

Interview with Joe Haines  
at His Assisted Living Home in Salem  
Conducted by Dean Bones  
May 4, 2002

**DB:** *OK... so if you could just talk .... talk to me for a minute...*

**JH:** All right.....

**DB:** *OK... if you'd say your name...*

**JH:** I'm Joseph Haines....

**DB:** *OK... I think we're doing all right. Ok... so, again thank you for allowing me to pop in on you like this.*

**JH:** Oh, this is great.

**DB:** *And if you would... you went to... Brown School and also to Beaver, is that right?*

**JH:** I went to Brown School and Beaver School.

**DB:** *OK..*

**JH:** The one you're teaching at now...

**DB:** *Ya... and I know where Brown School is, because Quentin actually took my whole class up to the school and... I mean.... showed us where it used to be...*

**JH:** Ya, i don't imagine there's anything left...

**DB:** *Trees... just trees, all over. How long has it been since you've been over there?*

**JH:** Oh, I've never been back...

**DB:** *Since you went to school?*

**JH:** ... for a long time..

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

**JH:** Beaver's changed a lot since I...

**DB:** *Since you were there?*

**JH:** ...there..

**DB:** *Joe, could you describe the inside of the building.. what it used to look like for Brown School... do you remember what... when you went in the building what it was like?*

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**JH:** Yes.

**DB:** *OK..*

**JH:** You went in the building, there were two cloak rooms on each side of the front door..

**DB:** *OK...*

**JH:** ... and there's where we stored our raincoats and hats and lunches.

**DB:** *Do you remember on the ri... which... which was on the right, the boys or girls? Hard question.*

**JH:** I can't remember which...

**DB:** *OK.*

**JH:** I will always... went through the... uh... left side, so it must have been...

**DB:** *OK... so it must have been the boys on the left, huh?*

**JH:** Ya.

**DB:** *OK.. and what else? What else did the school look like, then, on the inside?*

**JH:** Well, it was a... oil coated floor... you know, the kind that used to be in every school...

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

**JH:** And, uh... desks went up each side of the room... it was only a one room...

**DB:** *What about windows? Were there windows on both sides, or just one side?*

**JH:** There was windows on ... uh... one side... no windows on the other... there were blackboards there...

**DB:** *Do you remember as you walked in the school which side the windows were on?*

**JH:** Yes, they were on the left side.

**DB:** *Because of the sun shining in, probably... to give light, I imagine.*

**JH:** Ya.

**DB:** *Was there a teacher's table or a teacher's desk, then?*

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**JH:** There was a teacher's desk and uh... in the back, there were books... encyclopedias... they were on the window side of the school.

**DB:** *OK... Was there a raised platform at all for the teacher's desk, or for programs?*

**JH:** Not at Brown, that I recall.

**DB:** *OK. And then... I understand... I'm getting ahead of myself, probably... but I understand that you walked to school when you were at Brown... did you most of the time?*

**JH:** When... uh.. I got back from the Shrine Hospital and could walk...

**DB:** *Oh... let's start again, then... how old were you when you started school?*

**JH:** Eight.

**DB:** *OK... and ... and you started at eight because...*

**JH:** I was a spastic paraplegic.

**DB:** *OK.*

**JH:** And I had to be operated on before I could even walk.

**DB:** *Oh, I didn't know that.. so you didn't walk then before... how old?*

**JH:** *Oh, I crawled... and I could a little by the time I had the operations... I was seven years old when I had my first operation.*

**DB:** And what did they operate on?

**JH:** *My legs... they lengthened the tendons, and transplanted tendons, and... uh... made the muscles that would work do the job.*

**DB:** Was that a common thing for them to do?

**JH:** *No, it was an experimental surgery.*

**DB:** Really.

**JH:** *And it worked.*

**DB:** Yea. Was that pretty exciting for you to be able... how... how soon did you walk after that?

**JH:** Oh, I walked with a cane about a ... it took about a year.

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**DB:** *And so you didn't go to school until after that point, after you could walk, then?*

**JH:** 'Til... until I could walk.

**DB:** *Every picture I've seen of you, you have crutches.*

**JH:** Ya. I had crutches 'til I went to high school.

**DB:** *OK. But... then how did you get to school? Did you actually walk to school, then, on your crutches, or... or did somebody take you down to Brown?*

**JH:** Well, I walked part of the time after I got strong enough to walk, but they took me down...

**DB:** *Your parents, or somebody else?*

**JH:** My parents or my sisters.

**DB:** *Uh, huh (yes). But you still... Brown was on scho... was on a hill, wasn't it?*

**JH:** Yes, it is.

**DB:** *How'd you get up to the hill? Could they drive right to the school?*

**JH:** We had a horse that we rode down in the morning, and, uh... then somebody'd come and get me at night, if I needed.

**DB:** *You rode the horse, or the horse with a buggy?*

**JH:** The horse... I got on the back, and held on to my sister.

**DB:** *How did... how did you get on? You just pulled up... pulled yourself up?*

**JH:** Oh, the Biddle place that we were on had a high porch...

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

**JH:** And I could get on this horse from the porch.

**DB:** *What about school? How did you get off the horse?*

**JH:** (chuckle) I don't remember.

**DB:** *You didn't just fall off, I hope.*

**JH:** No...

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**DB:** *OK.. (chuckle)*

**JH:** They took me off.

**DB:** *OK... and when you say they... who would have done that?*

**JH:** Oh, the teacher, or...

**DB:** *Oh... OK... and then when you went to... we're gonna' do both schools... kinda' at the same time... when you went to Beaver... what did the school look like when you went in... if you walked in the front door, what did it look like... inside?*

**JH:** You walked in the front door, there was a narrow hall that led to Mrs. Warmoth's room on the other side... Mrs. Gilbert had the side next to the road...

