

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students
April 22, 2002

PDK: Well ...I'm...It might be interesting for you to know that Dean, when he was younger than you, used to live next door to me, Mr. Bones, that is...and uh, I used to take care of him when he was, uh, little...

Student: *We're going to have to get the mike closer 'cause it's not even moving. OK, stop...*

Student: *Can you say your name and the date?*

PDK: My name is Pearl Kiser and the date is April 22, 2002. I went to Beaver Grade School and it was located right out there, kinda' on a little knoll, right out towards the road...there was two rooms...first through fourth was in one grade and fifth through the eighth was in the other... or fourth through the eighth or something like that.

Dean Bones enters the room. Discussion with students. Dean asks Pearl to state her name again.

PDK: Pearl Kiser.

DB: *Ok, there we go.*

Student: *Do you have any idea when the school started and/or....*

PDK: I don't have any idea when it started, but when I was in, uh, fourth grade was the only year I didn't go to Beaver School, and I was at Otis for that year, and when I came back for fifth grade it was, the school had been moved to the gym, which was...and there was four rooms.

DB: *OK, you went to Otis.*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes)

DB: *School in Otis?*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes)

DB: *Really?? So that's the ... I think that was the school that was a joint district with Tillamook County...there were two schools, and I don't remember the number of the schools...Do you have any pictures or anything of that school?*

PDK: I just have my fourth grade class.

DB: *Do you??*

PDK: Uh, huh...I didn't bring it...that's the one I didn't bring.

DB: *Would ... could we get a copy of that one to make a copy...we have almost nothing of that school...I'm not sure exactly how to get information on it...*

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

PDK: Now it was located where Otis is now...it was clear down in ...where the...you know where the fire department is now...at Otis itself...that's...

DB: *But did you go to it from up the old highway that would have been in Tillamook County? I wonder if that's why it was a joint district...*

PDK: I don't know...

DB: *I think that's the one it was...I didn't realize that...Cool...You're the first person...*

PDK: I hated it!

DB: *Really.*

PDK: I mean ... I shouldn't say that...I disliked...uh, that nine months at Otis... was nine terrible months of my life... I wasn't at Beaver.

DB: *Umm...missing your friends? Is that it?*

PDK: Just...Beaver, mainly...ya, friends, and...uh...I had two dogs, they got killed, the teacher thought I was fat, which I was, and, I just had a terrible year.

DB: *She thought you were...so she must have said something?*

PDK: Oh, yes. And she even had my mother take me to what is now OHU (OHSU) to see if something was wrong with me. Nothing was wrong except my mother was a good cook! (Laughter)

DB: *So when we finish this interview with the stuff with Beaver, then I wanna' go back and and ask a little bit about Otis, OK? All right. So let's go on with what you're doing.*

Student: *After the school closed, what school did you and the students attend...*

DB: *OK. See, this school, when it closed, it became Nestucca Valley, so that doesn't really apply to anybody that went to Beaver. So go on to 6.*

Student: *Please describe the school building with as much detail as you can tell us about... (indistinguishable)and the inside of the building.*

PDK: OK, now, are you talking about when I was in first grade? For instance? First through fourth...or first through third...There was two rooms...was four grades in each room. Uh, we had two teachers, or course, one for each...I can't remember much about the school itself, except it was just an old building that sat out there on a little knoll, and then when we come back, what is now, used to be the computer room, I don't know what's in there now, there was four rooms, when I was in fifth grade...they had divided and they was two classes in each room. And what used to be the gym, that was...we had a very nice gym, and so they took that gym and made it into four rooms, and, uh, that's when I came back to fifth grade and then, of course, I finished out here.

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

DB: *So were the four rooms one and two, three and four, five and six, seven and eight?*

PDK: Uh, huh, yep. Yes.

DB: *Oh, I didn't know that. Huh. So who were your teachers when you were in, uh, lower grades?*

PDK: My first two years I had Mrs. Dietrich, uh, the third year I had, uh, Mrs. Win...something, Winfrey or Win...anyway, it's this lady here that I had forgot I had and I found my report card, I didn't bring it, but anyway, it was...it wasn't Winfrey, but it was something Win...

DB: *OK, well that will help.*

PDK: Ya, well I got it, if you need it, I can... And then my fourth grade teacher, of course was at Otis, and then my fifth grade teacher was Mrs. Finley and Mrs. Adams...I think Mrs. Finley got ill, and I had Mrs. Adams. My sixth grade teacher was dear Mrs. Parks,

DB: *Mmmm...*

PDK: and my seventh grade teacher was, uh, I think his name was Stanley Knight, and then my eighth grade teacher was Mr. Frer? who I was in love with, as an eighth grader. And in fact I even took care of his little boy at the time for a little bit, and after that I went to Nestucca High School.

DB: *So, was there a coat room in the old building, do you remember a coat room...*

PDK: I don't remember.

