

Interview with Gerald Bauer

Conducted by Dean Bones at Gerald's Home in Salem, Oregon
June 27, 2002

(What a very sweet man Gerald Bauer was! And it was at this interview that I met Gerald's wife, Betty, who thought she had the only copy (not in book form) of the Alexandria Ley Rock's "Short History of the Little Nestucca River Valley and Its Early Pioneers," a wonderfully detailed recollection of life in the Oretown area. She had years before retyped that history during her lunch hours so that others would have copies of Alexandria Rock's writing and graciously gave me one of her typed copies. My technology students at Nestucca Valley Middle School then were each assigned one page of the history to type on a computer as part of their keyboarding and word processing assignments. The finished product was then put on the web (www.southillamookcounty.com/littlenest.html) . Dean Bones)

GB: When I was just out of high school, my sister and I were in 4-H work. And Dave Kennedy, our 4-H agent at that time, talked us into giving a demonstration of washing milk machines. We were the first in Tillamook County... I guess we were the only ones... but then, by the time we went to state fair, we had it down good... we won the state. And we got to go to the fair in Memphis, Tennessee. Well, five of us... Mr. & Mrs. Kennedy, my mother, my sister and I went... and we come in second place in our state.

DB: *So you were the first... is it FFA... is that what it was?*

GB: No...4-H...

DB: *Oh, 4-H... you were the first 4-H club that...*

GB: Well, no... the 4-H had been working quite a bit before then, but this is the first one in dairy.

DB: *Oh.*

GB: And so we were very proud of that.

DB: *Ya.*

GB: And we were gone almost a month... and the thing that bothers me... the five of us took the trip on \$300 worth of cash. That's all it took in those days.

DB: *Ya.*

GB: The thing that happened next, is, two days after we got back, my father had a stroke.. no, he had a heart attack... and so that kept me out of World War II... he got back about six weeks before Pearl Harbor... so that sort of ended my going anyplace. I had hoped to go to college, but I couldn't do it. My father passed away in '46... it was after the war was over, but I was there.

DB: *So you drove back, then.*

GB: Ya... ya..

DB: *In just a car?*

GB: Ya... we took the 4-H car... it's still in Tillamook.

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June 27, 2002

DB: *Really? Oh. And you said that the man... was he a teacher at the high school?*

GB: No. Dave Kennedy was a 4-H agent in Tillamook County. I don't know who is right now... I've lost contact with the 4-H.

DB: *Right. Ya. You know, so I'm gonna' start back aways...*

GB: Ok.

DB: *If you'd just tell us your name.*

GB: All right. I'm Gerald Bauer.

DB: *And you went to what grade school?*

GB: I went to grade school at Neskowin.

DB: *Ok. And what year was that when you started school... about?*

GB: I think that's about 1929, if I remember rightly.

DB: *And did you go all eight years?*

GB: Oh, yes. I went all eight years at Neskowin.

DB: *Ok.*

GB: I remember our place was about two-tenths of a mile from the grade school, so you practically fell into the grade school..

DB: *So, right now, where the art gallery is... is that the grade school...*

GB: That was the grade school then...

DB: *And your farm was, where, then?*

GB: It was back of the grade school.

DB: *So where the golf course is now, you mean?*

GB: The golf is... when my mother sold that, it was a thirty-eight cow dairy.

DB: Your mom sold it to Schlictings?

GB: *Ya.. uh, huh.. that's right.*

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June 27, 2002

DB: Aaahhh.... how much land did you... did your family have, then?

GB: *Approximately 169 acres in the place... mostly timber.*

DB: Where was the... uh, house and the barn at that time?

GB: *Well, the barn was over against the south hill... it has gone down since... and the house was, oh, about 100 feet from the present house now.*

DB: *Ok. 100 feet which direction?*

GB: Towards the south. It is about approximately where the barn is now... or, I should say, where the golf course house is now.

DB: *Would you describe the school house with as much detail as you can.. um... the outside of it, and then the inside... what did it look like?*

GB: Well, it had indoor plumbing... we did not... it had running water.. dad put in a reservoir up on the hill, so we had running water in our house at the farm... but, then... no, it was in pretty good shape, then, in those days. It had a basement in it... the basement wasn't too good, but it still did the purpose.