**DB:** *OK..*

**JH:** You're familiar with how the school...

**DB:** *Kind of... Mrs. Gilbert taught the younger kids, didn't she? And Mrs. Warmoth taught the older kids?*

**JH:** No...

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

**JH:** .... the opposite way.

**DB:** *Really?*

**JH:** Mrs. Gilbert taught the older kids, and Mrs. Warmouth taught the young ones.

**DB:** *And then how.. what grade were you in when you went to Beaver?*

**JH:** Oh... hum... must have been about seventh grade, or eighth grade.

**DB:** *So you went to Brown from ... oh... what grades were you in at Brown, then?*

**JH:** I was in, uh... first, second, third, fourth... seems to me like I was about the sixth... the sixth grade when I.. we went to.. I was thirteen years old...

**DB:** *So, when you started at age eight, you actually went into the first grade, is that right?*

**JH:** Ya, I took two grades at once.

**DB:** *OK..*

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**JH:** I was one of these kids that could do it... they didn't let me skip any work, I had to do all of the work.

**DB:** *You did? Two... two years in one year, kind of? Two years...*

**JH:** Ya... take the first grade and half of the second in the first year.

**DB:** *Would you mind if I take a couple pictures?*

**JH:** No.

**DB:** *Cool. Then I'll share... show those to ... um... your family over on the coast, too, if that's all right?*

**JH:** All right.

**DB:** *I'm gonna' do this before I do that...*

**JH:** That can... we can take that off...

**DB:** *That's up to you... whatever you want to do.*

**JH:** Oh, we'll leave it.

**DB:** *OK.*

**JH:** You get me just as I is...

**DB:** *Here we go... one... you still have that same smile I see in every picture I've seen of you... every one that I have ever seen, you have this wonderful smile... ok... thank you. Um... ok... so I... some of these questions I've already had people answer, so I know the answers to them, but... what are all of the... well, first of all... when you were eight years old... let's... let's do this... what year were you born?*

**JH:** August 12th, 1924.

**DB:** *And where were you born?*

**JH:** Oregon City, Oregon.

**DB:** *OK. So, that helps me get an idea of when you went to school... what was the time that school started every day at Brown School, and when did it end?*

**JH:** Ended at four o'clock... it started at eight, I believe.

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**DB:** *And did everybody else just walk to school, or did they get to school some other way?*

**JH:** Oh, some of them, some of them their parents brought them.

**DB:** *How did they bring them?*

**JH:** In cars.

**DB:** *Oooh, I didn't realize that there were cars that people were using at that... I... I'm not thinking... ok. And... what would a typical day be like... once you got to the school, then what happened?*

**JH:** Well, they'd start with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and, uh...

**DB:** *I'm just checking the level to make sure it's ok. And then what?*

**JH:** Then the teacher usually read a story for fifteen minutes or twenty minutes to the whole room...

**DB:** *Do you remember any of those stories... any of the names of them?*

**JH:** Oh, yes.

**DB:** *What were some of them?*

**JH:** Uh... now my mind's hit a blank.

**DB:** *Was it like a novel that they would just read a little bit of every day?*

**JH:** A good... a good book.

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

**JH:** ... with, uh... I remember one was about a boy that started out to... come to Oregon with his father, and wound up coming by himself because the father died, and he took the family the rest of the way.

**DB:** *Hmm... so, a pretty interesting story.*

**JH:** So, they were good stories.

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

**JH:** And I read a lot myself... that... that's why I can't remember what I read then and what was read to me.

**DB:** *So, do you remember names of some of the favorite books that you read, even on your own? When you were younger?*

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**JH:** Big Swamp Mountain...

**DB:** *Ok..*

**JH:** ... was a good one.... and we were talking about that the other day. They was one... about two boys during the civil war.. they were thirteen, fourteen years old, and their adventures... then there was a book called I Talk to the Woods... that was about a... family that they were both authors, and they took to the woods of Vermont...

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

**JH:** It was a good story.

**DB:** *I'm going to see if I can find any of those books... I'll have my kids look for them. Any others that you can remember? And by the way, if you ask me this question, I wouldn't remember any of them that I read, I'm sure! So you're doing wonderful.*

**JH:** But... there was one called the Gray Dawn that was about the Mexican Revolution... and I can't remember who wrote it.

**DB:** *What was it's name again?*

**JH:** The Gray Dawn...

**DB:** *Ok... Gray Dawn... ok...*

**JH:** D A W N...

**DB:** *Ya. So where did you get your books to read?*

**JH:** The Oregon State Library had a book mail in service... you'd get a whole mail sack full of books...

**DB:** *Did everyone do that, or was it just you?*

**JH:** I don't know how many I did it, but I know our family did it.

**DB:** *And did you read at night, too?*

**JH:** Ya, by coal oil lamp.

**DB:** *Coal oil lamp... What about at school, you didn't have electricity, right?*

**JH:** No.



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**DB:** *Well... so what happened on dark rainy days, how could you see very well?*

**JH:** Well, you couldn't see as well as you did but the windows were big, and there was plenty of light.

**DB:** *Did they use any lamps in the school at all?*

**JH:** No.

**DB:** *OK..*

**JH:** I can't remember ever using a lamp in the school. Course when we got to Beaver, there was electricity in...

**DB:** *Oh... in the school, there was, you mean?*

**JH:** Ya...

**DB:** *And that was in the old building, still, right?*

**JH:** Ya, that was in the old building that was there.... see... when... I was trying to think of the year that would be...

