third grade teacher was Mrs. Myers, and she was also local... she lived across the road from where the 2nd Dolph school was later built. My fourth grade teacher was named Miss Loughlin, and she was out from out in the valley somewhere. She boarded with one of the neighbors down there... she boarded with a family name of Wood. My fifth grade teacher was one of my pet teachers. She was Ruth Benson Jones, and she was from Tillamook. My sixth grade teacher... then I was back with Mrs. Myers. She was my sixth grade teacher. And my seventh grade... I'm a little bit hazy there, because it seems like that we had... we didn't have the same teacher all year... one of 'em was Miss Rebstock (?) and, she was from out in the valley somewhere. Then in my eighth grade, my teacher was Helen Parr, and she was my all time favorite teacher. I wished I'd kept up with her. And she was from out in the valley somewhere. And then, I graduated.

And later in 1926 my family moved to Beaverton where I've been most of the time since... went to high school all the years in Beaverton. Oh, one thing that was kind of interesting, maybe... I was only late to school one day and that wasn't my fault... Phyllis has heard this so many times, she's tired of

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School
May 8, 2002

it... but, anyway, one day my dad said he had to go to Hebo and he could drive us. Guess what. He couldn't start the car... and work and work and work and he still couldn't start it, so we finally says well, we're gonna' walk the way we always do, and we walked to school. Actually we were only just a few minutes late... and it's the only time that I was late to school in all my years. And I was only late to work once in all my years. But anyway, that's another story too... it wasn't my fault either.

Anyway, so, like I say, we had this one room school... it was a brown-shingled building with a belfry... you entered it a few steps, and then there was a cloak room where the boys coats were on the left and the girls were on the right. Then you entered the school... schoolroom was about eighteen feet wide by about twenty-one feet long. And then there was a back door down into the woodshed. The teacher's desk was in the front of the room on the left-hand side. On the right-hand side was a great big pot-belly stove, down towards the front of the school, close to the wood (chuckle)... and then on the right-hand side there was an organ... we didn't need the organ in school, but we had Sunday school and church there also in the same school, and there was one of the neighbor ladies that played the organ for the church songs and Sunday school.

There was black boards along the rest of the wall along on the right hand side, and then there was black boards in the front, back of the teacher... actually they weren't black, they were green. And then on the back wall of the school, there was a case... a bookcase, and we had our library... what few books the school owned and they didn't have an awful lot... not really anything too interesting that I can remember... we also had what was called a traveling library... the county would send out new books every year... maybe twice a year, and then they would return those and then we would get new books. And I can't remember any particular interesting books (chuckling) really what they would....

Anyway, like I say, we went to school in this one room and there was two rows of double desks... one on the left, was the south side, and the windows were across that side, and the other side did not have windows, and the back door, of course, didn't have windows., Then the door from the cloak room didn't have a window, and so I kinda' wonder sometimes how light it was, but, ... and then we would have programs in the evening for church or for school, and I believe the neighbors brought down their gas mantle or gas burning, lamps, which made good light. And other than that... at home we had coal oil lamps... but later, we got at home... what was called an Aladdin lamp, which was sort of like a gas lamp, except it burned kerosene.

Student: *You said there was a belfry... but what about a bell?*

RD: There was a bell, yes, the teacher rang the bell to. Let's see... I think she rang the bell when school started at nine o'clock, and then she would ring it at noon when noon time was over, and for recess... we'd have a morning and afternoon recess. We didn't have much of a play yard, 'cause it was kind of on a little bit of a hill on the south side, the window side, and up the hill, on top of the hill, was the boys and girls toilets. Going the other way from school was a spring... a nice, cold spring, where we got our water, and we'd carry it up in buckets. We'd have a bucket of water there on the bench in the cloak room (chuckling) and I think, coming back to the woodshed, I think we all had a shot at chopping wood. I think one day... one year my brother had the job of starting the fires, and we all come to school maybe early and we would get busy and dust out the erasers and things like that, and get school ready.

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School
May 8, 2002

And then we had a flag pole outside... one year... well, it was my last year, actually... the teacher gave me the job of putting up the flag every day, which I enjoyed... I think I got fifty cents or a dollar that year for that... and, we didn't really have too many students... the most students we ever had any one year was twenty-two, and I believe that was my second year. I've got pictures of where we had eleven in the school, and another picture I think we only had about six (chuckle), and when I graduated, I was the only graduate for that year... in the eighth grade. My brother was four years older than I, but he was only two years ahead of me... he graduated two years earlier... my sister, two years older than me, she graduated a year ahead of me.

