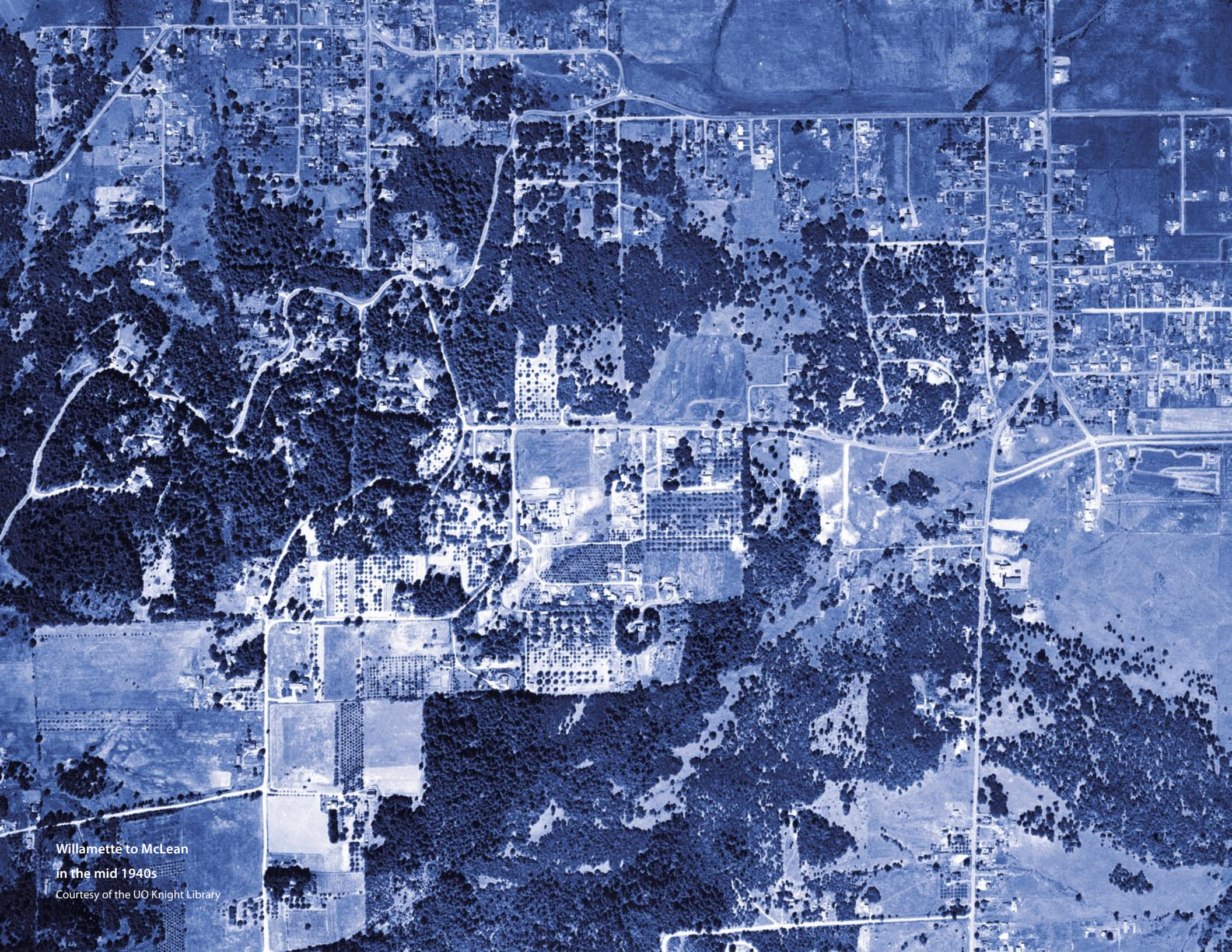


ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

CREST DRIVE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION



Willamette to McLean
in the mid 1940s
Courtesy of the UO Knight Library

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

Crest Drive Citizens Association

Eugene, Oregon, June 2010

(c) Crest Drive Citizens Association, 2010



elcome to our oral history project !

The Crest Drive Community Association created this oral history project to better acquaint ourselves with the history of the neighborhood we enjoy so much. Through volunteer labor, technical challenges, and goodwill on the part of everyone, we have learned a lot and we are happy to offer this small volume to the neighborhood.

The region defined by the city as the Crest Drive Neighborhood contains several areas of varying ages. In our interviews much is said about the areas around Crest Drive,

Crest Drive Neighborhood



Friendly Street, Storey Boulevard, and Lorane Highway. These areas have a long history -- Crest Drive appears on a map from 1892, and Lorane Highway in 1919, but aside from larger properties along the main roads much of the building dates from after World War II. Some of our interviews discuss what the area was like in the 1930s and 40s, while others concentrate on more recent decades. We had hoped to do interviews in the area around McLean and west of Chambers Street but shortages and technical difficulties made this impractical.

We hope in the coming months to post the interviews on the CDCA web site (www.crestdriveca.com). Once that is done there will be possibilities for gradually expanding the project and adding memories contributed by readers.

If you want to delve more deeply into what was built when in this area we recommend Al Urquhart's recent *Landscape Change in South Eugene, Oregon* (available from blurb.com or at his Facebook page). For a history of the area just to the south, we recommend Lois Barton's 1982 *Spencer Butte Pioneers* (available from Amazon).

A project such as this requires the support of many people. We would like to thank the City Council and the Neighborhood Services office of the City of Eugene for providing the grant that enabled us to purchase equipment and supplies. Thanks to our interviewees: Ralph and Traudl Lafferty, Eunice Kjaer, Marcella Garcia Moore, Melanie and Robert Lee, Bruce Chase, Lorrane Taylor, Barbara Wirtz, and Waneta Ritzman (who also provided the College Crest Community Club records). Thanks to our interviewers, Anne Niemiec, Nora Hagerty, David Kolb, and Jo von Hippel, and to David Kolb for overall coordination and editing, to Lee Eide for artistic design and production, to Cathryn Treadway, Connie Wonham, and Kathy Saranpa for planning our special neighborhood celebration, to Al Urquhart for historical research, to Alison Voss, Melanie Lee, Nora Hagerty, and Jan Mueller from the Wayne Morse Historical Park Corporation Board, who provided images and Morse memories, and to the helpful staff at the photo collections of the Lane County Historical Museum and the University of Oregon's Knight Library.

June 2010

Ralph and Traudl Lafferty

interviewed by David Kolb

36th Ave, near Crest Drive

February 18, 2010



Ralph and Traudl
Lafferty

Courtesy of Ralph
Lafferty

(DK) As I recall, Ralph, you moved here from away but you had grown up here earlier.

(RL) Yes, I never grew up in this neighborhood; I lived on the other side of town on 21st and Harris St. I was there from the time I was in the third grade at Edison, and this was almost countryside.

(DK) Back here in the Crest area.

(RL) Yes; there was Amazon that separated the east and west in Eugene. I remember when we used to go into the Amazon and shoot pheasants.

It was a kind of a swampland, the whole thing, because the Amazon meandered all over through the flatland where Eugene High School now is. **About the only way to get easily from the east side to the west and to downtown was to cut across on Nineteenth Street which did go through.** Other than Nineteenth Street there was nothing out south in Eugene.

This Crest area was where it was really country. I used to come out after Wayne Morse bought that house which is now the Morse Ranch; I used to come out with him and go horseback riding in that area. I remember well when he bought the house; before that he lived over right across the street from us on Harris Street. We became good friends. He helped me a lot as I was getting involved with horses and that in Eugene. I'd go out and ride with him; we'd take trips out around Spencer Butte. Mostly the area on Willamette Street. But we also rode up here on Crest Drive and on up the hill. That was all gravel road. Later my brother bought the house at 977 Crest Drive.

(DK) Near what is now Lafferty Park.

(RL) Yes, Lafferty Park at that time was a field for horses. My brother had a stable down behind the house. By that time I had moved away from Eugene, and I'd come to visit my brother Paul and we would ride out on Crest Drive out toward where the television towers are now. You could cut across there too and get over on Willamette Street, and that would take you all the way around Spencer Butte. It was good riding country.

(DK) I noticed that in the Morse house there are some trophies for horses that the Senator won.

(RL) Yes, **he was an avid horseman**, English rider, that was a flat saddle rider. He helped me, however; I remember when I bought my first Western saddle at some estate sale, he helped me rig it up and polish it up and get it ready to use. I rode Western saddle and I aspired to grow up and be a cowboy. Wayne was a good friend; I remember when he would exercise his horses in the pasture that became the dog park now. He had a track around there, and he and Paul Waschke rode. Paul lived further down, probably on Olive Street between Crest Drive and 32nd



Wayne Morse
with his great
five-gaited
Kentucky
purebred named
Edgewood
Bourbon

Courtesy of Wayne
Morse Historical Park
Corporation

Street. In there somewhere. I've been to his house. Paul Waschke was on the faculty of the athletic department of the University of Oregon. He liked to ride also. Later he kept his horses with Wayne up at his house.

Before that Wayne had kept his horses over at Lin McCreedy's house, which was on south Alder Street. That's where I got to know him. In those days I'd get horses in the summer time from farmers and take an unbroken horse, and the deal was I could keep it for the summer if I would break it to ride. I had a cowboy friend who helped me to snub the horse up to let me ride it, until I could ride it out and ride it around through the hills and saddle break it. Then I'd take it on rides with Wayne Morse.

However I became the youngest person that was ever permitted to ride his great five-gaited Kentucky purebred named Edgewood Bourbon. He rode that at exhibitions at horse shows at the Eugene Fair. His wife also had a horse -- I forget the name of her horse but it was another Kentucky purebred -- they were five-gaited display horses. I rode out at the Fair too and in different places. I would ride, if two locals wanted to test to see whose horse would go faster, I was a little shrimp at the time and they used to get me to ride one of them in a two horse race.

(DK) Where would they race them?

(RL) On the track at the Fairgrounds. **The Christensen brothers who lived out behind Spencer Butte provided horses and brahma bulls for the local rodeos.** I was usually able to ride there too, herding the horses and exercising them by leading them around the track at the Fairgrounds or wherever the rodeo was being held.

(RL) I well remember when he used to turn his horses out in the pasture which is down below the house; there was a stable -- maybe it is still there -- that's where he had his horses in stalls, and he turned them out in a kind of oak grove, which is still there, and down below that in the present dog park. He had his track that he made there and he and Paul Waschke would ride around there a lot.

One day I found one of his horses, a small colt that hadn't been broken. I came by when I was going up to his place. I had with me a hackamore. I didn't know much about how to put it on a horse but I'd been shown how, so I thought it would be a good way to try it out,



Morse and two of
his daughters ride
out to Crest Drive.
The Paul Lafferty
house is in the
background

Courtesy of Wayne
Morse Historical Park
Corporation

and I'd ride the colt that was out there in the pasture. So I rigged the hackamore onto the colt after I caught it in the corner of the pasture. I jumped on its back and it took off with me up toward the oak grove and as we came into the trees I decided that I was going to be off one way or another so I just jumped off and landed on my back; I could hardly breathe when I got up. Just at that time Wayne Morse drove up the road, Crest Drive, up above me. He called me over to him and I was in trouble. His comment was **"You can ruin a good horse that way. I don't want to see you do that again."** I still remember the lesson.

But he became a good friend and advised me when I was at the

Gas was pretty expensive, about \$.25 a gallon

University, not as an official advisor. I started out taking pre-law but later changed to a business course to graduate. I always valued Wayne as a friend and I remember when their daughter was born; he still lived across the street from us on Harris then. Nancy Morse Campbell was born at that time and I remember holding her as a tiny baby. She was sleeping at the time I picked her up and my question to Mrs. Morse was how long it would be before her eyes opened. I kind of likened it to dogs. They said her eyes would open almost any time.

(DK) How did you get around town in those days?

(RL) Walking or on a bicycle. **Then we grew into the stage when I had a brother two years older than I, and when he got a drivers license he was able to drive a car and together we would put together spare money we had earned and buy a car usually for five dollars or maybe up to ten, old Fords and that, and drag them up to the house and out of them make one good one that could run.** Gas was pretty expensive, about \$.25 a gallon and that would do us pretty well for all the driving we did. But more than that, if you wanted to go downtown from our place on Harris and 21st you would walk.

(DK) Were there any trolleys left at that time?

(RL) **Yes there were some, there was a trolley down Willamette Street downtown and on University Street there was still a trolley there.** We moved to Eugene in 1928 and I lived here until I graduated from school in 1940. I had a commission in the army and I went in the Army immediately when the war started in 1941. So all that time I would say I was busy growing up in Eugene.

(RL) That was my growing up time in Eugene. I never really was on this side of town very often. Clare Kneeland and somebody else had a shoe store downtown and Clare Kneeland was the man who owned the house that my brother Paul bought on Crest Drive.

(DK) What year was that?

(RL) Paul had graduated from the University in 1938. I was in school at that time at the University. He was just married; he lived for a while in rental houses, and he bought the Kneeland house around 1940, about the time I graduated.

(DK) Were there a lot of other houses around at that time?

(RL) No. There were very few other houses. **There was a house across the**

street on Crest Drive owned by the Hoffman family.

(DK) The one up the slope from your brother's?

(RL) Yes, that one. **He was the owner of Hoffman Jewelry.** He had two sons, Vern Hoffman and Lou Hoffman; Lou was in school about a year ahead of me at the University High School. Vern was older. Vern and his wife became good neighbor friends of my brother Paul.

(DK) So all those houses had a lot of land around them.

(RL) Quite a lot, yes. I don't remember that there were any other houses between Paul's house and Wayne Morse's house. We never called that a "ranch" house; it wasn't that big; it was just a house in the country.

(DK) The board that runs it has changed the name to Morse Family Farm, at the family's request.

(RL) Very good, for example the Christenson's had a ranch and they ran stock out there, bucking stock and rodeo stock in a sizable place out behind Spencer Butte. Nobody ever called a place like the Morse place a ranch. That was a farm.

(DK) Now when did you come back; you must have come back from time to time to visit family?

(RL) Yes I did, I used to come back to visit my mother and dad.

By that time they had moved and lived out on River Road in what became -- I think it was a Sikh group or somebody who bought their house, but at first it was bought by a sportsman club and they hung big elks heads and everything else in the place. My mother would have turned over in her grave had she ever seen that. That was at 325 River Road. By that time I had moved away from Eugene. I lived for 12 years in New York City and then 25 years in Oklahoma, then I moved to California to Orange County and before that to New Jersey because of business. All my business was in the east and in Oklahoma. I was away from here for close to forty years.

Nobody ever called a place like the Morse place a ranch. That was a farm

(DK) When you came back you moved right into this house?

(RL) Yes, we were living in Orange County California; before that we

She said “I could move in here tomorrow” and we did

had lived in the Smoke Rise, New Jersey. We like that house very much and when my wife Traudl saw this house she said it reminded her of the Smoke Rise house, she said “I could move in here tomorrow” and we did. In fact we bought this house before we had moved from Orange county in California. We just saw it and liked it and bought it and had them fix it up and paint it before we ever moved up here.

(TL) We walked in and I said “Ralph, we have wooden floors; I’ll nail all the furniture to the floors and we will stay here. We’re never going to leave. They’ll have to carry us out.”

(DK) The house was originally from the Baker family?

(RL) Yes, Alton Baker and Mrs. Baker had the house built just the year before he died. He lived here about a year and Mrs. Baker lived here for another 10 years. **When I was little the Bakers lived over on University and 19th St. in what later became a bed and breakfast, the Secret Garden B and B.** They lived there and we used to play touch football in their front yard. They had a pretty good front yard and we’d play either there or at the Tri-Delta house just down the block on 20th and University. The Bakers were very forgiving for that because Bunky Baker was about my age in school, and his younger brother Ted was a little kid maybe five years younger. We didn’t count him.