**Cat:** Meow...

**DB:** *Here, Puddy Cat, let me take your picture, too. Here.. look at me... you gotta' smile...*

**Cat:** Meow...

**DB:** *That didn't take... wha... wait! Merow, ow....*

**Cat:** Meow, meow...

**DB:** *That's my chair... just a minute... hey, hold still! Ok... I'll get him later. Um... when... ok, so after she read to you, then what would happen?*

**Cat:** Meow.

**JH:** We would have, usually writing first, and then arithmetic... I remember going to the board and writing out the problems.

**DB:** *Was a lot of your work, then, on the blackboard, or did you also do work on paper at your desk?*

**JH:** Oh, we did both.

**DB:** Ya..

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**JH:** There was quite a bit of work done on the blackboard.

**DB:** *What did you write with on the paper... a regular pencil, or a bigger pencil, or pens...*

**JH:** Uh... penny pencil... one of those cedar... plain cedar, hard lead, once you wrote it, you couldn't read it.

**DB:** *(chuckle)...*

**Cat:** Meow.

**DB:** *Did they have erasers on the ends of the pencils then?*

**JH:** The erasers were on the end of the pencil, but they weren't very good.

**DB:** *OK.*

**JH:** Then if you got a better pencil, then that... why, you felt very lucky.

**DB:** *Ya, I'll bet.*

**JH:** Course, that was during the Depression yet.. we were still coming out of the Depression.

**DB:** *Uh, huh (yes)... those were hard times, huh?*

**JH:** Those were hard times.

**DB:** *You remember that pretty well?*

**JH:** Yes. I remember one month dad got only four cents on the cream check....

**DB:** *Wow. How did your family live during that time... how did they make it?*

**JH:** Well, we made it by raising a lot of vegetables and uh... butchering our own beef, shooting our own deer...

**DB:** *Ya... did you?*

**JH:** No, I didn't hunt. But that's how we made our living.

**DB:** *All right.. just living off the land.*

**JH:** Uh, huh (yes)... you can grow almost anything in Tillamook County except melons and wheat.

**DB:** *Ya.. that's right. Ok, so you did your lessons, and then you had lunch, I suppose...*

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**JH:** Ya..

**DB:** *About how... how long was off for lunch? And recess?*

**JH:** Oh, recess... we had two or three recesses, and we had, uh... half hour for lunch.

**DB:** *OK. What did you do during recess? I imagine the kids went around and ran all over the place... what did you do?*

**JH:** Oh, we played games.

**DB:** *Like what games?*

**JH:** Played in the woods... I said wood shed, but uh... play shed... there was a big play shed on Brown School.

**DB:** *Now was it behind the school, to the north?*

**JH:** No, it was along side of the school, to... it would be to the east.

**DB:** *Where the blackboards were.*

**JH:** Ya.

**DB:** *OK. About how big do you think the play shed was?*

**JH:** Well, it was at least thirty by thirty.

**DB:** *OK.. that's pretty good sized.*

**JH:** So that was good sized.

**DB:** *Dirt floor?*

**JH:** No.

**DB:** *Oh.*

**JH:** Fir floor.

**DB:** *And was it solid along the walls, or did it just come up a certain height with the wall... or did it have any wall?*

**JH:** It had a wall... up to about... it wasn't quite an eight foot wall, then it was open, and the roof covered... overhung.

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**DB:** *What kind of games did you play?*

**JH:** Oh, Annie Over, all of the usual.

**DB:** *Ya, but we.. my kids don't know what the usual are, so if you remember any of the names that you can tell us...*

**JH:** Oh, boy...

**DB:** *Haven't thought about that for a while, have you?*

**JH:** I haven't thought about that for a long time. I can't remember the names.

**DB:** *OK.. if you think of any while we're talking, you can stop me.*

**JH:** Oh, I'll let you know.

**DB:** *And, also, Joe, one of the things that we really want to know, besides all the facts, is any stories. Any time during this interview if you remember anything... anything that sticks in your mind... some story that happened to you or anyone else, if you'd just start telling that story, 'cause we really want to hear those. Is there anything you can think of right now about going to school... do you remember any stories?*

**JH:** Not that I can think of off hand.

**DB:** *Ok... but you're not off the hook yet, 'cause I'm gonna' ask you again. OK. So... you went ba... back in after recess... how did the teacher call you back in?*

**JH:** She'd ring a bell.

**DB:** *A hand bell, or the big bell?*

**JH:** The big bell.

**DB:** *Do you know where that bell is now?*

**JH:** No.

**DB:** *It's in the church at Beaver.*

**JH:** I'll be darned.

**DB:** *It's the bell that they use. Same one. Do remember hear... can you kinda' hear that bell in your mind as you...*

**JH:** Yes.

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**DB:** *It rang when you went to school, didn't it?*

**JH:** It rang when it was time to assemble...

**DB:** *Ya..*

**JH:** I think it rang fifteen minutes before...

**DB:** *Kind of a warning...*

**JH:** Ya... get in here, kids!

**DB:** *(laughing) Ya... ok. And then she rang it to come in from recess...*

**JH:** Ya...

**DB:** *... and that was it for the day? She didn't ring it to warn the parents you were coming home, did they?*

**JH:** (laughing) No.

**DB:** *OK...*

**JH:** Probably should have.

**DB:** *Uh... sheee ya, probably! Ummm... ok, any... do you remember anything special about walking or riding to school or getting home any days... did you see any wild animals or anything interesting happen to you?*

**JH:** Well, one day, Rexford Rowland, Jr. and I were walking home, and there were two gates... one blocked off the trail going up to Rowland's home and the other one went into our place... and this... on a hill... I don't know whether you've been up there, or not...

