

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

*(Dean Bones' interview questions are in italics, and Rose Nufer's answers are typed in a regular font. Three 6th grade Nestucca Valley Middle School students, Andrea Williams, Maggie Allen and ?, also participated in the interview taking photos,, running other equipment and participating in the the interview process. At the time of the interview Rose was in her later 80s.)*

*You went to what school?*

Pardon?

*You went to what school was it?*

To the Hemlock Store (school) the first year. Because we, you know, there was just the four of us and I guess, I don't know where the other children were going to school at the time. We lived . . . we star . . . my folks came up there when I must have been about five. And they had . . .we were on the Gilbert? place . . .the last place on the . . . East Beaver.

So my dad got a buggy and a horse, and my oldest brothers, Gayton and Jim, and I went to Hemlock. And the neighbors made such a fuss about it cause they was afraid we was going to have trouble cause you know how kids are with their horses and they was running down the road all the time. And so Dad and the neighbors got together and, uh, let's see there was four of us and the two Holgates and the ? Woods and I think there was a Stults. They all lived close enough to have a school. And so that's how it started (East Beaver Creek School - db). And I went to school until I was in the 5th or 6th grade, I don't remember.

Then we moved out and went to the Biddle place. That's up Blaine and you know where Quentin Borba lived, and she was my teacher, Violet Borba was my teacher until I was in the, I can't remember, the sixth or seventh or eighth grade.

*So when you went to Hemlock your first year, right, about how many kids went there at that time?*

I can't really remember, Honey.

*And who was your teacher?*

I don't remember that either.

*Okay. And then when you went to East Beaver School, who built the school?*

Pardon?

*Do you know who built the school at East Beaver?*

Well I think it was donated to the Woods's lived. Lloyd Woods? Do you remember Junior Woods?

Ya.

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

Well, their folks lived there at that time and I think that Junior Woods' dad was the one that donated the ground cause it's on their ground and I think they're the ones that put up . . . got the building. It was just a one room house.

*It was pretty small, wasn't it?*

Ya, just a one room . . . eight or nine kids, you see.

*So all the time that you went there was that about how many kids . . . ?*

That's about what happened.

*How did the teachers teach?*

Well, there wasn't all grades, see, for that many children. But she tried to teach em all. My oldest brother graduated . . . well, he really didn't graduate from high school but he took . . . but some of the teachers gave him enough lessons that he knew as much as . . .

*So, did the teacher teach everybody at once, or how did she teach? Did they come up to her desk, or . . .*

Uh, I kinda think, if I remember right, that she had a bench right next to her desk and she'd call the children up from the first grade on up till . . .

*Could you all hear the lessons, then, that everybody else was getting?*

Oh ya! Sure.

*Did that help, or was that hard to . . .*

Well I don't know . . . she didn't seem to . . . We had one teacher that was really young and then we had another . . . remember one teacher and she brought her boy with her and her name was Mrs. Finch. . . at that time. She lived in Tillamook.

*Do you remember a first name of her at all?*

What was her first name? Charlie Finch was her husband.

*Okay, that'll help. Okay, so who were the teachers you had besides Mrs. Finch?*

That's the only . . . I can't remember the others. . . just Mrs. Finch. Her oldest boy married my auntie.

*Okay. So you had textbooks, right?*

Pardon.

*Did you have textbooks that you used?*

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

Oh ya, oh ya. I can remember just, you know, the main ones. Reading and writing . . . not the writing . . . not the writing but arithmetic. She taught geography.

*Did you learn the Palmer method of writing?*

Yes.

*Not like we do today.*

No.

*And, what about discipline. How did the teachers discipline if someone got in trouble?*

Well they used their . . . most, I remembered, I don't remember being only Mrs. Finch . . . she used a ruler.

*Ooh. What would she do with the ruler?*

Whack you on the hands with the ruler.

*Really.*

But in those days, you know, they could do most anything to make em mind.

*Did many kids need discipline? Did many kids ever talk . . .*

Well most of them were my brothers, see. And Jimmy was the worst one I could admit. And he got in trouble quite a bit.

*Really. For what kind of things?*

Just doin onery little things like boys do.

*Oh, no . . . boys do, huh!*

One time I can remember, I can remember this one because it was Mrs. Finch, and uh, the older children, you know, were in the back of the room, and he had a piece of chalk. And he flipped that chalk, and it went right down the front of her. The room wasn't very big. And, Boy, did he get it then. And then he was going to have to stay in for a week after school and so I was the one that flipped up and said that I didn't think that was a good idea because Jimmy had work to do at home, see. So I had to stay too.

