

Interview with Ed Yates and Virginia (Ginger) Adams Yates

Conducted by Dean Bones and Student Interviewers

(The date was in 2001 or 2002.)

Q: *Uh... what are your names?*

My name is Virginia Adams Yates. My maiden name was Adams when I went to school at Sandlake. Ginger is my alias.

My name is Ed Yates.

Q: *How long have you lived in this area?*

(Ginger) Since I was in the third grade.

(Ed) Name the year.

(Ginger) I don't know when that was. You figure it out. You're my mathematician.(laughing)

(Ed) Probably about '45 on, maybe.

Q: *Ok. Has South Tillamook County changed in your lifetime?*

(Ed) Considerably.

Q: *What do you see as the major changes?*

(Ed) Well, basically, there's a lot of small farms that aren't here any more... where they used to milk a minimal amount of cows, and ... family farm thing, and that is all changed and went into a higher production... less farms, and all... of course, the cheese business and the small plants are now closed down, which was a significant change in South County.

Q: *Do you have a favorite story about South Tillamook County?*

(Ed) Oh, I've got a million of 'em. (Ginger laughs)

Q: *Go ahead....*

(Ed) You go first.

(Ginger) No, you go ahead.

Q: *We have all day.*

(Ed) Well, I lived in the Willamette Valley when I was... until I was a sophomore in high school, and then we moved to a little farm down at Oretown, which is extreme South County. And when I left over there, why, uh... my brother and I were both involved in athletics, tremendously, tremendously plus, and we moved here... when we moved to South County and I started going to Nestucca High School, all farming area kids were easier to get along with... the whole school was a unit instead of small units within the unit, and you don't like to transfer high school when you're in the middle of high school, but

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we moved here and the transfer was good for me and it was good for my brother, and we had some wonderful neighbors... farming neighbors...

We lived on a large farm, and we used to put in hay the hard way... now they bale it... used to be you pitched it on, and it was extremely hard work... and, uh... the second year we were here, why, after pitching it all on, why, we were putting in hay and Jack Hagerty, who is a long-time resident in the area, came over and he said... we didn't have a hay loader... and he came over and said, "We're all done putting our hay in... would you like to use our hay loader?" What a welcome thing... I mean, now you're going to do about half the work to put the hay in. We knew then that we were in a nice area, and it's been a wonderful area... I worked for the Tillamook Creamery for 46 years and we raised our family here, and I guess, probably right now, the only negative is the rain. We live in Arizona for six months, and when we come back, it's the rain. But it's a wonderful place to live. And I didn't mind the rain at all, because I had an inside job, but when you retire and you sit and look out the window, then it's a little different.

(Ginger) Ok... now, I was born in Nebraska, and I moved to the Sandlake area when I was in the third grade, and there was only two rooms in the Sandlake school. And I think the most fun I had in grade school at Sandlake was... Mrs. Ashley Linberg was our teacher... she was an old teacher, but every morning she'd play the piano and we'd sing songs and we'd do the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and she taught us how to play harmonicas, just because she liked harmonicas, and so we had a harmonica band, even in that little school, and it was great. It really was.

I mean, you could just ride your bike up and down the road and you didn't have to worry about anybody bothering you, like you kids have now, which... that is really sad that you guys have to be careful who you talk to, and where you go, and all the rest of this because of all the crazies out there. But we didn't have to worry about that... we really didn't... we could take off on our bicycle and be gone all day, and Mom knew we was fine, because nobody bothered you. And we did that quite often. We'd go down to the bay, down there at Sandlake... where all the roadrunners are now... but we'd go swimming in the bay... when the tide would go out there'd be this great, big lovely swimming pool all of our own, nice and warm, and we even got to skip school and do that a couple times... with Mother's permission! And when this one boy was going to go with us, he said, "Why, I can't do that!"

And I said, "Well, let's go ask your mom!"

"Well, how can you skip school if you ask your mom?"

And I said, "Well, then you don't get in trouble." And she did let us do that a couple times on real beautiful days the first part of... or, the end of the school year.

Then I went to Nestucca High School, and all of our children went to Nestucca High School... because we've only been married thirty years... we was both married before, so both of our sets of kids went to Nestucca High School, ... Ed, how many grandkids? Two granddaughters, I think, have gone through Nestucca.

(Ed) Two granddaughters went to this school.

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(Ginger) Yes, they went to this school.. Jenny and Amy Yates... I don't know whether you knew them... they're in college now... so anyway, we've been here a long time, and raised our kids, but they're not raising their kids here... there's not enough work here, so that's kind of sad that they had to move away, but we've had a good life here in this area.