**DB:** *I have, but I'm not sure if your house was on the right side.. or the left side? The right side, maybe... as you went up your road... Bays Creek or whatever... I don't know what it was called when you were there...*

**JH:** Well.... where the roads... where the road went in to the place was on the top of a little hill... you went across the bridge and up a little hill, and the house laid on the left hand side...

**DB:** *Oh, the left hand side... my wife and I had a picnic there several years ago... just out in the field... it was wonderful.*

**JH:** Oh, that's wonderful.

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

**JH:** Now you know where I grew up.

**DB:** *Ya! So, you said you... you were starting to tell me something that you remembered...*

**JH:** Oh, we were coming home, and the creek had a fish hole down right off the bank there, and we looked in there and there was a big black salmon with his head up... he'd been running ... something had been chasing him...

**DB:** *Hmmm...*

**JH:** That was the most beautiful sight you ever saw.

**DB:** *I'll bet it was.. you didn't wonder what had been chasing him and if it was still around, or... were there any times you were scared going to school or coming back?*

**JH:** No.

**DB:** *No.*

**JH:** I've never been afraid of the outdoors.

**DB:** *You must really love the outdoors.*

**JH:** I do.

**DB:** *Ya. So, ok... was there ever much homework?*

**JH:** Yes, there was homework.

**DB:** *Aaah..*

**JH:** But usually I got mine caught up, and had spare time left over, which I used to read books of knowledge back in the library.

**DB:** *So... were you a pretty good student?*

**JH:** I was average.

**DB:** *Uh, huh (yes) If somebody ever misbehaved at school, what were some of the punishments that might happen to them... or do you remember anybody ever misbehaving?*

**JH:** Oh, yes...

**DB:** *Who? Did... did Quentin misbehave? (laughing)*

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**JH:** No, Quentin never got into trouble very much..

**DB:** *Oh, no... but... what would the teacher do if somebody misbehaved?*

**JH:** Well, they had the power to punish them, which you don't now.

**DB:** *Right... what would they do to punish them?*

**JH:** Grab 'em by the ear and drag 'em up in front of the class (laughing).

**DB:** *Oh, that'd probably do it. Ok... anything else that you can think of? Do you ever remember being disciplined?*

**JH:** No.

**DB:** *OK.*

**JH:** I was questioned a time or two... (laughing)

**DB:** *Were you ever hurt at school at any time.... 'cause they didn't have a phone... so I was just wondering what they might do if... anybody was ever injured.*

**JH:** Oh, they had a first aid kit there and most of the teachers knew how to use it.

**DB:** *Ok.*

**JH:** I can't remember any of the kids being hurt very often.

**DB:** *That's what every one has said that I've interviewed... same thing... they don't remember people being hurt. Ok, now... tell me the names of any of your teachers at Brown School... or your teacher...*

**JH:** All right... Mrs. Alvord, who taught at Wolf Creek also, and Miss Quinn.. Pat Easom...

**DB:** *So Mrs. Alvord was your... what... what grades did she teach you... do you remember that?*

**JH:** I don't think she ever taught me...

**DB:** *Ok, but she was just there...*

**JH:** But she was there.

**DB:** *Ok... and then Mrs. Quinn... was it Mrs. or Miss?*

**JH:** Miss Quinn... Mrs. Easom. She married Elmer Easom.

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**DB:** *Ok.*

**JH:** Her name was Pat. She taught the.. Brown School most of the time.

**DB:** *So she was your teacher.*

**JH:** Myra F. Costa was my last teacher there.

**DB:** *So you had several different teachers.*

**JH:** So I had... I had several different teachers over my school period.

**DB:** *Ok... what about at Beaver, who were your teachers? Oh.. well, you already told me. Did Mrs. Alvord move down to Beaver, then?*

**JH:** No... Mrs. Alvord taught at Brown School for a year... I can't remember when that was, but I remember that she did.

**DB:** *Ok... and then, you said, uh... Mrs. Gilbert also taught at Beaver, right?*

**JH:** Ya.

**DB:** *And did you have her as your teacher, then?*

**JH:** Yes, I had her. I never did have Mrs. Warmoth.

**DB:** *And when you... did you say you went to Beaver in your seventh grade.. so did you graduate from Beaver? Did I say that right.*

**JH:** Ya. I was trying to think of what.... I must have graduated from Beaver... (laughing).... had to!

**DB:** *Ok. Um... what about to Nestucca? You also went to Nestucca, didn't you?*

**JH:** Ya.

**DB:** *All four years?*

**JH:** All four years.

**DB:** *My dad tells a story about you... he said you talk to Joe Haines about that, because he knew I was coming out here.... he said, "I remember standing at the top of the stairs one day, and Joe Haines would fall down those stairs." And he said... "I said, Joe what are you doing that for? You're gonna' get hurt! " And he said he remembers you saying, "Well I want to practice in case I ever fall down here.. then I'll know how to fall!" Is that true? (chuckle)*



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**JH:** That's true.