(TL) We bought the house in 1983. We’ve been here for 27 years.

(DK) What was in the neighborhood when you bought the house? By that time most of the houses on the street would have been built.

(RL) Most of them yes.

(TL) Except the one on the corner, the Schuler’s house, was not there. Beck’s was across the street.

(RL) Ward Beck lived across the street; he was a manager at JCPenney. also there was another man, Richey, who lived where Ed Coulombe lived; he was also a retired manager at JCPenney.

(TL) He lived there and Pat Lynch, who was a judge here, lived across the street where the Emerson’s now live. In your house were the Don Ritchies. Chuck Wiper and his family lived where the Wolfs now live.

(TL) Another house was built, the one on the corner as you go up to 38th, it wasn’t there when we moved here. But our street, all the houses were there except the Schuler’s house. That was the only one that was

built later. The owner of the low house on the corner of 38th owned the property and then he built that house as a spec house. I remember the Schuler’s house being built and the Rawls’s house being built, and some houses being remodeled.

(RL) The people up across the street added onto their house. But we’ve added nothing on the outside of this house, just some small changes on the inside.

(TL) The Rawls were living there when we came, Ginny Rawls.

(RL) I am trying to remember this fellow, Claire Kneeland, and there was a something and Kneeland shoe store. It was located in the bunch of little stores to the south of the McDonald Theatre on Willamette Street. The wife of Clare Kneeland’s partner was also an avid horsewoman and she was in the little group of horse people that I knew. I can’t remember her name but she was a friend of Morse’s, but she and her horses weren’t quite up to the caliber of Wayne’s. It was a big thing when he brought his Kentucky purebreds into here.

(TL) Chuck Rolfe’s house was down there, **the two-story house on Crest Drive right at the end of Wayne Morse’s ranch. There is a two-story white house there; that was a farmhouse.**

(RL) Chuck was my vintage in school. he didn’t build the house.

(TL) The little house where the Eddie’s live now, that was the Nate Rubenstein family. They built it. After that the Rawls bought it and they sold it and built a big house. They sold it to Dr. Butters and then it was sold to the Exleys, and now the Eddies. The house next to us was Lynch’s when we got here than they sold it to two doctors who built onto it and beautified it and cleaned it up very nicely. After that it was the two lawyers who cut our hedge down. Then the Emerson’s so there were four families in that house too. The house over here was the Gieters,

(RL) I’ve been trying to remember the name of the fellow who had Ed Coulombe’s house, it was Richie Miller, Richie and Kathy Miller; they came from Montana and he died and she moved back to Montana and then she died. He was also a JCPenney manager.

(DK) It seems like Penney’s and car dealerships were well represented in this area.

(RL) I think so. This Roy Mead, he was the head of a well-known dealership.

We used to walk there and pick flowers and all that and then it dead ended into several barriers, and you could walk down one place where there were steps

(TL) The Gieters, somebody else built that house, and they got into trouble because they presented the design lower and when the house was built it was higher but by the time it was up they said okay go ahead, forget it. But they were not supposed to build that high.

(RL) Then there was a lady whose husband was a tennis player; he was also an airline pilot; they lived this side of the Wipers, Jan Sprecher.

(TL) That house had three different owners already. The Wiper's house also had three different owners, first them, then a dentist. Then the Wolf's who are the third owners we know. And every house had two or three owners up here.

(DK) Who built the big fence across the way? It must have looked very different before that fence was built.

(TL) The present owners, Heidi and her husband Tony came in and built on to their house immediately, and built the fence. The wall of their house looks right into the terrace of the people next door; they had a little uproar up there. When Heidi and her husband built the fence they put in an opening -- there was none here before on this street -- but that's the only way they could get into their garden so they put that door into the fence, and if a truck comes it can't go in there so it backs into our driveway and they have broken part of the driveway.

(DK) Their house faces on 37th Street?

(TL) Yes. There are only three houses on that street. On the right side is Dr. DeLuca then someone else and then at the far end is the old farmhouse, one of the oldest houses up here. That came before the Baker's house.

(DK) Did the street stop or was the connection with Monroe already made by then?

(RL) The connection with Monroe was made, but after going over the hill to the south it dead-ended; you couldn't drive through there. We used to walk there and pick flowers and all that and then it dead ended into several barriers, and you could walk down one place where there were steps; I guess that's still there. That street Deertrail is only about 10 years old or so. The houses on it are all new. All of that is new.

(DK) But then below you here was the Giustina house?

(RL) That was built after this house. Earlier the only house up here, when the Bakers built this house, was up on 37th and it belonged to

the Schaeffer's. That was later bought by Don Fox.

(TL) It is the two-story house up on 37th.

(RL) Yes, 37th Street dead ends and the Schaeffer house was on the south side of it. Then Don Fox bought it from the Schaeffer's, then another family whose father was a doctor. Her husband is the fellow who bought Don's Woomer's Porsche.

(TL) It was called Pill Hill because most of the houses were owned by doctors.

(TL) The one here who has lived here longest of anyone in the neighborhood is Waneta Ritzman. The little house right down there near Courtney Street. She owns the little barn back there and still has a big open area in back.

(RL) They lived in the barn while her husband built the house.

(DK) And she owned the land over toward the school?

(RL) Yep, all of that down to the school.

(TL) She knows everybody because she lived here and she raised many children here. The family lived in the barn and in the meantime her husband built the house. She told me the other day that they took the rug up and discovered the linoleum which her husband had put down when they built the house. It is just beautiful.

(TL) She is probably here the longest on this whole hill.

(RL) When we moved here, she had an apple orchard in the back. When you go down around the corner there was a man, Roy Mead who lived here when we moved here. He formerly had a car dealership. A very nice man, I knew him very casually because he would always wave and we would stop and chat. Traudl probably knew him better because she would go down there and pick currants.

(TL) He had gooseberries and currants but nobody wanted them. Actually his wife got too old to make jam and I would pick the currants and make jam for them. So there was a trade-off. **They had wonderful cherry trees and the red currents were something nobody grew here, also the gooseberries.**

(DK) You can find them now sometimes at the farmers markets.

(RL) In those days they were not allowed to grow black currents in the United States. My dad was in the wholesale grocery business and he

We had a
flue fire and I
climbed up on
the place to put
a hose down the
chimney to put
out the fire

loved the black currant he could get from Canada. We would get it by the case to have for breakfast.

(DK) In that time that you have been here in this house how have things changed around it? In the look or the people or behavior?

(RL) Well, we have seen -- it's amazing -- we came here as Johnny-come-lately's and now we've seen three or four families come and go in most of the other houses around us. When we were first here this house over on our corner, Cindy Connolly -- the Connolly's lived there and two or three families have come and gone in that house. Then of course Don Woomer lived across the street when we moved in, where Barb Wirtz lives now. Then he moved over on Bryceler and then moved back again to 38th Street. We were very good friends; he died a few years ago. Next door two or three families, a couple of doctors, were living there, and somebody else lived there, and now the Emerson live there. Your house, the Ritchies lived there when we moved here, then the Herbolds, then some other families.

(RL) It's a strange thing, my friend Chuck Wiper, he and I were kids together in Salem and then later, when we moved to Eugene, we were living at 21st and Harris, and the Wipers were above us at 21st and Potter So we went through grade school and high school together then Chuck went off to Stanford and I went to the University of Oregon. Then after I graduated from the University -- I was a year ahead of him -- we lifeguarded together at Seaside, he and I for one summer. Then much later, when we moved in here from California on the first night we were here after we unpacked, it was in the winter and we decided we would build a fire in the fireplace. We had a flue fire and I climbed up on the place to put a hose down the chimney to put out the fire, and who drove by and stopped but Chuck Wiper on his way home, and I hadn't seen him since perhaps when we were in Seaside.

(TL) It was April 1 and we had boxes in the kitchen and a niece living down on Mary Lane brought us some firewood. It was the house that Paul used to live in; they bought a small neighboring house and moved into it and gave the larger house to their children. When the son and his wife had their third child and parents moved over to the small house and built onto it. She brought firewood and we sat in here with two little dogs and suddenly there was this fire.

(RL) The dogs bolted and the fire was roaring

(TL) **Imagine trying to find a hose when you have just boxes all around.** Chuck Wiper drove by and he saw the flames coming out of the chimney and he said "you have got a fire in this house" and then he called the fire department. He held the ladder for me while I climbed up.

(TL) We had come from California though we weren't Californians. We were on our way from New Jersey to California to Oregon. We

had those big boxes that they have clothes in for moving, I was unpacking them outside because I didn't want to bring the boxes in. I heard a noise and I said "what is this noise?" I looked around; it was pretty loud. And finally I saw a helicopter landing right on the badminton court. It was a nephew of ours, Paul's son

(RL) My brother, Paul had borrowed some jumper cables for his car and he asked "are you and Traudl going to be home this afternoon?" He said "I'll drop in and bring those jump cables around." And they dropped in in Peter's helicopter and they returned my jumper cables.

(TL) Today you wouldn't be allowed to do any of those things, and of course the trees are a lot higher now.

(DK) Did you have more view that at that time?

(RL) Yes it was easier to see all the Coburg Hills and up the Valley; the trees were lower.

(TL) And you could see part of the Valley River Inn.

(RL) It was a lot different here then; all of these bushes and trees were lower. You don't notice them growing up a little bit each year.

(DK) Have you ever thought of cutting things down and renewing the view?

(RL) We have, a few times.

(TL) But there is nothing to cut down because the tall trees belong to the Giustinas.

(RL) We could cut down the shore pine over there but if we did that we'd have a view of the houses that are going to be built in the field down below and we don't want that. So I'd rather look at the shore pine than the houses.

"I'll drop in and bring those jump cables around." And they dropped in in Peter's helicopter and they returned my jumper cables



Ralph and Traudi Lafferty's home, originally built by Alton Baker

Photo by David Kolb

(RL) We're pretty well protected for view; we see Mount Jefferson on a good day.

(TL) I think we are the only ones up here who can see Mount Jefferson.

(RL) I used to be able, when I went up to the mailbox, to get a view of South Sister, but that's long gone. The trees have grown up too much.

(RL) Of course everybody knows this was all a pear orchard up here. everywhere, and they had grapes

(TL) There are still some grapes growing down on the Giustina's.

(RL) They have a pretty fair sized arbor. There were cherries.

(TL) Don Fox's old house still had some grapes. Then it was all pear orchard around here.

(DK) So the Douglas firs were smaller then.

(RL) Oh yes, we've seen the difference in the Douglas firs here. There was one big gigantic one down there in the corner of our property, when the Rawls owned that place I mentioned to Dick Rawls one time, "would you mind if I cut it down" and he said "yes go ahead," so one day I took a chainsaw and cut it down.

(DK) So you can compare two things: you can compare this neighborhood when you came to what is now and you can compare Eugene from a long time ago to what it is now.

(RL) Pretty much so. I say they are very compatible. I have to say I was away from here from when the war started in 1941, immediately after Pearl Harbor I went in the Army and I came back when we returned in 1983. So 40 years, and I'd say that in the time, I recognize Eugene is pretty much the same. I've always said that the hills don't change.

(TL) Except the hills have houses everywhere now.

(RL) Yes there are a lot more houses now, for example I see a tremendous difference in the hills between here and Willamette Street. Or over on Hawkins Lane there are many more houses.

(TL) The John Reynold's house, their farm was the only place out there.

(RL) They had a farm there and she had some horses and after we moved here I used to go and ride their horses for her. Now it's just solid houses.

(TL) That's the only thing; I think the hills have changed even since we've been here 26 years.

(RL) And Southpointe of course, all of that is new; there wasn't a single house in there. When I was a little kid here my rides would go from the fairgrounds -- I kept my horse in an old beaten up barn out on Hilyard Street. I could see where Wayne Morse kept his; his was in a good barn, mine was in an old barn that had been abandoned; why it was not torn down I don't know but it had some stalls in it and I put some hay up and kept my horse in there. I was all alone in it. I would ride out there on my bicycle from home; then I would ride out and go up over the South Hills here and go down to Goshen, get a root beer at Goshen, and then ride back here over the hills again. It was all trails, not a house anywhere. All these hills out here were that way.

(TL) If you go out to Coburg, all the new development along Coburg Road; none of those things were here. And then there were all the changes down with the airport that used to be where Bi-Mart is now. That was the end of the town.

(RL) That was on Chambers Street; there was an airport right down at the bottom of the hill. After the war I was living in Oklahoma, first in

New York and then in Oklahoma. I started taking flying lessons, and I did my cross-country flying lessons from New York, from Caldwell New Jersey. There was a little airport there. I'd fly over to Atlantic City, or out to Montauk, or East Hampton to do my cross-country flying. I'd come out to visit dad and mother here. In those days to get your pilot's license you had to do spins, and I'd go out over the Coburg Hills and do spins. My first passenger after I got my pilot's license was my mother in Eugene. I took her out over where they were just building the dam at Dexter Reservoir and I took her over all that and then came back and landed at Mahlon Sweet airport. I remember that I bounced terribly on the landing and my mother, who was always a tactful and doting mother said "was that a very good landing, son"? It was a pretty miserable landing.

(DK) What about the local cemeteries?

(RL) That's Rest Haven Cemetery. Chuck Wiper's dad built that cemetery. Chuck and I -- the time that the Wipers were living up on Potter and 21st -- did a lot of things together. We would ride horses from home, pack some brown bag lunch, and ride all around on the top of the cemetery when his dad was building it. It was just a big hill and he thought it would be a good place for a cemetery.

(TL) Behind it there was nothing, but now it belongs to the church.

(RL) In those days, when I was a kid, I was not a Catholic; I was a Presbyterian and I think so were the Wipers. I remember very well going out and we'd visit Chuck's dad out there when he was building the cemetery. We'd tie our horses up and have lunch and then ride back across the Amazon. In those days at the end of the Amazon Trail where Fox Hollow Road comes in, along in there you could go all along on Hilyard Street but you'd be in the mud before you got all the way out the road. There was a Bang's riding stable and I was a little peanut -- I never started to grow until I was in the university -- and I liked to ride, and I had a deal out there that I would clean out stalls and in return for it I could ride all the horses I wanted from the stable. So I would do that for my riding. And then **some fellow brought racehorses up; he'd had them at the Tanforan racetrack in San Francisco and he wanted to winter them up here, and he brought them to Bang's riding stable. I got eight dollars a month a head for the horses I'd ride, and I go out before school and ride the horses, and exercise them.** They had a track at the place and I would ride them

around the track. That's how I started riding flat saddle.

(TL) What year was it when they bought Rest Haven and started building the cemetery?

(RL) That had to be in the 1930s. I was still in grade school. Later I was in Roosevelt, I graduated from there in 1936 then I entered the University which I graduated from in 1940. It was in the mid-30s that they built Rest Haven. And the Catholic cemetery, Mount Calvary, we knew it was there. It was there before Rest Haven.

(RL) This area was almost a foreign land to me since I grew up on the other side of town. You always referred to West Eugene and East Eugene with Willamette Street dividing them. For example, there were two schools, **Eugene High School, over on this west side of town, and University High School on the east side of town;** it was a little dinky building mostly made to train teachers in the School of Education at the University, and most of the students were sons and daughters of the university professors and doctors. We lived in the neighborhood with all those people so that was the logical place for us to go to school.

(DK) When you rode out here, was there a place that had a nice view?