Then in 1926, before we moved to Beaverton... we didn't move until late in October... so I started high school along with the other kids at Cloverdale. So I went six weeks at Cloverdale, and, let's see... my sister was in a grade ahead... she would have been a sophomore, and my brother would have been a junior when we moved out. So then we all, enrolled then at Beaverton. And coming to Beaverton was quite a shock, because so darned many more kids than I was used to. Actually Cloverdale had a lot of students, and I wasn't used to that either, and I didn't really enjoy Cloverdale too much. So, uh... I can't quite think how we got to school at Cloverdale, but we must have had rides then...

GB: *But you mainly walked to school...*

RD: But at grade school, we walked.

GB: *Did most people walk then?*

RD: Oh, yeah, shoot, yes.

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

RD: We didn't have such a thing as a bus, but a neighbor occasionally would come by at the right time and pick you up or something like that.

GB: *Can I ask... you spoke about, having to go get water, so I gather you didn't have running or you didn't have indoor toilets...*

RD: No... no, we didn't have indoor toilets, they were outdoor privies up on the... up on the top of this little side here...

RD: And then we didn't have much of a playground, 'cause there was kind of a slant to it, too, but we did get out and we had a bat and a softball, and then we had different kind of games.... race back and forth, I guess, Blackman, or something...

GB: *Can you explain a game... one of those games to us?*

RD: Well, Blackman just seems like you race back and forth and if you were it... would tag you, I... and then you would be it, or something like that... then we had one, well, Beckon was one that we had quite a bit of space out in front of the school yard was where "It" stood....

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School
May 8, 2002

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

RD: ... and then the rest of us would go hide... oh, but anyone that was left in the school... in the yard, uh.... he got a Beckon... that is, a wave of the hand from somebody that was hidden out there and then he could free, unless "It" caught him. (chuckle) So.... I spent quite a bit of time being "It" I remember... one time, or maybe more than once, I would get up in the belfry when I was free, and then I would wave out through the slats of the bell... bell tower to give somebody the right to go... but, "It" had to have their back turned or out hunting somebody before they could get out, 'cause "It" would get 'em back right away, so.... and then we played another game... Sheep.... Run, Sheep, Run... I don't recall the details of that, except that we did all run out, and.... then I don't...

GB: *Ok... you said that school started at nine, and you had lunch at noon...*

RD: Yeah...

GB: *What time did you get out?*

RD: I believe we got out at three, and, I don't know about the rest of them in Tillamook County, but our school ran eight months, so we got out fairly early in May, and then school didn't start again in the fall 'til the middle of September... I've got one report that shows the school started on the 17th of September... but, that kind of was nice, too, because it gave us a chance to go out and make a little money out in the valley... we'd go out and pick hops or something like that... we did that two or three different years.... and then the only other way out there that we had to make money was peel cascara bark... it was bark that was made into... physics . . .

Other voice: Laxative...

RD: Laxative, you bet... pretty strong, too... anyway, we'd go out and peel this bark, and we had it on our place, or on the land... the forest land next to us, and we'd strip that bark off, as much as we could get, and then we'd strip it down into narrow strips and lay it out on the roof, or something, and dry out... then it would dry out, and then we'd get in a sack and beat it up to a... 'til it was kinda' fined up, and that's the way it was sold. And we could sell it down at Hebo... not very much... six to ten cents a pound for this dried stuff, and it took a lot to make a pound, believe me!

Then... actually, right around there was about the only way we had of making any money, and, well, one year my brother got a job down at the fish hatchery... Cedar Creek Fish Hatchery.. and his job was to take the nets... kind of a net... and take the floating leaves out of the hatchery ponds... (chuckle)... and I always thought this was kind of fun, maybe I'll grow up and work for the hatchery, but what I really liked around Hebo in the way of a job was the cheese factory, and it was a nice cheese factory at Hebo. Actually on our place we had a few cows and sent milk to the factory, and we didn't take it there ourselves, a neighbor hauled it, and we would put it out on the stand and they'd pick it up, and go to the cheese factory.