**DB:** *Oh, you remember! (laughing) So you'd practice falling down the stairs?*

**JH:** I'd practice every once in a while.

**DB:** *How did you keep from getting hurt?*

**JH:** Fool luck!

**DB:** *(laughing) He said you'd just crash!*

**JH:** I remember one time when he wired the hog slop pail to the electric fence... and his dad was doing chores... (laughing)

**DB:** *Oh, no! You saw him, or you just heard about it?*

**JH:** No, I saw the whole thing.

**DB:** *Where was this?*

**JH:** *At our place at Beaver. He... Raymond, uh... and his father were helping us do chores...*

**DB:** Ok, now where did you live at Beaver?

**JH:** *Uh....*

**DB:** *Was it up on Bunn Creek road?*

**JH:** Yep.

**DB:** *Where, uh... Sappingtons lived at one time?*

**JH:** That's right. We bought the place from Sappingtons.

**DB:** *Aaah... so he wired a... wha... a hog slop pail?*

**JH:** Ya.

**DB:** *With what?*

**JH:** To the electric fence.

**DB:** *What happened?*

**JH:** Your fa... grandfather got ahold of it...

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**DB:** *Ohhh! (laughing)*

**JH:** (laughing)

**DB:** *Was he happy about that?*

**JH:** He chased Raymond all over the place!

**DB:** *(laughing) Did he ever catch him, I wonder?*

**JH:** (laughing) No, he was laughing too hard!

**DB:** *(laughing) I'll bet my dad was a little worried about things...*

**JH:** No....he, uh...

**DB:** *Did he know his dad was going to be the one who got it?*

**JH:** Ya!

**DB:** *(laughing) Oh, my. So he could be a little ornery.*

**JH:** Mischievous.

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

**JH:** Your grandfather was just as bad.

**DB:** *Ya, (chuckle) My grandmother probably did... I don't know if she put up with that much, or not. Did you know my grandma Anna?*

**JH:** No, I didn't.

**DB:** *Hmm. I didn't get to know my grandpa much, because he died when I was young, but I remember a little bit of him, so...*

**JH:** Well, you're lucky to be able to remember him.

**DB:** *So you don't remember....*

**JH:** I can remember one of my grandfathers, but I can't remember the other one.

**DB:** *Uh, huh (yes). Which grandfather was that?*

**JH:** Uh, my grandfather Wilcox.

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**DB:** *On your mother's side?*

**JH:** On my mother's side.

**DB:** *Did he also live on the coast? Or... at... up at Oregon City, or somewhere?*

**JH:** He lived in Portland.

**DB:** *Hmm... so it was pretty hard to see him then.*

**JH:** Ya. It's...

**DB:** *What else... go ahead.*

**JH:** Go ahead.

**DB:** *What else about high school do you remember?*

**JH:** I can remember playing marbles in the basement.

**DB:** *Marbles, oh.*

**JH:** And, uh... they would hold the dance there, in... in the basement for the kids.

**DB:** *So were there no classrooms, or did they just do it in the ....*

**JH:** There were no classrooms downstairs.

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

**JH:** There was... there was, uh... two classrooms... home economics and agriculture, and they were at opposite ends of the building.

**DB:** *Wha... was it just an open room downstairs?*

**JH:** It was just an open space... part of it concrete, part of it dirt. They hadn't poured the rest of the concrete.

**DB:** *So.... uh... you went to school there not long after it was built, then, probably.*

**JH:** Oh, it ...

**DB:** *I think the first year was about 1929... of Nestucca, at least.*

**JH:** I can't remem... remember when it was built, first.

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**DB:** *What year did you graduate, Joe?*

**JH:** Uh.. from high school?

**DB:** *Ya.*

**JH:** 1943.

**DB:** *Oh, so that was.. it was a ways before you. So....*

**JH:** *Ya.*

**DB:** *I heard the busses pulled down below the school...*

**JH:** *Ya.*

**DB:** *... and that's where you got on the busses.*

**JH:** That's where we got on the busses.

**DB:** *What was that like? Were there doors to go out there to get on the bus... do you remember how that was?*

**JH:** The doors came... uh... at each end of the building..

**DB:** *Oh.*

**JH:** ... and you went out the... and down the stairs into the floor, and then you went out the... busses kinda' laid... you drove right in from the... the, uh... entrance way...

**DB:** *From the east side, did they come in that way? And then go underneath and come out the west side?*

**JH:** No.. ya.. they..... how the heck was that?

**DB:** *I know how the driveway lays, right now, but I didn't know which direction they came in from.*

**JH:** I don't know how the school's set up now, so...

**DB:** *That's fine. So was it hard for you to get on the busses and off the busses?*

**JH:** Not very.

**DB:** *Because by that time....*

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**JH:** I could move my feet pretty good.

**DB:** *What about going up those horrible, long, steep stairs?*

**JH:** That wasn't very bad.

**DB:** *Really. You must have had strong arms.*

**JH:** I had strong arms.

**DB:** *So.. do you remember any activities at Nestucca, or any stories from Nestucca?*

**JH:** Not that your dad wouldn't know of or remember... (laughing).

**DB:** *I don't know... (laughing)... he might not tell me. Ok.*

**JH:** I remember during World War II, there was a bunch of kids stealing gas...

**DB:** *From the high school?*

**JH:** From, uh... the storage tanks that were... where the heck were they located? And, uh... the fathers all got together and sneaked in on 'em... that was the last time they stole gas.