(RL) On Dillard Road going over on the way to Goshen, or the road coming over the hill when you first look down on Eugene and on the Laurelwood golf course. I remember when Laurelwood was made. My good friend Bill Rossen, we were in school together, and he later on became a four-star general and follow the military career. We were in the military together all through the university, too. We were both in the band together, both played games together. Anyway he was a darn good golfer and he golfed there.

(TL) And that is the oldest golf course in Eugene, isn't it?

(RL) No, the Country Club is older. Laurelwood was a new one, and also Oakway. It was built I think before Laurelwood. When I was in school I used to go out there, we would have fraternity parties there and play golf. It was new then.

(TL) I think that our house was the first house on the street.

(RL) It could have been. The Rubenstein house is earlier but it is down the hill; ours was the first one up on this road. Jack Stafford was the architect for this house, for Don Woome's house, and for the Beck's,

I liked to ride, and I had a deal out there that I would clean out stalls and in return for it I could ride all the horses I wanted from the stable

and two or three other houses up here. He was a good friend of mine, older than I, and a friend from Boy Scout days. I knew him growing up. He was the official bugler at our Boy Scout camp and I was the second bugler. He would blow the bugle at the Center and then I would blow the answering thing in one of the out camps we had, so we passed the bugle calls along.

(TL) This was the only street light up here, the one outside our driveway.

(RL) That was built at Mrs. Baker's insistence. There was no other light when we moved in and I think there still isn't another one yet. Mrs. Baker kept badgering someone that she wanted light up here since she couldn't see, and they built that one. And the big Portuguese laurel island between our house and the house next door, in the middle of the yard, that was built because the neighbors put their garbage out on that side and she wanted something to screen it, but she wanted to do it tactfully and not go over and say please move your garbage. She had them plant those laurels. I think Ted Baker told us that.

(TL) And Nancy Doby lived where Fred Lorish is now. There have only been two families there. Mrs. Doby worked in real estate, and she wanted to sell the lower piece of land first and she asked us if we wanted it. Then the Lorishes bought it and remodeled the house quite a bit.

(RL) But I'd say that this neighborhood is pretty much the same, just different people. We were the childless couple; the rest all had kids and they're all teenagers now.

(TL) This was all open, there were no fences anywhere. We had the field fence because it looked pretty, and then we put up the other fence. There were no fences really, that was the nice part. Then suddenly we got a lot of fences.

(DK) Do you think that was a change in the way people were thinking about their property?

(RL) Yes.

(TL) We got a note from the city that our fence was too far out. The city sent a note; a neighbor had complained, because they wanted to park their cars and they did not have room.

(RL) The truth is that the fence is too far out and they were built that way all along the street. If you wanted to do a measurement from the middle of the road you'd find that the fences infringe on the right of way. When that happened I went down to the city and I said "look, if you ever need the room I'll move the fence. Is there any problem", and they said "no, not really."

Melanie Lee and Robert Lee

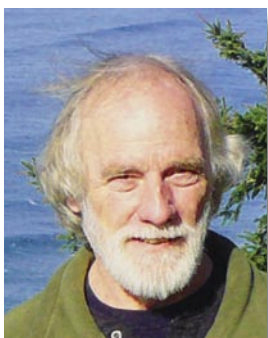
(Wayne Morse's granddaughter, and her husband)

Speaking with the board of the Morse Family Farm

June 14, 2009



(ML) There are a lot of things that I need to go through from my mother's that I brought home with me. A few years back, mother gave me most of her family photos, not all of them but the bulk of them, and Ellen and Harriet came over to our home and so we went through that together. I have a lot of photos of this farm that I want to pull out and share and donate to the farm.



I also brought these trophies and I'm donating them to the farm. These were "Reserve Champion Devon Female Eastern National Livestock Show, 1961, Morse Frances". Morse Frances was one of the prize cows. This is "Spice of Life, Grand Champion, Five Gaited American Saddlehorse, Forestville, Virginia, AHSA, Sept 27 1947, Owned and Ridden by Wayne Morse."

(Board Member) We have been wanting a Spice of Life trophy.

(ML) Here's another one "Rotary Club....and Shown by Wayne Morse."

[There was discussion about pictures of Senator Morse on the horse, speculation that there might be paver on the plaza with the name of one of the horses on it.]

(ML) I was born 55 years and 5 days after Grandfather Morse was born. I was born October 25, 1955, and grandfather died when he was 73 but he would have been 74 that October. I was 18 when he died.



The three Morse daughters on horseback

Courtesy of Wayne Morse Historical Park Corporation

And I would have been 19 that October. So I knew him my first 18 or about 19 years, and a lot of the memories I have of him are just tidbits; they're smells and -- I watched him a lot and I remember watching **him eat strawberries and cream, his favorite dessert.** He loved strawberries and cream and he'd get excited when he got the strawberries and cream. **I also have a lot of memories of Grandfather and Grandmother Morse in Washington DC, the Watergate apartment, and at the Capitol building, his Senate office, and riding the subway -- that's a big memory -- and watching him with Grandmother Morse sit in the Congress, up in the visitor's balcony.**

(Board Member) You said you spent a lot of summers here.

(ML) I spent a lot of summers here and I took my first steps here; I learned to walk here, probably in this living room. The last time I ever spent the night here was the last time the entire Morse family was gathered, which was for his funeral. Everyone except Grandfather was here and I knew at the time it would be the last time that the entire Morse family was here together, because Grandfather Morse was the glue that held the family together. **He was the patriarch.** Even Wade Eaton was here, and he and Judith had been divorced by then. Grandmother Morse's younger sister Bernice was here with her husband Roy Eife. I knew it would be the last time. I slept in the bed in the room off the

Melanie and Robert Lee

Courtesy of Melanie Lee.

landing which is the office now.

Grandfather died July 22 -- Nixon's resignation speech was on August 8 of 1974 and I remember we all were gathered here in the living room watching Nixon's resignation speech. I was sitting over there and I remember looking around and going "Oh, my God, he's watching us." I know he's here with us and he's watching it. I'll never forget the day that Grandfather Morse and Grandmother Morse were visiting us in South Carolina over New Years of 1969 and Grandfather was devastated. He'd lost the election; he was suffering.

They were congenial and Grandfather would give other Senators nicknames of his prize bulls. That would have been an honor, to be nicknamed after one of his prize bulls

(Board Member) You found him charismatic?

(ML) Of course. [ML talked about seeing WM sitting in his chair holding the attention of everyone in the room. Then the conversation turned to what the room and grounds looked like in those days] ...

[Out the window at that time] the vegetation was looking a little sparser right here, but all the fences were white.

(Board Member) **The Devon cattle** were something that Wayne stuck with for quite a while. When he talked to Glen Jackson, who was the chairman of Pacific Power and Light and of the Oregon Highway Commission at that time, they never talked about highways; they never talked about utilities or electricity; they talked about Devon cattle. I think that Wayne was possibly trying to trade him something; I'm not sure, but it was a couple farmers talking.

(ML) Mother told me numerous stories. I remember her talking about how back when Grandfather was in the Senate that even when the Senators didn't agree with each other, and vehemently didn't agree, they still had respect. They were congenial and Grandfather would give other Senators nicknames of his prize bulls. That would have been an honor, to be nicknamed after one of his prize bulls.

(Board Member) Thank you Melanie

(ML) You're welcome.

(Board Member) Robert, I understand you came later, so why don't you tell us when you came to the Morse family, linked by marriage.

(RL) The first thing I do want to do is I want to thank the board and everyone for the celebration of life that we were allowed to have up here. Everybody that really knew Nancy [Senator Morse's daughter,

Melanie's mother], her close friends, just thought that was such a special celebration of life, and I really want to thank you all for that before I go any further. It was an extraordinary special thing.

I met Melanie in 92 and we didn't immediately hit it off; we just went out for coffee a few times and we didn't take it any further. Then a couple years later one night we met each other again and then of course love found its way and everything sort of took off from there. I still remember the first day I met Melanie's mother, she was holding court in her front room, and I walked in -- I had just had an open house so I was in a suit and tie and of course **anybody who knows Nancy knows that is the way to her heart, a man in a suit and tie, it was very special in her eyes**. She never really saw me in a suit and tie after that.

She always had that memory of me so she always asked me when I was going to put a suit and tie on. It was kind of funny. I don't know very much about the Morse history. I was lucky enough to meet all of the sisters. I did not meet Mildred Morse [Senator Morse's wife].

(ML) Grandmother died December of 94 and we got married March of 95.

(RL) So it seems like over the years the times I have met Judith and Amy [Senator Morse's other daughters] they've all been involved around a funeral of one sort or another. I did get a chance to meet them all and I spent a lot of time with Nancy in the last year of her life; we got very close. I lost my job back in August and decided that I wasn't going to go back to work, so I spent a lot of time with Nancy. It was a good time.

When Amy was here a little after Nancy died I guess that was when I learned the most about **the farm**. Amy insisted that we come up here. I didn't really realize what was here at the time, the walking tracks and some of the other stuff around the farm. She insisted that we were going to walk all the trails; she was in really good shape. I was huffing and puffing a little bit. We did get a chance to walk the entire farm and she told me stuff about when she was a kid there used to be a tree house over here, and they played around the tree house, and of course she told me about the orchard --this was all orchard here, up above where the picnic grounds are now.

It was fascinating just to watch her reminisce about all of this. She's absolutely convinced that there is an Indian burial ground down here

too, and I'm not sure exactly where the story started, but there's a bunch of rocks down there and she said because they were the only rocks - she insisted because of the way the rocks were arranged and stuff, somehow this memory of the thing came up from her childhood. Somewhere along the line; I'm not sure where exactly; whether it's true or not is immaterial, but to her it's definitely there.

I came to really love everybody in the family, and felt very honored to hear a lot of the history about Wayne Morse. I don't know, I don't have any particular stories to tell. Nancy was a character as were all the girls in the family; they were all characters. It was a lot of fun to get to know them all. I hope Amy comes back out; she sort of adopted us it seems like. So I guess I don't really have much more than that.

(Board Member) Did you feel intimidated marrying into the family?

(RL) I actually did not because I come from a great family myself. I'm a direct descendant of Robert E. Lee. So it just kind of came. Melanie's father lived in South Carolina so every time I went to South Carolina I was just an instant celebrity down there. And I do remember one time, we were at this civil war reenactment at this old house and it was the Daughters of the Confederacy that put this on and there were these two little old ladies that were in antebellum costumes and they were greeting people coming in. My father-in-law introduced me as Robert E. Lee, and he went on to say that he was a descendant of Robert E. Lee

(ML) and they got very excited

RL; and these little old ladies looked up and said "What should we call you then?" and I said "Well you can call me General."

(Board Member) So, Robert, when you met Nancy and knew what an independent woman she was, do you have a favorite story you could share about Nancy?

(ML) I want to share a sweet story. It was only a few months before she died; I would visit her every Friday; I took her lunch and we'd visit. She told me one Friday, she said "I want you to know that I love Robert as much as I love Charles." I said "I know, Mom." She said "It's different, you know, but as much." I said "I understand and I know."

Fortunately Mom lost her spare house key the Saturday before she died. She died on a Monday and I had been up Friday and I wouldn't

have gone back up for a week, but fortunately she lost the spare house key that Saturday and when we talked -- we talked on the phone every day -- I said "Robert and I will come up tomorrow after our walk." Fortunately we went up and we had a wonderful visit with her, thank God.

(RL) There were some very funny things about Nancy. She loved hotdogs; Nancy's favorite food was a hotdog. To her that was health food and that was her absolutely favorite thing. We always had Thanksgiving and Christmas up at her house. One year I just absolutely insisted that we were going to have Thanksgiving at our house this year. I think after we moved into our house. **I asked her what she wanted for Thanksgiving dinner and she insisted on hotdogs.** I was adamant; I was not going to serve hotdogs; I was going to have a traditional dinner. She got so mad about it that she wasn't going to come if we didn't have hotdogs. So I gave in and grilled hotdogs for Thanksgiving dinner; it was her favorite Thanksgiving of all time.

(Board Member) Were they turkey hotdogs?

(RL) No, they were all beef.

Bruce Chase

interviewed by David Kolb

Vincent Street

May 18, 2010



Bruce Chase

Photo by David Kolb

(DK) You lived on the other side of town; how did you come to know the Morse family?

(BC) In the mid-1940s I was in junior high at the Roosevelt school on Agate Street. **That's where I met Nancy Morse, the oldest of the three Morse girls. I spent a lot of time in the summers, through my high school years, dashing south on Willamette street and up to the farm.** Of course that's about the time that Wayne was leaving his law school deanship and running for the Republican seat in the Senate.

(DK) How did you get across the river and all the way through town?

(BC) I grew up in the Chase Gardens Area [west of south Garden Way Road and east of Autzen Stadium]. They didn't have school buses. There was a bridge across the river that gravel companies used when they excavated gravel in what is now Alton Baker Park. That's one way I could get to Junior High school. When I got to high school I harvested a crop of corn and bought a car. The trip was not too bad because there wasn't any traffic. **Out in the area from Chase Gardens to the Ferry Street bridge very seldom would we see another car.** We were out in the country (east) and the Morses were out in the country (west). In the years before I was 14 Mother was the main transport. At 14 we could get a drivers permit to drive back and forth to school, and I did. The route was north on Garden Way, to Harlow, west to Coburg Rd, and then south to the Ferry Street Bridge and onto 6th. Then west to Willamette Street and south to Crest Drive. One way was just seven miles from home to the Morse farm.



(DK) Where did the country begin and the town stop? Around 18th Avenue?

(BC) There was not much built up around the Ferry Street Bridge north of the Willamette River, but there was quite a bit built on South Willamette Street, on the west side (College Hill) to about 25th. **There was a golf course on South Willamette, the original Eugene Country Club** that later moved to the north of the Ferry Street Bridge. That west side from about 25th south was still bare of anything in the 1940's. Houses are there now, and the area has developed commercially. The east side of Willamette Street, from 19th south was wetlands (Amazon

Lorane Hwy with car. Coburg hills in the background

Courtesy of the Lane County Historical Museum



Wayne Morse farm buildings and fenced pasture with the city edge and Coburg Hills in the background

Courtesy of the Lane County Historical Museum

swamp). It was beautiful from 28th (Lorane Highway) up Crest into the Morse Farm area. The Lamont home was on the right of Crest Drive up the hill and east of the Morse pasture. (Lamont hatchery). There were homes being built below the Lamont home, but that didn't start until the early '50's. Some very large homes were on upper Crest Drive (south-west).

(DK) Were there orchards in the vicinity?

(BC) No, not on the Morse place. Which was somewhat unusual because any open ground in the area, especially if it was marginal ground, was planted with filberts or walnuts or prunes.

(BC) Once Wayne was in the Senate, the family would only be at the farm in the summers. On summer weekends people gathered, usually Orlando Hollis, who had become Dean of the law school, and Paul Washcke, staff Wayne had worked with at the University. They would spend their weekends with the horses and discussing political subjects.

(DK) Could you ride a horse?

(BC) I had to work with horses, so I was not a horsey person. I loved them during hunting season. I hauled Wayne's horses around for a

couple of years. The county fair and the state fair were big items; the two events would take up a couple of weeks, so I worked with horses, but I had no desire to play with horses.

(DK) Did his daughters ride?

(BC) They all loved to ride, I think Nancy more than the rest of them, but the others were still pretty young. I don't have reason to drive through there very often these days, but before Nancy passed away she showed me where she rode up through those south hills. Those were really important fond memories for her, those summers.

(DK) When you visited the farm did the kids stay on the farm or go walking in the neighborhood?