DB: *How could it have a basement when so much of that land floods... I mean, around it, kind of... did it ever flood in the basement?*

GB: No, it never flooded in the basement... no.

DB: *Really. Did it have a bell?*

GB: Oh, yes... there was a school bell in that.. oh, yes...

DB: *Where's the bell now? Do you know?*

GB: I couldn't say. After forty-two years away from there, I'm a stranger.

DB: *Ya.. and... was there a porch on the school at all?*

GB: Yes... I have pictures of that... where they took pictures of the grade school kids.

DB: *And so, the doors, if I remember right, had glass in 'em...*

GB: Yes...

DB: *Ok. And then, as you walked in... what did you walk in to?*

GB: Sort of a little alley, and then you walked up the stairs... the school room was above the, uh... now if I can remember what to say along with that... but it was... you sort of walked up.

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DB: *Was there a room for coats or anything, or lunches...*

GB: Oh, yes... there was a boys restroom and girls restroom and place where you could hang your....

DB: *After you walked in, or where was that?*

GB: Well, that was as you walked in to it... you walked in and went in to the... in the back room, there was nothing there... it was just a general storage space, I would say.

DB: *Huh... so would you put your lunches in there, then... and coats and things?*

GB: Oh, yes, uh, huh...

DB: *But you said it was also the restroom... was...*

GB: Well, no... the restroom was as you went in... and the boys was on the right and the girls was on the left.

DB: *Ok.*

GB: And the girls was on the left side and the girls was next to the library we had in there.

DB: *Oh, you had a separate library?*

GB: Oh, yes.. and beyond that there was a separate.... another room.. that could be... that was called... that was, I assume, the teacher's room.

DB: *So, other than that, was there just one classroom, then?*

GB: Yes. Big classroom.

DB: *Was there any raised platform at all, in there?*

GB: No... no raised platforms... no.

DB: *And how were the desks arranged in the classroom?*

GB: I remember.. I think there was... one, two, three rows of desks running longitudinal to it.

DB: *And in some schools, the kids were separated by the grade, but with... were the kids separated or just all mixed in?*

GB: *I think they were separated, yes... as you walked into the room there's first grade, second and third, fourth... up accordingly.*

DB: Ok.. and a teacher's desk was in there somewhere?

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June 27, 2002

GB: *At the head of the room, yes.*

DB: And what about windows... on both sides of the school?

GB: *No, just one side of the school house... on the west side of the school house...*

DB: Really... for the sun to shine in in the afternoon, maybe, or something...

GB: You'd get some afternoon sun, yes.

DB: *What was on the other side?*

GB: Well, like I said, the restrooms, the library, and the teacher's room were all on the east side.

DB: And was the front of the room with blackboards or anything?

GB: *Yes, there was a blackboard in front, yes.*

DB: Were your desks fastened together, or were they separate desks... from others?

GB: *Oooh... I think they were separate... they each... I can't remember that... but...*

DB: Ok.

GB: *That's too long ago! (laughing)*

DB: How far north on 101 did kids attend Neskowin... when did it start being... when did they start attending Oretown... was it near Scherzingers farm, somewhere?

GB: *Scherzingers farm was the north boundary, yes.*

DB: So they went to Neskowin, Scherzingers...

GB: *Yes... yes...*

DB: Oh, they did. What about... Slab Creek had a school at one time...

GB: *Yes...*

DB: How far up did Neskowin kids...

GB: *About a mile... a mile and a quarter... it would be between Oscar Taggart's place... his... Oscar Taggart's place was the south boundary. John Affolter's place was Slab Creek.*

DB: John Affolter, is that what you said? And nobody lived up on Cascade Head, did they, at that time?

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June 27, 2002

GB: *No... I think one of the teachers that we had at that time... Charlie Hart... I think he lived up there... he taught...*

DB: There's now a Hart's Cove.

GB: Ya...

DB: Was that named after his family?

GB: Ya, I think so.. it is.

DB: *Did they own land there, or...*

GB: I think they did, yes.

DB: *Really. Well, that's interesting to know. I didn't know that. All right. And at that time, were there many kids actually living in Neskowin... was that much of a community then?*

GB: No, it wasn't... uh, let's see.. there was... one, two, three, four.... possibly... there may... at one time or another they'd be four or five kids going at Neskowin... for the school.