DB: *What about in one with the four rooms?*

PDK: We had a...we had closets...

DB: *In your...each class?*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes)

DB: *And drinking fountains, and things like that?*

PDK: As I remember it was outside in the...where we used to play in the common area..outside of the rooms, 'cause they all opened onto a common....

DB: *Oh, really?*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes)

DB: *The old gym did...*

PDK: Ya.

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students
April 22, 2002

DB: *Out back, or out front?*

PDK: No, they opened in...as I remember it...we...all four rooms...into this room what...

DB: *(Indistinguishable)*

PDK: Uh, huh, (yes)...inside the building...of course, they opened outside, too, but, they...

DB: *What was it used for, the common room?*

PDK: Gym. Inside play, that kinda' thing...

DB: *I'm real curious to know what that looked like...at some point, maybe, to have you just do a little short drawing of it...'cause I've not seen a picture of what that was like....with the rooms....*

PDK: I can't rem....that's all I can remember about it...

DB: *Did it have a stage thing?*

PDK: I don't remember.

DB: *...did later...*

PDK: And.. it might have been there..I mean...that stage might have been always the stage, as I remember, maybe it was...

DB: *Bathrooms were inside that building?*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes) ... No, I don't remember the old building...I don't remember if we had a bathroom inside or outside...

DB: *(Indistinguishable) I know the old building had a play shed. What about when you moved into this one...was there any outdoor play shed at all?*

PDK: No. Not that I remember of.

Student: *Was there a bell at this school?*

PDK: Yes, at the first one. And I can't remember if there was at the second one or not.

DB: *Any clue where that bell might be now?*

PDK: Uh, huh (no)

DB: *It might be interesting to find out.*

Student: *Can you tell from where to where the students lived when you went to this school....*

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students
April 22, 2002

DB: *In other words, where did they live? From where to where?*

PDK: OK...I don't really know the boundaries, but I know at the time when I was in grade school Hemlock had a school, uh, in fact that's where the Masonic Lodge is now, and they had an old play shed out behind, we used to play basketball in, that I remember...uh, and they didn't join with us until I was in high school...Blaine had a school, Sandlake had a school...and so the boundaries were somewhere...and of course, Hebo...so the boundaries were the same as the Hebo was always as far as I know...and I don't know where the break was with Blaine and Hemlock...I know East Beaver...uh, I do know East Beaver children went to Hemlock...that I know 'cause my cousins went there....

DB: *I think the break for Blaine was at the fifth bridge where Quentin Borba lives...I think beyond that bridge everybody went to Blaine, didn't they?*

PDK: I'm..I'm not sure...

DB: *I'm not sure either...because of Johnsons...*

PDK: I know...

DB: *...Wolf Creek....*

PDK: Ya...

DB: *OK...*

Student: *What are all the ways students go to school while you were in school?*

PDK: We had a bus...A bus...and walking. I always walked, of course, 'cause I just lived down across the bridge...I went home for lunch, also.

DB: *Was the bus one shared with the high school at that time, or was it just a bus for this school?*

PDK: I...When I was in grade school, I don't remember. Some of my memory is from when I was in high school...I remember more. But I know Bud Jones was on the board 'cause we'd always pray that something would go wrong with the heater because then he was always the one who told us we could go home if we didn't have any heat. And so then he was always the bus driver...later..and so I think he was always the bus driver as well as the board member.

Student: *Please tell us the time school started each day and when it was dismissed.*

PDK: As I remember, it was like....from nine to three-thirty...something like that.

Student: *What were the days during the year that students didn't attend school, such as Christmas?*

PDK: We had...as I remember, we had Christmas vacation, uh, and other than that I don't remember....I don't remember if we had spring break or not...

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students
April 22, 2002

DB: *Probably Thanksgiving...*

PDK: And we certainly didn't have any days off when the teachers did their report cards or....but you have to remember there wasn't near as many students, nor regulations, or any of that kind of falterall...

Student: *Please tell us about a typical school day....(indistinguishable)*

PDK: Sigh...I don't remember...it was just always fun, as I remember, as I say, I walked to school, walked to school with my friends, then I'd go home for lunch, and ...

DB: *When you got to school, did you go right in to the building, or did you to wait outside at all for the teacher to call you in?*

PDK: I don't remember...I was always late! PBLTTT!

DB: *(Chuckle.)*

PDK: They were sure of the time!

DB: *Did you live down by the church at that time?*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes)

DB: *So, you guys, you know where we cross the crosswalk to do the fish that...she lived right there at that house...that you cross into that lawn.*

PDK: I lived there from the time I was five years old until I moved out when I got married at eighteen.

DB: *Did you have recesses, do you remember?*

PDK: Yes. We had recesses. I don't remember...we also had a merry-go-round...I remember that, and it was out here for a long time, and it was here...and, uh, when I was..uh, we had what we called monkey bars when I was...say from the fifth grade up at least 'cause I have pictures of some of my friends on those...but I remember the merry-go-round...I could never go down a slide...I'm sure we probably had a slide, too, because I was always so fat, that my legs wouldn't hold me and I'd go down on my knees, so I didn't go down the slides...