So Dad came down and neither one of us had to stay.

*Oh really.*

Ya. And it was just cause he flipped that chalk and it went down the front of her.

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

*So if something like that happened, did you also get in trouble at home?*

No, I can't remember, uh huh. No cause my Dad was very strict and we knew we had to be home.

Ya.

And that's the only time we had to tell Dad anything that happened. He knew because we had to stay after school.

*Ya. What were the other families last names that went to East Beaver Creek School.*

There was the Holgates, and the Woods, I think it was Junior Woods went, and I think there was a Stults. I'm not sure.

*So do you remember the Holgates.*

Oh ya.

*Because we got some letters from . . .*

They were twins.

*Is it Nina?*

There was Nadia and Noni (?) they called them, but I don't know what their real names were. I don't remember.

*Their relative . . . one of them works at our school.*

Really?

*And they came to visit one day. If they come again, would you like to see them again. Would you remember them some?*

I don't know. They're about my age, see.

*I'll find the letters and share them with you.*

*So is there anything interesting that you remember about any certain teacher? Any special thing . . . the way that they dressed or anything that they did . . .*

Well, they always dressed you know with dresses. At that time none of us had pants, slacks or anything like that. They always dressed with the long skirts and blouses. And I can't remember where they stayed. They had to stay some place. I don't know if they . . . if the young ladies stayed with the Woodses or who they stayed . . .

*So they never stayed with your family . . .*

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

No. Uh huh. No there were too many of us.

*Now when you say that you lived on the Gilbert place, is that where Helen (Phelps) lives now, or . . .*

Uh huh (yes).

*Wasn't there a homestead a ways further?*

No, no, I don't think so.

*Okay, and there was only one teacher at a time at your school?*

Oh yes, just the one teacher.

*And, you never had a man teacher?*

No, no man teacher.

*And you said one was pretty young. How young do you think . . .*

Well, to me she seemed young. But she had schooling, you know, she must have went to college or high school or something or other. She must have been nineteen or twenty.

*And what kind of clothing did the kids wear or did you wear? Do you remember and certain styles or fads or? Was it homemade clothes or . . .*

Lot of it was homemade. Now the Holgates . . . they were homemade and I don't know about the Woods. He was different. And Stults too. He lived some ways down. But the first year we went to Hemlock, Stults and the Ed, I can't think . . . I was trying to think of his name.

*Creecy?*

I was thinking of that but I don't think his name was that. He lived . . . later on he had a sporting goods shop up by Garibaldi in that area. He just died just a couple of years ago. What was his name. His first name was Ed, I know, because he went with us. I can remember him going with us in that buggy.

*Who drove the buggy?*

Oh of course Jim.

*Was he the oldest?*

No, he was next to me. Gayton was the oldest. And I don't remember this really, I should but I didn't . . . I do a little bit because boy he'd just run that poor old horse when it was good weather and one of the boys would sit in the back and have a stick and put it in the wheel. Clickity click click. I just can still remember that.

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

*So which brother is now called Doc?*

Doc? John. He was born up there. He was the last to be born on East Beaver.

*So he's younger than you then.*

Oh yes, quite a bit.

*Okay.*

See, there was Enid, Charlie, Charlie was born up here at Beaver in that big house where there used to be a big red barn and the house is really nice now. Then we moved up to Hemlock. And then we went to East Beaver.

*So name all the ones in your family. The oldest was?*

Gayton, Jimmy, myself, Enid, Charlie, Merle, Roy, Doc, John and Shirley.

*Wow. So . . . what kind of things . . . did you have chores on your farm that you had to do.*

Well, I didn't do much of it cause see I was the oldest girl and I took care of the children and helped Mother. We always had a big garden and uh I think that there was some cows that went with the place. Dad had it leased out. And uh, he would milk, of course by hand, and bring the milk to the house and we had a separator that separated the milk. And I think he sold the cream and used the milk for pigs.

*Where did he . . . did he haul the milk or anything to a cheese factory?*

I don't think there was a cheese factory around.

*I know at some point on East Beaver Creek . . .*

Well later on I think they did, but Dad never did. See Dad . . . we lived at East Beaver . . . I must have been in the 5th or 6th grade when we moved to Brown School . . . Brown School . . . you have a piece about the Brown School.