DB: *Do you remember any names of them?*

GB: Oh, yes. There was the Frank children, uh, Lee Affolter's son went to there... Walter Affolter's two kids, Bob and Bill... and who was that.. there was one more.... oh, Rezincheks...

DB: *Oh, right... ok... right in... at...*

GB: You've got some.... Right in Neskowin, yes... uh, huh.

DB: *Oh.. and the ways that kids got to school... how did they get there?*

GB: Everybody in those days walked.

DB: *Did anybody ride a horse or anything?*

GB: A bicycle, if you had one.

DB: *And what about the teacher? Did the teacher live nearby and walk, or...*

GB: The teachers we had most of the time.... Mrs. Paul, and Mrs. Louthier... they lived at Neskowin at that time, yes.

DB: *So they would just walk over to the school.*

GB: They would take... they would bring a car in, yes.

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June 27, 2002

DB: *Oh, ok. When did school start everyday, and when did it dismiss?*

GB: Oh, it seemed like it was nine o'clock in the morning, and it was three-thirty when it was out.

DB: *Ok. And you had, probably a morning recess...*

GB: Yes... ten-thirty... and two... and at noon, and I think there was one around two-thirty, there was recess, too.

DB: *How long did you have a noon for eating and recess?*

GB: I think we had an hour in those days.

DB: *What did you do?*

GB: Play ball... among other things.

DB: *Did you have a playground with any equipment on it?*

GB: We had a... um... I've got to stop and talk things out to myself, first... we had a circle thing...

DB: *A merry-go-round?*

GB: A merry-go-round.. that's what it was. Ya.

DB: *Oooh... I wonder what ever happened to that?*

GB: I'm not sure... it was there when we left in 1960... from then on, I can't tell you....

DB: *Ya... but that was the only equipment? Or was there more?*

GB: Well, we had... it had... they had straightened it out and we could play ball on the ground...

DB: *Ok... baseball, or softball or something...*

GB: Yes... softball, in those days, yes.

DB: *Did you ever, like... were there lots of trees around where you could run out and hide and seek and stuff?*

GB: No, there weren't too many trees in those days... no.

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

GB: No.

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June 27, 2002

DB: *What other games might you have played?*

GB: (sigh)... Fox and Geese in the basement, of course, in the winter when it was raining...

DB: *Ok... did you do Annie Over?*

GB: Oh, yes... there was Annie Over... ya... that used to be a lot of fun, too.

DB: *Ok, I have a question for you. I always thought it was Annie Over, but people we've interviewed have said "Auntie Over"...*

GB: I think Auntie Over, yes, is correct.

DB: *Is it A, U, N, T, I, E... like a person, or A, N, T, E? Some people have spelled it both ways.*

GB: I think it's the one with the T E end, I think, is... would be right.

DB: *That's what... I'm curious... ok.... any other games that you recall playing?*

GB: Well, we'd... if we weren't doing... if we weren't playing in the basement, we would play something in the school. I remember one time the boy.. the Ward boys... oh, they had a... they had a... in the school house, that is... a place for storage, so, and one of the boys crawled up there and decided to go walk on the flooring... he did... he fell through and broke his leg. So that got cause for some problems, too, for a while.

DB: *And this was in the basement, or...*

GB: No, this was above the school house...

DB: *Oh, in the attic.*

GB: In the attic...

DB: *Ooooooh..... now when you said Ward boys... what were their first names?*

GB: There was three boys: Calvin, Keith, and Dan.

DB: *Ok.*

GB: Calvin's the oldest, then Keith, Dan's the third one.

DB: *And where was the Ward place?*

GB: The Ward place was north of us... let's see, uh... that was... they were behind the Dick place...

DB: *Where's the Dick place? I should know that, but I don't.*

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June 27, 2002

GB: Uh... let's see... when you left the school, the first place was.. Walter Affolter eventually got that... and then the Dick place, and then the Ward place was back in the old...

DB: *Oh, ok... ok... is that the one still there, where it's way back in and you have to go down below the highway?*

GB: Ya... uh, huh... and Mrs. Ward just passed away... I think she was 93...

DB: *Shoot... I would liked to have talked to her... ummm...*

GB: Well, you will probably get ahold of Calvin Ward... the oldest boy... he can talk about his mother on that.