Student: *Tell us about the regular curriculum.*

PDK: I can't remember too much about the curriculum...I can remember that we would...we had a time when we would sing...and, uh, and I still have some of the song books...I don't recall having a piano or anything like that, the teacher would just lead us, and of course, she was also the music teacher...one teacher did everything, and we as a group would sing these songs and it was always...that was always fun...we had art...I remember that, 'cause I never could draw a straight line

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

with a ruler, and it was just really work...we'd have penmanship...we had...have to practice our printing and our penmanship on paper, I remember that...

DB: *Was it the Palmer method at that time where you had to wind up your arm and...*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes)

DB: *Oh, it was..*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes)...but my arm never did get wound up very good. I can't write hardly anything to this day, but anyway, and my spelling is atrocious...my mother said they nev...

DB: *Spell it..*

PDK: (Laughing) I can't! My mother said they never taught...uh, us the sounds...whether they did or not, I don't remember, and she thinks that's why we...that my brother and I can't spell...I think it's just because we have something wrong, that we just can't spell!

DB: *So did each teacher then teach their own music?*

PDK: Oh, yes.

DB: *Oh. Hm.*

Student: *Tell about any extracurricular activities, likes sports, clubs...*

PDK: There wasn't any. We just made up our own. Uh, as far back as I can remember, we did, uh, have basketball, because...and we went up...I can remember, at...when we were in older..upper class, we went up to Hemlock one time and played basketball in that old gym, because I played against my cousins, I remember that. So there was some, like...and we'd play softball, at noon break and at recess, and...I don't remember going, ever going to any other schools and playing softball or anything like that, but I do remember going and playing basketball that time..one time.

DB: *So, we're not going to like, Garibaldi, and playing or anything...did that happen at that time?*

PDK: I can't remember that happening, no.

Student: *How were the students taught? Was everyone taught together in one group, or were there smaller groups of instruction? Did the teacher mostly lecture, or did the students study books?*

PDK: Well, as I remember, we had a variety, but we didn't get out of our desks. We had a desk assigned to us, and we stayed in it until recess time...until we had to go to the bathroom or something...we weren't up running around, or walking around, or...anything like that...we stayed in our...in our desks, and when we were in the four rooms, as I remember it, she would, the teacher, would like instruct the first graders in something and then she'd get them started on something, and then she's go to the second grade, or whatever...

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

DB: *Would she actually have you go to her desk, or something, or move out of your desk to go...*

PDK: I don't remember...no, we stayed in our desks...we had to get permission to get out of our desks.

Student: *Did, uh, did, what were the other kids doing while she taught, like, one grade?*

PDK: They always had assignments of something to do...they...none of us were allowed to get up and move around until recess time... or like if you had to go to the bathroom, you always had to raise your hand and get permission, that kind of thing.

Student: *Was there much homework?*

PDK: I don't remember homework until I got into the upper grades. I don't remember having homework in the lower grades.

Student: *If someone misbehaved in school, what were some of the punishments, and if possible, tell about some of the incidents you remember happening in regards to students being disciplined.*

PDK: I should remember because my brother was disciplined, but I don't remember what they did with him. But it wasn't like it is now. There was different rules...the teachers had complete authority. I mean, if they thought a child needs spanked, they got spanked. If they thought, you know, he needed swatted with a ruler, he got swatted with a ruler. You know, but I don't remember any big incident at all, I mean it never stuck in my mind...I do remember cheating one time myself...and...when I was in fifth grade, and the...and the...guy...boy...Jack Hulburt, was also cheating, and I can't even remember what subject it was...and he said, "Well, Pearl did it, too," and Mrs. Adams says, "I know Pearl would never do anything like that", and I never cheated again...that...to this day, I wished I had spoke up and said, "Yes, I did", but I didn't...(Laughing)...I didn't have enough nerve! But just her faith in me that said I know Pearl wouldn't do that, I never cheated again in school.

DB: *So if you got in trouble in school, if anybody did, were their parents supportive of school or would they have, uh, blamed the school...*

PDK: I definitely think that they would have supported the school, the teacher, we didn't have inservice days....I mean, teacher...where...where the parents would go and meet with the teacher...if the parents got called in, I mean...it wasn't to say Pearl was doing an excellent job, it just saying Pearl's being a pill...you know...and...so it didn't...I don't know if it happened very often or not...I don't know if they even called on Bud. (Chuckle)

Student: *Please tell about technology in the school: in other words, was there a telephone, what did the students typically write with?*

PDK: I don't remember there being a telephone ever in the school. We didn't have a telephone at our house until Dean's parents lived in our house when we were at Otis, and when we come back, there was a phone! Oh, we thought we'd died and gone to heaven! And right away it was taken out because my parents didn't want to pay the bill. His parents were much more up to date than mine. (Laughing)

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

DB: *And you have to understand that her dad was my grandmother's brother.*

PDK: And his grandmother lived in our house before we did, then we just traded houses 'cause my dad had polio and he couldn't do the steps and so that we just traded houses...as I'm told...I remember living down there, though.