**DB:** *Was somebody's father there... was Ray Bones part of that one?*

**JH:** No, Ray wouldn't have anything to do with that.

**DB:** *Ok... he'll like that you said that. OK... any other stories that you can remember... what about any special teachers that you remember during high school?*

**JH:** I remember them all, and they were all pretty... special... we had good teachers.

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

**JH:** I can't remember a teacher that didn't take time to help the kids.

**DB:** *That's wonderful. Who was your principal?*

**JH:** Uh... C. O. Dougherty, and, uh.... Mr. Sowick.

**DB:** *Hm...*

**JH:** I don't remember his first name...

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**DB:** *Cliff Dougherty also studied schools, and he wrote his masters thesis on schools in about 1941 or '42, and we just got a copy of that and read what he wrote. And he had interviewed some of the early teachers in that area. It was very interesting.*

**JH:** It should overlap what you get now, and give you continuation.

**DB:** *Ya. We have learned.... now... you know, now there are three schools... there's the elementary at Cloverdale, the middle school at Beaver, and the high school. And there's a private school at Neskowin, but we learned that there used to be over forty schools in South Tillamook County. Lots!*

**JH:** Uh...

**DB:** *What's your ancestry? Where did your ancestors come from... do you remember any stories about that?*

**JH:** Oh, my mother came from Nova Scotia... my father's folks came from the ... yes, I've got the complete history on 'em... Juanita also has a copy... Gloria should have a copy....

**DB:** *Is that... if you anything that I could borrow and mail back to you... one of the things that we're doing is we're... we're making copies on our computer... and then we have a website... do you know how websites work now?*

**JH:** Yes.

**DB:** *And... so anybody in the world can go back and now can look at Brown School... we've got the picture up... we've got pictures of you that are on our website... with the kids standing in front of the school... so people can go back and read about the history... and as kids write about information you're giving me today, they'll put some of that information on our website... but if you happen to come across any stories or photos that we could make copies... I would give them back to you.. and, uh...*

**JH:** Well, here is a photo of the Biddle place... that's what it looked like.

**DB:** *Well, if there's anything you'd trust me with... I ... I don't want to have you worry about them... but if... if you trust me with them, or I could send them back with Gloria, or whatever would work... whoever comes out to visit sometimes...*

**JH:** Ya... send....

**DB:** *You think about that as we...*

**JH:** Send them back with Gloria... I... I'll let you borrow that picture.

**DB:** *Yeah!!! Thank you.. I haven't seen that one.*

**JH:** But that wa... so much like it, it's....

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**DB:** *What's that first word... it says the something ranch... oh, is that the Biddle Ranch?*

**JH:** Ya...

**DB:** *B I D D L E, right?*

**JH:** Right.

**DB:** *Who were the Biddle people?*

**JH:** It was a retired dentist.. that was his hunting lodge...

**DB:** *Where was he a dentist... in Tillamook, or in Portland area?*

**JH:** I don't know. I remember him taking a herd of sheep up ... I saw... we were parked right there at the corner of... at Beaver, where... school is ... middle school is... and I saw the herd of sheep go up, and I remember them telling me that's that Biddle, taking a herd of sheep up. We later rented the place... when he died, the bank foreclosed on it, and they rented it to us.

**DB:** *So you lived there after he died, or you lived there twice?*

**JH:** We lived there after he died.

**DB:** *Oh, ok. Why did your family move to the area?*

**JH:** Well, dad wanted to farm all his life... he started out with one cow, and, uh... you know where Ray Measor had his farm... well, we rented that... and bought his... Charlie, uh... oh, my mind's a blank... Johnson... we bought his cattle and rented his ranch...

**DB:** *Now, you were young then, weren't you? Was that ...*

**JH:** I was about five years old at that time.

**DB:** *That's when Helen went to Wolf Creek School?*

**JH:** Ya.

**DB:** *What about your chores or responsibilities? Did you have chores?*

**JH:** I didn't, 'til I ... we moved down on Biddle fa... at Beaver... then I had chores.

**DB:** *What chores did you have?*

**JH:** I had to feed grain to the cows, strip behind the milking machine, and feed hay... chase the cows to pasture if they needed it.

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**DB:** *Uh, huh (yes)... so, your sisters.. are they all older than you?*

**JH:** They're all older than I am.

**DB:** *Did they treat you nice?*

**JH:** (laughing) I refuse to answer that!

**DB:** *(laughing) You're afraid they're gonna'...*

**JH:** No... no, they did... they did treat me real well.

**DB:** *Ya... ya.. and were they quite a bit older, or just a little older... I don't remember...*

**JH:** Oh, Helen is six years older, Esther and Dorothy were about nine years older...

**DB:** *Are they twins?*

**JH:** No, they were born nine months apart...

**DB:** *Ok... about as close as you can get. And then, uh... Gloria's mom...*

**JH:** Juanita ...

**DB:** *Juanita.*

**JH:** ... was the oldest.

**DB:** *Oh, ok... what ... when you were a child, did you ever think about what you wanted to be when you grew up?*

**JH:** Oh, yes.

**DB:** *What did you want to be?*

**JH:** I wanted to be a rocket scientist.

**DB:** *And were you?*

**JH:** No.

**DB:** *What... what occupations have you had through your life?*

**JH:** Well, uh... I'm a farmer by trade... I know dairy cows, beef cows, chickens.. I've handled all of those...



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

**JH:** ... and, uh... agricultural crops. I studied genetics every since I was seventeen. It's an interesting field.

**DB:** *What did you ev... did you ever do anything with that... was that your job, at all?*

**JH:** Well, it was my job to, to uh... see which way to go with the cows... what bulls to use...

(Intercom announcement)

**DB:** *Ok... so where did you live... once you... once you finished high school, did you live at home?*

**JH:** I lived at home. My father had a heart attack...

**DB:** *Aaaah...*

**JH:** ... and I had to stay ... somebody had to be with him all the time...

**DB:** *Hmm..*

**JH:** ... case he needed his medication... couldn't do it himself.

**DB:** *And was your mom still there at that time?*

**JH:** Oh, yes..

**DB:** *How long did you live at home?*

**JH:** Oh, I lived at home until ... 1972...

**DB:** *Where was that...*

**JH:** I got married in '72.

**DB:** *Where were your parents living at... in '72?*

**JH:** My dad was dead by that time...

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

**JH:** My mother was living with me in north Idaho.. in the Sandpoint area.

**DB:** *Why did you move to Idaho?*

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**JH:** Daddy got tired of dairying, and, uh... we bought a beef ranch in Idaho.

