

Answering Questions About Growing Up in South Tillamook County

By Bill Westley

Answering questions posed by 6th graders April, Alex and Whitney.

Note that this email letter was written on May 16, 2002. It was edited and retyped by Dean Bones on September 18, 2021.

When and where were you born?

I was born February 2, 1940, at the Tillamook Hospital which was then located closer to downtown Tillamook and later converted to apartments.

What is your ancestry?

My father is essentially a descendent from what is now the United Kingdom. I believe him to be from England, Scotland or Wales. On his mother's side was a German ancestry and Pennsylvania Dutch. All of my father's ancestors immigrated to the American colonies about the mid-1700s I think. I have done a good deal of genealogy on the subject, so most those ancestors came across about that time. Most went into Virginia, New York and the surrounding areas.

My mother's ancestry was essentially English, German and French. Her father's ancestors also migrated to the American colonies prior to 1755 which is the oldest date I have for her line in Connecticut. I'm not sure of the heritage, but the name was Badger. They were probably English. Other lines for sure were from Germany and France. Some of Mother's lines were here about the time of the Mayflower and have been traced to England to a John Winslow known to be living in 1400 in Burton Count of Oxford with two generations further back without dates. But, much later, in the early 1600s Kenelm Winslow was living and died in Salem, Massachusetts. It turns out that Kenelm Winslow was the brother of Governor Edward Winslow who came over on the Mayflower and, of course, signed the Mayflower Pact.

Where did you live? Did your parents move around from house to house?

Yes, my parents did move around a lot, and it was not until about 1951, twenty-five years after they were married that they were able to buy their own home at 16800 Sandlake Road. They first lived in Wheatland, Oregon. Then they moved to above Blaine, Oregon, because my dad's folks lived on a ranch there. They then lived in the "Maben House" above Blaine near Brownings (*the Powder Creek area db*) then to live with Harry and Georgia Jones above Beaver, then at the end of the road above Bob Cole's place on Tony Creek off of Blaine Road. Next they lived above the fourth bridge just above the Wolf Creek Road. Next was the "Steven's House", a house up on the Browning Road. This house burned. Next was a move to Hathawaymeade in Tillamook. I must have been born somewhere along this time because I was about 3 or 4 years old at the next place, Woods, Oregon. We lived in a cabin at Woods on the what is now Resort Drive. I think it is still there. The 10th place we lived was the "Goldenstein Place" on what is now called the Borba Road about one mile from the Nestucca Road. The 11th place was to the "Redberg Place" on Redberg Road in Oretown. We only lived there a year or so, and then we moved to the "Holgate Place" up East Beaver

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Answering questions posed by 6th graders April, Alex and Whitney. Creek Road in the spring of 1946. In 1951 we moved from there to 16800 Sandlake Road, the last move.

Why did your family move to this area?

My mother grew up in the area on a homestead of her parents across the Big Nestucca from what was then known as the Kostic Place. Her folks moved here from Clackamas County and another homestead near Table Rock. There was more work to do in the woods felling and bucking timber.

My dad's parents lived on the ranch above Robert Cole's farm east of Beaver. I don't know who lives there now. It was called a ranch, but it is essentially what we would call a small dairy now. When my parents were married in 1936 they came here from Wheatland, Oregon, on a promise of work and ultimately my dad ended up working in the woods felling and bucking timer most of his working life. So, as always, a move to the area was essentially to move closer to work or employment.

Tell about your chores or responsibilities as you were growing up.

In those days people burned wood for heat, so there was always chores to do splitting and cutting wood for the heater and wood cooking stove. I would also go with my dad to cut wood out of old logging sites. There were always chores to do of miscellaneous items. Occasionally we would pick fox glove blooms or chittum bark to sell for cash.

Also, I was responsible to walk to the neighbor dairy to pick up a gallon of milk in a glass container and leave another clean one for the next day or so. Many times I would walk about 1,000 feet to the mail box to pick up mail or place mail to be sent. When we lived on Sandlake Road there was always brush to be trimmed and the lawn to be mowed.

What were your favorite games, sports, books, hobbies, etc.?

When we were very young we would, of course, play Hide and Go Seek, Kick the Can, etc. When I was in grade school I was interested in softball, basketball, etc. I don't recall any special interests in books although I liked adventure types of books. Hobbies were related to whittling, wood crafts, collecting pin-on buttons, etc. Later, I gained an interest in art projects, etc.

What do you remember most about your mother and your father?

Mostly what I remember about my mother and father was the honesty and goodness that they instilled in us children. They taught us the clear distinction between right and wrong and to always do the right thing.

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What was the best advice that your mom or dad gave you or what did you learn from them?

The single most important advice related to a work ethic, and it has served me well. I believe that the lessons learned in managing money early and earning our own money gave us children a sense of worth and good judgement throughout my adolescence and mature lifetime. I, too, have instilled in my children to always do a good job in whatever they would undertake, essentially, to do a better job than is required so there would never be a problem. There are many benefits of that.