DB: *You mean you lived in the house across from Nestucca Bend?*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes) until I was five...

DB: *I didn't know that!*

PDK: Or six, until I started school...I was waiting to ride the bus...waiting to ride the bus...moved to Beaver, never did ride the bus 'til I went to high school.

Student: *Tell us about when a student was hurt, or if there was some other emergency, please tell us about any emergency you remember.*

PDK: I don't remember any emergency...and 'specially in...when I was fifth grade on there must have been a phone or something...but Mr. Jones was usually the one that was notified, as I remember, about anything.

DB: *Because he was the chairman of the board, or...*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes)...I...that's what we always thought. We just thought he was Santa Claus (laughing) 'cause he'd let us out of school if we didn't have heat and that kind...but, but, usually it was...and I don't remember having any emergency that the teacher didn't handle, but I'm sure we did, but it didn't stick in my mind, 'specially since we had monkey bars and merry-go-rounds, I mean, there had to be something.

Student: *Was the community involved in the school, and was there any parent support club...tell about programs for the public, and tell how the building was used for community functions.*

PDK: When, (sigh), when it was the old school, by that I mean that one over there, we had this nice gym, as I remember...big gym, they used to even hold dances in it, I think...and that's where we'd have programs...now like at Christmas time, they put on programs...I mean we had plays...we practiced for those for weeks, it seemed like to a child, you know, and it was fun...I mean we did actually...the Nativity...I mean it was always, you know, some kind of Christmas, and then it would be Santa Claus Christmas, and Santa Claus would come, which was probably Bud Jones, and, you know, it was always a big affair...the Christmases...graduations were always a big...very well attended by the parents...as far as the PTA, I don't remember if they had those until I...after I was in fifth grade...I don't know when that started...like a PTA club...I don't remember that at all...until I was involved myself when my children were small...I don't remember.

Student: *Please tell us the names of your teachers and administrators...*

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

DB: *OK, she already named her teachers...who were...who were the principals of the school...was it one of those teachers?*

PDK: Eighth grade teacher...

DB: *Was the principal...*

PDK: And when we were over there, Mrs. Wormoth, it seemed like, was the upper grade teacher, and she was the boss. And here, over here it was usually...it was always it seemed like, the eighth grade teacher...if there was one, he was the boss or the superintendent or whatever.

DB: *So when you came back from Otis, Mrs. Wormoth was gone?*

PDK: Yes. I don't know at what point she left, but I do know from looking at my report cards that I had Mrs. Dietrich first and second grade and then Mrs., uh, ...

DB: *(Indistinguishable)*

PDK: Ya...third grade

DB: *Mrs. Wormoth must have taught here quite a long time, because there have been quite a few people from the thirties that talked about her as well.*

PDK: And maybe I'm wrong. Maybe that...maybe that name is just stuck in my mind, but I think Darlena, that my sister would know because she would have had her.

DB: *OK*

Student: *Would you please tell us what games you played at recess?*

PDK: (sigh) Mainly chase around... uh, I remember when in the older classes we played something like dodgeball, and we would play what I call softball, baseball... and it would be workup...I mean, we didn't have... you know, you just get kids and then you'd...when you got out you went back to the bottom and start all over again...you didn't have teams, in other words, you had...

DB: *So, a lot of people of the older generation talked about "Annie Over" and that sort of thing.*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes)

DB: *Did you play that, too?*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes). I don't remember playing it here at school. I get confused what I played at school and what...'cause when...'cause when we were home, away from school, we just ran all over the town... I mean, it wasn't like you be careful, somebody pick you up, it wasn't like it is now at all... I mean, pfttt... and my mother can whistle...she can...last I knew she could still whistle... and when we heard her whistle, we come home to eat, and we could hear her all over. We were never that far away that we couldn't hear her. Down to the river ... it's a wonder we all didn't drown... some of us

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

did. And we were just all over. And we played "Annie Over", and we'd play "Kick the Can" at night, and I don't know... it was just a good time.

Student: *Please tell us any stories you remember about things that happened at school or concerning school. We would appreciate hearing any stories you remember.*

DB: *So, if you remember any, any specific things that happened, you know, we usually have things that stick in our minds, that, uh, we recall... any other stories...*

PKD: I remember ... this is kinda' dumb, but I...and I don't remember what class I was in... but one of the teachers got sick. That was a big thing, and I don't know if it was my mother, or if I heard it, or if I imagined... somebody said she had a nervous breakdown or something... and now like that was Mrs. Dietrich, I'm sure. And they come and got her. That was...