Ya.

And I was in the Brown School until I was in the 6th grade or 7th grade. I can't remember.

*Do you remember who your teacher was there? Oh, you said Viola.*

Viola.

*And about how many kids went to that school?*

I can't remember that, Dean.

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

*Do you remember any names of kids or teachers who went there?*

I remember ole Quentin Borba, though, that's about the only one.

*He was there at the same time?*

Sure, he was a tiny little boy, you know.

*We had a man drive from Portland . . . a Mr. Blalock who went to Brown School.*

He didn't live on Borba Rd. though I don't think.

*So what did the school look like on the inside of the school at East Beaver?*

Well, it was just a big room like this and it had those funny little desks - the chairs and the desks were together and you'd lift up the lid to put the books in.

*How about how many desks were fastened together?*

They weren't fastened together.

*Oh, I see. I thought they were.*

No. But you did have benches in the front, see, so you could come up and . . .

*Was it about as big as this room? It wasn't very big, was it?*

About as big as this room.

*So maybe 12 feet by 20 feet or something like that.*

Must about that and we played Auntie Over and all that stuff you know cause we could go 'round the building.

*So Annie Annie Over, is that what it was?*

Ya, Auntie Over they called it. You'd throw the ball over the schoolhouse.

*Ya. Can you think of any other games that were played besides that.*

We played ball, you know.

*Baseball or softball or something.*

Ya, cause there's eight of em you know. We could play ball.

*Did your teacher play with you then too or not?*

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

I can't remember her doing that. No.

*What did you do for water?*

Well, they'd bring it in in a bucket. And they had a dipper.

*From?*

From where she lived I guess.

*And so you'd dip it out to drink?*

Dip it out . . .

*And what about for bathrooms.*

Oh, we had an outside uh outside. . . And then I think, I'm not sure, but it seemed like to me that we had a little building to play in when it was wet.

*Like a play shed or something.*

Like a play shed.

*I think we might have a picture of one of those. So sometime I'll try to show you some pictures that we have at this point.*

*Do you know of any pictures anywhere that somebody has that we might copy of East Beaver Creek School?*

No. . . I'm sure that the people that had it was the neighbor next door to Jimmy.

*Actually, George Porter used that building for years as a garage. He moved it down on his farm.*

Oh, that's the one.

*And . . . but it's gone now. It was there not too long ago.*

Well, Porters must have bought the place from Woods then.

*Okay. Did you have any playground equipment or anything . . . any swings?*

I don't remember any of it. Uh huh.

*What about about balls . . . not any playground balls probably?*

Ya we had balls mostly. And then of course we'd chase each other around. I don't what that was.

*What hours. . . when did you go to school and when was it over every day then?*



# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

I can't rightly remember. Seemed like we went at about 8:30 and got out at 4:00. And of course we had recess. . . two recesses and one at noon. . . for lunch. We all had to bring our lunch, you know. And all of walked I'm sure. But I don't remember how far Holgates . . . see Holgates lived quite a ways . . . or Stults lived too. I don't know how they got there.

*Where did Holgates live?*

They lived in that . . . um . . . that ranch where they called the Pig Ranch, you know . . .

*A sharp corner?*

Ya, ya, and it was right close to the bridge where the crick run down through and there's a bridge there . . . I think there still is a bridge there. Well that's supposed to be the Holgate place.

*Oh.*

And the rest of them were just Porters and Woodses. There was no homes\_\_\_\_\_ in there at all.

*Did Porters live there when you lived there also?*

Uh, when we came back from Blaine or the Biddle place up Borba Road, we came back and stayed a year or two above . . . not on the place where Jimmy and Helen lived, but they called it the Denim place above the schoolhouse, and Mother had a nervous breakdown there and that's when I started high school up there at the Biddle place. And then we moved back to the Duram . . . and then she had a nervous breakdown, and I had to stay there for a year. And then, that was when . . . Porters had that place then and I took care of one of their baby boys - the last one she had and I must have been about 14 - 15 years old then. Then the folks moved to Meda, and that's where I met your uncle.

*So the house that Helen lives in, is that the house where you . . .*

Well, no, not really. They built . . . we were there when they built the new barn. But it was a little house, and then Jim and Helen bought the place . . . the Gilbert place. Why they must a had the house now there . . . the one they're livin in now. But the house was in the same place.