(BC) We wandered around. There was a lot of open space and there were some beautiful big homes above on Crest and on a few other streets.

(DK) The kids must not have been eager to sit around and discuss politics.

(BC) Not at all. Paul Washcke and Dean Hollis and the Senator would take off down past the barn into the pasture and just walk all around or up above the house. "Midge", the Senator's wife, would usually have lunch made for them. I remember once she fixed a really nice roast for them, and **Wayne had a Dalmatian that he was very fond of. The dog snuck into the kitchen and ate the roast while everybody else was out in the yard.** It was a pretty casual situation on the weekends, a lot of outdoors activity if the weather was good, which it usually is in Oregon in the summer. Everybody was outdoors.

(DK) Did the kids stay together or spread out?

(BC) They kind of did their own things. There was enough age difference and they all had their own age group friends that they hung out with every summer.

Nancy and Judy and their mother loved to go up the McKenzie, and they were often invited to friends along the river

(DK) Did the family ever go to the coast or to the mountains?

(BC) Nancy and Judy and their mother loved to go up the McKenzie, and they were often invited to friends along the river. There was a

**The senator's
other love
was chickens.
He was into
show birds**

wonderful place up on the Columbia over the Bridge of the Gods, where they went a couple of different summers, and I was fortunate enough to be invited. I don't remember them spending much time at the coast, but then I wasn't always invited.

(DK) The weekends were very social?

(BC) Yes, but not a huge group, usually enough to fill up the dining room table.

(DK) Did people come down from Salem for political discussions?

(BC) I didn't see too much of that. But then I really wasn't too interested in listening to those conversations.

(DK) We've heard that there was a lot of discussion of horses.

(BC) There was a lot of work around the horses. I repaired the Senator's horse trailer for him, and I sold him some hay. We had chances to work around the barn quite a lot.

(DK) How many horses were there?

(BC) There were never more than two that I remember. Sir Royal Guy was a standardbred American that he showed to harness and saddle — he was a two five miler, a big horse, 17 and one-half hands. I can't remember the horses that the girls had.

(DK) We heard that when the Senator moved to the farm in the '30s he had a Kentucky thoroughbred, Edgewood Bourbon.

(BC) Before Spice of Life? I don't know about the horses he had in the '30s. Spice of Life I didn't know except in pictures; he had been retired to stud in Kentucky by the time I was around the horses. I learned how to wrap their legs for travel. The draft horses we had at the Gardens, we didn't wrap their legs.

The senator's other love was chickens. He was into show birds and it was very impressive to walk through the county or state fair with him; he knew every breed in the house.

(DK) Did he keep chickens on the farm?

(BC) Not while I was there. I think he kept chickens in his youth. But evidently it was serious because he knew the lineage of every bird in the exhibits.

(DK) He did have the farm in Maryland.

(BC) I was only there once. When he switched parties, the Republicans were terribly upset and they would refer to that farm as Morse's Ranch. That was a campaign attack about Morse's wealth and prestige. The daughters were pretty sensitive about calling this Eugene farm Morse Ranch, which almost everybody did. Both of the farms were pretty austere; they weren't ranches. But they were important to him, and — this is an assumption on my part — I think the Maryland farm was a place for him to escape a little bit when in Washington.

(DK) Were the woods in the back of the house always there?

(BC) Yes, I don't remember any horses or animals being in the upper field above the house where the picnic shelter is now.

(DK) Did they raise any crops anywhere in the land?

(BC) No, no vegetable garden. They really didn't have time for that sort of thing.

(DK) What was the farm like in the winter?

(BC) I didn't have cause to up there very much in the winter, but sometimes they would rent it out to somebody from the university. Once there was a family that came into town from Minneapolis and their son was a year ahead of me in high school, so I did visit up there in the winter. It wasn't high enough to get any snow but the road wasn't real good. Down where it intersected with Willamette the road was pretty much just gravel. If you came down off the hill and turned too fast onto Willamette you would slide on that gravel.

(DK) It surprises me that the golf courses have moved around.

(BC) The old golf course went up the hill from Willamette Street; it was called the South Willamette Golf Club. The original nine holes was around 24th through 28th, up on the hill. There was a radio station up on the hill, KORE. The club moved to where it's located now in 1923. It was all built with a fresnow (scraper) and horses. That land was an old farm, a big family farm that had apples and pears and walnuts. It was a beautiful piece of ground; it still is. I still go out there and walk around

**Down where it
intersected with
Willamette the road
was pretty much just
gravel. Up the hill
they just oiled the
road**

and try to play golf.

In the 1940s on the northwest side of the golf course there was a bean field and a Mrs. Heidenreich who owned it would only hire girls to pick beans. The girls would come down out of the dusty dirty old bean field to eat lunch on the green grass of the golf course. We boys who were caddies tried to time our loops so we could get around to where the girls were. My future wife worked up there and **I landed my airplane there one evening to impress the girls but they had already gone home.** I darned near didn't get out of there.

Everybody
picked beans,
I mean
Everybody
picked beans

(DK) Did the war effort affect things in town?

(BC) The University was very active and probably had more people than we did at the beginning of the war, because of the military installations in the vicinity, and USO operations in town on weekends. The lumber business was working hard supplying material for the war effort. The cannery was running full bore. It was around where the EWEB offices are now, just behind the courthouse. They canned vegetables, corn, beets, beans. Everybody picked beans, I mean Everybody picked beans.

That was one of the things that blew me away when I went back to Washington: those kids never worked. If you were white you didn't work. You went to summer camp. The black kids got the jobs and of course in those days they didn't associate with you. It astounded me because everybody I knew here, everyone I grew up with, male or female, picked beans. Or if you didn't pick beans you picked corn or apples or prunes or something. We all complained about it but those were some of the best memories all of us have.

(DK) Where were all these beans growing, on the outskirts of town?

(BC) You know where the Eugene country club is now, there were two large bean fields in that area . We had about 40 acres of beans at Chase Gardens; they were all over. Blue Lake pole beans

(DK) Did the Morse kids pick beans?

(BC) Nancy did for a day or two.

(DK) What took you to Washington?

(BC) **I'd go to Washington around Memorial Day and pick up the family to bring them back.** Usually there was a law student who would drive them to Washington in the fall and I would drive them to Oregon in the spring.

The first year I flew out in a DC 3, twenty-two hours from Eugene to Washington. We landed in Boise, Salt Lake City, and so on; we hopped across. It was pretty exciting for a young kid. But it was slow going. Driving back there were the three girls in the back and Midge and I in the front. The senator would fly back . We'd always go to Madison, Wisconsin first, where their families were, and we would stay overnight there. Midge had regular places to stop; she ran a tight ship. She pushed hard. I'd drive thru some states and wouldn't even know it, hour after hour after hour. It took five+ days. That's driving hard on the old roads. She had places that she always stayed and people she wanted to visit. The girls would say "I need to stop for a rest room" and she'd say "forget it."

(BC) Those summers were a pretty exciting time for me. To be exposed to all of these people when I was young. Orlando Hollis and I later served together on the city airport commission for nineteen years. All my friends who were lawyers were scared to death of him; he had been the dean when they were in law school and I guess he ruled with an iron hand. All I'd seen of him was those summer weekends when he was very relaxed. So I wasn't afraid of him. We got to be pretty good friends over the years, although there was quite an age difference. I enjoyed him.

I had learned
to fly in
Springfield.

(DK) Were you involved with the old airport?

(BC) I can remember my folks talking about the Russian military around the world flight landing at the old airport around 18th and Chambers. They took my oldest sister who was a babe in arms. That would have been right after the First World War. I flew into the old airport before it was closed. Greens' Flight service. I had learned to fly in Springfield. I flew solo at fourteen. Eight dollars an hour. I could work for eight hours at a dollar an hour and then go over to the airport in Springfield and fly for an hour.

I flew solo at
fourteen

(DK) What did you do after high school?

(BC) I went to the University for two years, then I went and defended our eastern shores from the North Koreans. I served in the 82nd Airborne in North Carolina. I didn't have any desire to be in the farm business growing orchids and roses. I'd had enough and I was going to fly. I did for a while; then our engineer died and my father asked me to



**The old airport
located at 18th
and Chambers is
seen at lower left**

Courtesy of the U of O
Knight Library

on air freight eastbound after the 2nd World War. California wasn't producing anything much at that time, and United Airlines was big but they didn't have anything to haul back east. So we got commodity rates. Our big markets were Boston and Washington and Chicago and Minneapolis. We shipped five days a week out of Portland. Originally they flew into Eugene for our stuff to Chicago. The pilot and copilot loaded it. You couldn't get them to do that anymore. We ran a refrigerated truck to Portland every day.

come do that job until they got a new one. Fifty years later I was still there. It was a wonderful opportunity; we had great people to work with. It was a fun industry at that time. It was a great place to raise a family.

It's not anymore. Cut flowers are all coming from Columbia and Costa Rica. All the roses. There are still quite a few orchids grown in the United States, but there is no cut flower market for orchids anymore; they're all sold as plants. Up here we were in the cut flower business, flowers for Mother's Day and Easter and Christmas and New Year's and so on. There are no large growers left in the United States. We grew cucumbers and tomatoes originally, but we built our flower business

Lorrane Taylor

interviewed by Josephine von Hippel

Lorane Highway

October 24, 2009



LorraneTaylor
Courtesy of Peter
von Hippel

(JvH) Hello, What was the story you wanted to tell me?

(LT) First of all, I'm Lorrane Cheney Taylor; my husband's name is John Taylor, and I grew up in the Cheney household on 1900 Crest Drive. We came here when I was in the eighth grade, I think. Anyway, when we came to Eugene my father had bought this place with **150 acres for \$3000**, I think it was.

And he went back to Montana and told my mother about

it; I can remember coming to Oregon. Montana was just a dust bowl at that time, we had crop failures year after year. Where I lived there weren't any trees and I just loved it out here. **When we got to Eugene my sister and I were so thrilled with this place that we sat out under an umbrella in the front yard**, while my mother sat in the house and cried a lot of the winter time because she could just see that raining so much would take all the fertility out of the soil and take it down the hill. What happened was very depressing to her because it was either foggy or raining all year.

(JvH) How did you happen to come to Crest Drive and this particular neighborhood?

(LT) Because my father had bought the property, 150 acres, at that time it was from the Commerce Mortgage Company.

(JvH) How did he find out about it?

(LT) He and about five different men in Peerless, Montana, Scobey

area, where I was born, heard about Oregon and just decided to come. Dad wrote these beautiful letters to my mother about this Eugene Oregon and how beautiful it was, and my father had inherited from his father and Dad put that money in on this property.

(JvH) Your father's name was Ray, wasn't it?

(LT) **Ray Edmund Cheney. He was married to Emma Siepert Cheney and the name of the street up on Lorane Highway, Em-Ray Drive, is named for my parents, Emma and Ray.** My grandmother and her brother had a golden wedding anniversary on the same day in 1973.

(JvH) So how long did you live up here where I now live [near the intersection of Crest and Chambers]?

(LT) We lived up here from 1937 until 1947 in a white two story house on the same house site as yours. I think it was in 1949 that my parents, or 1948, right soon after I graduated from the University and got married, that my parents moved down to Crest Drive. They bought some land from Bud and Stella Carrington.

(JvH) That's the house that your son Marlyn now lives in.

(LT) That's the house that Marlyn lives in. In the meantime they had bought some property up on the hill, where I mentioned Em-Ray drive.

(JvH) So where did you move to after you left 1900 Crest Drive?

(LT) I moved to Route 3, I'm not sure of the box number; it was out Fox Hollow Road, behind Spencer's Butte. When I came to Oregon, a young man I was in grade school with, Donald Cling, took my sister and I horseback riding and there were all these snakes around hissing at us, and I was deathly afraid of snakes. I said to Don, are there any rattlesnakes here, because I had heard these awful stories in Montana about rattlesnakes, although we had none. And he said well there are rattlesnakes on Spencer's Butte. And lo and behold John Taylor drove a carload of people from out Fox Hollow and around past Crest Drive. Donald Cling and Dick Gurock told me about him, and they got me a ride to school. To junior high school, to the ninth grade.

John killed many
rattlesnakes
- and I finally
ended up
confronting one
in the garage

(JvH) Where did you go to junior high?

(LT) I went to Woodrow Wilson junior high, I don't know the name of the school now; it's an elementary school now, down in Eugene. Anyway I went there that one year to school. I never dreamed that later on my husband would be in the air force and he'd be in the hospital and he decided to start writing to me and the letters became more frequent and so on and so forth, and eventually I ended up marrying him in 1947, and **moved to that very area that I feared the most**, Fox Hollow, and we had rattlesnakes on our place – John killed many rattlesnakes - and I finally ended up confronting one in the garage. Because we had an outhouse, I had to go through the garage to go to the bathroom on Fox Hollow Road, and I got up the courage to kill that snake and conquered my fear, but the snake died.

(JvH) How did you meet John?

(LT) I met him, as I mentioned, when he drove a load of kids to high school, and I went to junior high; he dropped me off at Woodrow Wilson Junior High School.

(JvH) Your husband's father was Harry Taylor, is that correct?

(LT) That's right; there were other people; we did have some connection with the Grange, in those early days. Bud Furrow and his five daughters and so on; I was acquainted with all those people.

(JvH) I understand that Harry Taylor was one of the people in *Pioneers of Spencer Butte*, which was written by Lois Barton.

(LT) Lois Barton and a group of people from her church, the Friends Church, I think, anyway there were about five different ones that bought the property south of Spencer's Butte, and they were called Community Homes, Incorporated. Lois is quite a lady and I guess she wasn't too much afraid of the snakes like I was.

(JvH) When you lived on Harry Taylor Road, how old were you?

(LT) I was 22 when I got married to my husband, and we lived there and I was very much afraid of rattlesnakes at that time.

(JvH) You said you lived on Harry Taylor Road. Did you live in the house that the Barton's live in?

(LT) We lived in the house that Lois and Harry Barton live in. Lois is

still there and writes books.

(JvH) There was a young woman that we saw there recently and she was in the Barton house. Does Lois have a daughter?

(LT) She has several children but Margie lived down the road, the Fergusons.

(JvH) When did you move back to the Crest Drive area?

(LT) Well, John, my husband, went to Oregon State College, and **my folks sold John and me about two acres of ground on Chambers Street right behind my folks' house on Crest Drive**. We built that house that is there in 1955.

(JvH) You built it in 1955?

(LT) John graduated in '55 from Oregon State. Sylvia was a new little baby. It was in '55 or '56, somewhere in there, that we built the house. We did not finish the house; we built the framework of the house and we built it as we went, and we finally completed it years later. And we built another house on Lorane Highway that is modeled after that original house.

(JvH) Is that where you live now?

(LT) Yes. But we don't have as many floors; we only have two floors and a basement.

(JvH) I think the man who lives in the house you used to live in sells books.

(LT) His name is Ezra Tishman.

(JvH) But your children were all raised here, weren't they?

(LT) They were all raised in the Chambers Street house. Marlyn is living on Crest Drive, and Dale is living in West Eugene and he is a respiratory therapist and commutes to Salem about two or three times a week. Sylvia is in Keizer and she's given me much much joy and four wonderful grandchildren. The oldest one -- I'm bragging here -- Lorrana, named after me, just graduated from Viola University, and she was summa cum laude, the highest grades in the whole school. And the other children are doing well also; the oldest one, Justin, has two little children age 3 and 1, and they're our pride and joy also. Dale has two boys that are at the honors college at the University of Oregon and

we're very happy with them.

(JvH) How many people do you remember who were here when you were raising your children in the Crest Drive area?