DB: *Did she... oh, then she didn't come back?*

PKD: I don't remember that. And it could have been Mrs. Finley, because she ... she did leave and didn't come back.

DB: *Hmm*

PKD: But I... but by that time, if it was Mrs. Finley, like I would have been in fifth grade, so I should have been in... you know... but it seemed like it was Mrs. Dietrich, and it... Mrs. Dietrich, I know took me home with her one... and kept me all night, my friends said that'd never happen again.

DB: *Is that in Blaine?*

PKD: *Yes. She lived up Blaine Uh, huh (yes) And I don't know why she chose me, but anyway, probably 'cause I was hanging on her all the time.*

DB: *What was that like, uh, having a dad who had polio? And did he have polio long before you were born?*

PKD: No. I was... I remember two incidences when he could walk. Other than that, I can't remember when he... he... he got polio when I was, like, four, maybe... I can remember him being in bed, swearing, because he was in pain and couldn't get out of bed. I remember one time my brother, when daddy was still bedridden, got in the car on the way to school with a drunk man... that sticks in my mind... daddy laid there and swear, and momma cried and she went down to where she lives now... course there was a farm down there then... where Nestucca Bend is now, that was all farm... and got Mr. Holland, I think his name was, and he spoke real broken, and he kept saying, "We'll find him, m'am, we find him" ... well, there was the old Green Parrot Tavern... oh, don't ever go in the Green Parrot Tavern... if you went to Beckers for dinner, they preached to you every time you'd go to dinner that you did not go into the Green... well, of course, that's where we wanted to go! They told us not to go there, so we had to go see what was in there. And then children could go in the tavern. We could go in there and eat... we never ... I don't remember eating in there, but....

DB: *And that used to be just the other side of the Texaco Station.*

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students
April 22, 2002

PDK: Uh, huh (yes). Well, this man... my brother said, there's the school, and he wasn't going to stop, but he spotted the tavern, luckily, and Bud got out and come to school. And so when momma got up here, here was Bud. Bud was in trouble. With the teacher and everybody else, because momma was so upset.

DB: *Oh, I see. So you lived down by Nestucca Bend, he got in a car with the man to come here.*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes)

DB: *Ooooh, kay...*

PDK: He was down... they had to wait down by the road... my sister and brother...

DB: *So I don't ... a lot of kids nowadays don't understand polio at all, they don't even know what it is. Can you describe how it affected your dad?*

PDK: He couldn't walk. He... it was, uh... well, it was a horrible thing. He was a young man. He was in his thirties when he got it. And he was bedridden, they didn't know what was the matter with him... finally they diagnosed it as polio, and then he was in a full brace ... it affected his muscles some way... I'm not... anyway, then he was in a full brace and he tried to learn to walk with this full brace and my mother is one of eleven children and she had some younger brothers, of course, and they came and would stand on one side of him and mom would be the other and try to get him to walk, and it hurt. And my dad would swear. I remember that distinctly. And, finally he got so then he just had braces on his legs, and he walked...walked with two crutches... and I don't know what time span this was, but by the time we moved to Beaver, and I was six, he was walking with a crutch and a cane, and that's ... he walked with a crutch and a cane the rest of his life. And if he got too.... (tape stopped)

PDK: Anyway, uh, and daddy was, of course, I know you girls are familiar with the word depressed... but then it wasn't used... it wasn't thrown around like it is now... I mean, you know... daddy was just quiet and down... he didn't say much, he didn't do anything particularly... uh, except what he could to help at home, but he was ... he was a quiet man, anyway... (chuckle) unless he was swearing... and... so then he... when we were in... when I was in fourth grade he got this job delivering papers... the Journal Paper... and he did that until the day he died, and then we got to move back to Beaver. And I was up here about every weekend, anyway, I'd ride up on the bread truck from Otis, and then I'd deliver the papers with daddy, and I don't know if daddy stayed with Aunt Anna, who is Dean's grandma... was Dean's grandma, or if he stayed with you... your folks, I mean.

DB: *I remember riding with him on the paper route a number of times and delivering the paper... that was fun.*

PDK: Ya, see, now that was probably when your folks lived over by me.

DB: *Ya*

PDK: So, you weren't even born, probably, when they lived in that house down here by the church.

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

DB: *Oh, (chuckle) I always thought they lived there, but maybe not, I don't remember. But I do remember riding ... I thought they lived there... when I rode up Blaine with him and did the papers...*

PDK: Ya, but I mean, daddy and momma lived there ... ya, but I mean... where you lived ... where you lived was up here, and when your mom and dad lived in that house and rented it from momma and daddy that nine months that we were at Otis... I don't know if you were even born. You probably... you wouldn't have been... I was only in the fourth grade.

DB: *(some comment)*

PDK: Ya, you weren't even born, 'cause I was only...