(Ed) Four of our seven children still live in Tillamook County.

(Ginger) Yes, four of them.

Q: *What was your favorite thing about living here?*

(Ginger) Just being able to do what you want to do, safely, more or less.

Q: *What would you suggest to make Tillamook County a better place in the future?*

(Ginger) That one's yours. (laughing)

(Ed) Well, I guess, erase the negatives and eliminate the positives... there's a lot of.... I think that I would be hopeful, you know, that we don't... that the environmental issues don't force the dairies out of business, because this has been dairy... a dairy county for a long time... in fact, there's more cows here than there are people... so I would like to see the dairy industry remain, and of course, the company is very strong now, and payouts are good for milk, but I'd just like to see all the environmental issues addressed instead of dairy people going out of business, because I think they can meet some of these changes, and my desire is... the dairy industry's strong... the... tourist industry, but, uh... I'm hopeful that the dairies stay and address the issues and remain strong. This county has a lot of history in dairying, I'm sure you all know, and this is what originally opened up this county... you know, we went through the state of Nevada, and... the minerals opened up the state of Nevada. People went there and they found silver and gold, and here they found green gold, and... this rain that we don't like so much sometimes produces the grass and what brought people to this county was dairy... it was cow country.

Q: *Did you ever take a place in logging?*

(Ed) Oh, a little bit of family logging...not, uh... didn't participate in that very much. When I was young I thought about going to work in the woods, and in those days choker setter's life expectancy was about two weeks, so I wasn't too interested in setting chokers... it's a little bit safer now, but in the old days...

(Ginger) Well, my dad was a logger... well, we had a few cows, but logging was his main thing... he was a faller, no, he was a buckler.

Q: *Where did the logging take place?*

(Ginger) Oh, all over. Sometimes he'd have to get up three hours.. I mean travel three hours to get to the logging, and other times it would be right here. But Don Slavens... up the river... he just passed away, not too long ago... he was my dad's falling partner, and they had a real good time working

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together... I mean, they both trusted each other implicitly, and that's what it takes in the woods... if you have a partner, you have to know they're going to be there to watch out for each other.

Q: *What was your dad's name?*

(Ginger) Roy Lee Adams.

(Ed) I'd like to say something about logging. Logging... we all have to remember that logging is a renewable resource... it isn't... once you fall a tree, you grow another tree... it is a renewable resource, and I think that needs to be impregnated into the minds of people, 'cause there's a lot of people just forget that it is a renewable resource.

Q: *What stands out in your mind the most about the schools that you went to? What do you remember?*

(Ginger) All the nice kids ... and teachers, I had some real good teachers... but I mean, everybody watched out for everybody... it was just really neat.

(Ed) Well, athletics were big with me. (Ginger laughing... Yes!) I can remember every football I ever played, I remember every basketball I ever played, and, uh... but I can remember all my teachers... one time my son came home from school, and he says, "You know, this guy's the teacher's pet", and I said, "Don't you talk about teacher's pet"... I was a teacher's pet from the first grade through the twelfth, I mean, I loved my teachers and I had all the respect in the world for them. And they did a good job on me. I got a good education, and they created in me a learning process that still goes on at my age... I still want to learn as much as I can.

Q: *When did the school year start and end?*

(Ginger) Oh... usually about two days after my birthday, so I never got to celebrate my birthday at school. My birthday is September 9th, so it must have been about the 10th or 11th... somewhere in there...

(Ed) Right in there...

(Ginger) ... and it ended...

(Ed) .. it ended in May....

(Ginger) ... yes, May.

Q: *About what time of day did it... did school begin and end?*

(Ginger) It started at nine and out at three-thirty... at Sandlake.

(Ed) Yes, I think it was nine to three-thirty.

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Q: *How did you get from school to your house every day?*

(Ginger) Well, my mother drove a little van that didn't have any windows in, but she was the bus driver. And she'd go down Galloway Road... I think that's the only one she had... I think someone else took the other way... north and south, and she took the one west down Galloway Road. Sometimes we'd walk, though.

(Ed) I rode the bus.

Dean Bones: You said it was a van?

(Ginger) It was a van without any windows... and it had wooden benches along both sides... I mean it was really...

(Ed) I don't think there was any seat belts, either.

(Ginger) No... and that was our car, also.

(Ed) I think it was a contract basis.. didn't they have a contract...