But cheese making in those days was considerable different than it is today, believe me... you could walk in the cheese factory, and they had long vats of milk, open, and they was curdling, and the cheese maker would get out there with a long wooden rack sort of a thing, and he'd rake through it,

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School
May 8, 2002

and... I thought, oh, boy, this is wonderful, I think I'll be a cheese maker. But of course we moved out, and I didn't... never got to that... and then, oh, we would buy our cheese there, and the folks always wanted the oldest cheese that we could get, and we would go back in the storeroom where they had their five pound loaves of cheese, and the folks always looked for the oldest date... for some reason they thought the cheese older was better.. but everything else that we needed in the way of supplies we bought at the grocery store... P.D. Ott... and it was there for many, many years. And you could buy everything there... I mean, not just groceries and things, but clothes, and shoes, and harness material, and just about anything... if he didn't have it, he'd get it! (chuckle) So, we had to go to Hebo once in a while to get groceries, or a neighbor would get 'em for us. And we had the same neighbor that picked up the milk... one time, or at least sometimes, he would go to Hebo and we would order the groceries from Ott's and he'd pick it up and charge us so much a sack for bringing it home (chuckle) for us. And then, well, he'd pick up the milk, too.

We had a few cows, but mostly my dad worked on the road. And the road was, of course, gravel, and he helped maintain... well, he had what was called a "beat"... several miles... a certain number of miles that he had... that he took of, and he patched chuck holes, he cleaned out culverts, cleaned out ditches... all kinds of work like that, and maybe sometimes there was a rock crusher near us, and he'd work there, and it was all hard work.

And, we didn't have any water in the house.. at home... originally, and, later, when the rock crusher was through, there was a lot of pipe, and my dad got the use of the pipe, 'cause the school... or the road didn't need it any more, and we piped water down and into the house, and then from our.... we had this kitchen stove... range... and originally we had to heat all our water on the stove... on top of the stove... later, when we got the water in the house, my dad built coils in the stove, and we had the range water... heated the water, which was a lot better, but for the first few years we didn't have that, and we had to go walk down the pathway and down a little hill to dip our water out of the stream... which we had a nice stream by us... we called Maple Wood...

GB: *Do you mind if I ask you a few more questions about the school in particular?*

RD: Uh, huh (yes)...

GB: *For instance, when you think about the curriculum, what sort of things did you learn in school? Can you tell us a little bit about that? You know, how did they teach? Did they lecture, or what.. you were telling me about your spelling tests...*

RD: Well... the teacher would have different grades at different times, and I... I don't know... for reading we would get up, and... well, maybe, or we would sit at our desks and we would read the stuff, and then we had... language and it was kind of a job for her to get all this stuff in with all the different grades, but she managed to do it! (chuckle)

Of course, when she had twenty-two, maybe that was a little bit tougher. But, uh... I don't remember any particular problems, except that, we had language, we had geography, course spelling, and arithmetic... I've only got one text book from our years at school... I wished I had some of the others, but I do have an older arithmetic book, which was a Hamilton's Essentials Arithmetic... our readers... I'd like to have some of our old readers... they were called Natural Method Readers, and they were

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School
May 8, 2002

blue... dark blue color... the speller was called New World Speller, and it was a light blue... the geography book... was a rather large book, kind of a, uh.... burnt... auburn something... kind of tannish... it was a nice book... history.. I can't remember much about our history... maybe I didn't enjoy history... I didn't enjoy language... I never could I get in too good at English, and my writing was very poor... I got decent grades in everything... except the writing... it wasn't... I still can't write (chuckle)

GB: *Can you explain a little bit about how you think your teacher managed all those different... what did she do... you said there were different grades at different times...*

RD: Different times... yeah...

GB: *... but you were all in the same room...*

RD: ... the same room... right...

GB: *... what did she do... did she rotate you...*

RD: ...she rotated us, yeah...

GB: *That sounds like a chore.*

RD: Yeah, it was.

GB: *You said that there were no problems, so...*

RD: No, I don't...

GB: *... you don't think that... as far as discipline...*

RD: As far as discipline... no, uh huh (no)...

GB: *If there was a problem, how would she handle that?*

RD: Well, she would uh... (chuckle)... call your attention to your behavior, I guess... I can't remember, there, any particular problems there, either, actually.. ..none of us were real cut ups in school... we might have been cut ups outside, or something like that... maybe not always the nicest kids that we should be, and uh... one boy was my closest age... a year younger... Beryl Wood... and sometimes he was my friend and we enjoyed each other's company, and the next time we were all mad at each other...

GB: *Sounds like typical middle school...*

RD: Yeah... (chuckle)... and, their place was on the property across the street, for instance ... off the road... across the road... and he and his smaller brother would get over there, and "You just stay off our property, see!"... and stuff like that, so... (chuckle)... oh, and then the school yard was about two

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School

May 8, 2002

acres, I think, maybe a little less... little more than an acre, anyway... and it was fenced in, and it was part of the Wood property and he sold it to the district... and I don't know when our school was built...