(LT) I don't remember too many that are still there; I still communicate with some people. Mrs. Olivia Hunt has been there ever since we've been there, I think.

(JvH) She plays the violin? Or she was giving violin lessons, I think.

(LT) She teaches piano lessons to many people including my doctor. I think the Reimers, Carl and Maryann Reimer, the Smiths that lived on the corner of Crest Drive and Lorane Highway, Ann Smith died several years ago and Floyd is living up in Albany or somewhere in that area. I know his daughter, who is in a group with me, a breast cancer support group.

(JvH) They had five girls; my sons went to school with some of them and I now recall my oldest son also took piano lessons from Olivia Hunt.

(LT) They had five daughters. After the Smiths I think the McDonalds lived there, Pat and Bob McDonald. Both of them are gone now, too. They had a pair of twins, Patty and Alice. It seems like there are two sets of twins that have grown up in that house.

(JvH) You mentioned that Sylvia went to Crest Drive School.

(LT) Yes, she went to Crest Drive, I think she was in the fifth grade when she started Crest Drive. She went to Stella Magladry; all three of our children went to Stella Magladry and I went to Stella Magladry in my seventh and eighth grade. Our three children had the same teacher that my husband had at Twin Oaks school many many years before. Her name was Gladys Taliaferro. A wonderful, wonderful lady.

(JvH) And all three of your children had her?

(LT) Yes.

(JvH) Amazing. You are still playing in the community orchestra, aren't you?

(LT) Yes, I've been playing in it for many years, since they started.

(JvH) When did they start?

(LT) I don't remember what year it was. It was after '55 but it was around that time. I had been playing -- I didn't have a French horn at the time and I always borrowed French horns, and finally I got one of my own. I borrowed instruments up at Oregon State College when John was going to college, and I had trouble knowing who to root for when I played in their band, because I was a University of Oregon graduate.

(JvH) So you're still playing in the community orchestra?

(LT) Yes I am.

(JvH) I remember, that's where I met you, actually, because I played in the community orchestra; I think it was in 1968.

(LT) That's right, yes.

(JvH) You know maybe it was later that the orchestra started. Bill Tweedy was the director when I was there.

(LT) Charles Richards was the first director, I think.

I had trouble knowing who to root for when I played in their band, because I was a University of Oregon graduate

(JvH) Can you think of anything that was exciting in the neighborhood during the times that you lived there?

(LT) **Did I tell about the bedbugs?** When we moved to Oregon there was an old house at this location; a very very old house. It was vacated, it was empty, and my mother had known of bedbugs before in her house, and the first thing she looked for in this house was bedbugs and she found them. And so we fumigated with sulphur and people were so generous and kind at that time. There were people by the name of Chris Kling and his wife that lived on Lorane Highway and they took my parents in, they allowed us to set up a tent and camp in their front yard while we fumigated bedbugs.

(JvH) Where was the tent?

(LT) It was on the corner of Lorane Highway, where it joins and turns into Crest Drive.

It turned out to be a very nice place, actually

(JvH) So how long did you live in the tent?

(LT) Oh, it wasn't over a week or so.

(JvH) That's a long time. While they fumigated the house for bedbugs.

(LT) They fumigated the house and then the house was very very old; my sister and I had rooms upstairs. It turned out to be a very nice place, actually. My father and I went to Michigan in 1939 and my father needed to bring his mother to Oregon, and she lived with us for two years before she died.

(JvH) I remember that your parents lived in the house that Marlyn lives in now. Is that correct?

(LT) That's correct; and it was built by Bud Carrington. It's kind of odd the way that he would build a little bit as he could, and the house changed forms several times. Actually he built around the original house, I think.

(JvH) But the chicken coops were down there, weren't they?

(LT) My parents had the chicken coops built. They sold eggs eventually. **They had chickens that they sold to the meat market and eventually they went into the hatching business and sold to Lamont's Hatchery, close to Morse Ranch.**

(JvH) I understand you told me some time ago that your parents planted a lot of trees up here. I notice that we have a lot of plum trees and pear trees -- did they plant those?

(LT) Yes they did; they planted trees. In fact there was a prune orchard and the folks used to have prunes dried in the winter time. Do you still get prunes?

(JvH) I guess we do; I guess there are some out there. I'll have to take a look for them. I know there are pears all along the driveway.

(LT) There were some apple trees.

(JvH) We have lots of apples; did they plant those too?

(LT) You know, I think they were here.

(JvH) But the little orange plums, how about those, did they plant those?

(LT) I think they may have; I can't remember.



(JvH) I remember your mother used to dress up like a witch on Halloween and the kids used to come and get trick or treats from her. Do you remember that?

The house where Lorraine's mother played as a witch on Halloween

Photo by David Kolb

(LT) Oh I sure do. We got rid of those costumes recently. **People used to come from miles around to my mother's.** She used to have a big old tub, galvanized metal tub, and she had an old clothes stomper and she'd pretend that she was a witch, with her costume on, and she'd pretend to stir this brew, and try to get them to step into it. She had a lot of fun, and like I said people came from miles around, that's the way we got acquainted with a lot of people.

(JvH) I have some questions that somebody in the neighborhood has asked; I don't know whether you know the answers to any of these and that, but if you don't know them just say you don't know. She said that one of the original farm houses in the area is tucked in the middle of the block between Crest and 3300 block of Olive. She wants to know if the Lamont family lived there. Did you know a Lamont family?

(LT) Yes, I don't know if that's the exact spot. But the Lamont's were the people that were in the chicken business and they are the ones that my parents sold to. They were in the hatchery business. And they called them the Lamont's Featherland Farms. Chickens had to be vaccinated,

they had to put the little numbers on them and so on, and Mr. Lamont used to always come and do those things for my parents. He used to always help them because they were selling hatching eggs. Later Dad delivered eggs for eating to people in the neighborhood.

(JvH) Do you know who some of the original people in the old farm buildings on west 34th around Willamette were?

(LT) No; in that area there were some people by the name of Judy and their daughter Helen Judy Hunter was someone I admired very much because she had a beautiful voice and she used to sing in operas and things.

(JvH) Do you have any information about the original donation land claim settlers James Breeden or William Breeden? Does that ring a bell?

(LT) I don't know. There were the Breeden brothers and I think one of the Breeden's owns something in that area. The Breedens built homes. My husband worked for Breedens for over twenty years as a finish carpenter. He was one of their favorite employees.

(JvH) How has the area changed since you came here?

(LT) Actually there has not been too much new construction. There's been quite a bit up and down Crest Drive, and a number of houses on Lorane Highway between our place and the corner, like the Pearson's and some of those. But considering all the other development in Eugene it has not. In fact we are so pleased to get to see the view that we get every evening. It is absolutely beautiful, the sunsets and sunrises. We have a beautiful location for seeing all of this.

(JvH) When did KVAL get built, the TV tower? Do you remember it at all when you were a girl?

(LT) No, it was not there at all. It's been since 1955; I'm not sure exactly.

(JvH) We were trying to remember when Crest Drive school was built.

(LT) It was brand new when my daughter went there in the fifth grade. In fact it may be that Crest Drive was new and Marlyn went to Churchill High School the first year it was built.

(JvH) When was that?

(LT) In about 1967.

(JvH) Thank you very very much. You've really supplied a lot of history for us.

Waneta Ritzman, with Mary Stapleton

interviewed by David Kolb

Crest Drive near Courtney St.

February 19, 2010



Waneta Rizman

Courtesy

Courtesy of Mary
Stapleton

(DK) We're curious about your memories of what it was like around here.

(WR) When we first moved here [in 1946] there was a house across the street and there was one up on the hill, a great big square house belonging to Mrs. A. T. Schaeffer. Her husband, I don't know what year it was, he committed suicide. She had a couple of sons and he built a couple of houses up there.

(DK) Is that house still there, on 37th perhaps?

(WR) Yes, it would be on that dead-end street. That's the only house that was up on the hill; all the others have been put up since. We used to call that Pill Hill because of all the doctors: a Dr. White and Dr. Richmond.

(DK) Did the houses go in one at a time or altogether?

(WR) As people wanted to build they got built. I can't tell you who built them. I know the Schaeffer boy built a couple of them up there, he built one for his mom. Dr. Fox lived up there too. He was in the first house on 37th on the south side, and then Mrs. Schaeffer, her son built her a big one right beside his.

(DK) When you looked up that way were there a lot of trees or was it more open?

(WR) It was just open; I don't think they cut many trees down. This

outfit here [a utility team working on Crest Drive] cut more trees down than anything.

(DK) You said there was a house across the street. If you went beyond that did you run into the Giustina's house?

(WR) No, their house was down the hill a little further. The house up there, Thomas was their name, Ted Thomas, and she died of cancer, and then he sold the place and he went to Portland and he bought himself a brand-new car and we went down to California and he was in an accident and **both drivers of the cars that hit were killed.**

(DK) There were more orchards on the hill then?

(WR) There was a pear orchard and there used to be some fruit trees over here by the school, cherry trees. Now we had two pear trees in my back pasture when we bought. The only thing that was here was two pear trees, and a great big two-story warehouse back there that Daltons had; it was a blind for pinball machines; they had pinball machines in there. You could build a chicken coop, so it looked like a chicken coop. And we took it down when we came here in 1946. We lived down there for a year until we built this house. We started building in '47 and removed it in '48. This house had only one bathroom with eight children; people ask how, I say they all took their turn. They all went to Catholic school. The first year they didn't, because we had no transportation and my husband decided to take the children, and they rode the bus home down here to the corner of Lorane. And then they walked home from there.

(DK) I wondered how you got around, living up here with not so many people about.

(WR) We had a car, a 36 V-eight. We came from South Dakota in that. We went to Sandpoint, Idaho; we lived there and our son was born there, then we went to Klamath Falls and a son was born there, then we moved up to Rosenberg because there were more sheep in Douglas County than anywhere else. My husband was a carpenter but he also sheared sheep. Round here he sheared around 3000 sheep. He could

**We bought
1.79 acres;
we paid
\$3000 for it**

shear a sheep in one minute. My daughters would time him. And then we built up here. Our oldest daughter was getting ready for school, and we had some friends who were building a house down here, on Storey, the first house on Storey; it's low down, quite low.

(MS) What was their name?

(WR) Lodge, James Lodge. They were building, they didn't get it built and it burned. He left a cigarette in a clothes closet or something. Then they took the insurance money and rebuilt it. And they said this place was for sale, and we bought 1.79 acres; we paid \$3000 for it.

(DK) Now they're trying to sell the lots around the corner for \$129,000, in the old pear orchard. Was the school behind you when you bought your land?

(WR) No. Someone says, you have a school in your backyard so your kids don't have to go far. And I said no, I would never send my children to a public school. So they all went to Catholic school.

(DK) Where was the Catholic school?

(WR) Downtown, right back of the church, St. Mary's on Charnelton. They went to the first two grades and then they eventually moved up to where St. Francis was, on 18th, and then there was no more St. Francis. Msgr. Murnane had the brothers come out here and he built Marist. But that's 8 miles from here and we had to take them all over there and then pick them up, until one got old enough and we bought a car for him; he could drive the others over, and that way it made them come home with him after school.

(DK) When there weren't so many people living up here, did the neighborhood get together? Did you know everybody?

(WR) I knew everybody, because we had the College Crest Community Club.

(DK) Thank you for giving me material from the Club. We'll see what we can learn, and then give the documents to the Lane County Historical Museum.

(MS) There's a few things in there about the streets. **They were complaining about the difficulty of getting the streets repaired, long ago.** They wished they would do something with them. The smaller books are



ledger books filled with accounts. You can look at them and see how much things cost. And in that packet is EWEB bills.

**Ritzman family
home**

Courtesy of David

(WR) Now, see the EWEB bills are Fred Getchell's, he lived nearby down on Storey Boulevard, just across from where the big water tank is, and his wife lived there. When you read meters you paid for it.

(DK) So you had to pay right on the spot?

(WR) Yep, the water bill, not the electric bill. The electric bill was sent you in the mail.

(WR) When we moved here this house on the other side was just being finished. Mr. Nielsen, he had his wife and three boys. He was Danish. His wife's name was Toba. She died of cancer, right over here at home, and after some years he put an ad in a Danish paper for a wife, and he got all kinds of answers; they would drop anything over there to come to the United States. So he did pick up a wife, her name was Bebe, she'd never been married before but she was a marvelous gal. They moved from here and -- I don't know if you know the name Eberhart or not, -- they moved in there.

(DK) And across the street there were?

(WR) Thomas; they were very friendly.

(DK) Were the Guistinas already there?

(WR) No, I don't think they were there yet. I think they moved in maybe 10-12 years later. Because my oldest daughter babysat for them.

(DK) The house that Ralph and Traudl Lafferty live in, was it there then? It must've been built later.

(WR) They have been there for 26 years and it was built less than five years before that, because when they got it built Mr. Baker died. And then Traudl and Ralph bought the house. But I have known her -- let's see, Alex is 22, my grandson -- I knew her before he went to school. she said they lived there for 26 years.

(DK) They are now the longest residents on that street.

(WR) On 37th, the first house on the left was Dr. White, the second house was Dr. Richmond.

(MS) Was that Stanley Richmond?

(WR) It could have been him, I don't know. I think they're the only two on the left. The first house on the right by Blanton and 37th, Gibbons built it years ago. Him and her are both gone. They more or less traded this property for some cabins over at the coast, Depoe Bay. He and she were divorced and then he died and then she went down to South Carolina or somewhere where her son was and then and then she died down there, of cancer I think. She also lost her daughter to cancer.

(DK) What was it like bringing up all your kids?

(WR) It was fun. I grew up with them. I grew up with our children. We used to play baseball back here. We'd take the mower and make lines in the grass just beside the barn. My husband used to play baseball back in South Dakota; he had a uniform and everything.

(WR) I met my husband when I was 15 and married him when I was 18 and he was twice my age. But it was love at first sight; he was a wonderful man, wasn't he, Mary? We built this house. He built this house; he had no electric tools, it was all by hand. And this lady, Toba Nielsen, she used to come over to see him build. The three bedrooms

downstairs, she said, those are big bedrooms. But now I wish they were twice as big as they are. I told people one bathroom; that makes it hard to get along with all those kids in one bathroom. I said they took their turns. I'm from a family of 13 and we didn't have a bathroom, just an outhouse. It was in Oakoma, South Dakota.

(WR) I knew every car that went down the hill here, who they belonged to, years ago, but now I don't, because all those houses out Blanton. My grandson in Portland -- my second daughter has one son, Michael -- he says to me, do you like this house, I say yes I like it. I helped lay the hardwood floor right over there; I drilled holes. My husband put the nails in it.

(DK) Do you think the neighborhood has changed a lot?

(WR) Oh, sure it has.

(DK) Obviously there are more houses, but has the feel changed?

(WR) You don't know -- of course our children went to the Catholic schools so I didn't know a lot of the parents except getting acquainted with them down at the College Crest Community Club, and different ones around.

(DK) Where was the Community Club?

(WR) You know where the main water tank is down there, when you first go down that street and to the right, there's another house down there. For some reason the College Crest Community Club, it burned [around New Year's in 1961]. They were going to swap this property for some something in the lower part of Crest Drive, as far as I know. For some reason they gave me all this material, but figured I could keep it.

**College Crest
Community Club, it
burned around New
Year's in 1961**

(MS) Didn't you and the kids used to pick beans in the summer?

(WR) Yes, we did. We picked beans.

(MS) She found some tallies from them picking beans. How many years ago was that?

(DK) Where did you pick them?