(Ginger) Probably... and then a little yellow bus was bought, and then they drove that on all the routes.

Q: *What was your mom's name?*

(Ginger) Thelma Adams then, but it was Thelma Adams Doss right now.

(Ed) Thelma Lingel Adams Doss.

Dean: Lingel was her maiden name?

(Ed) Yes, it was.

(Ginger) Yes, Lingel was her maiden name.

Q: *What were your courses of study?*

(Ginger) Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic.

(Ed) Well, I took, uh... freshman I took general science, English 1, shop...

(Ginger) Home-Ec, typing and bookkeeping ... for me...

(Ed) ... sophomore I took just the basics... I farmed... we... my brother and I got up at four o'clock in the morning, and milked cows, went to school, went home, milked cows, then slept very well ...

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(Ginger laughing)

(Ed)... but I took basics... you know... all the...

(Ginger) It's more or less like it is now...

(Ed).... biology, geometry... favorite subject was U.S. history... still is...

Q: *Do you ever remember having much homework?*

(Ed) You know, I think there is a little different trend now than there was then... I actually had two study halls.... when I was going to school I had two study halls, and, you know, getting up at four o'clock and milking cows, and I was glad I had those two study halls, because I... a lot of guys played around in study hall, but I really hit the books in study hall, because I knew that, you know, after I got done milking... my eyes were not gonna' stay open, so I had... I was thankful I had those study halls.

(Ginger) And I only had one study hall, and that was at the very end of the day, so I could get everything done if I didn't mess around. And I didn't mess around, 'cause I hated to take home homework, so I'd get it done.

(Ed) Our children all had more homework than we did, but, uh, it was... I enjoyed that very much... I enjoyed helping our children... in fact, I enjoyed helping our grandchildren with their homework... that was kinda' special... but, you know, I had a second grade teacher and I still go to reunions and see her every year, and I tell her that she's my idol... her name is Adeline Manning, and I remember her, in the second grade, telling me, as a student, she said... we just... we learned how to read, you know, by sight, and we had this See Dick Run, and all that, and now we're getting into phonics, and we're really getting into... it's a little be tough right at first, and I remember her telling me... "You know this seems hard now, but if you apply yourself, and you study hard through this, it'll be easy", and, oh, I tell her that every time I see her... how precious those words were... what a challenge... and you know, she was right... I applied myself, and everybody that applies himself to school work, it gets easier, and we're not climbing up the mountain any more... we're sitting a little bit up on the mountain, looking at the view a little bit once we get it... once we apply ourselves...

(Ginger) ... once you learn it...

Q: If a student got in trouble in school, what might be the usual punishment?

(Ginger) Well, if it was really bad, they had a paddle... the principal had a paddle... otherwise they'd have to just go home.

(Ed) Uh..... if you got in trouble... I remember one time I skipped school, and uh... I had to stay out a half a football game on Friday, and if you don't think that isn't discipline... I mean, I learned real fast.

(Ginger) chuckling... That was the worse discipline you could have done to him, was not letting him play sports.

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(Ed) ... The discipline is just to teach a person that... to stay in the middle of the road, instead of off to one side or the other.

Q: *What would you do for fun?*

(Ed) Don't tell 'em everything.

(Ginger) laughing ... You mean at school?

Q: *Yes... at school, or on the weekends...*

(Ginger) Well, at school I loved the volleyball and basketball, and... in fact at Sandlake Grade School we didn't have enough boys to make a team, so I got to play on the soft ball team, and I got to play on the basketball team, also. We'd ride our bikes and go to the beach every weekend and picnic ... then at school... I don't really remember... I mean... there was lots of things we do at school...

(Ed) Probably played Run, Sheep, Run...

(Ginger) No, we played Annie, Annie Over, though. Have you ever heard of that game?

Students: Yes, we have.

Ginger: Throw the ball over, then run like crazy. That we did at Sandlake School.

Dean: What did you throw it over?

Ginger: Over the building... the school building...

Dean: The school....

Ginger: Well, you know, (chuckling) ... two little rooms there together, it wasn't too hard.

Ed: There were good tight shingles... it didn't tear the shingles off.

Dean: So picture the last Sandlake building... was that the one you went to? Or you went to a building that was there before...

Ginger: No, the original building had the two little buildings, and then they built on the back and they built the third room and the cafeteria and all that. But it was part of the original building that was there, when I went. But it had just the two rooms, and then they built on the third room and when I was in high school, we were the janitors at Sandlake Grade School... my mom and my sister and I. We'd get off the high school bus, and then we'd go and clean up the Sandlake Grade School, because we had the janitor job of doing that, and then we got to go home.