DB: *Ok... what was the typical school day like? What did you do when you first got in to school? And... and... and did the teacher ring the bell to let you know it was school time, or....*

GB: Most of the time, yes... uh, huh... I think nine o'clock, the teacher would read for ten or fifteen minutes, and we enjoyed that, and then we'd get on with our studies.

DB: *Did you have the illegal Pledge of Allegiance at all? Did you hear the news?*

GB: Well, we had no radio in those days...

DB: *Ya, I mean, did you hear the news yesterday? What happened with the Pledge of Allegiance?*

GB: Oh, yes... we heard quite a bit of that (chuckling)... yes, yes... No, I don't think... I think probably we did... I don't remember that, though.

DB: *Any singing?*

GB: Oh, occasionally, yes, yes... we'd have a teacher come in... a music teacher come in and play the piano for us.

DB: *From where? Just in Neskowin somewhere?*

GB: Ya.. someone who lived in Neskowin... she had no children... things like that...

DB: *And who was that?*

GB: Gosh, I can't even remember her name.

DB: *That's ok. When you finished school... you didn't have far to go home...*

GB: No, I didn't.

DB: *What did you do when you got home?*

Interview with Gerald Bauer

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June 27, 2002

GB: Oh, mom would have something for us to eat, and when we got old enough we'd go over and help with the chores.

DB: *What kind of things did she have for you to eat? In... for snacks, or something...*

GB: Oh, some hot cross buns, or something like that.

DB: *Yum!*

GB: Or something, or maybe, uh... now, I've got to think again what... my head is... something... or candy or something... homemade, of course.

DB: *Uh, huh (yes). Were there any extra curricular activities, like sports or anything like that... or clubs...*

GB: Uh, we would... once in a while... once a year, I should say, we would have a ball game with Oretown.

DB: *A softball game....*

GB: Softball game... baseball, uh, huh (yes)... and we'd have something like that.

DB: Ok... no gym, though?

GB: *No, no, no...*

DB: A covered play area at all?

GB: *No.*

DB: Just the basement downstairs.

GB: *Just the basement downstairs, ya...*

DB: And when the teacher taught... since you had different ages of kids... would she teach everybody together, or would she have a small group come to her desk?

GB: *She'd have a small group come to her desk.*

DB: But... could you hear the lessons?

GB: *Oh, yes! We could hear the lessons... we weren't supposed to pay attention to it... we were supposed to have our nose in our own work... but we would know what everybody was doing.*

DB: Do you think that helped you, to listen to the older kids' lessons, or not?

GB: *I think it helped us some, yes.*

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June 27, 2002

DB: Was there ever much homework?

GB: *Hardly any that I can remember, no.*

DB: Do you ever remember a student misbehaving at school, and what would happen if they did?

GB: Oh, yes... uh... usually she would... usually the teacher would send a note home with the kids, and that brought an end to that.

DB: *What would parents do if a note came home?*

GB: Well, occasionally you'd get a lickin' at home...

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

GB: ...but very seldom.

DB: *Ok... you didn't have a phone at school, did you?*

GB: No, no.

DB: *So, if somebody ever got hurt, or something.... I don't know if that ever happened... but, how would they notify people to get help?*

GB: Well, somebody would, uh.... well, one thing... I can remember this... young Les Affolter... he's a cousin of Bill and Bob's... he would, uh... he was starting first grade... and pretty soon, we'd see a puddle of water beneath his seat... he peed in his pants... his cousin Bob would take him home.

DB: *Hmmm... ok... so an older student would take him home. Was the community involved in the school in any way?*

GB: Oh, ya... there would be some activities that way... ya.. we'd have a play or something like that... everybody came.

DB: *Was it usually around Christmas time when you'd do that?*

GB: Christmas time, or something... or, say, in October when fishing was on... or something like that.

DB: *Oh. Really? So, then what would you do when fishing was on?*

GB: Oh, they would have some little skit or something like that.

DB: *Oh. What were the names of your teachers as you went through school?*

GB: Oh, let's see... Miss Quinn...

Interview with Gerald Bauer

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June 27, 2002

DB: *What grade?*

GB: First.

DB: *Ok...*

GB: Miss Gist... no, I should say Miss Quinn is second.. Miss Gist was first... third, fourth, fifth was Myrabel Paul... sixth was.... I had the name a while ago... I told it... but I can't remember it right now... and seventh was Kathdick, and Mrs.... can't think of that last name again.... Mr. Kathdick didn't finish out the seventh grade, but we had another woman from Tillamook come in...