DB: *...and your mom worked in the Cheese Factory, too, she was telling another group, too, about that.*

DB: *Discussion with students.... OK, let's keep going...*

Student: *I'd like to change the subject a little and learn more about you, if I could. If it's okay to ask this, when and where were you born?*

PDK: I was born in the old hospital in Tillamook.... and I was born the 22nd of July in 1937. And I ... I didn't finish telling about my dad. After he got that paper route, that's what he needed, because then he felt like he was supporting his family. And he... he was different after that... more content.

DB: *He did it until he died... what did he die of?*

PDK: Heart... a blood clot moved to his heart, and he was only fifty.

DB: *Oh*

Student: *What is your ancestry?*

PDK: Well, Phelps' was my mother...

DB: *Were they... what was their... were they from Denmark, were they from...*

PDK: My grampa Phelps had Irish in him, and my grandma Phelps' dad was German, which he didn't brag about during the war... I don't what my great-grandma was, and I don't know daddy's side, do you? I think they were a duke's mixture.

DB: *Ya, I don't know back very far, unfortunately, that's the one side that I don't have very much on.*

Student: *Why did your family or your ancestors move to this area?*

PDK: I haven't a clue. My... my mother's family was big... they were... like I told you, she was one of eleven children. They moved a lot. I mean, a lot. But I don't know how or why they ended up in Beaver... I don't know why grampa and grandma Dawson lived down at the Meda, if you know where

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

that is, out of Cloverdale... when my parents were married, that's where they lived. Momma probably told you that. But, why they came here, I don't know.... any of them.

DB: *Actually I have that written, and I need to go back and read it. Gramma wrote a story of why they had come, so...*

Student: *Describe any significant events that occurred during your childhood.*

DB: *Is there anything major that happened while you were young, even if was something that happened in the world, or just something even locally?*

PDK: Well, I can remember the end of the depression... you know, the stamps, and... one time I had a birthday and Uncle Bob was here, and everybody gave me money and I'd run over and buy saving stamps with 'em... I remember that... and I don't know how much... I mean, I'm sure it wasn't very much, 'cause you could get 'em like for a dime, but to me it was a lot... and I'd ... that sticks in my mind...

DB: *Where did you go to buy them?*

PDK: The post office across the street. The post office was... I don't remember if was right in there where Salings' had it then or not... Gramma Dawson by that time lived across the street from us in those cabins.

DB: *OK*

DB: *When you were a child... oh, first of all, what chores or responsibilities did you have growing up, or were you just plain spoiled?*

PDK: (Laughing) Darlena had did all the work.

DB: (Laughing) *That's her older sister.*

PDK: And, uh, one time I told my mother that the more you do, the more you have to do, and I was in big trouble. I was just being honest... to this day, I was just being honest. But anyway, uh, mainly when I was these girls' age, I went with daddy on the paper route, and I had a paper route here.

DB: *You had a paper route? Your own?*

PDK: Yes. Daddy... I did it for daddy. I delivered papers around locally... walked up as far as the second bridge, and I can't remember how far down that way I went, and all around up past where you used to live... used to get just drenched... but I had to do it every day... and I got.. I think he paid me \$2.40 a month.

DB: *Hmm (chuckle)*

PDK: And I had enough money to buy my school clothes, I gave a third of it to the church, because the church was always a big part of my life from the time I can remember... my parents didn't go, but I

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

did... and I saved a third of it, and I got to spend a third of it. And that was nobody's rules but mine... I mean, my parents didn't say you have to do this with this \$2.40... and I did that 'til I about got married. Uh, but Bud didn't want to do it, and Darlene didn't want to do it... well, I can see why Darlena didn't want to do it... she was too busy cleaning house... and I did, and I got a big, fancy bike... I had the nicest bike in Beaver.

DB: *Because of the paper route job?*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes) Daddy and momma got it for me for my birthday. It was even nicer than Judy Mason's.

DB: *(Chuckle)*

PDK: It was the only nicest thing I had ... she always had the nice dolls and everything and... I had that nice bike... had two lights on it and it had a horn, and ... I mean, it was a nice bike. I don't know why I ever got rid of that thing when I got older...

DB: *Ya... we do that a lot. When you were a child, if you remember this, what did you want to be when you grew up?*

PDK: I was going to be a missionary.

DB: *Really?*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes) A home missionary.. I didn't want to go over to Africa and get leprosy or anything like that.

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

PDK: You don't want to know.

DB: *OK*

PDK: Their arguing.

DB: *Really.*

PDK: At night... always at night. 'Cause of my bedroom .. they had to go through my bedroom to get to their bedroom.

DB: *So they didn't to, uhm, thinking you weren't hearing...*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes) They didn't know we were hearing, but we were.

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

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

PDK: I don't know... it just... I don't remember them ever sitting down, and really... I mean, it was just more by the way they lived. My mother was always very pretty, that I know, you know, and I knew I was never going to be pretty like my mother, but...