*What . . . did you get very many vacations or days off from school?*

I don't remember any of em.

*Christmas or anything. . . probably Christmas.*

Just Christmas . . . but of course we had programs at the school and all that stuff.

*What kind of programs?*

Just like we surely do now, I guess.

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

*Sing and . . . verses?*

Ya, uh huh. . . had little programs.

*Were there any other things that happened at the school? Any community functions that they would come for?*

I don't remember any of em . . . they must have had meetings, you know, that . . . we had . . . the school board must have had meetings, but of course I don't remember that.

*What kind of rules . . . do you remember any rules that were in the school at the time for behavior? Don't do this or do that.*

Well, the teachers had their rules. Like I say . . . if they didn't abide they got the ruler . . .the biggest share. But you know that there was such a few that we seldom ever had any trouble.

Ya.

Only when Jimmy was the one that got the . . . cause he was ornery.

*What did you do for lunches?*

Mother always packed us a lunch. We always had sack lunches.

*What kind of things would you eat in your lunch?*

Just sandwiches . . . and just like I think like kids like.

*With fruit or cookies or something?*

Oh Mother always had some kind of dessert, ya cookies, uh huh.

*What about drinks?*

Water. We never knew what anything else was . . . but just water or milk. Some of the kids brought milk.

*What about when you were younger . . . do you remember what kind of toys you had at home. What did kids play with at home?*

We never had any boughten toys. Never, you know, we were poor people. We made up our own. We had play houses made out of sticks and everything else outside.

*And you probably played in the woods or something too?*

I don't remember having any place for the woods but I used to . . . we used to have to go after the cows, and they was up the crick further, you see, where the barn was and we always . . . I remember going up there and one fella came and told Dad that we shouldn't let the children go up there

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

because there was a cougar that was watchin us. He was on the other side of the crick and we was on this side. I can remember that.

*That was probably a little scary, wasn't it?*

Well, we never thought anything about it, see. And then around Christmas time we heard a cougar howl . . . you know, and it sounded just like a woman way down in a barrel. I can still remember that.

*Was that a little scary?*

Ya, naturally. See.

*Did you ever see many other wild animals, bear or anything?*

No, uh huh, we saw deer of course.

*So you probably didn't do sports with any other schools or anything like that at that time.*

No, no, there wasn't enough of us.

*Okay.*

See there was just Enid . . . Enid, my sister started when she was five years old because we had to have a certain amount of children. And so Dad had . . . when she was five years old instead of six.

*Because if you didn't have so many kids then there couldn't be a school?*

That's right. Ya, we had to have a certain amount of children.

*Is there anything in particular you can remember about going to Brown School?*

No, that's awful, but I don't remember anything only Quentin. He was just like a little \_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_ animal, and . . . he was! I can remember him.

*Did you walk far?*

See, we lived at the Biddle place, and it wasn't too far from the Brown School. Ya, we all walked . . . we had to walk. We didn't . . . see we didn't have a car when we lived at East Beaver at all.

*Do you remember at the school . . . because we . . . I took the kids up to where the Brown School used to be. . .*

Ya.

*And we saw those big tulip trees that are down by the road. Do you remember any tulip trees there?*

Uh huh. (No.)

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

*They're huge now, Rose. They're really big. I'd to go back when they bloom and get some pictures of them.*

Oh. You called . . . they used to call those tulips but now they call them . . . um . . .

*Magnolia or something?*

Yes.

*I think there may be a little difference, but I'm not sure.*

Cause there's a lot of them in Milwaukie.

*Uh huh. They're beautiful.*

And I called them tulip trees, and my daughter says, "No, they're not tulip trees."

*I think that there really are tulip trees and I think there's magnolia trees.*

Oh really.

*So what about just any stories you might share about growing up in the area . . . can you remember any things that stand out in your mind? Any things that happened to you or your family . . . funny or not funny . . . sad things?*

Well, Honey, the only thing I can remember is that I was always a second mother to all these children that came along. Cause she had one every two years. No I don't remember having anything with children, you know.

*What about any family things . . . did your family travel anywhere?*

Uh huh (no). Mother never did go to the store. Dad, he always went to the store.

*Oh, really?*

Yes, uh huh.

*So she stayed home pretty much.*

Always stayed home. We did go to church. We went to the Nazarene Church at Hemlock every Sunday. That's the only outing I can remember.

*How did you get to the church?*

In a buggy.