DB: *Hmm...*

GB: ... and I graduated with her.

DB: *Ok.... ya, you named another male... a man teacher a while ago...*

GB: Kathdick, yes.

DB: *I thought there was another one, though too, that you mentioned before that.... maybe not... ok...*

GB: Oh, well, ya... that was before I started school... it was Charlie Hart.

DB: *Right. Ok. Do you remember any other stories about anything that happened at school or while you were in school?*

GB: Well, during hunting season, yes. (chuckling) Everybody hunted in those days. The Ward boys... his father... their father was a hunter... in and out of season.... I remember one time he says... how long... hey, Cal, how long is that meat you're eating? And brother Keith ... 'bout two weeks... and brother Cal jumped in and he says... he says, no two months... and I don't think that was illegal then to eat it two months... but that was... that was some of the things that would happen.

DB: *So is how... how... what did you say.. what was the question... how...*

GB: How... how long ago was that... how long was that meat was killed before you were....

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

GB: I don't know what I should.. they'd probably tell you down.... but I can remember that one... I don't know whether I should say... I probably don't but I think I can get away with it nowadays.

DB: *Ya.. I think people probably hunted when they needed food.*

GB: Oh, yes... oh, yes... I remember Mr. Rezinchek... uh... I seem... we would know he was hunting, because he would pack the meat down through our place.

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June 27, 2002

DB: *Aaaah.... ok.... when and where you born.*

GB: I was born at Neskowin... right on the home place.

DB: *And do you have brothers and sisters?*

GB: Just one sister.

DB: *And what's her name?*

GB: Virginia Vogel... it is nowadays.

DB: *Ok.. and your dad's name?*

GB: Was Alfred.

DB: *Ok, and your mom's name?*

GB: Rose.

DB: *And who was Steve Bauer?*

GB: Steve Bauer was my father's uncle... my... Steve Bauer and my grandfather, Sam Bauer, came over from Germany together.

DB: *How'd they decide to come to Neskowin?*

GB: That I couldn't tell you. I don't know.

DB: *Did they both move to the Neskowin area?*

GB: Eventually, yes. Steve Bauer went on the... had his place off the road on Upper Slab Creek... my grandfather, Sam, was a restaurant... cook, or something and he ended up in Canyon City... he bought a hotel up there.

DB: *So was it your dad that homesteaded your farm, then?*

GB: No, no... they were married before he bought this farm.

DB: *Oh, he bought the farm.*

GB: Ya...

DB: *Do you know who homesteaded it, but any chance?*

GB: (sigh)... I got the abstract here, right in this house right now... I'd have to look at that...

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DB: *Ok... what's your ancestry?*

GB: German.

DB: *Oh, German... that's right, you said that.*

GB: Both my father and my mother, both.

DB: *And so you've lived all your growing up years on that farm, then.*

GB: That's right. No, my father grew up in Canyon City... he bought... grandfather bought that in 1900 to 1910, then he moved down to Neskowin... in 1916 my folks got married... they lived at the hotel at Neskowin... my grandfather had a place up where the Neskowin Creek School is nowadays.

DB: *Oooh...*

GB: They used to... when they first were married they'd... they were milking cows up in there... they would stay at the hotel and hook a wagon with a team and go milk cows. And then grandfather helped dad buy this place in 1919.

DB: *Hmmm..*

GB: And then, then we were there on that place from then on until we sold out in 1960.

DB: *So did your grandfather own quite a bit of land up Slab Creek?*

GB: Uh... how old... how long he owned that place, I don't know... not too much... he didn't....

DB: *Was it near Steve's place, or not really?*

GB: Oh, it was about two miles from it right nowadays.

DB: *Ok... any.. any significant events that you recall from your childhood that you that you'd like to share?*

GB: Well, we got electricity in 1933...

DB: *Hmmm...*

GB: ... that was something for us again. Otherwise we had to wait until dad started the, uh... oh, dear I'm having trouble talking...

DB: *Was it a generator?*

GB: Ya.. a gas... a kerosene generator thing like that.

DB: *Oh. So you actually had electricity earlier than that from the generator?*

Interview with Gerald Bauer

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GB: No... it wasn't... it was light... it was better than a lamp.

