

Remembrances of the 1940s and 1950s Page 1 of 2

Mostly about Pacific City

by Ivan W. Daniel

4/10/00

NUHS Class of 1957

Typed by Dean Bones 2022

Ivan is writing in response to a letter written by Hallie T. inviting him to The Gathering, a meeting of people who have lived in South Tillamook County to see what Nestucca Valley Middle School students have done and were doing researching South Tillamook County history.

I want to thank you for writing to me about your upcoming project. I graduated in the class of 1958 from NUHS and was born in Hebo, Oregon. I was raised in the Pacific City and Woods areas. I fished the Nestucca River from the ocean to the head waters many, many times.

I am familiar with where Blaine is because I deer-hunted and also did logging there after I graduated high school. My real love is the ocean there and the dory fishing you mentioned.

During those days I owned my own 20 ft. square-ender dory built by a man named Lloyd Kellow who lived in Pacific City back in the early 1950s. The boat was made out of spruce and had a tip well where the motor was placed.

I fished from Haystack Rock north to Tillamook Head both commercial and charter. In that time from 1951 until 1965 there weren't any main roads or houses on the beach. We had to use jeeps to pull boats in and out of what now is Pacific City turn-around.

In Pacific City there was a restaurant called "Grease Petes", a pool hall, a store owned by a man called Dutch Shermer. Also there was a service station, and it was owned by Dan Reddekopp. This was pretty much what the town consisted of. As far back as I can remember which would be back in the late 40s every year the community would have a fish fry in a field beside the bridge that crosses over to the ocean at Pacific City. During this same event cub airplanes would fly in some with pontoons, and they would land in the river and come to shore by boat. All together there would be about 100 planes plus all the local town people.

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The dory fishermen would catch all the fish, and the ladies would prepare them with all the trimmings. This same event went on every year until the late 1960s. There were times when I went fishing and came back empty handed, but I always had a boat load. This was an expression I used when I had good luck and caught a limit of fish.

You may never have seen a glass float, but many times I picked them up off the shoreline when a west wind blew during the day or night. The Japanese used them to float fish nets in the ocean. When the storms would break them loose they would float into shore at Pacific City and south as far as a small town called Neskowin.

I moved away in the 1970s and haven't been back home since this time.

I wish I could have been in person there at The Gathering 2000, but I'm only 2,500 miles from there. I hope your project goes well. I'm enclosing a picture of me and my older brother.