*And it would hold all of you?*

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

Oh ya. See there wasn't two . . . There was a . . . Charlie was a baby then. Then Merle came along and then Roy came along.

*Were there many people that attended church at that time.*

Oh, ya, quite a few. You know, Hemlock, it used to be the church . . . where it isn't now, but uh, it was a, a littler church right in that area . . . right close to the school house . . . the school house, you know, up there where the school house is. And my grandparents lived across the road, and that's where we kept our horse and buggy.

*Across Highway 101, you mean?*

The ranch across.

*And I saw pictures that showed there used to be a hotel at Hemlock.*

Used to be. I don't remember, but, before we moved to East Beaver someone said there was a store, but it was around . . . close to that sharp turn . . .

*Morning Mist Dairy . . . past Sandlake . . .*

Ya, down in there past . . . ya.

*I think it was after you. I remember seeing it as a kid too.*

You remember that?

Ya.

We lived for a year or two up there in a little house up above the store before we moved to East Beaver.

*So when you lived at Meda, were you still in school then?*

I was going to high school.

*And was that Cloverdale High School or Nestucca.*

Nestucca High School. I was one of the first ones that went to the new high school at Nestucca High.

*Really. So that was about 1929 or 30?*

Well, it must have been in the 20s because I got married in the 30s . . . around 30 31. But I never finished. I met Melvin (Dawson) and I got married.

*And then what?*

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

Well, we lived with his folks for a year or two until I moved to Beaver . . . Cloverdale. We had to move to Clov . . . well I lost my first baby and . . .

*I didn't know that.*

Ya.

*Where is that baby buried?*

Up at Oretown.

*Is that the one that says Baby Dawson?*

No. She (Mary Dawson, Melvin's mother) had one too. Jackie Dean.

*Now I remember that name. Where did you get the name Dean?*

That was me. I just loved that name. . . \_\_\_\_\_ said when I lost . . . so I lost him . . . they wanted to know if I wanted to name him something else. I said, "No, he's Jackie Dean. He always was Jackie Dean." I never did get to see him, see, because the doctor broke his neck and I had to go to the hospital in Tillamook to have it.

*What do you mean he broke his neck?*

He went up in there and broke the baby's neck. And then he come out he said, "I've done all I can, so that . . . ya!"

*Oh boy. . .*

So Dad took over then . . . your uncle, and . . . we took him to Tillamook, and

*That would have been a long trip at that time, wouldn't it? To Tillamook?*

Ya. I didn't remember anything for two or three weeks.

*Ya, I bet you didn't. Is there . . .*

As far as East Beaver, no, that's all I know about East Beaver, Honey.

*So let's say we're not talking about East Beaver anymore. Do you just have any stories . . . any fun stories you'd like to share . . . any . . .*

Fun stories.

*Fond memories of the old days.*

Well, no really. I've never been a child, really. And everything's been very serious. When your uncle got polio, you know, we were living in the little house up here. Just above here . . . And then your

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

Grandma and your uncle said that we had to move on account of him having polio, see. So they said, if we give you a thousand dollars cash, you could have the house where we lived there at Beaver. And so we did that. I borrowed some money from Turner in Cloverdale.

*Ennis?*

Ennis Turner, uh huh. Paid him back. Then I started working in the cheese factory.

*In Beaver?*

Uh huh.

*I didn't know that.*

Oh, yes.

*What did you do in the cheese factory?*

I did everything.

*Tell us about some of those things.*

Well, when they'd bring the milk in, they'd put it in the vat, you know. And then I'd be there and . . . to dress the hoops (?), you know. They made cheese . . . what am I supposed to say . . .

*Curds, whey?*

Before it was made into cheese or curds, we had to make a . . . hoops (?) with the cheese cloth. And I had to dress those, see. And the only kind we had was the 25 footers . . . 25 pounders, see, at that time.

*Is that the big round . . .*

That's the big ones. We never had, only in the winter months, they made five pound ones.

*Oh, I didn't know that.*

Ya. And then I . . . when they separated the whey . . . I took care of the separator. They had a little building up above there . . . and I helped . . . the boys did the cutting of most all of the milk . . . all but the pressing. They had to press it . . . the whey and everything. I did that, and then I took and turned the cheese over in the curing room every morning. And some of em that was ready to be waxed or put in paraffin, I did that . . . about 10 or 15 of each one.