GB: *Do you know when it was closed?*

RD: I don't know when it was closed, either, because it was on several years after we moved out, and then later there was a school at Dolph that was... about a mile more... closer to Hebo than Dolph was... All they was at Dolph was a hotel and a service station... and it's where the road divides now, it goes down the Little Nestucca... originally there was an old road down the Little Nestuc, and there was a lot of pioneers families lived down there... Most of them were vacant when we used to go down there but it goes on down, near to Pacific City... we called it Little Tucker, and the Big Nestucca we called the Big Nestuc... (giggling)... we lived on a crick called Alder Creek, and it ran down through our place to near the school... it joined in with Three Rivers... Three Rivers came out of the mountains near Mt. Hebo... and then Three Rivers was across the road from the school... and it was farther down Three Rivers where the original Castle Rock school was, and now the Forest Service has a campground there at Castle Rock... picnic tables and that.... uh...

GB: *You talked a little bit about you started late September and you were out in May, but did you get other holidays off, usually...*

RD: Well, we got Christmas, and I suppose we got New Year's... I don't think we got things like Washington's birthday, or... oh, we got Thanksgiving... we had a lot of programs at school there... it was the community center, actually, and like I say we had church and Sunday School there... we always went to church... or Sunday School.. I didn't enjoy church too much... Sunday School was all right... one of the neighbor ladies.. one that played the organ... taught our Sunday School class that I was in...she'd have us out in the cloak room... on the left hand side where the boys' coats were... (chuckle)... I remember that...

And then, some other classes... I don't remember any other and then in the main body was where the adult Sunday School was, and one of the Hornshoe brothers taught the Sunday School, and a third Hornshoe... they were brothers... three brothers... the Hornshoes down there.... was the preacher, I guess, you'd say... and his sermons... I wasn't too wild about those. But Sunday School wasn't too bad.

GB: *What about homework? Did they ...*

RD: We took work home from school, and studied at home... like I say, by... first by just a coal oil lamp, but then later we got the Aladdin lamp, which was a lot lighter, and all we had was coal oil lamps around any... our place.. and then for work outside we had kerosene lanterns for use down at the barns, for instance... I can show you a... one of our kerosene lamps that we had in the kitchen... it's out here in the hallway... if one of you kids want to get it, you could look at it...

GB: *Ok...*

RD: And then it...I could tell you a lot about home, but....

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School

May 8, 2002

GB: *Well.... ok, speaking of home, then, were your parents involved in your education? I mean, you said you brought homework home, so did they make sure that you sat down....*

RD: Well, we studied... I... I think we studied pretty good...I specially boned up on spelling for these tests... (chuckling)...

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

RD: ... but we'd bring other work home... and, I guess we'd just... well, it was quite a job... my mother, getting up in the morning and getting us ready for school.

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

RD: We each carried a lunch bucket... they were, uh... actually tobacco cans... tobacco in those days came in lunch boxes, about one pound... and we each had one of those... each of us three kids had one... like we had a union leader, and a tuxedo, and a George Washington, I believe... I think I carried union leader... anyway, my mother would put up these lunches for us, and then we'd go to school... and, they was sandwiches in there, and she always had canned fruits... she'd put that in... and fruits of different kinds... whatever we had available, and, at noon we ate... if it was decent weather, we'd eat outside, and we had a favorite log that we'd get up on (chuckling) and sit in the sun and eat these lunches...

GB: *All right... o, I assume you did not have a telephone, then....*

RD: We had a telephone.

GB: *You did.*

RD: We did have a telephone, yeah... I was going to mention that... it wasn't a telephone like you have nowadays... it was a wall type... you rang for who you wanted... you had a different number... like our number was a short and two longs... anyone who wanted to call us would ring those two numbers... and then different neighbors around had different numbers... our next door neighbor had two shorts... it was different... different ones... and I can't remember what we called to the grocery store... but, I don't think we called the grocery store much, but we could occasionally... and then they did (chuckling) what they call rubbering... that's when you'd hear the phone ring and it wouldn't be for you, it'd be for some neighbor and you'd decide you'd listen in on that (chuckling) and you'd go ahead and you'd rubber on that... as they called it ... wasn't too nice a thing to do, but I think everyone did it.... (more chuckling)... and it was a battery ... there were two large dry cell batteries in the telephone... they were six volt, I think....

GB: *Ok... so if you had an emergency at school, you could call somebody.*

RD: Well, we didn't have a school... a telephone at school.

GB: *Oh, I thought you said you had one. Oh...*

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School
May 8, 2002

RD: Oh, no, we had a telephone at home.

