

*Note that the original transcript of this interview is kept in the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum in the Research Room. It is transcript OH 77.12 which indicates the interview was conducted in 1977. It was transcribed by Ruby Fry-Matson 6/24/98.*

*I have retyped the transcript for the sole purpose of removing the "Uh"s from it. So many transcripts I have read have every sound a person makes included in the transcript, and perhaps that is the correct way to type transcripts, but for me that makes the interview transcript difficult to read with so many pauses. To me including all of those extra sounds often does not reflect positively on the person being interviewed. Note that I removed 97 "uh"s from this short interview and a few "er"s. I'm not perfect either; so you may find errors I created in typing this! Dean Bones, January 2024*

G: (Gerry) Tomorrow is Memorial Day, May the 30th. And because it is, I have a very special visitor with us this morning, Ray Measor of Blaine, Oregon. Good morning, Ray.

R: (Ray) Good morning.

G: You know, Ray has been a member of the American Legion Post #47 in Tillamook for 50 years. He's a member of the WWI veterans and a member of the Marine Corp. League. Now Ray, that sounds like you must be a Marine Corp. veteran. Is that right?

R: That's right.

G: When did you serve?

R: In 1918 and 19.

G: And was it here on the Pacific coast?

R: No . . . well, yes. In the first place we went to California, and then from there we shipped to Quantico, Virginia, and then went on board ship and later transferred back to Brooklyn Navy Yard. I might say that my younger brother and I were in the Marines together, and we both served together all the time.

G: I'll bet you were quite a pair. I wish we had time, Ray, to pursue this line of thinking, but that isn't why we asked you to come today. Ray, in

addition to all these other things, has been busy doing something for Tillamook County. And, Ray, would you like to tell us what it is?

R: I might say that in 1963 the Pioneer Association under the leadership of Leland Bester started the idea of securing all the data from the cemeteries and the individual graves in Tillamook County. and because there was so many of those graves that were lost and they were being lost because they had no headstones. They had those small metal markers. But years ago that was just on a card on a piece of paper written with ink, and that was being obliterated so that if they didn't have a record of it somehow then they had no way of knowing who was buried in these various places.

G: Well, that must have been quite an undertaking to begin with. What did you do first?

R: Well, of course, the first thing we had to do was to appoint various citizens throughout the county to help with this because it was a tremendous task. And even with all the help we had it took better than two years to compile all these names and information about them.

G: You know, (on) this list that I have in front of me that you gave me I see so many wonderful names here. There's Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Knight and Louie Platt. That's Hazel and Louie. And Mr. And Mrs Leo Sander and Mildred Edner, Louise Goodrich, Cecil Klinker, Francis Doyle, Jesse Leach, Lottie Hunt. And who are the next ones over here?

R: This is Mrs. Rachel Weston and Dick Edwards, Ray Woods, Eli Wiebe, Lloyd Jones, Alfred Boquist, William Foster, Oscar Tittle, Leland Bester. And I would like to say that there was lots of others that helped in correspondence and such as that to secure the information that we needed.

G: I've had the privilege of looking at the book that you compiled, Ray, and it is something to see. Now how many active cemeteries are there in Tillamook County?

R: We have ten active cemeteries. You wish to know the names of those?

G: Yes. Why don't you tell the listeners.

R: The American Legion Cemetery is in Nehalem, Bay City IOOF Cemetery, the Tillamook IOOF Cemetery is located in Tillamook, Sunset Memorial here in Tillamook and the Catholic in Tillamook. Then we have a cemetery at Beaver and one at Blaine. And then the Cloverdale IOOF Cemetery is just out of Hebo towards Cloverdale. And the Union Cemetery is just above the junction of Pacific City Road (Brooten Road db). And then the Oretown Cemetery is up back of the Oretown Church.

G: Well, I think those are familiar locations to most of us. Did you find any of the inactive cemeteries?