*Wow. The big ones even?*

Uh huh.

*Oh my. How many people worked at that time at the cheese factory?*

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

Well, let's see. There was the first helper, the cheesemaker . . . the first helper, and then two other men besides myself.

*How long did you work there?*

I don't remember. The children was in school, you know, at Beaver until they're in the 4th or 5th grade.

*What year was that about? Can you give us an idea?*

It must have been pretty close to the latter part of the 30s. See, Melvin lived for 17 years after he had polio, and he was 38 . . . well near 32 when he had the polio.

*That's pretty young.*

Uh huh. And he died before he was fifty.

*What was that like when he had polio, Rose?*

Work.

*Ya. Was he down in bed a lot?*

Well, before we moved to Beaver, he was. But after we went to Beaver, he was . . . on the crutch and cane, see. And he got so he could drive, and then he had that Journal route.

*Ya, I used to ride with him some.*

Did you really?

*Ya. So was he a pretty active man before that?*

Well, he was very sickly all the time. Ya, he didn't do too much work . . . for the CCs and he worked . . . when he got polio he was taking care of that mill at night. . . watching . . . what do you call it.

*The one in Beaver?*

Uh huh. (Yes)

*The Angell Mill?*

It was a . . . a lumber mill of some kind. And then in the daytime he would go and get feed for the mink ranch, you know, that was there before . . . and that's when he got polio. They thought he overdid. I don't know. I don't know what happened.

*Did many women work in the cheese factories or was that . . .?*



# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

Well, Alma did.

*Oh, Alma. You mean even the old cheese factory she worked . . . ?*

Uh huh (Yes).

*I didn't know that.*

She came and helped box cheese. See, we'd have to box it after it was all cured. And she'd come down and help box it. And I worked at Hebo and I also worked at Cloverdale too.

*At those cheese factories too?*

And boxing them . . . and South Prairie.

*I didn't know that about you.*

Like I say, I've never been . . .

*Childhood . . . wow. Well, we'll invite you over to play with us some day at recess.*

(Laughter) I think it's kind of late in the day now.

*What other jobs have you had through your life?*

Well, after . . . I never worked out until Melvin got polio. Then I worked in that cheese factory, like I say. Then I got to working in the post office at Beaver and also helped your auntie . . . Leta and Elton in the store.

*I didn't realize that either.*

Then after Melvin passed away, I got a job at Neskowin being a hostess, or whatever you call it, at that Inn that used to be right . . . I don't know if you remember it or not.

*The hotel or whatever it was?*

It was a inn they called it.

*Really pretty one.*

That's right, they had to tear it down because they put the new road in.

Ya.

Ya, I was there for a year or two.

*I didn't know that either.*

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

That's where I met Joe. I was working there when I met Joe (Nufer). I was working there when I was with Joe.

*Really.*

Uh huh, ya.

*Any thoughts on when your kids attended Beaver. Any special times about that school?*

Naw, I didn't ever go to the meetings. I should have, I guess. But I never did go to the meetings. I did . . . one year I worked for the 4-H, though, with the children cooking and . . .

*Oh, did you have like a club or something?*

Kind of a 4-H club, you know.

*And, who's the oldest? Is Pearl the oldest?*

Darlana, then Bud, and Pearlie's my baby.

*Ah. She was probably a wild thing wasn't she? PEARL WAS PRETTY MEAN AND WILD, WASN'T SHE? (I'm joking here . . . ! db)*

(Laughter) That's what they say, but she was spoiled, I'll tell you that. She's the only one that got a bicycle . . . she did help her dad though with the paper, you know. I didn't try to correct her too much. She was with, oh what was her name, Judy, Judy Mason. Do you remember the Masons? Well, her and Judy Mason was real good pals. She used to go and stay with them, and she'd come up and stay with us.

*Great. So you've lived here most of your life.*

Ya, see, I was only around 4 or 5 when moved at East Beaver. And then from there I went up to Blaine. And then we moved back down to East Beaver for a year or two and then we went to Meda. I that's where I met Joe. I met Joe and Melvin both at . . . Meda.

*Okay. So East Beaver was started because the kids were too wild on the buggy?*

That's right. Isn't that somethin'?