GB: *Oh, but not at school. So what would happen if you had an emergency at school?*

RD: Well, I guess somebody would have to get on the stick and go to the nearest neighbor or something and call somebody, I guess.

GB: *Do you remember an occasion....*

RD: No... I have no recollection of anything... no...

GB: *Ok...*

RD: We didn't have many problems at, I don't think... like I say, I generally enjoyed school, but then... we were just... everyday, and rain or shine, and that was it... so...

GB: *What about extra curricular activities in school... were there sports, or...*

RD: Well, we had no regular organized sports...

GB: *Um, hmm (yes)...*

RD: ... we didn't have room for them, and no one to... no school to compete against, really... oh...

GB: *So, I guess that's enough about the school... let's get a little bit back to you, and uh... you know... where you came... did you come from Oregon...*

RD: Oh, well, I was born in Portland in 1912... and, uh... when I was only two years old, for some reason my folks decided they was gonna' get... well, actually, one of my uncles was already living near Hebo, and he encouraged the family to come down there, and he knew about this one place that was supposed to be for sale. I don't know if my dad ever got a look at it before we went, but anyway that was before we ever had a car... and it was 1914 we moved down there... I was only two years old...

And we came down by team and wagon, and they had one cow that towed along back of the wagon... and, earlier the road that's in there now between Dolph and, say, Grand Ronde was quite a bit different... there was a toll road over the hill, and it left the road near a place called the Bee Ranch, where they did raise bees and had honey for sale, and went up over the hill, and came back down past Dolph. And that was a toll road, and neighbors in there kept up the road, I guess they charged a toll, so apparently the folks had to pay a toll when they came across through there... but later the road was built on through... a new road on through what was called the Sourgrass... it's the Sourgrass Creek, actually... it's still there and still the same road.

I don't remember just exactly how far it was from our place out to the Bee Ranch, where that was, but several miles... we were fourteen miles from Grand Ronde, and uh... like I say, eight miles from Hebo. And then from Hebo it was two miles down to Cloverdale, and our closest beach was Pacific City.

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School

May 8, 2002

Later when we got our car we could go down to the beach. And then later there was a road built from Pacific City over... let's see... originally that road wasn't in there... Neskowin was the next... well, was the road down to Neskowin... I guess it was... oh, I know, it was... originally wasn't built from Neskowin over to Depoe Bay, for instance. Later that was while we were still living there they built that road through there. And so we could go to Neskowin in a car, but it was too far to drive... take a horse and wagon. We got a car... our first car was a Model T Ford... copper front... Model T Ford, 1913 model, and I think we got it around 1917-18, somewhere in there, so originally we didn't have a car. Later we got that car and then two or three other cars.

GB: *Do you consider getting an automobile one of the significant advances...*

RD: Well, it was quite an event to get a car...

GB: *What was the most significant event in your life... in your childhood?*

RD: Well, I can tell you one thing that stands out in my memory, and will forever... the mountain back of our place... well, it was a long ridge... it's called Gauldy Ridge, actually.... (spells Gauldy).... and it goes from, say, Dolph, clear down to near Hebo. The highest point on that mountain is Mt. Gauldy summit, and, uh... there were government trails. You didn't say Forest Service, I don't think there was such a thing as Forest Service... but there was a government trail from near the Wood place... that's about two miles down from our place... that went up towards Mt. Gauldy, and then the rest was sort of a bushwhacking through salal and stuff... this was early in 1926... in January, and a beautiful, clear... it was the clearest, most perfect day, you can just imagine... and my friend Merle Wood and his brother, Clarence, we called Bill, had already planned to go up on to Gauldy, and it was my first trip up there.

We walked up this government trail as long as it went, and then the rest of the way, and then we followed animal trails... it was a kind of a track... but we went to the top of the mountain, which was a kind of a big rock outcrop... elevation about 2400 feet... anyway, when we got to the top, the biggest surprise of my life... I expected to see the ocean, which we did, off to the west, but when we looked out, almost east... yeah, east... and Mt. St. Helens, and then around to the right, Mt. Adams... and further around to the right, south... Mt. Hood... we saw them all! I didn't know we could see 'em from up there. It is one of the standout memories of my life... probably hard to fathom anything else that made such an impression on me, 'cause I just didn't know we could see it. And it was all clear then. It's wooded now, and we kind of hope it stays there, because they've logged around there a lot, but there happens to be a plant in there... kind of a native plant down there that we're particularly fond of, and it grows down on the coast, but not all over. It's the farm lily, or pink lamb's tongue. The official name is *erastrotum revolutum*... you can find that in the flower books... and later in years I tried to get the Forest Service to preserve the top of the mountain for that flower, and he says, "Well, we spent \$10,000 all over the district, and that flower is every place."