(WR) Chase's, out Country Club Road; it was all fields out there, now it's all houses. We also picked beans, the last time was over near

**He built
this house;
he had no
electric
tools, it
was all by
hand**

Goshen. Chase's had a field out there. We also picked cherries; we picked walnuts.

(MS) Did you take all the kids at once with you?

(WR) Yes they all earned money.

(MS) And did the money then go into a common fund?

(WR) No, they each had their own money. The two older girls went out here and picked beans for Mrs. Heidenright. Her husband had something to do with the cannery here.

(DK) And did you use the food from the trees in the back?

(WR) Yes, I canned.

(DK) You didn't sell it; you just used it.

(WR) One year I sold a few apples.

(MS) She's also given a lot away. They also used to raise their own beef.

(WR) We had a cow and chickens. We would raise one calf every year or every two years. We would sell half of the beef; my parents bought half of beef, we bought half of the beef, and a couple of different times after the children were all gone we couldn't use that much milk. My husband would buy two young calves in the fall and we would raise them through the winter and get them ready to butcher. Then we would keep one half and sell the other three halves.

(DK) Did you need a barn to keep them in in the winter?

(WR) It is back there below the shop. That was always there, it was underneath.

(DK) So was this originally a farm?

(WR) Yes, I think it was an orchard. Because there are apple trees over here yet. In this house across the street. They are Gravensteins, they are one of the best apples you've ever tasted. When they were pruning them there years and years ago I told Daddie, I said to my husband go get some of those long whips so you can graft them onto the trees down here. And so he did. In the last two years the apples taste like those. But they never bore any fruit while he was still alive. It takes five or six years for them to start bearing fruit. We have Italian prunes that he grafted from one the Eberharts had in their yard; he grafted that and

it's a better tasting Italian prune than the ones we bought. There is also a pear tree, two Italian prune trees, two Red Delicious, two Golden delicious, there is a Jonathan, a Wagoner, and there is a King Apple -- did you ever hear of the King Apple?

(DK) No it must be a very old one.

(WR) One year I picked some of those and they weighed a pound. I put them on a scale and took a picture. One of our Golden Delicious last year weighed almost a pound. We didn't have that many apples, but the year before that the trees were loaded; they kept saying to thin them out but I didn't see any apples on there until they started getting ripe. I have my trees sprayed. One year, quite a few years ago, I threw nine boxes of apples away because they had apple mites in them. It was horrible.

(MS) You wanted to tell him about the water tower, that you had pictures of it.

(WR) Our water used to come from right down around the corner here. When you take Crest Drive and turn the corner. Just on top of that hill right there between the big house that's built there -- Howard Buford built that house -- the next house was Roy Meade. There were two big wooden water tanks there; that's where we got our water. And Mrs. Thomas, across the street, she did go down there and get these great big mushrooms, morels. We used to pick them. I have pictures of them taking the big water tanks up the hill. They were put there by where that big one is up on the hill, on Blanton. Right along the road, they put them. There's a house there now. Now we get our water from the big tank up on 38th. But they took the two wooden water ones up there, and that's where we got our water from until they built the bigger tank. It was McKenzie River water pumped up there.

(WR) Now someone called me the other day, Paul Farkas. And I was talking with him for a while and he said, I have a question I want to ask you, have you always had city water? I said, yes. He was wondering if there were any wells. I said there is one right out back here which used to be a well when the Dalton's lived here who had the big two-story warehouse.

There were two big wooden water tanks there; that's where we got our water

My husband would buy two young calves in the fall and we would raise them through the winter and get them ready to butcher. Then we would keep one half and sell the other three halves

(MS) Those were the people you bought this from?
(WR) No, we bought it from the Bevels. I don't know how come the Bevels got into it. His name was Chuck and hers was Hilda. The big house behind us here burned down about five years or so before we bought it that's where the sidewalks came from. We didn't put in any sidewalks; they were all here. Then they for some reason or other got the garage and reconverted it into this other house. And then Mr. Nielsen owned this piece of property and the Bevels bought it from him For \$1500 and then two years later they sold it to us for \$3000.

(MS) Who did Nielsen buy it from?

(WR) I don't know. He bought this and his chunk.

(DK) When did they put the school in behind you?

(WR) The school was put in when this area was annexed to the city. They took the city limit to the top of the hill to "even out" the border, then down Crest to include the school.

(WR) What else do you want to know?

(DK) I want to know what it felt like.

(WR) What it felt like here? We lived in the country. We lived in the country until Jacqueline was born.

(MS) Jacqueline? She is the same age as Paige, so it would be about 1970.

(WR) The school, I have pictures of children lying out here in the pasture looking over at the school. That school, they blasted; they drilled holes; it's solid rock. My husband was out back working in the garden and a piece came within 2 feet of him. He went over there and talked to them, and they said that didn't bother them, they thought maybe there's one of those holes that hasn't gone off.

(WR) I used to know everyone that went down the hill here. Way up on Blanton Road, beyond the TV station is a house up on the top, way back on the left. Cliff and Marge Robertson lived there, and they had two children, a boy and a girl. They were the only ones up there. Then a Snyder, I have a picture of that airport [at 18th and Chambers] with him standing by a plane with his family, a wife and two girls.

(DK) I asked you what it felt like and you said it felt like living in the country.

(WR) We were living in the country. I still feel like I'm living in the country. These people back here, we are ahead of them, and this lot on the other side I bought it so no one could build on it. Otherwise there'd be somebody right in my face.

(DK) And you resisted the temptation to divide out in back and put a house or more on it.

(WR) No, I won't build a house back there.

**I still feel
like I'm
living in the
country**

(MS) Grandma used to belong to home extension, through the county. They met at Spencer Creek Grange. She was a member there for years. She took me there when my oldest daughter was a baby; we used to go there and take the classes. Are you the only one left of that group, you and Dorothy?

(DK) Is the Grange still active there?

(WR) The Grange is, but the home extension, I don't think they meet out there anymore. After my husband died I stopped. I didn't go anymore.

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COLLEGE CREST COMMUNITY CLUB

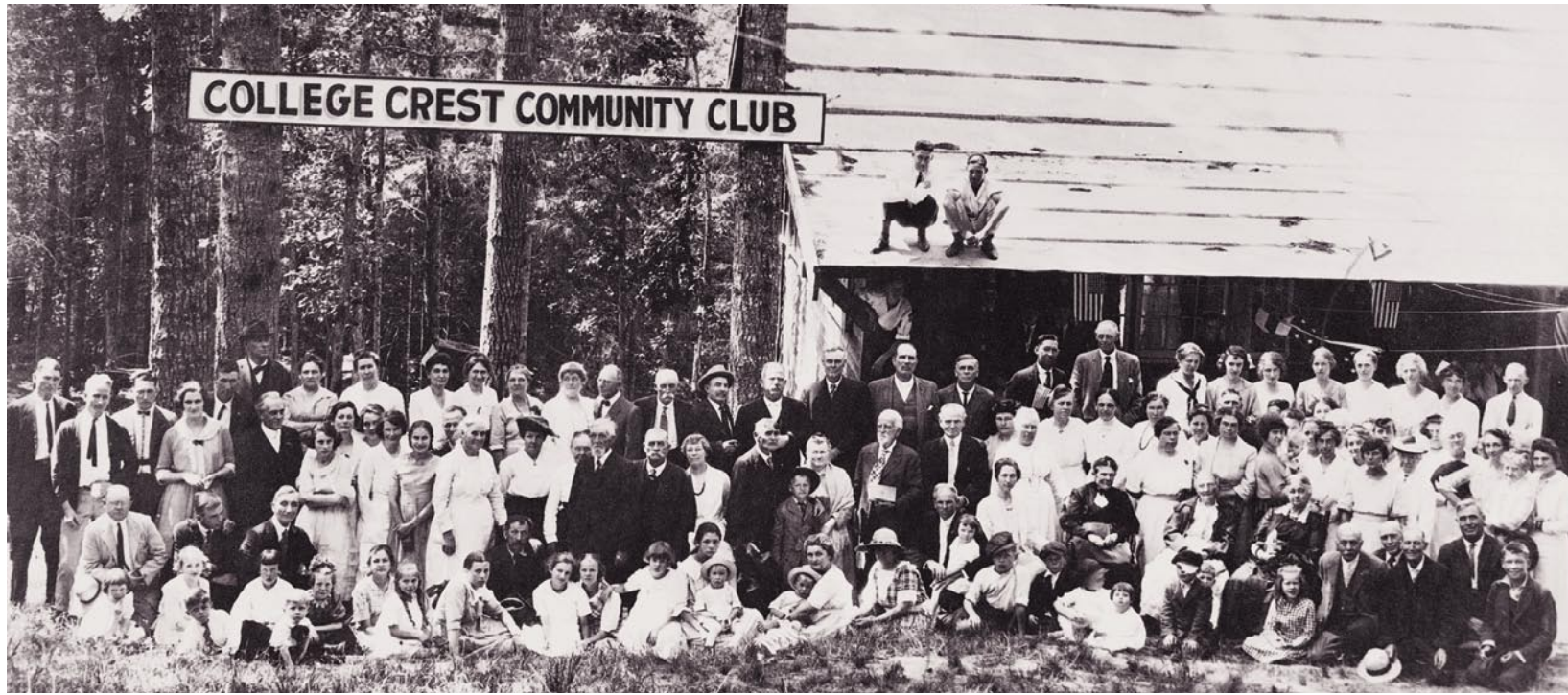


Charles C. Whitten was one of the charter members of the College Crest Community Club. In 1911, almost ten years before founding the Club, he took this photo of his wife Elizabeth D. Whitten standing in back of their house, which was located on Inspiration Point, which turns off the road that is now named Whitten Drive in his honor.



The other picture shows members of the Moore and Seaver families, dressed in their finery and on the way to Sunday school on Easter Sunday, 1911. They are waiting for the streetcar at what is now the corner of W. 29th Avenue and Lincoln Street. The Moore home is in the background.

The Portland, Eugene & Eastern streetcar company operated the system from 1907 to 1915; then the Southern Pacific ran the streetcars until 1927. There were four lines, with eighteen miles of track. The College Crest line was 6.2 miles long and was built in 1910. It ran up Willamette and Polk, and came around College Hill on Jefferson, Friendly, 28th, 29th, then down Willamette. Streetcars with room for 100 passengers ran every half hour and a ride cost five to ten cents.



The College Crest Community Club met monthly from 1919 until the 1950s. The clubhouse burned down during the 1960 year-end holiday season
 Courtesy of the Lane County Historical Museum

Excerpts from the Minutes of the College Crest Community Club

“College Crest” was the older name for the hilly area south of what is now 28th Avenue; the name endures today on the College Crest Wesleyan Church at the corner of Friendly Street and 28th Avenue. The College Crest Community Club met monthly from 1919 until the 1950s at its clubhouse near the corner of Whitten Street and Storey Boulevard. Most meetings featured a potluck dinner, discussion of community issues, and musical entertainment provided by the members. The Club collected modest yearly dues that paid for the upkeep of the clubhouse. It sponsored neighborhood improvements such as a shared water system and a (futile) attempt to get the County to clean up the roads. The clubhouse burned down during the 1960 year-end holiday season.

The excerpts from the 1930s and 1940s are from a ledger preserved by Waneta Ritzman and donated to the Lane County Historical Museum. The newspaper articles are from the files of the Register-Guard.

From the Eugene Register-Guard, June 21, 1929 Strawberry Festival To Be Given On Friday Eve

An event of interest for Friday evening, June 21, will be the annual strawberry festival of the College Crest Community Club which is to be given at the club's house at eight o'clock.

The program for the evening is to be as follows:

Accordion Solo, Dalton Shinn

Clog dance, Vernon Russell

Vocal solo, “The Waltz Song,” Miss Genera Zimmer

Playlet, “The Cough,” Mrs. M. M. Boney and Hubert Moor.

“The Wandering Minstrel,” vocal solo, Jean Young

Reading, Mrs. F. L. Shinn

Numbers by male quartet, the Harmelodians

Pantomime, “Alice Blue Gown,” Virginia Stacks

Numbers by women's quartet

Minutes of College Crest Community Club meeting May 22, 1930

The College Crest Community Club held their regular monthly meeting May 22, 1930 at the clubhouse. A potluck supper was served with about 125 members and families present, after which the president called the business session to order. Account of the absence of the secretary no minutes of April meeting were available.

Mr. Billingsley of the Southern Pacific was present and stated that unless the patronage of the bus service was improved they would be forced to discontinue the College Crest service. After some discussion the Pres. Mr. Hollingsworth appointed a committee of five mainly, Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. JS Moore, and the following men, Hubert More, CC Whitten, and Walter Schmieding to investigate the matter, with a view to finding a way to have the bus service continue.

Meeting then turned over to the program committee and the minstrel show soon put on by Messrs. Hollingsworth, Holland, Davis, Lightfoot, Jones, Gordon, Schmieding, and Mavis Lightfoot afforded much amusement and was enjoyed by everyone.

Annie E. MacVicar, Secy, pro tem.

Minutes of College Crest Community Club at Club house, March 28, 1935

After the potluck dinner, a program, under the direction of Mrs. Hollingsworth, was given, as follows:

tap dancing by Daphne Shonkweiler and Mary Ann Alnutt,

accompanied by Josephine Alnutt

two piano-accordion numbers by Dr. McIntyre

motion pictures of the Obsidian's winter sports by Mr. Dotson

After the program the business meeting was called to order by the Vice-president, Ray Smith, who reported the illness of the president, Mr. Lamont.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. E. S. Tuttle was then given the floor and spoke of the death of one of our charter members, C. C. Whitten. He asked that the secretary make a record that the club's members publicly expressed their appreciation of Mr. Whitten's loyalty and service during the past 16 years, and asked that a rising vote of appreciation be given, which was done.

Mr. O. A. Hoaglum, President of the college Crest Water Supply District, made a report on the progress of the water system, stating that it was practically complete and in use. He expressed the appreciation of the board for the cooperation and patience of the residents during the installation.

Mrs. Ingalls moved that as a monument to Mrs. Haskell's memory the porch boxes be put in good condition and kept so. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoaglum again took the floor and suggested that now that water for irrigation was available that a community beautifying project be launched. He stated that the Board would cooperate with any work in that line, perhaps by offering a prize. It was moved, seconded and duly carried that the College Crest Neighborhood Club take up the matter as its project.

Mr. Tuttle suggested that a roadside committee be appointed to see that the weeds, etc., were kept down along the roads.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Messrs. Rhodes, Hollingsworth, and Schmeiding be a committee to see the County Commissioners in regard to improving the roads in the district.

Motion was made, seconded and carried that Mr. Lamont be sent flowers from the club, and that the secretary write a letter of sympathy to Mrs. Lamont.

A report from the treasurer revealed no funds, and an appeal for dues was made. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until April 25.

Marjorie Bingham
Secretary

**Unless the
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of the bus
service was
improved
they would
be forced to
discontinue
the College
Crest service**

Excerpt from the minutes of the College Crest Community Club, April 25, 1935

Mr. Hollingsworth reported that the committee on roads appointed at the last meeting had called on the road commissioners, but not much headway was had.

Excerpt from the minutes of the College Crest Community Club, May 26, 1938

Motion was made and seconded that we have a strawberry festival at the time when the strawberries were ripe, also included in the motion that we charge 25 and 15 cents. Motion carried.

Discussion was held concerning the possibility of a pedestrian path out south Willamette to the Dunn school and as far west on the Lorane highway as possible

Discussion was held concerning the possibility of a pedestrian path out south Willamette to the Dunn school and as far west on the Lorane highway as possible.