DB: *How'd you know that?*

PDK: Pfttt... I wasn't! (Laughing) I mean, you know... it was an accepted fact, so... uh, but I can't remember ... I can't remember learning anything specific ... I know I just idolized my uncles, my mother's brothers... I thought they were just... could walk on water... I remember that as young. And mainly I got a lot from the church of the... you know... I think, I think I did... got a lot from how you were to treat people, and... course I could also see how my parents did.

DB: *Right.*

PDK: Ya.

DB: *Did you have any favorite... you mentioned some games, what about, uh... and you mentioned sports...what about books, or hobbies, or anything you like to do...*

PDK: My favorite book, and I'm going to read it again one of these days, was Heidi.

DB: *Oh*

PDK: And I always wanted to go to Switzerland, and I finally got to go to Switzerland, and I know I seen Grandfather's cabin.

DB: *I also read that book and enjoyed it.*

PDK: I loved that book... I don't know how many times I read that book... as... when I was a young...

DB: *OK*

PDK: And my mother loved books, that I remember. And...

DB: *She still reads?*

PDK: Ya, she still does. But she reads love stories and westerns, and... I mean, she just reads. And... and, uh... but she always had fairy tales, and I still have some of those that she saw to it that we had books... always we had books.

DB: *Did she read to you?*

(Tape quits for a bit)

PDK: Well... I did babysitting... well, I had the paper route, that was an occupation, let me tell you. And then I did babysitting when I was you girls' age... and, then I did dishes in a restaurant... I never

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

did really wait tables as such... but I did ... them for Binford's at 10... what is it anyway? Hebo Inn. Did dishes there when I was in high school... and...

DB: *Like after school, you mean?*

PKD: Uh, huh (yes), and then on weekends, uh, huh (yes) ... then what I really wanted to do was get a job working at the high school because I just loved high school, I had such a wonderful time that I thought they should hire me in the office, but they didn't see it that way... so then after I got out of high school I went to work in Tillamook as a bookkeeper at Lamb Schrader Company, and Mr. Schrader wanted somebody that knew nothing... I was lucky, 'cause I knew nothing. He just wanted someone that had taken bookkeeping course in high school but didn't have any experience, because he wanted to teach them the way he wanted it done. So I was very fortunate.

And, uh, my cousin Beverly in Tillamook was the one that told me about the job, and I went in, and it wasn't anything like you'd think an interview would be... Mr. Lamb smoked a cigar and he had this cigar tucked in his mouth and it was about that long, and his feet were up on the table, crossed, and he was reared back like I like to do, and he sat there and talked to me. And told me he wanted somebody that knew nothing about bookkeeping and he hired me on the spot. I got out of school in May, the latter part of May, and I started there in August, and I worked for him for twenty-five years. And then off and on, I did some work for him, and then I did taxes for him on the weekends when I was raising my children... and then I did babysitting in my home... childcare, now they call it... I called it babysitting... and, uh, then after that I still on the... at tax time I worked for Mr. Lamb, but then I worked here at the school as a clerk, bookkeeper, whatever...

DB: *How long did you do that?*

PKD: Seven years... a little over seven years I did that... and if I had of just done the bookkeeping end of it, I loved it.. I loved working at the school, but I had to go to the board meetings. And the clerk was supposed to keep her mouth shut, and Pearl had a hard time... especially at budget time.

DB: *Ya*

PKD: And then I'd go home and I couldn't sleep... and besides, I couldn't spell, and I was supposed to be taking minutes, and it just was real stressful, that part... so I gave it up, which I should have never done, in hindsight, and then I went back to work at Lamb Schrader, not full time, but part time, and then Mr. Lamb died... and then I went back to work full time because I ran the company for a few months until they got ready to sell it... 'cause the manager was robbing 'em blind, so they come in and patted me on the head and said, you can do it. I couldn't do it, I didn't know anything about it except the bookkeeping end of it! But we did it, until they sold it, and then I worked there for a year as a clerk, because they did the bookkeeping down in Newport. And I didn't like the way they treated my customers, so I quit...

Then I worked for an insurance company in Tillamook, I worked for Federal Land Bank doing bookwork, and, uh, I liked that job... they closed that office... I worked for Tillamook Insurance.. loved that job... sat right out there and had windows all around it and I could wave at all the log truck drivers, and, it was a wonderful job! And that office closed. I worked there for nine months or so, and that office closed.

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

Then I went down to Lincoln City... I don't like Lincoln City or Otis... I mean, except to go visit my relation and shop. I do like to go down there and shop. But anyway, went to Lincoln City and worked for some lawyers... didn't like that job at all, 'cause I was having to spell and write... I have a real hang up there... I want to do bookwork... and so then Mr. Rosenberg needed a bookkeeper, so I been there for fifteen years and in July I'm quitting... or retiring. Uh, huh (yes)

DB: *You've had lots and lots of occupations.*

PDK: But I... bookkeeping ... bookwork is the love, uh, huh (yes), and when I was a child, I never told you that, they had an old store or something over here...