Well, it isn't, but then... he got away... but they haven't logged it yet, or hadn't the last time we were down through there. There's a road up there now... I mean, not a thoroughfare, but it's a kind of a track, what they use to take the logs out when they do log up there, and it goes.. .you can pick it up across from the Cedar Creek Hatchery, and goes up on top of the mountain several miles, and then branched off to where you can get up to the mountain and continues on out to... comes down on the

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School
May 8, 2002

Little Nestuc, near Dolph, so it's a good many miles along the top of that thing, which we've done many times. So we've gone by... others and I have gone back... (first side of tape ends)

Student: Earlier you were talking about chores you had at school... do you remember chores you had at your house?

RD: Yeah, my... one of my main jobs was cutting wood. Of course, like I say, we burned wood in the kitchen range and in the main room we had a wood stove, and I chopped a lot of wood and cut kindling every day... and I worked a lot in the garden... we had a big garden.. vegetable garden... we raised things like carrots, and turnips, and rutabagas, we had a lot of green peas and beans, string beans, and potatoes... we had a few strawberries, and so I liked to work in the garden.. actually did like to work in the garden... hoed and ran water from a little source we had into the garden and ran it down in rows... kind of cut little rows along the plants and it, so we'd water 'em... and, well, we didn't really raise corn, it wouldn't grow, and I don't think we had much in the way of tomatoes... mostly root crops, except, like I say, peas and greens. So I worked a lot in the garden, and, uh...

I personally didn't have anything to do with the milking... my dad and my brother did the milking. But we all pitched in for getting the winter's wood... now, that was quite a job. We had a lot of good timber on our place, but it had to be cut... and, like we had vine maples... very nice wood... and alder... and then another source of wood... were a lot of downed, or snags as you might call 'em... burned... see, the whole country in there burned heavily around, like 1902 or so, and there was a lot of just dead snags or logs that fell from there, and we got a drag saw... it's kind of a gas driven saw... if you could find the log down that you could get at, then you could saw up a lot of wood... which we did...

I know one time out in our side yard we had a snag standing that would make good wood, but we had to get it down... my brother was always kind of mechanical, and he burned it down... he bored a hole in with an auger in two ways, into where the holes, and then got a fire started in there and he burned it down, and he burned it down so that it fell to where we could get the drag saw at it, which was nice (chuckle)... and then there was other logs around the ranch that we had... we had about an 80 acre ranch, but not a lot of real good pasture land... we only had about five, six cows... we had a lot of chickens... that was another job of mine, was feeding the chickens, gathering the eggs... oh, cleaning the barn... you know... and, cleaning the barn out, and then white washing the chicken house... we had a lot of chickens... we had these Rhode Island Red chickens, and so we always had chickens and eggs to eat and plenty of milk... we had lots of milk... but sometimes my mother would churn up butter, but that was an awful tough job... I don't think she did that too much... I hope not, because it was an awful job... course, I helped with the churning in those days if we did that... but mostly I think we got butter from P.D. Ott's grocery... which wasn't very much money...

Uh, I wanted to tell you a little bit about our mail... I'm sure that everyone gets their mail the way we did... I can show you a picture of us by our mail box... our mail box was just that... a box... like, well, I think our box was made out of... well, it was wood. There was blasting powder came in a good sturdy wood box, and that was what ours was made out of... and it was just open in one end, with a flag on it... if you had mail to go out, for the mailman to pick up... but the way we got our mail was in canvas sacks, and we had a... from the mailbox there was a peg out to hang the sack on... anyway, our post office was Hebo, ok, and they would fill our mail sack there at Hebo, and then bring it out and hang it

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School
May 8, 2002

on the lever thing there... no, he'd stick it in the box, that's right... he would stick it in the box... when we would go get our mail, then we would hand the sack back on the stick that stuck out there, and he would pick up the empty sack on his way back, and I'm not sure just how far he went out... he went out at least to Dolph, maybe... but there weren't too many houses beyond Dolph, until you got to Grand Ronde, so he didn't go out too much further than that. And then he would come on back, and several between us and Dolph, and then on down the line back to Hebo... they called it a Star Route... now I don't know whether that was because of the sacks or not, because it seems to me I've seen something about Star Route since, but I'm not sure of that... but they called it a Star Route... anyway. my dad was Jay (spells name), so we'd get our mail... Jay Davis, Hebo Oregon... and he had his name on the sack, so we had the same sack all the time (chuckling)... so I thought that was kind of interesting, because I don't think... I don't know if anyone ever gets their mail that way anymore.