Ed: When I went to grade school and high school, the cafeteria was a brown bag that you took to school with you. It was a pack lunch, so... I like cafeterias, though, I think it's good... it's much better.

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Ginger: Well, they didn't have cafeterias at any of the schools I went to... that cafeteria was built long after I was out... right after I was out of grade school... and high school didn't have a cafeteria, either.

Q: *Do you have any interesting stories that stand out in your mind about your school years?*

Ginger: To me, it was all... it was all good... I don't have any negative thoughts about any of the school... of course, I liked school... well, no I didn't like... oh, what's that one that Coach Davenport... taught... civics?

Ed: Social Studies...

Ginger: It was something on that order, yes... that was the only class that I did not like. I had a terrible time in that. Maybe I didn't apply myself? (chuckling)

Ed: I used to have... like I said earlier, I could talk all day about school... school was so great to me, and so much a part of my life, and, uh... I remember after I got out of high school, I would have dreams about school... and they were good dreams, too... the only bad dream I had I was going to Mrs. Moore's English class, and I didn't have my English assignment done, but I made it through that anyway... I got good grades.

Q: *Were you aware of any homesteads in this area?*

Ed: Yes... in fact, there was a homestead... the last homestead, I think was, uh... up on the base of Mt. Gaudy... there wasn't even a road in there... a Russian lady by the name of Katie Herbs homesteaded... I think that was probably... maybe the last homestead in Tillamook County... I wouldn't know that for sure, but... that's the one I know, because it's a late one... all of... there's a lot of homesteads, but I'm not aware of 'em, but I'm sure there are other people that are.

Our... the place that we leased was originally a homestead... the, uh... it was in Oretown and it was up on the hill, as... and it had pasture on the ocean side, and that was originally a homestead.. it was homesteaded by the Christensen family... eventually the grandson of the person who homesteaded that was the cheese inspector in Tillamook County for a number of years... and then, the, uh... the Craven place was originally a homestead, and the Dunn's homesteaded... this was on the Meda Loop... those were all homesteads...

Q: *Do you know what the people did to support themselves?*

Ed: Well, they had some cows, they all raised big gardens, and there was a little bit of barter that took place in those early days... if you had chickens and maybe I raised hogs, why, there'd be eggs for pork... those type of things... but mostly lived off the land.

Q: *What did the early homes look like?*

Ed: I never saw an early one... but I'm sure they were wood structures... most of 'em... the old house on the place we lived was single structure, no studs, just, ... they used lumber, and... there was a lot

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of vertical... they ran the lumber vertical, and some of those houses didn't have studs in 'em, even.. there was just the siding and a plate and then the roof went up, and uh... but they were constructed of lumber.

Dean: And your parents' names... what were they?

Ed: My parents' names... I had a stepfather... my stepfather's name was Charlie LaDeRoute (spells out name)...

Dean: And so that was the farm later, then, that John...

Ed: Yes, it is... John originally bought that farm later.

Dean: And then Dorothy Nash's parents... is that the Christensen that I...

Ed: That was her brother... that was another Christensen... yes, same family... in fact, Bill Christensen then, uh... I think that... he bought his place down towards where their place... where the Nash place was.. I think that was purchased, but... he was a grandson of the homestead off the Christensen place.

Dean: Ok... I asked that because Michael interviewed a lady about a... interviewed Dorothy Nash about a week ago.

Ed: Yes, wonderful person.

Q: *Were you ever involved with the dories?*

Ginger: His son still has a dory.

Q: *How long was your dory?*

Ginger: No, his son does.. and we don't know...

Ed: Oh... boy... I don't know...

Ginger: Because we can't get Ed to go out in the ocean.

Ed: I get sick.

Ginger: He likes to stay on land.

Ed: It's a good excuse. But I think I'm gonna' go this summer. I'm getting old enough it doesn't make any difference whether I drown or not.

(Ginger laughing) But it will if you get sick... it will matter a lot!

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Q: *Do you have anything else to tell us about Tillamook County?*

Ginger: Just that it's a great place to live.

Q: *Why is it a great place to live?*

Ginger: Just because everybody's friends. Nobody knows a stranger in Tillamook County that I know of... and, like I say the only thing I don't like about it is the rain. When we were here all the time, we didn't mind it, but now it gets to us a little bit. But, it's just... you know... you can go anywhere and find anything you need right here in the county... so... it's just home... I guess that's why I like it.