*Ya, it is.*

But I can remember . . . I was six and I can still remember hanging on for dear life between those two boys. I was sittin, you know, on the seat, and the other two boys were sittin back there with their sticks and their wheels. And I guess we were a bunch . . . a mess of kids. And the neighbors said they was going to kill that little girl if there was somethin that hadn't been done about it. So Dad did something about it . . . Dad and the other guys there. I think Woods and uh Dad had the biggest share of it. Maybe Holgate did too. I don't remember Mr. Holgate.

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

*Do you remember any of the other schools like ones on Sandlake Road . . . Sunny Dell or any of those schools at all?*

No.

*Okay.*

No. I didn't know too much about high school either. Cause I went to high school on the bus and come right home. I never went to any games, never.

*At Nestucca.*

At Nestucca.

*Why was that? Why didn't you go to games?*

My dad said I wasn't supposed to.

*So he was a very strict . . .*

He was a very strict person. Very.

*Was that hard, or is that something you appreciate . . .*

Well, it was just something I abided by because, you know, when my dad said somein, you did somein, and you did it, and that was it. I never rebelled.

*What discipline would there have been at home if you . . . if one of the boys . . .*

Well, Jimmy is the one that got the most of it. He took a hold of Jim and broke a couple of ribs for him.

*Wow.*

See. You could tell how he was. But he felt he had to be strict. But he never was strict with Gayton. Gayton always said that you don't understand Dad. And then after Dad got older, Gayton took over. He was taken over when we lived at Meda.

*Who is still alive now?*

They're all gone but Roy, and Johnnie and Doc and Enid and I.

*So there's quite a few. Do they live nearby?*

Well, Enid lives at Depoe Bay, you know, Depoe Bay. Johnnie and Doc live down by Salem. One at Dallas and one by Salem. And Roy, he's got a big motor home and he lives . . . his folks live up by Longview.

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

*Do you girls have any questions? Anything she's talked about that you didn't quite understand? Or something you'd like to ask.*

Did I talk clear enough, Honey?

*If they got \_\_\_\_\_ for the rulers . . . (Andrea asked this question.)*

Your hands. Your hands.

*Did you turn your hands over or . . .*

She always had your hands like that. And just like that about a half a dozen times. Jimmy got it a lot. I don't remember Gayton gettin it, but Jimmy did. I don't remember Enid gettin in any trouble. But she got in trouble the day when . . . when Jimmy'd get upset, then both us girls got upset.

*And did they have ink wells at all at this school at that time?*

I believe they did, but I don't remember that too much.

*Did you have long hair?*

Oh, ya. Braids.

*Most girls did?*

Enid never did, but I did. I was 12 years old when my grandma took me to Tillamook and I had my hair cut, and Dad wouldn't talk to us for two weeks.

*Do you know when the school started?*

*Do you know what the year was when the school started? If you were about 6 that would have been . . .*

Well, see, I'm 87 now so that'd be . . .

*81 years ago about. (1921) That's great information. I forgot to ask that. When did it close?*

That, Honey, I don't know. After we moved from Beaver up to Brown School, I don't remember if they kept going or not. I think you could find out, really. Cause . . . I don't know if there was any more children, but see Holgates would be about my age and that's about the only one . . .

*(The girls at the interview said the school closed in 1930.)*

Oh, that's when I was married in 1930. Well how did it stay open that long?

*I know the Porters . . . one of them went there for a year or two, the Porter boys.*

# Interview with Rose Phelps Dawson Nufer

March 7, 2002

Well, ya, there was quite a few Porter boys. There was George, Johnnie, and then there's two others that I don't know. I don't remember that little one I took care of. I remember George.

*Did you ever think back on any of the foods your mama made and how good they were?*

Her light bread was wonderful. She was a really good cook . . . just an ordinary cook, but she did real good with cake and stuff, ya.

*Do you still use any of her recipes or anything.*

I used to have the recipe for the . . . I used to make my own bread until after the children were gone. And now there's potato yeast they call it. And I had to run my own yeast, see, potato yeast.

*Really.*

*Why'd they put the ink in their hair? (Andrea's question)*

Well, I don't know.

*Do you remember any girls having their pigtails dipped in ink?*

Nope. There wasn't enough. There was only a few girls. And I think I was the only one that had long braids. Why, was that supposed to be something wonderful?

*(There was more conversation at the end of the interview . . . visiting.)*

*Did you always have to wear dresses? (Andrea asked this question.)*

We always wore dresses, Honey. I always wore a dress until after I started working at the cheese factory. And then of course I had to wear pants.

(Transcribed by Darleen Cole)