GB: *I don't think so.*

RD: Never heard of it. But that's the way we got ours. I've got a picture of the mailbox, by the way. And, uh, so... let's see.... what else can I tell you.... (chuckling) I've gone on a lot here, haven't I?

GB: *Yes, it's great, though. That's what we want.*

Student: *Do you remember what you wanted to be when you were a child?*

RD: Well, first I thought, well, gee, I wanted to be a cheese man, and I thought I wanted to work in the hatchery, but, uh... of course, neither one of those developed when I got to Beaverton, why it was all together a different story, and, uh... actually I graduated out of Beaverton high school in 1930, but it was a long time before I got a steady job,. I did everything around Beaverton you could think of.... mowed lawns, put in wood, worked in horseradish, worked in onions... everything was available... I mean, anything to make a buck...

GB: *Oh, that was around the Depression...*

RD: The big Depression, yeah... I graduated at the end of the Depression, and until 1934 I didn't have a steady job.

GB: *Did it effect... was it a big effect on the economy here?*

RD: Well, Beaverton, I'll tell you... there wasn't much to Beaverton in those days... when we first moved here, there was less than a thousand people in town here... now, I don't know.... what do they claim... 60, 70 thousand... of course, they've annexed all over, and the core area really isn't too much, yet... but anyway, like I say, we did get out, and I did all kinds of different jobs... so... and picked berries, or... yeah, we picked strawberries out here... above Dilburg, and we still went to the hop yards once in a while, but, it was rough.

And, he biggest thing at school... at home, though, living at the ranch, as we called it, was any way to make any money at all. But one year I must have had a little money, 'cause we went to the county fair at Tillamook, and they had ferris wheels and merry-go-rounds and stuff like that, and, a neighbor boy down there was a friend, uh... we went... well, I mean, the folks, we all went to the Tillamook

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School
May 8, 2002

County Fair, but I took this friend along as a guest, and I can't remember... my brother and sister, what they did... but, he didn't have any money, but I happened to have about two dollars, and I must have got it from peeling bark, I can't think of any other way I got it... anyway, so I treated him around to the ferris wheel ride and the merry-go-round, and maybe some cotton candy and stuff like and we had a great time, so we enjoyed that.

We usually went to the county fair.... once in a while we got to go to the state fair at Salem, which was kind of fun, and of course, one of our interests there was washing machines, because my mother had to wash clothes on a scrub board, and it was pretty darn job... tough job, and of course we didn't get a washing machine 'til we moved to Beaverton, so raising three kids and washing everything by hand in a galvanized tub with a wash tub and a scrub brush and soap.... imagine that! Yeah! But that's the way it was. (chuckle)

Student: *What was your mother and father like? What did they do, and...*

RD: Well, dad, like I say, worked on the road... but one year before I went to school, we were out at Newberg... my grandparents.... my mother's side lived at Newberg... and there was a sawmill across from their place, and... I don't know... my dad got a job there one year, at the mill, and so we lived at Newberg in a little house next to my grandmother's place. The sawmill was right across the road... there's a sort of a paper mill there now, actually... but anyway, my brother and sister went one year, at least, to Newberg, so they didn't go all their years to Castle Rock, but I did. And I was kinda' proud of that. (chuckle) So... and they... some way they got behind in school... I don't know just exactly how, but like I say, my brother was four years older, but only two grades ahead, my sister was two years older and only one grade ahead. And she's still alive and she lives in a retirement home in Beaverton here, and my brother, unfortunately, passed away four years ago.

And while... when we were kids growing up, my brother and I didn't always get along as good as we should, but later then we got to be so that we were really friends and enjoyed each other's company, but that was quite a while coming. And my sister and I used to play together... but my brother, he was a different type. And he was a kind of a mechanic, and he kept the car going, and he was always working on the car, or out cutting the wood with drag saw, or burning down stumps or some darn thing.

I lived a different life... garden, and like I say, chores around the barn, and I cut a lot of thistle down through the pastures, and things of this type. But I had quite a hand in helping getting the wood, and in later years we had the chance to have a tractor, and we would saw the wood with the tractor... before that we sawed the wood with the car... we could jack the car up... we had a kind of a pulley built that fit on a wheel... so we would run the car and it would drive this wheel and back to the saw, so we sawed wood that way for quite a while until we had a chance to get this tractor, which wasn't ours, it was my uncle's tractor.... and, oh, one year my brother worked on the road with the tractor, and made quite a bit of money, so he had a chance to make money, and he'd... also he did trapping... uh... he was a great mole trapper, and the county paid a bounty for moles... I think five cents, or so... all he had was catch, then the snout of the mole was enough to prove that he'd got it, then they paid the bounty on the snout, and then he could take the skin... and dry up... or skin out the animal and then put the skin up and dry it and then sell it to a furrier... we had a furrier that we could sell to, name

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School
May 8, 2002

of Funk & Wagnall's, and so he would send that stuff off to them... I don't know... he eventually got some money, I guess... (chuckle)...