Ed: It's home. Our roots are here, and they're down pretty deep.

Q: *Where did you get the cows for the dairies?*

Ed: What?

Q: *Where did you get the cows for the dairies?*

Ed: Where did they get the cows? Early... you talking about early, now... well, they brought cows in here.. they brought cows... in fact, they had some trail drives from the valley through, uh... Sourgrass, and into this area...

Ginger: Highway 22...

Ed: Plus they had some trail drives came down through the Trask, and then, of course, they brought so many cows, and then they raised cows from those cows, and, uh... so you know, the early cows were probably a little more rugged cow than... they had some Durhams, and... but, you know... the biggest, nicest thing that's ever happened to the dairy industry... in fact, it's the only thing that's kept the dairy industry in business, because, you know, prices have escalated in everything the dairyman buys, but what's kept him in business, that he was able to, uh... to select his bulls for the cows so the cows... now they have cows give three times as much milk as they used to, and that's really what's kept the dairyman in business... the improvement of production per cow, and, uh... that's the only way they would still be in business, because the other costs have escalated tremendously.

Ginger: Everyone raised their own calves... now the big farmers have someone else raise their calves, and...

Ed: But he selects the sires, and they know, you know, that when they breed that milk cow for a calf to milk later, that it's... the blood is there, and the cow is automatically gonna' produce an astronomical amount of milk. It's a different industry than it used to be... it used to be that the cows gave way less milk ... but there's some good things involved environmentally earlier that aren't there now... you know, it used to be that if you had a dairy and you had thirty cows you could have thirty acres and raise your own hay... native hay... and feed that cow, and that was better for the environment, you know... they had an acre for each cow to put that cow's manure back on the ground, so that's some things they have to address now environmental wise.

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Dean: I was reading last night ... there are these three Tillamook history books... this is one of 'em, and I was going through some stories last night and I don't... I'm not sure that this is exactly the one... but, before there were actually any roads whatsoever into the area, there were people that had dairy cows, so they must have brought them over the trails or something, I guess...

Ed & Ginger: Yes, they did.

Dean: ... so they're talking.... this is 1871... it says, "Last week we met Mr. Redding in Nestucca on his way to Portland to purchase supplies for his ranch. He informs that the cattle on the coast were kept fat all winter. He has about 80 head on the Nestucca River, and there are in all about 250 head owned by four men who live there..." and that's before any roads were put into the area at all, so...

Ed: That was the... that was the gold... the gold was the grass... that's why those cows were fat in the winter, 'cause they were able to graze somewhat in the winter as well as all year 'round.

Dean: Yeah, I think they were in shock that the cows could actually feed through the wintertime...

Ed: Yes, they were.

Dean: I think they've written that in here, too.. .they couldn't believe that.

Q: *What did this area look like when you first moved here?*

Ed: Oh, I first came... when I first saw this county, I came through... uh, over Grand Ronde... over... I lived in the valley, and I came over Sourgrass... came down through Hebo, and, uh... the biggest thing that impressed me was, even though I lived in the valley, everything over here was much greener... it was like going into a jungle, almost, 'cause it was in May, and like it is now... the grass was high, and everything was green... that's the thing that most impressed me... it's the first thing that impressed me.

Ginger: Well, when I was little, of course, well, I lived here. And we had graveled roads, and there was even some trace of the plank roads that was down at Sandlake. They didn't have gravel, they would just put down planks, and the cars would run very carefully.... My second daddy, in fact, he would tell stories, where he would go down... a bunch of guys would get in their cars and they'd go down the plank roads, and if they wanted to be ornery to one of them, they'd get out and they'd move the planks... well, of course, then the guy would get stuck... then they'd come back and ha, ha, ha... well, then they'd move the planks back again where they belonged so he could get out. But we had lots of gravel roads... like coming from Sandlake to Hemlock... right past where we lived... that was just all gravel, and it was just windy, windy, windy... and then I remember when they straightened that out and they made it blacktop and up over the little summit there... so, we had lots of gravel roads.

Ed: Meda Loop was when we were children... it wasn't paved at all... the road from Cloverdale to Woods, on the back road, that was all gravel... roads have improved tremendously.

Student: I think that we're running out of questions to ask. You've been very nice to come in and talk to us today. Thank you for coming.

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Ed & Ginger: It was our pleasure.

(end of interview)

Transcribed by Darleen Cole

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