**DB:** *You got married.*

**JH:** Ya, I got married.

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

**JH:** Well...

**DB:** *Your own family... that your wife... if you want to...*

**JH:** Well, I'd say average family.. (end of side one)

**DB:** *OK..*

**JH:** ... and each was a different nationality... there was no one nationality pervaded the ... area...

**DB:** *When you were growing up, you mean?*

**JH:** When I was growing up.

**DB:** *What were some of the nationalities?*

**JH:** Well, Quentin is Portuguese, I'm Irish and Scotch and Dutch... I'm a mixture... and Chris Allen was Greek...

**DB:** *Huh... Did you all get along pretty well?*

**JH:** Oh, we all got along good... we all helped each other hay...

**DB:** *Do you remember any discrimination much at that time?*

**JH:** No.

**DB:** *What about discrimination to you, because you.. uh... had a disability... do you ever remember any of those times?*

**JH:** Oh, there's been a little bit... but, I haven't had much problem with that, really.

**DB:** *You... you strike me that you're an optimist, not an pessimist... is that true?*

**JH:** Uh... I'm more realist.

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

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**JH:** Kinda' in between.

**DB:** *You know, I've been reading in the earliest editions of the Tillamook Headlight, from 1890... about Chinese in the area, and they weren't always very complimentary... and I just wondered if any of that prejudice continued on through the years... through the twenties and thirties.. but you don't remember much about that...*

**JH:** There were no Chinese in the area that I was in...

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

**JH:** There were no Negroes... I remember in about... when I was about eighteen, my nephew, Bobby, saw his first black man, and he was just thrilled... he said, momma, look at that man... he's black!

**DB:** *Where was this?*

**JH:** This was in Tillamook...

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

**JH:** ... but I can't recall ever seeing a Negro until I got out in the valley here.

**DB:** *Right. So you don't really remember instances of prejudice against you?*

**JH:** No.

**DB:** *That's wonderful. What do you remember most about your mother and your father?*

**JH:** Well... my mother was a very interesting lady. She was very British..

**DB:** *Hmm..*

**JH:** She grew up in Nova Scotia, Canada, for the first ten years of her life, and that set her thinking pretty much, and my father ... I can remember him as a more Victorian type father... my mother was very Victorian, too. You didn't pull any tricks with them, or you got (laughing) whoops coming to ya'. And it didn't hurt us.

**DB:** *Ya.*

**JH:** They loved us, but they, uh... I can't ever remember my father saying I love you.

**DB:** *Hmmm.. do you know he did, though?*

**JH:** But I know he did. Otherwise, he wouldn't have bothered to take me out and set me on a log while he sawed the log.

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**DB:** *So he involved you a lot with him... took you with him?*

**JH:** He took me with him a lot.

**DB:** *Hm... and what was his name.. his first name?*

**JH:** Joseph... same as mine.

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

**JH:** I'm junior.

**DB:** *And what about your mom's... what was her name and her maiden name? Oh, you said Wilcox was her maiden name?*

**JH:** Wilcox was her maiden name.

**DB:** *And her first name?*

**JH:** Grace Alexandria.

**DB:** *Pretty name. Anything else you remember about them?*

**JH:** Oh, lots of things.

**DB:** *Any that you'd want to share?*

**JH:** I can remember... like I say, they were very Victorian, but they were always thinking ahead. They never thought old.

**DB:** *Hm..*

**JH:** 'Til the day they died, neither one of 'em... they were always optimists.

**DB:** *That's great. What do you think was the best advice that your mother and/or your father gave you, or... or what do you think were the best lessons that you learned from them?*

**JH:** Just to live a normal life. They never said, no, you can't do that when I wanted to try something. You want to make me determined to do something, just say you can't do that... you're handicapped.

**DB:** *And they... they didn't do that to you?*

**JH:** They didn't do that.

**DB:** *They didn't feel sorry for you.*

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**JH:** They didn't feel sorry for me. They didn't... my sisters say they babied me, but I don't think they babied any of us....

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

**JH:** ... they treated us all pretty much alike.

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

**JH:** I think that was the best thing they did for us.

**DB:** *Are there any special skills that you have, or interests that you have, that you could share?*

**JH:** Genetics would be the special interest. I'm interested in, uh... breed improvement and plant improvement, and it's a whole... same kettle of catfish.

**DB:** *Now... you went on to college, is that what you said?*

**JH:** Yes, I did.

**DB:** *And where was that?*

**JH:** Oregon State College.

**DB:** *How many years did you go there?*

**JH:** Five years.

**DB:** *Ooooh... long time. Was that a good time?*

**JH:** That was an interesting time... that was play time.

**DB:** *Was it? Uh, huh (yes)... do you have any stories during that time you want to share? (laughing)*

**JH:** Uh... it was very interesting in the fact that we had teachers that were different than the teachers today.

**DB:** *Hm... in what way?*

**JH:** They were disciplinarians.

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

**JH:** You got it right, or you got it wrong... there was no in between... gray...

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**DB:** *Hm.... are there any community or religious activities that you had when you lived in Tillamook you'd like to share about?*

**JH:** Not so much when I was in Tillamook.

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

**JH:** But, I've been studying the Bible for fifty years, now, ever since I first became a Christian... I didn't become a Christian 'til I was thirty years old, and it's been very interesting to compare different religious philosophies, and find out what they said, what they did, who did what to whom... it's been fascinating.