DB: *Oh, I see. Ok. Anything else that you remember happening when you were growing up... in the community or at your home or anything?*

GB: No, I can't remember too much of that, no... It was just so... it seemed like nothing happened to us, it seemed like.

DB: *Ok.... what chores and responsibilities did you have?*

GB: I got to see the cows got milked, that was the main thing.

DB: *Did you milk 'em?*

GB: When I was going to high school, yes, and dad and mom were building the house... the farm house... my sister and I would sometimes have to milk the cows in the evening alone.

DB: *By hand, or...*

GB: No, no... we had a milking machine.

DB: *What did you want to be when you grew up... did you have any...*

GB: Oh, I thought I wanted to be a diesel mechanic or something like that.

DB: *Uh, huh.... and what jobs have you had through your life?*

GB: (sigh)... Well, let's see, I can say that I've had three jobs in my life... a dairyman... in 1953 I quit the farm and went to Tillamook and worked in the bank... and that was ok, but mom wasn't doing too good on the farm alone, so I quit and until she sold the place, I farmed on that yet. And then I came here to Salem and got on with the post office, and from the post office, I retired on that.

DB: *And how many years did you work at the post office?*

GB: Twenty-three years, two months, and about twelve days. (chuckling)

DB: *And what was your job there.. did you have a variety of jobs?*

GB: I ended up... I was on the window line...

DB: *Did you enjoy that?*

GB: Ya... I liked that, yes.

DB: *Uh, huh... meeting with people. What do you remember most about your mother?*

Interview with Gerald Bauer

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June 27, 2002

GB: Oh, dear... this is going to take some thinking back... well, I should say, I didn't know my father all that well... I was only twenty-two when he died. But she seemed to be the hand... after dad died, she was in charge of the place.

DB: *Uh, huh...*

GB: *I, uh... I dare say I was in charge... well, the last three or four years I rented the place from her, but she stayed there. We lived in the same house, and her brother came, who lost his wife... he came and lived on the place with us.*

DB: *Anything else you remember most about your mom?*

GB: Well, she had her ways, and I had my ways... that was... but, uh, my ways went to the background, so to speak.

DB: *Ya.*

GB: She was the boss.

DB: *Did she ever remarry?*

GB: No, she never remarried.

DB: *And what do you remember most about your dad... your father?*

GB: Well, both he and mom had worked on the farm... mom and dad.. .she had to milk cows, too. And in the wintertime, we'd put the milker away and milk with our hands... all three of us... mom, Virginia, and I...

DB: *Why was that?*

GB: Oh, I don't know why.... it just seemed to be habit... the thing to do...

DB: *What's the best advice that you remember from your mother or your father, or what lessons did you learn from them that have stuck with you throughout your life?*

GB: I think the piece that stuck with me most is, don't be afraid to work.

DB: *Tell me about your own family then.*

GB: Just what Betty and I have here, that's all the family we've got.

DB: *How did you meet Betty?*

GB: Church.

DB: *Down at the coast?*

Interview with Gerald Bauer

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June 27, 2002

GB: No, no... up here in Salem. See, I was forty-one before I got married here in Salem.

DB: *Oooh...*

GB: I was the last kid in my class in high school to marry.

DB: *Ok. And now you've been married how long?*

GB: Thirty-seven years.

DB: *Wow. Are there any community activities or religious activities that you'd like to tell us about?*

GB: Well, my mother was Catholic... dad was Lutheran... we would have a Lutheran minister from Tillamook come down occasionally and we would go to church there. Uh... Mr. Ed...

DB: *Where?*

GB: In the school house.

DB: *Oooh...*

GB: Usually there wasn't too many people would go to a Lutheran church... Mr. Rezinchek was a.... was sort of a minister... his son, Elmer, now is a minister, although not working as a minister... but that's about all I have... oh, there was a Lutheran pastor and his wife lived in Neskowin for a while, too.... he would have services for those who would go to him.

DB: *What do you remember about businesses in the Neskowin area? Can you remember some of those?*

GB: Not too much... of course, there was the store there... Mr. Frank had the store... there was a gas station... I forget how many people had charge of that... my uncle and aunt had the golf course at Neskowin... Matt and Margaret Sandage... Mrs. Sandage and my mother were sisters... and that's about all that I can think of....