Motion made that Mr. Smith act as one part of the committee with two others to see about the pedestrian path Mr. Paul Wraye and Mr. Willis Wiper were appointed on the committee with Mr. Smith.

A Club flyer from the autumn of 1936

A special message to all residents of the College Crest Community

For the past 20 years (more or less) the College Crest Community Club has been playing a helpful part in the growth and improvement of our Community. Practically every new movement for the betterment of this splendid residential section has originated within the Club and here we have always brought every problem concerning the community, for discussion.

Here, too, we have come for many hours of enjoyment; and many delicious suppers. Once each month the residents of the Community

have met here for an evening of good old-fashioned friendship and neighborliness.

For the past four or five years this good old servant of the Community has been struggling along, trying to weather the depression that has "depressed" all of us. A few faithful "standbys" have kept it going and in spite of constantly dwindling funds, have actually made some improvements about the building, so that we still have a splendid place in which to hold our community gatherings and carry on the work that falls to the hands of a real live Community Club

The time draws near for our annual meeting (December 19). At this time we will elect a new set of officers to carry on the activities of the Club for another year. Many times in the past your officers have had to face too many empty seats. Such a situation is anything but inspiring. It is discouraging to the officers and is bad for the future of the Club as it makes it increasingly difficult to find good material for officers.

To all of you who know our Club for the good times and good fellowship of the past we are making this appeal: would you please turn out in force for our next meeting (November 21). There will be the usual supper and a program that we hope will be interesting and enjoyable for all. Please set this evening aside, NOW and come prepared to pay your dues for 1936 (they are only \$1 per family).

To all of the newer residents of the Community and those who have never been members we extend a most cordial invitation to come and have a good time with us and become members. Potluck dinner will be served at 6:30. Hot coffee, sugar and cream is furnished and a small collection is made (15 cents) from the head of each family present to pay for this and for dishwasher and janitor service.

This community needs the Club, but the Club needs to you, too! With just a little time once each month, which is a pleasure to spend, it will continue to serve the Community and pay us all big dividends in good times, good fellowship and a better neighborhood in which to live.

Folks, it's your club--why not make it a bigger and better club?
By the officers and trustees

Excerpt from the minutes of the College Crest Community Club for December 1941

The meeting was called to order by the president. The roll call of officers was taken and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The treasurer. reported \$68.47 in the treasury.

Under new business it was moved and carried to donate five dollars from the club treasury to the Red Cross.

Discussion was held on methods of eliminating thefts from autos during club meetings

Discussion was held on methods of eliminating thefts from autos during club meetings. The matter was laid on the table until the next meeting.

Excerpt from the minutes of the College Crest Community Club for November 20, 1947

The treasurer Mrs. Bevel reported a balance of \$116.48 with a \$4 light bill and a water bill yet unpaid.

Christmas Treats -- Neighborhood Club. Mrs. Brown offered to give the Christmas tree and have it delivered to the clubhouse. Miss Penny Lodge and Mrs. Bevel volunteered to take charge of the Christmas decorations....

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Robertson the entertainment chairman. The Blanton Heights Rhythm Makers opened and closed the program, while Sunflower Sue McGee gave two delightful numbers and almost succeeded in getting a man "Dog Patch style."

Eleven talented little Pickinnies then danced and sang and with their teacher Miss Apple Blossom and accompanist Miss Penny Lodge, gave a very enjoyable performance.

There were 68 present at the November meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Mrs. Lamont, secretary pro tem

From the Eugene Register-Guard, December 14, 1947

College Crest Community Club will meet Wednesday evening for a 6:30 o'clock potuck dinner, in the clubhouse. All residents of the community are invited to bring a supper dish and join the group. The club, dormant for a time, has been re-organized recently, and new officers were elected as follows: Curtis Trenholme, president; W. M. Koons, vice president; Mrs. Michael Wall, secretary; Fred Getchell, treasurer; Mrs. H. B. Plaisted, George Wills and Sam Magee, trustees. The officers have pledged an active season, and invite the interest and cooperation of the neighborhood. Regular meetings are on the last Thursday of each month, the present meeting having been set early because of the Christmas season.

From the Eugene Register-Guard, March 2, 1952

College Crest Club Seeks Membership

College Crest Community Club is conducting a membership drive, which will last until March 19. An old-fashioned round-up, complete with chuck wagon dinner, is planned for the closing date. Earl W. Snyder will act as sheriff and master of ceremonies on that occasion. At the February meeting of the club, a potluck dinner in the clubhouse, 200 baby chicks given by a hatchery in the neighborhood were given as prizes. Other prizes also were contributed by merchants of the area. Plans are being made for an evening first aid class, beginning about March 10, which will be taught by James Walsh.

From the Eugene Register-Guard, March 28, 1954

College Crest Club Sets New Day for Meetings

The time for the regular meeting of the College Crest Community Club has been changed to the last Wednesday of each month. First meeting under the direction of new offices will take place at the clubhouse Wednesday evening. A potluck dinner will start promptly at 6:30 PM and will be followed by a short business meeting and later a

WOMEN'S CLUBS; SOCIAL, PERSONAL

By MARIAN LOWRY

Club Items Should Be Phoned To the Society Editor Between
10 A. M., and 12 M. Telephone Number 1200

Tillicums club members will entertain their husbands with a dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wetherbee, 650 Eleventh avenue east Friday evening at six-thirty o'clock. The dinner will take the place of the regular meeting of the club. Mrs. Sherman W. Moody will entertain the group in two weeks.

Announcement has been received in Eugene of the birth of a daughter, Dorothy Elizabeth, to Mr. and Mrs. Roy J. Pryor of Nanking, China, on October 27. Both Mr. and Mrs. Pryor are widely known in Eugene. Mrs. Pryor was Miss Helen Brenton before her marriage, and graduated from the University of Oregon.

Mrs. Ralph Laraway will entertain St. Mary's guild for their special meeting Friday at her home in Bartle Court, at two o'clock.

An interesting event for this evening is the meeting of the College Crest Community club which will be held in the club house at eight

o'clock. It is the monthly session of the club and a program is to be given.

The Lincoln Patron-Teacher association held a most interesting meeting yesterday afternoon. A program was given as follows: vocal solos, Miss Shirley Choats; poem, Kenneth Parks; story, Fay Kelly, "Old Man Rabbit's Thanksgiving"; dance, Mazie Roberts; musical trio, Bernice Ingalls, Peggy Reynolds, Eva Charlet.

Joseph T. Glenn gave an address on education week, and a business session of the organization followed.

The women of the College Crest Community club will meet Friday afternoon at two o'clock with Mrs. H. R. Robbins at College Crest.

An affair of much interest to many is the luncheon which the Eugene Federation of Women's organizations is holding Friday at twelve-thirty o'clock in the Methodist Episcopal church.

half-hour of special entertainment.

A general invitation is extended to all residents of the area, and to those in adjacent areas desiring to participate in College Crest activities, to attend. Plans for the entire year, including activities and projects both for children and adults, will be announced at this meeting. The first project, an Easter Egg Hunt for children April 17, will be explained in detail.

The club's goal for the year is announced as modernization of the clubhouse kitchen and dining facilities. For the present it is necessary for each family to take its own table service, in addition to food for the potluck dinner. Coffee will be furnished.

From the Eugene Register-Guard, January 7, 1961

Troop Finds Temporary Meeting Place

Scouts and Explorers who lost their meeting place when the College Crest Community Club building burned down last week have found temporary meeting quarters, troop committeemen said Friday.

See the actual
Newspaper
clips in the
color section of
the book

The boys of Scout Troop 180 and Explorer Post 180 had a loss of over \$2000 worth of camping equipment, tents, flags, and other supplies in the fire, as well as their meeting place.

Eunice Kjaer

interviewed by Nora Hagerty

Lorane Highway

August 28, 2009



Eunice Kjaer

Courtesy of
Eunice Kjaer

(NH) Eunice, thank you for letting us interview you for the neighborhood oral history.

(EK) You're welcome; it's my pleasure.

(NH) And I would like to begin by asking when you moved into the neighborhood.

(EK) I moved into this house in 1967.

(NH) And did you have your entire family here with you at that time?

(EK) Yes, two children. They grew up in this house and went to Crest Drive School; they were seven and nine when we moved here. What appealed to us was that it was peaceful, removed, had lots of space, and still was easily accessible from downtown. A nice quiet place for my husband to come home and retreat from seeing patients all day. And the first unfortunate thing we discovered was that there were no sidewalks, children couldn't ride their bicycles, and we thought at first there were children other than ours, and then they went from being wildly enthusiastic about the deer on the property to "Why did we move here?" Then we found, serendipitously, two girls close to the same age in the neighborhood, and they became fast friends and were close buddies all through grade school and high school. That was a happy connection.

(NH) At the time, were there many families in the neighborhood?

(EK) There weren't, other than the Schellman's who have lived here

about as long as we have. We moved in August; there really weren't a lot of kids until the girls started school, then when school started they began to make connections with who lived where and where they lived in relation to where they got on the school bus, and then things began to be happier and we had friends to play with.

(NH) This question was a little bit connected to the previous ones, how would you define the boundaries of your local area or neighborhood? And that is kind of a segue in with the school connection—did you feel that the definition of school boundaries or more the physical location of the roads, what defined the neighborhood for you?

(EK) I think it was pretty much the school because that was the connection the children made, that was the social connection we made. **We really didn't know many of the people in the neighborhood and I guess they weren't interested in us or they weren't very neighborly**, and so we didn't know any of them except for the Pitchers who lived across Friendly Street from us, and they were a long time family, and the Combellack who had lived here since the '40s and were wonderful but we didn't get to know them until later.

(NH) Do you feel that what drew you to the neighborhood in the beginning and also how you were defining the boundaries has largely changed for you over time, or do those things still hold true?

(EK) Those things still hold true and now I am just comfortable here and I've gotten used to the fact that I may not see my neighbors unless I make a real effort because one doesn't see them unless one's walking on the highway.

(NH) That leads me to another question about something that I just learned from you recently, which was about **an annual event that you hold on New Year's** and it involves neighbors, and I found it fascinating. Can you tell me about how you started that tradition?

(EK) We started that because friends lived up Whitten Drive -- that's the street that I was trying to think of the name of earlier -- another psychiatrist and his wife and he suggested that we should have a walk

So much fun
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too late on New
Year's Eve

on New Year's Day, and I think in the first occasion maybe it was we two couples and Edna Shirey, who lived on Inspiration Point, and then that was so much fun we expanded it and got more, more and more neighbors involved and people who walked, and people who hadn't partied too late on New Year's Eve to be willing to get up and go for a walk at 10 o'clock, and so **we've done that every year with the exception of one or two snowstorm New Year's Days. I think we've done it for about 25 years.**

(EK) That sounds like a great tradition. And you've had people sort of come and go. I know my first time last winter, there were people who had been going consistently and other people who had moved away but came back because they missed the neighbors. Is that still the case?

(EK) They wanted to participate even if they didn't live in the neighborhood. That's still the case.

(NH) That sounds like such a fun tradition. And does anyone else in the neighborhood have traditions like that that have sort of bonded neighbors?

(EK) I think the people who live around Inspiration Point get together and have a neighborhood potluck or something.

(NH) Because of the physicality, the steep hills?

(EK) I think probably that's true.

(NH) Do you know any other important stories that you want to tell us about the neighborhood? I know you have quite a bit of history because you have an extensive notebook on the history of both your property and the neighborhood and the highway, so are there any stories that really stand out to you that you want to share?

(EK) Well, **I would like to talk to somebody about the previous community center** [the College Crest Community Club] that was on the corner of Whitten and Crest, and I think Waneta Ritzman is the only person still living who could reference that. **For a while, a few years, we had a neighborhood garden up next to the water tank**, which is just off of Crest Drive as you turn from Whitten, and that brought several neighbors together for a summer project until we got tired of fighting the deer and decided to give up on that. The Furticks who owned the property east of us across Storey Boulevard owned that house at a time when the people who lived in

it were growing marijuana and set the house on fire. So, that was a big excitement in the neighborhood. Fortunately the fire was put out before it did total damage. And, **I think the other story that other people who've lived here long enough would remember is the snow storm of 1969 when we had 39 inches of snow and there was no school for week and my husband put on hip waders and walked to the hospital to see his patients every day and stopped at the grocery store on his way home.**

(NH) Were people ready to deal with something like that? It definitely sounds like your husband came up with a way to work around the weather conditions, but were people, being in this hilly area, ready? Did they help each other, or did they have equipment?

(EK) **That was probably the first time we met the people who lived directly across from us because we were out shoveling**—shoveling some sort of path so that we could get out. We hadn't really met those people before or exchanged words with them before. It was kind of a unifying event for that short period of time.

(NH) Do you know of any important conflicts that have divided people or other issues in the neighborhood, like the snowstorm, that brought people together, either of historical or recent memory?

(EK) Well, certainly the issue of Lorane Highway divided people but really for the most part, after all was said and done and we talked about it, we were about 99% in favor of not having Lorane Highway improved so in the end **it really unified the neighborhood because we understood that everyone liked things the way they were.**

(NH) And do you feel there've been any residual effects, positive or negative, after that?

(EK) For me there certainly hasn't been, but I'm not sure there might be one or two neighbors who have mixed feelings because of what happened on Lorane Highway, now dealing with Storey and Crest and sort of knowing the background there hasn't been total agreement on that issue.

**The issue
of Lorane
Highway
divided
people**

(NH) When you were showing me the historical notebook that you have you pointed out that there's a lot of local celebrities or famous names from the area whose names were on, and signatures were on, a

There were coal mines out Lorane Highway

petition to have Lorane Highway built and can you remind me of what year that was and what the condition was that you described that made it difficult for the construction of the road?

(EK) The steepness of the grade and the lack of any kind of really adequate road building equipment. Those were the issues.

(NH) And I notice that some of the names on the list include people who were either business people in the area, or later involved citizens, or contractors, or different people.

(EK) Movers and shakers, I think you could say.

(NH) So it sounds like they probably had kind of vested interest, since they lived in the area and they wanted the road built for transportation, being able to have access, which is an ongoing issue with other roads in the area.

(EK) Commerce was certainly one of those issues. There were people who had orchards; there were coal mines out Lorane Highway.

(NH) Oh, really?

(EK) They were using in those days maybe horse and buggy or something to transport their products and it was a tough road.

(NH) Do you know, from research or record, if that was within what is now the city limits, or would that be more the county limits where the coal was?

(EK) I think the coal mine was outside the city limits, but of course they had to use the same route.

(NH) This is a broad general question, but are there any specific ways the area has changed that have maybe affected the way that you feel that neighbors live, or that it's affected you directly, and specifically what has the neighborhood lost or gained in the time that you've been here?

(EK) I think in a lot of ways the neighborhood stays quite a bit the same. The few houses that have been built have sort of gradually been assimilated so that when there were houses built across Storey Boulevard from us **we thought "Well, there goes the neighborhood," but in the few years the few trees that have been disturbed, were growing back, and with a little bit of time, those houses have just settled in,** become part of



the neighborhood, but growth in this immediate area has been slow so we haven't seen any big developments like the ones that's happening, or will happen I guess, in the pear orchard up off of Crest. We haven't had anything like that; it's been a single house here and there.

(NH) Two questions related to this that I thought of: one involves challenges in the neighborhood, either later what future challenges you see; and, also the type of residences, if that has changed, like the single family dwelling or densification with duplexes or rentals, like rental versus home ownership -- has that changed over the years?

(EK) It really has been still a single family, single home neighborhood situation and I think the only issue has been the house where now Friendly Street becomes Whitten, that was a home for some sexual offenders for a while. I didn't even know that was the case until some time after it happened, but then there were people in the neighborhood with younger children and they were concerned and now that situation has changed, and the woman who was the landlady has refurbished the house and it's for sale, so apparently it will go back to being a single family.