**DB:** *Where did you live when you were thirty?*

**JH:** Canby, for two years.

**DB:** *So... what are some of your thoughts.. what... what.. what was it like to live in the area of South Tillamook County? Do you think it was a good place to grow up, or...*

**JH:** It was a beautiful time to grow up, and a beautiful place to grow up. It's not... it wouldn't be the same to go back.

**DB:** *What made it so special?*

**JH:** It was quiet, peaceful, I can still hear the creek running...

**DB:** *The one in Beaver, or the one up on...*

**JH:** The one up on the Biddle place. I remember the place had two creeks... Bays Creek ran down on one side, then there was another small creek that I played in around.... kinda' kitty-corner to it, and went out past where the barn was...

**DB:** *Huh...*

**JH:** And I can remember the creek in the wintertime... there'd be ice all over and icicles... I can remember the creek in the summertime... I'd be sitting there on the bank, and Hazel Borba would pop up... she was a little devil on wheels....

**DB:** *(chuckle)*

**JH:** ... she was the same age I was, almost...

**DB:** *And who was that again?*

**JH:** Hazel Borba... Quentin's....

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**DB:** *Hazel Borba?*

**JH:** .... Quentin's cousin.

**DB:** *Aah...*

**JH:** Manuel Borba's daughter.

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

**JH:** She was about a year older than I was.... and just being a kid... then there was a hill on the other side of the creek, and we went up there looking for a cow and her calf, lo and behold, she had two of 'em. Identical twins.

**DB:** *That was pretty unusual, wasn't it, at that time?*

**JH:** Yes. Particularly for them to be identical.

**DB:** *Uh, huh (yes). Who were your best friends when you grew up? I don't usually ask that question, but I was...*

**JH:** Oh, I don't think I had any best friends, that...

**DB:** *You just had friends.*

**JH:** I just had friends. Nadine Sappington, Bobby Sappington, Quentin Borba, Loren Borba...

**DB:** *His brother.*

**JH:** That's his brother that got killed.

**DB:** *Ya.*

**JH:** That was a sad thing.

**DB:** *I imagine it was. We're about done with my questions... is there anything else you might want to share, that you'd want anyone to know about you or your life?*

**JH:** I don't know.... I know that ... that was my world, and it was a happy one. The kids a generation down from me, that's his world, and he can make it happy if he wants.

**DB:** *That's a good point. And again, the thing that stands out to me, that I rem... I... when I see the Beaver School and Brown, is you always are smiling... you have this wonderful smile on your face. You think you were a pretty happy kid, I take it.*

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**JH:** I was.. I... I had the best life any kid ever... I can remember going out in the hay meadow... I had a little gun that shot sucker sized sticks, and I put a fire cracker on one end of the stick, touch it off and pull the trigger... and the stick and the fire cracker would go up in the air and explode...

**DB:** *Oh, no...*

**JH:** Wonder I didn't kill myself! (laughing)

**DB:** *(laughing) Right! You must think on some of those memories, now, don't you? Think about....*

**JH:** Oh, ya... ya, you think about ... there's certain things that stick in your mind as you get older...

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

**JH:** And you're amazed because you didn't think that was so important at the time, but evidently it was.

**DB:** *I sure have heard from Helen and Sunny and from Gloria what a wonderful man you are, and uh.... they just... they really look up to you, so... I really appreciate that you let me come in and visit with you. I know that you're gonna' make a lot of people happy. I know that this place does trips... I... on May 29th.... I don't know if you could ever come over... back over to the area, if anybody could drive you over or what... but on May 29th we're having what we call the Gathering, and we have people from the... come from all over, who used to go to school in the area, and we... the kids are going to show what they've learned about these schools and they'll have displays and pictures... and if there's any way you could come, it would be wonderful. It's at noon on May 29th.*

**JH:** I'd love to, but it would probably be too hard to do. I have very little strength in legs now, to walk...

**DB:** *But you can take a wheelchair, can't you? You must have a wheelchair when you go out to the dentist and stuff, don't you?*

**JH:** Ya. We have a van that's a... they load us in...

**DB:** *What would we have to do to sweet talk the van driver to drive you over to the coast? (chuckle)*

**JH:** Uh... I don't think they'd fall for that.

**DB:** *Nyahh...ok. Well, if it's possible... if not, though, we'll uh... we'll share some of this stuff from the interview with people, so... my dad was thrilled to know I was coming to visit with you.*

**JH:** Oh, your dad's a great man.

**DB:** *I know that Quentin will be excited to know I came here, also.*

**JH:** Oh, just for curious sake... did he marry Cody's ... uh....



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**DB:** *Yep... Clarice?*

**JH:** Ya.

**DB:** *Yep. They have been married for fifty-four years, I think, something like that.*

**JH:** They were so darn much in love with each other.

**DB:** *They still are.*

**JH:** Good.

**DB:** *Ya... yep, they still are. And I was of course, their best child.*

**JH & DB:** (chuckling)

**DB:** *No, I have two... I have a brother and I have two sisters.*

**JH:** Oh, you came out even.

**DB:** *Yep... and my sisters... one of them teaches at Nestucca, and she has taught for twenty-six years, I think, at Nestucca. This is my thirty-first year of teaching.*

**JH:** You don't look more than thirty-one yourself.

**DB:** *Thank you. That was worth coming over here for... (laughing)... ya, it's been good. Ok, sir... I left my... I'm gonna' turn this off.... (end of tape)*

Transcribed by Darleen Creecy Cole