DB: *And what was her last name again? Mrs.....*

GB: Sandage.

DB: *Oh, Sandage. Somebody sent us... sent me a picture that was from the golf course, and I think... who would that have... is it Margaret, is that what you said?*

GB: Margaret. Ya.

DB: *Is she still alive?*

GB: No, she died in 1956.

Interview with Gerald Bauer

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June 27, 2002

DB: *Huh.... did she have children?*

GB: Two of them. Ruth and Louise. The one we called Louise, we called Bea.

DB: *I'll have to look and see about that.*

GB: She's living in California right now, Bea is. Ruth is living in Vancouver... she is, uh, I think in September she will be, I think... 89.

DB: *Hmmm.... and that was pretty much it for businesses, other than like a post office or something?*

GB: Ya.... well, the post office was with the store.

DB: *Ok. Now, what about high school, because... I know that you have remained friends with a lot of the people you went to high school with.*

GB: Yes...

DB: *Who were some of your favorite teachers in high school?*

GB: Oh, I wouldn't say any of them were favorites... I liked them all.

DB: *Ok.*

GB: I had no trouble with them at all. Of course, when I got home, if my folks found out that I'd caused trouble, I was in trouble.

DB: *Ya. Any stories you remember during your high school year that you might share?*

GB: Oh... occasionally some of the kids would get... would sneak out of the room and throw marbles up and down the hall... my friend Elmer Rezinchek was pretty good at that... and, uh... I still... occasionally I write to one teacher yet... Miss Weins was her name then in those days...

DB: *Weins... how would you spell that?*

GB: W, E, I, N, S.

DB: *Ok... where does she live?*

GB: She lives up in Washington right now.

DB: *She must be.... getting up in years.*

GB: Ya... I think she's gotta' be about... mmmm.... about ten years older than I am... I'd say she's 87 or 88... somewhere in through there....

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DB: *Ok... I'll see if I can find her address...*

GB: I've got it right here.

DB: *Ok... maybe I can get that from you before I leave today. Anything else you'd like to share before we shut off the tape recorder... anything about growing up in that area?*

GB: If I'd had any idea that would be a question, I would probably have thought about it....

DB: *Well, you can always write things down, too.*

GB: Ya... ya... right now, I'd need to....

DB: *Ok... do you think it was good growing up where you did?*

GB: I think it was, yes.

DB: *For what reasons?*

GB: Well, some people have said... who came into Cloverdale area, said... I'm sorry that I had to come here, or my folks brought me here... I'd like to go to a good school... I don't agree with that. We've got two or three people out of there that got four year colleges given to them... like Vic Affolter...

DB: *Uh, huh...*

GB: Young Vic Affolter...

DB: *Right.*

GB: So I would say, if you put your mind to work on it, you'll make a go of it.

DB: *Right.*

GB: And if some of those kids that object to going to Nestucca... I can't agree with them... you make it yourself.

DB: *Right. Now your class graduated 61 years ago, is that right?*

GB: That's right.

DB: *Why have you remained so close over the years, do you think?*

GB: Oh, I don't know... because it's somebody we can talk to... talk to in those age... talk about things that happened and things like that....

DB: *And you meet together... how often?*

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GB: Usually... usually twice a year... we had a birthday party this month for those of us who are or will be 79... there's only five of us turned out this time, though.

DB: *Uh, huh (yes)*

GB: But, uh... no, I think we still get together and have a good time and talk things over... oh, ya... we talked quite a bit of politics this week, now, too...

DB: *What did you think of your wife typing up that short history... the short history of Little Nestucca School....*

GB: Oh, she could do... she knows she could do it... I have nothing... she would type it up and bring it home, and we'd proofread it.

DB: *Uh, huh (yes)*

GB: I was proofreading it more for those days...

DB: *So there must not have been many of those books around that she typed from....*

GB: Uh... my cousin back in Michigan got one book....

DB: *Oooh...*

GB: I think I heard... I don't know what it was, so that... I think it we had to pay about two cents a page or something like that for our... in those days.

DB: *That was really nice that she did that.*

GB: Ya... ya... I was glad that she did.

DB: *Ok... I'm gonna' shut this off...*

GB: Ok...

DB: *All right.*

End of tape

Transcribed by Darleen Creecy Cole