R: Yes. We have the same number of inactive as there is active. And that's the Trout Cemetery here at Tillamook, Fairview Pioneer back of the Sunset Memorial. And then we have two over in the Netarts area. And then the Quick Cemetery is in the junction of the old, that is, the old highway by Brickyard Road. And then there's a Fawcett Cemetery that's just after you turn off of the new highway onto the old highway coming in to Tillamook, and the Sandlake Cemetery in the Sandlake area, the Gist Cemetery is down between Cloverdale and Woods. And then there used to be a cemetery on the Jenck place, and the graves were later moved to the Catholic Cemetery in Tillamook, and they was a cemetery on the Dr. C. E. Linton place just out of Woods on the Sandlake Road. That was more of an Odd Fellows cemetery, and most all those graves were moved to the Cloverdale Odd Fellows Cemetery. And I might say that there are many individual graves scattered around the county, and it was hard to locate and pin-point these graves in lots of instances.

G: Well, you mean then, Ray, that you did find graves that were not in these cemeteries?

R: Oh yes. There's lots of 'em.

G: I suppose the first thing you did was to clear away the grass for in most instances. And then what did you do?

R: Well, the only thing that we done to clear away the grass was to get the information from these markers because we had to especially in these other cemeteries. In your permanent cemeteries they are kept up better.

But that was the way we had to do in order to read the marker lots of times we had to clear the way.

G: And then what did you do with all this information when you did find it about the bury'ens? I think that's interesting.

R: When this information was all compiled and typed up I have . . . all the active cemeteries are in a book, each cemetery by itself. And then the inactive cemeteries and individual graves are in one book. So we tried to mark them so that they can be found. And we have them marked. The books' binders are all marked so that it isn't hard to find the one that you're looking for.

G: Now in the course of doing all this I imagine that you ran across some very interesting graves. Do you recall any of them off-hand?

R: Well, yes. We tried to find one of the most . . . the oldest veteran, and we found one veteran from the War of 1812. He was buried at Bay City. And likewise, Chief Kilchis' great-granddaughter's buried at Bay City. And then, of course, many of our pioneers are buried throughout the county. Now these pioneers are the ones that helped to settle this county. Then, one name that rings a bell with me quite a bit is Courtney M. Walker.

G: Oh, is he buried here?

R: Yes, he came to Oregon in 1833 with Jason Lee . . . Jason Lee and two or three other people. There was Cyrus Shepard, P.L. Edwards and Courtney Walker came with Jason Lee when he first come out here. And then Courtney Walker went to Yamhill County, and from there he came to Tillamook County. He homesteaded a place above where we live now. As a matter of fact our grange hall, Nestucca Grange Hall, is on the place that he homesteaded. And I had the information on that. It was in . . . he homesteaded in 1993. And then he sold it to his son, and then his son sold it to a party in the name of Mr. Smith. Then this Mr. Smith sold it to Charles W. Smith, and some of this Charles W. Smith heirs are sill on the place. I might say that he was born in 1811, and he was buried in 1887. Now, he's buried on the place that joins us. As a matter of fact, the Quentin Borba place now is where he is buried. And the grave has not been marked, and we are trying to get a marker, a historical marker, down at the road to let

the people know that he was one of the first citizens that come in to this country.

G: Well that is most interesting. I've heard a great deal about Courtney Walker. And his life would make an excellent book, wouldn't it?

R: Yes, it would.

G: Ray, before you go, and I see you're getting anxious to do that. I have a thought here that I'd like to have your opinion on. In looking over the cemeteries, and I have done this, most of them it would seem . . . it seems to me that it would be a good idea that if we could have one beautiful big flagpole with one big flag on it. And then down at the base some sort of a list of all the veterans who rest in that particular cemetery so that when people come they'd all be remembered. What do you think about that?

R: Well, I think it's a very good idea, Gerry. Because often times the way it is now people go to place flags on the graves, and unless they're familiar with 'em they do not know where to put 'em because the flags will blow down and they do not have regular flag holders for the flags. And so, for that reason I think it's an excellent idea.

G: Well, I'm so happy you agree with that. Well, Ray, I can't thank you enough for coming and visiting with us because tomorrow is Memorial Day. And I know that this is interesting information to everyone in Tillamook Country. And than you again.

R: Than you Gerry.