

June 1, 2005

Dear Mr. Bones:

Your name has come to me by way of my daughter's, in-laws, Chris and Patsy Weber of Rockaway.

I have enclosed a history, if you will, that my grandfather, Virgil P. Magarrell of Tillamook, fashioned.

Please remember that at the time he composed this remembrance, he was in his early 80's.

He was born in Iowa and he contracted scarlet fever that left him deaf, I believe in his early teens and his family moved out here so that he could attend the deaf school in Salem.

As a child I remember our trips to Tillamook and he lived in a shanty at what is now a car dealership. If you were headed north thru Tillamook and you come to the end of the street and turn left, go about a half a block and immediately turn right (north), he lived on the right on the banks of what I remember was a river or slough. I can remember that when the water was high, he could feel the water slapping against his shack. His home did not sit on the ground, but on big planks.

My mother told me that he was a refrigeration man and serviced ice machines all up and down the coast. I have heard tell that he helped build the blimp hangars that are located just south of town. Supposedly, he also helped with the construction of the "Morning Star". I have no documented proof of these statements, just family lore.

I do know that he built round, wooden tanks that had a strap at either end. As a kid I remember seeing them, didn't give it much thought, but how do you make straight boards go in a circle, and be water tight...? He also built boats, not big ones, my brother has one housed at his place. We have lots of pictures at the beach at Cape Kiwanda, during what I would guess by the looks of the vehicles, during the 40s... launching what I guess they call dories....

Anyway, I hope that you find this information interesting and I can answer any questions for you, I hope that you will feel free to contact me.

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