

Hunnicut, Connie GROSHONG -

My Life in Cloverdale, Oregon

Written in about 2003

Typed by Dean Bones January 22, 2023

My name is Connie GROSHONG Hunnicutt. I was born in Tillamook to Merrill Eugene and Florence Marguerite MILBY Groshong on August 27, 1930. I have 2 older sisters, Louise and Jean.

We lived in Cloverdale on Highway 101 across from the Presbyterian Church. The house is still there, and I would say that it is getting close to 80 years old (*in 2003 db*). It had a dirt basement and was heated with a wood furnace. The main floor had 1 bedroom, 1 bath, the kitchen, a pantry, dining room and a living room. The upstairs had 3 bedrooms and a sewing room. (*This house is on the south side of Parkway Drive just as you drive onto Parkway Drive from Highway 101. db*)

My sister, Jean, and I shared a bedroom, and Louise had another bedroom. At times our mother rented out the other bedroom to school teachers.

My father was a druggist, and the remodeled version of the store was where it is today. (*In 2023 it is a resale shop, The Rusty Cow. db*) It had a soda fountain and was a popular place for kids and farmers to come for shakes and ice cream. My father graduated from OAC, now OSU, in 1903.

We had a cocker spaniel named Duke. He could bring mail to our house from the store.

Cloverdale Grade School was up the street 2 houses from us. We were lucky to be able to walk to school and go home for lunch. The school had many steps up to the front door. We would play *Mother May I* on the steps for entertainment.

It had grades 1st through 9th, and it seems like there were 2 grades in each room. There was a big auditorium where plays were held a couple of times a year. We also had box socials. The girls would decorate the box and fix food. They would have an auction, and we would hope the right boy would bid enough for our box.

There was a big basement where shop classes were held. It also had a big covered shed where we would play at recess and after school. We played Ante Over.

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Three teachers I can remember were Miss Suva, Mrs. Duval, and Myrabelle Beatrice BLOOM Paul who later married Don Mahan who was also a teacher. I still hear from her.

My special friends were Billy Owens, Howard Owens, Elaine Brandt and Clara Hammell.

I was in 4-H. I won a trip to summer school at OSC. I had won 1st place with an angel food cake at the Tillamook County Fair. My leader was Mrs. Elmer Johnson. I came down with chicken pox 2 days after I arrived at \$-H Summer School.

I also took tap dance lessons with my friend, Clara, and we were in several contest. They had declamation contests (*speech contests db*) in Tillamook which I took part in. You would learn different poems and compete with kids throughout the county.

My mother and father were hard workers in the drugstore. The hours at the store were from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM 6 days a week. And my mother served on the school board for several years.

We had chores to do at home - wash and dry the dishes, iron and help with canning in the summer. We were also expected to pick blackberries in the summer and sell them to the local grocery store to help pay for our school clothes. We would get 2 or 3 cents per pound. We would pull our wagon to the best berry patch which was sometimes 2 or 3 miles from home.

We never had a bicycle, but we did have skates and would skate from home to downtown. We enjoyed going to the Cloverdale Cheese Factory to make wax gloves from the hot paraffin and eat curds before it was turned into cheese.

We wore Armiskow saddles and Oscar Osted wooden shoes which were popular. (*Note that this history was written in hand, and I'm not sure of the spelling of either of those shoes. db*)

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There was a theater in town, and we had our favorite movie stars. Like all kids we were mischievous. We would knock on doors and run. One time my sister tied a dead snake on a lady's door. The lady opened the door and fainted. I was with her, and I'm sure we were reprimanded.

We learned to swim in the Nestucca River down from the old covered bridge in town. We would take a lunch, go through the cow pasture to the river, and spend the day.

Also in the summer we would have our own version of a carnival in our basement. We would have different things to taste, smell and feel, and the person blindfolded would have to tell what it was. Sometimes on Saturday night when our parents were out dancing we would have taffy pulls.

We had a dentist, Dr. Severs, and a doctor, Dr. Brown, in town.

In 1944 my dad had a heart attack. Things were tough. He needed lots of rest. He put the store up for sale, and a wonderful man and family, Max Rothenberger, bought the store. At the time I was a sophomore at Nestucca High School. We packed up and moved to El Monte, California, where we had friends. It was a cultural shock going from a small school to one with 2,500 students.

My father recovered and was anxious to get back into business. He came back to Oregon and bought a drug store in Sutherlin, Oregon. It was a dismal town, but we adjusted. I graduated there in 1948.

I attended OSC for 3 years. We moved to Roseburg where I met my wonderful husband. We have 3 sons and 5 grandchildren.

My father died in 1958, and my mother died in 1997.

We still enjoy walking down memory lane in Cloverdale.