DB: *(mumble)*

PDK: I don't know... it was Beaver Mercantile... because I got caught... us kids snuck in there, and they had books, you know, receipt books and things... oh, I thought I had died and gone to heaven! 'Cause I took some of those things home, and I played office with them ... by myself or... you know... and I was always... and just... oh, I had a wonderful time... well, that house down there where we lived burnt this last time, and they found some found some receipts in there from Beaver Mercantile! (Laughing) I said I'm afraid, probably, that, uh, I don't know... daddy could have bought something, but I think it probably was from me stealing that stuff out of there as a kid.

DB: *(Chuckle) Somebody found ..*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes)

DB: *Oh, ya, they just found one... not too long and... OH... (Laugh)*

PDK: Ya, I was telling Fred, and he just thought that was hilarious...

DB: *(More laughter)*

PDK: Oh, but anyway, but we had a good childhood, I think, in Beaver.

DB: *We're getting close to being done here. Uh, tell us about your own family.*

PDK: I have three children... two boys and a girl... my oldest son is a priest in Portland, uh, my next son is Melvin and he works for Paul Keene Russell Chevrolet as a mechanic... he was a born mechanic... very proud of him... and ... except that he likes to party too much... don't get into that, you girls... it's nothing but trouble... anyway, he likes to party... and then I have a daughter that I adopted when she was four, and she's in Montana, and I raised her oldest son, Travis, and he was twenty-two Saturday, and he's in Salem...

DB: *Did I hear that he's getting married?*

PDK: Yes, and he's getting married in July... 6th of July he's getting married if Gramma survives that long... or if Denise does!

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

DB: Ok, so you mentioned that it was good living here.. any thoughts about living in the area... any other thoughts... uh, about the people in the area, what it was like growing up here... any general comments?

PDK: No, I... like I say I had a wonderful time when I was growing up... I didn't spend much time at home... Masons were a big part of my life, uh, I don't know if any of you know Susie's mom and dad, and I remember when they got precious little Susie, and when they got Julie, I was in high school then when they got Julie, so I was probably out when they got Susie.. I know I was, and uh, they were a very big part of my life, because Judy was an only child, and they kinda' took me with 'em, I think to keep Judy company, and uh, so I lucked out all the way around.

But even before the Masons, there was always someone that took me under their wing... and then there was Mattie and Jay Wiesenhunt that took Judy and I places, when our parents finally relented and let us go with 'em.. but as young children, we just... I mean, there was a big barn out here in this field, out here where Boggs'... in between our house and Boggs' house.. and we used to go out there and swing off of that... I don't even know who the barn belonged to, probably didn't care... and it had a rope in it and hay, and we'd swing off and drop off into the hay, we'd play Tarzan... you could hear us all over Beaver, yelling like Tarzan... cowboys and Indians, Roy Rogers... Gene Autry was always my favorite, but anyway... I still have my guns.. I should have brought 'em, but I figured that I would get in trouble if I brought guns to school! (Laughing) They're little metal guns like this.

Student: *Really?*

PDK: Ya, but I had a real good... I can remember when Hodgdon's... the two girls... that was dramatic... the two girls drowned... we... we all had a swimming hole down... there used to be a bridge across... by the mink farm... down in there... over to the Hodgdon's farm...

DB: *Were they your age?*

PDK: And we swam... they were older, just a little bit older than us... uh,

DB: *Just when you leave Beaver... you just leave Beaver, go around the corner, and all that on the left is what she's talking about.*

PDK: Uh, huh (yes) There was a swimming hole down there, but if you got out too far, it was a drop off and also the current of the river... and the girls... those two girls could swim... Lois and Carmen? Or Lois and somebody... anyway, one of them got in trouble and the other one went to help, and they both drowned... they were in the same family. That was... that was something that none of us kids that lived in Beaver at the time will ever forget that.

DB: *Hmmm (mumble) So, we're really interested not only in the facts of when school started, etc., but in stories, which you've shared a number of them, particular incidents that you remember... Pretend that you're sitting here talking to your grandchildren, or great-grandchildren, what are some stories that you'd like them to hear, either about your life experiences or your parents' life experiences, or ancestors. Is there any story you'd like to pass down to them? That you can think of right now?*

Interview with Pearl Dawson Kiser

Conducted by Dean Bones & Nestucca Valley Middle School 6th grade students

April 22, 2002

PDK: No, not that I haven't told you. There was boundaries at the school... over here where the firehall is there was a little shack up there on the bank... you were not to go over there. Well, pfttt! You know, how kids are... I mean, we weren't any different then than you kids are now. You tell us don't do that, that's where we wanted to go... and we were caught in there, I remember that. But I don't ever remember ever getting in any deep, deep trouble.

DB: *OK*

More discussion, visiting, showing pictures, Dean talking about the Gathering in May.