And I didn't like to fish... I never cared much about fishing... my brother did fish... but my job with him... he would go along and fish, I would carry a forked stick... and he would catch a fish and I would put it on the stick, until we got as many as he was going to get, then we'd go home and then, of course, clean up the fish, which was pretty good... I mean, nice trout... but I never... well, I tried fishing once or twice, but I didn't really... really never enjoyed it... one time I went out and got a... rigged up a pole and caught two fish, and I went up through the neighbors' place (chuckle), and so he saw me up in there... he didn't... there wasn't any objection to it, but I mean... so he saw me the next day and he says, "Well, how many fish did you catch?" Well, of course I knew I only caught two, but I says, "Oh, two or three," and he says, "What's the matter, can't you count?" (chuckle)

So I... that's just some of the memories that I have... (chuckle) I got a picture of... oh... this is Alder Creek... kind of old... back in 1916, my brother said... that's what he put on the back... this was just down past our place... about a hundred yards past our property, where there was a bridge over the creek... and see, this is well-named... see these alders... isn't that beautiful? I mean, but it's, uh.. faded with age, but that was beautiful then... he's got it marked "fishing hole", so maybe it was one of his favorite fishing places. But I never caught any fish there... never tried, actually... and anyway, we'd go down through the neighbors the other way, too, actually... both ways on Alder Creek down to fish... they had no objection to it.

Student: *Is there any special interest or things that you were really good at that you remember?*

RD: Well, (chuckling)... I don't think I was very adept at anything . . . certainly not mechanical... uh... and, uh... well, I liked to read and study and uh, I think I was a fair student all my years... I didn't get any failing grades, and my poorest subject was writing, but outside of that, I guess I did ok on most everything...

GB: *Do you have a family of your own?*

RD: Yes... yeah... we have a son and a daughter... our son actually lives in Beaverton now... he did live in Portland... but he's out here now in the trailer court place.... and he also went to Beaverton... and then we have a daughter and she lives down at Junction City, near Eugene... she's out in the real back roads... about thirteen acres or so back there and lot of timber land on it and stuff, out on this road, it's about ten... twelve miles from Junction City, I guess, out west, and off on a side road from that. So she's really out in the boondocks... actually, her address is Cheshire, which is nothing more than a grocery store and a post office.

Other voice: *Grandchildren...*

RD: And we have, my son's got two children, a son, and a daughter... and our grandson lives in Portland... and our granddaughter lives down in Salem... we don't keep too good a track of her... and then my daughter has two girls, and one of them lives in Eugene and the other one is out here in Forest Grove, so she's fairly close.

Interview With Ray Davis

Conducted by Gay Beaudet & Students at Nestucca Valley Middle School
May 8, 2002

GB: *So some of these stories you've told us here today are something you'd like to share with your grandchildren, and...*

RD: Yeah...

GB: *We'll give you a copy of this tape, and you...*

RD: Yeah, yeah... I'd like to have a kind of an understanding, because, I don't know sometimes if they get the point on a few things, so I have some of this stuff written up, but...

GB: *Eventually we'd like to get this typed up for you and get you a copy... I'm not sure if I can do it until summer, because it's...*

RD: Oh, no, no, no... take your time...

GB: *... but we will have your picture and your story to present at the Gathering... we sent you an invitation to the Gathering, I'm sure... you're aware of the Gathering on May 29th... this month at the Nestucca Valley Middle School...*

RD: I don't know how we would get there... I don't drive anymore... Phyllis drives, but...

GB: *It's quite a ways...*

RD: Well, she drives around Beaverton... I depend on her for all of our errands... but she has driven down the Wilson River.... I believe you've driven down the Wilson River Road, but not a lot... we have driven to our daughter's place... she's driven down there, but that's a different direction... we go down on Hiway 99W, down past McMinnville and down through there... we don't go on the freeway... we stay off the freeway...

GB: *I don't blame you...*

RD: I don't like freeways... never did...

GB: *Well, I'm going to cut the tape off....*

(end of tape)

Transcribed by Darleen Cole