View from the porch of the Kjaer residence toward Lorane Highway; this area was badly damaged in the Columbus Day Storm

Photo by David Kolb

I value the setting that we have here

(NH) It sounds like that was sort of brought about by neighborhood involvement.

(EK) I think so. Parents. The house next to that one, east of the house we're talking about, was built with a covenant that it could only be lived in by university employees or university professors and it used to be called Farlook. I don't know if it still has that name because, obviously, before all these trees grew up, they would have had a far look over the valley.

(NH) Is that a residence that is owned by the University, or...?

(EK) I don't think it is owned by the University and I am not sure how much of that story is true, but that's what I've heard over the years. It's a house of, I'm guessing, almost the same vintage, a little younger than ours.

(NH) What do you value about living in this neighborhood? What problems are there, and are there any places that you frequent? I know that I have seen you walk the roads many times. So, do you value the natural setting, or what do you like best about it, and what do you find difficult? You seem to cover the steep terrain pretty well.

(EK) Not as quickly as I once did, but yea, I value the setting that we have here and in spite of the fact that I'm finding it more difficult to maintain two acres, I like being here and I can't imagine moving into a situation where I have a neighbor living as close to me as the couch over there. So, I'm going to have get used to that at some point, but for now unless we have a drastic snowstorm or the power goes out for days on end, I'm very happy to be here.

(NH) What do you see as a vision for the neighborhood, and are there any changes that you would like see or something to be involved in? I know that you that have been involved in the neighborhood association because we've met at the board and general meetings, so is there anything that you see in the future that could be a positive change or an improvement?

(EK) Well, I'm happy for the road improvement as it develops. I see this neighborhood as single dwellings on reasonably large lots. I don't see a lot of subdivisions, subdividing of current properties. Most of these lots are large, but not so large that you could envision much more being built on them and with the exception of what's happening down

on Adams and 28 th now, as kind of scary and too big.

(NH) That's a plot of—is it twelve to fifteen houses in a subdivision?

(EK) Last I heard it was nine, but if I'm looking at the right piece of property it's something like two large lots. So that all seems a little strange, but it's not a done deal and I'm not sure that the City will allow it. There's the issue of infilling and I understand that, and I have almost two acres here and if I were to sell there certainly could be a number of houses on my property, but at this point I'm not selling.

(NH) I wanted to thank you for the interview for today and I would like to do a second interview with you based on the history of your house; there is an extensive amount of material that you have, so we will do a second interview focusing on that, if that's ok?

(EK) Yea, that's fine.

(NH) Thank you, Eunice.

Eunice Kjaer

interviewed by Nora Hagerty

Lorane Highway

September 14, 2009



Eunice Kjaer

Courtesy of
Eunice Kjaer

(NH) This the second interview in the series regarding her family in the neighborhood and living in the House in the Woods on Lorane Highway. Today we're going to be discussing her home and the estate.

(EK) Where to start?

(NH) So Eunice, you have quite a large scrapbook and I understand that you have been able to collect information

regarding your home and the property from many different sources.

(EK) Right. The first source was Alice Young, **the daughter of the man who built the house** and she was in her '80s when we first met her and were able to interview her and get letters from her specifically about this house and this piece of property and things that related to Lorane Highway which we asked her for when the potential for widening Lorane Highway was an issue so we were trying to gather history at that time and I have information Ellen Zimmerman whose grandparents were married in my living room and I have seen a photograph of that occasion, but I don't have it.

(NH) What period does that date from?

(EK) That would have been in the '30s probably.

NH And the house was built—can you remind me?

(EK) 1910. And a family named Fritz were stepsons of the Zimmermans and they lived here for a time. There were three of them,

three boys who were in a family then and scratched into a window with a diamond apparently, because it would have to have been something hard, to scratch. The date is I believe 1921, so we know when they lived here. Sadly, I didn't get around to getting information from them until it was too late, but I do have that information from Ellen Zimmerman. Fred Baker was widowed and married Mrs. Fritz. She had the three boys. They lived in the house from 1922 until 1929. So, probably Ellen's grandparents were married in the '20s rather than the '30s. I'm not clear about that.

(NH) Do you know anything about the family names that you've mentioned? Were they connected to any businesses in town or anything like that?

(EK) I don't know. Baker, of course, is a common name and there were Bakers, but I don't know anything about a connection, and to my knowledge they were not people who signed the petition to get Lorane Highway built because that's quite a list of historic names. Mr. Young came from Minnesota. His dream was to have an orchard and he built the house but was never able to accomplish the orchard and fell, apparently, on hard times and that was the reason he and his wife moved out of this house in, I think, 1919.

His dream was to have an orchard and he built the house but was never able to accomplish the orchard

(NH) Is there a record of the architect, someone of note?

(EK) There is not and we've surmised, because it is a craftsman style house, some people have suggested that it was a kit house, but kit houses were, I believe, not this big. So, not sure about that. This is probably 1910 or 1911.

(NH) OK, we're looking at a vintage...

(EK) Yea, we're looking at it from the west.

(NH) From the west, a vintage black and white photo and I notice that the foliage is obviously different than it is now, not as many plantings



View from the West side of the Kjaer residence. From 1962 to 1967 this house was a restaurant called The Landon Chalet
Photo by David Kolb.

around the house and I see stone—two different types of stonework around the base or foundation. Are those modified or are those the same today?

(EK) This was modified and is now kind of a sand block. Some of that was added after we got the house and an entrance was made into the west bay window which was Mr. Pallett's office when he lived here from 1930-something to 1962, about thirty years. The Palletts lived here. They had two children: Jackie and Marshall, both of whom are still living and I've gotten some information from them; they actually still both live in the area.

(NH) So in terms of kind of historic nature or designation or such, is this officially known as the Young-Pallett house?

(EK) Yes, yes. That was the designation given us by the City when we applied for historic designation.

(NH) And when you mentioned that on the west side of the house an entry was added, was this pertaining to Mr. Pallett's business?

(EK) It would have been after Mr. Pallett because that room that we now have as an entryway was his office and somewhere my notes say

that he was quite a smoker and he sat in his office and listened to radios and smoked a great deal, as described by his son Marshall. "Dr. Pallett was self-reliant, conservative Republican and in matters of education, innovative. **He was provost at the University while he lived here.** He had learned from his farmer-mechanic father the practical skills of home maintenance and made repairs when necessary, but was not interested in beautification. This was left to Mrs. Agnes Pallett, also the product of a rural upbringing. She loved to garden and much of the landscape plantings still enjoyed today can be attributed to her." Among them are a large exberry azalea, which is enormous on the east side of the house, and the French lacecap hydrangeas, which we now have protected in a fence, and several lilacs, which thanks to the deer, aren't doing too well. So, that family lived here with their two children, and let's see... **She loved to garden and much of the landscape plantings still enjoyed today can be attributed to her**

(NH) Have you met either one of the living children?

(EK) I've met both of the children. Jackie is back in town after living in California for a while. And, she is quite chatty. It's quite fun to talk to her, she's lively. And Marshall had a great interest in music and had the upstairs bedroom wired for his hi-fi, it would have been radios during his day. But, sadly, he developed some kind of ear problem so he's extremely sensitive to sounds, noises, even I think music and he doesn't—he wouldn't volunteer for a conversation. But I have gotten pictures from him, including one that shows his car which we think was in the '40s when **this house also had a carriage house.**

(NH) Was that removed or burned at some time?

(EK) My recollection is that it came down. As a wooden structure, if it was built in 1910 and just used as a carriage house and nothing else, it might not have been so well maintained. It was not here when we came here in 1967. It was gone. But, on old maps there's an address for this place, it's 814 and 1/2, which suggests to me that it might have been a secondary dwelling of some kind.

(NH) At some point?

(EK) But I have no knowledge of that. There are windows on the east. One window we can barely see on the north and possibly a people door here, or that could be a carriage entrance. I don't know if Marshall had

**The house
used its own
well for water
supply**

his car in there or not; it's difficult to say from the picture. That's the only photograph we have of that structure.

(NH) Now I see in this photograph, you're guessing this is sometime in the '40s, that there are power lines in that photo. I don't know if we have a record of when utilities were first brought to this area or neighborhood. I don't know enough about the history to say that when the house was built those would have been provided already?

(EK) I believe so because the old wiring in the house has a name, knob and tube. There are glass tubes that the wires run through. I'm quite certain that the house had electricity and I do know until at least the '40s or '50s the house used its own well for water supply because the city water didn't come until later. That well still exists; it just doesn't have a pump. We know it's about 20 feet deep.

(NH) On which segment of the property is that?

(EK) It's right out the laundry room door in what we call the tool shed. It's capped but I can take the cap off and measure the depth of the water. We've sometimes thought it'd be nice to use it for irrigation, but the price of City water is probably comparable to putting a pump onto the well, so we never did do it, but that was their water supply.

(NH) And in another one of these older photos I see, is this facing northeast here?

There's some sort of an arbor area.

(EK) Yes, that arbor had a wisteria which, sadly, wasn't blooming and we took it out after we moved here, but the arbor had been replaced in 1962 with an extension of the kitchen because from 1962 to 1967 this house was a restaurant called The Landon Chalet

(NH) Landon Chalet; do you know anything about the people who owned it or ran it? And, was it used as a house in conjunction with being a restaurant.

(EK) Mrs. Landon and her son lived here. They lived upstairs. Her husband had died. I have one of his paintings. It would be oh, equivalent to a Grandma Moses kind of a painting and I think they were Swiss-German. That was the cooking that she offered in the restaurant. When the restaurant closed in 1967, the Landon's had

applied for a liquor license to serve beer and wine and at that time the neighborhood objected to that and the business had not done as well as it had when they had Landon Chalet near Cottage Grove on Highway 99. When Highway 5 was built, that access to Highway 99 was secondary and so they lost business that way and that's why they moved to this house. **In 1962 they had signed the papers, finally, for the house and drove up the driveway, and couldn't come up the driveway because that was October 12th, the day of the Columbus Day Storm** and this picture shows dozens of trees on the north—south part of the property. The Landon's told us that 32 trees came down that day and apparently all missed the house, well none of them obviously were as big as they are today. So, it would've been a really "house in the woods" in the '60s before that storm. We had firewood for a long, long time from that storm.

The Landon's told us that 32 trees came down that day and apparently all missed the house

(NH) Was that mainly fir trees?

(EK) Yes, pretty much. There are a few oak trees still standing, but it's predominantly fir. We have a couple of ponderosa pine.

(NH) And, also featured in the book is a photograph of the still standing, and I don't know if you would label them as famous, stone steps that front Lorane Highway, and this was then original entrance. Is there any significance to the fact that that was built in that direction?

(EK) Well the significance would be that access, at least walking access, which there was a great, lot more of walking than driving **in those days, people took the streetcar up to 28th and Friendly and then walked on a wooden sidewalk up Friendly to this house.**

(NH) Do you know what years the streetcar ran in this neighborhood?

(EK) I don't. There is actually a map in this book that might give us some idea. These are some women standing on the pillars of the steps and that says 1920.

(NH) And we see another snowstorm picture, is this after...

(EK) That was a mild snowstorm, probably a year or two after, the winter after we moved here in 1969.

He had never laid a brick before in his life and I thought he made quite a nice pattern

(NH) And I see another more contemporary photo. Is the gate structure something that you had built, or that was a replica of something that originally existed?

(EK) The fence was added later, **but the design was a replica of the pattern shown on the porch, which is an intermittent diamond design** and we can see it on some of the old pictures.

(NH) And also you have both in photographs, and in here as we're seated in the interview, many antiques and furnishings. Are any of the furnishings you retain in the house now original to the house or from any of the families that lived here?

(EK) All we have are the kitchen table and four chairs which were used in the restaurant. Mrs. Landon left those for us, otherwise the antiques are either our family pieces or pieces we've purchased since we moved here.

(NH) It seems very apropos appointment or accommodation. And I see in another photo some brick work that you had spoken about—recently you had to have some work done to that. Is this something you added?

(EK) That was a surprise. **My husband laid that brick sidewalk and patio while I was visiting in my parents one summer in the late '70s or early '80s.** He had never laid brick before in his life and I thought he made quite a nice pattern.

(NH) It turned out really nice. It lends to his artistic nature, doesn't it?

(EK) Yes.

(NH) And the building that is, I guess, currently your garage was that added later?

(EK) That was added later. Initially there was a garage and it **I think came down in the Columbus Day Storm** and so when we moved here there was, I'm looking for a picture, there was no garage, so we...that's what it looked like—it stuck out from the west side of the house and I think, I'm guessing, this is one door. It probably was a two-door garage.

(NH) Also, you have a large paved area in front of the fence, which is near the entry to the house, and in front of the garage. Was that modified during the time when you developed the house into a bed and breakfast or had you always had a large parking area?

(EK) The parking area was developed, I think, by the restaurant people.

(NH) It was here when you moved in?

(EK) Yes. We added the paved area in front of the garage when the garage was built.

(NH) As far as interior structure in the house, you mentioned that a garage, or, a kitchen was added or extended. Are there any other structural things that had changed, to your knowledge, since the house was built? For example, anything pertaining to, you know, bedrooms, or the chimney, or anything else structurally that changed with the house?

(EK) **The entry hall was a bedroom, so that was changed, a door was added and I'm not sure about the door from the entry to the dining room.** I assume that that was closed or just had a regular people door added and the wide opening that it has now. When we came, the Langdons had paneled the front hall and the dining room with—where the wainscoting is was cedar and all the opening were square and framed with cedar, and we had that cedar taken out and made the curved openings between the dining room and the living room, and then someone who had been in the house previously said that was the way it had been.

(NH) The way that you have it now with the curved arch openings between the rooms? So in other words, restoring it to the original nature?

(EK) Without actually knowing it. We did change the windows in the living room next to the fireplace. Those were small, typical craftsman windows above bookcases and I found our bookcases were always messy and the windows were small. We tried for as much light as we could get, so we extended the windows downward on the east side, on either side of the fireplace.

(NH) Now I notice that that somewhat matches what is in the dining room already, so is this set, that has the larger windows in the dining room, original?

(EK) As far as we know from the old pictures the bay windows are all original to the structure.

(NH) What about lighting fixtures in the house, were there original or significant lamp structures?

(EK) This light fixture in the dining room was here. In the living room

sort of incongruous with the cedar paneling, there were, there was one crystal chandelier with the little drop crystals that had to be taken off and washed individually and that lasted for a few years as we took out the overhead lighting. It didn't go with the craftsman house.

We made contact with Alice Young Samola, and Ellen Zimmerman, whose son, whose grandparents owned the house for a time, and she is still living

(NH) And, also, has anyone visited the house? You did mention a few living members of different families who lived in the house, but has anyone come to visit or drop by that was unexpected or a surprise, or you learned new stories from? Anything unusual?

(EK) Probably not since we made contact with Alice Young Samola, and Ellen Zimmerman, whose son, whose grandparents owned the house for a time, and she is still living. A wonderful person who, in the last year of my husband's practice, came and worked in the office and was just a huge asset to the office during time when we'd had turmoil of staff leaving and she was level-headed, knew exactly what to do. Her son had an office, a room in my husband's office.

(NH) And that was the connection?

(EK) That was how we made that connection. And since then, and I don't have photograph to show it, we added a bathroom upstairs on the east side where there was once a low attic closet and had raised the roof and added a bathroom so that we could have a private bath with the bed and breakfast room. I just haven't gotten a photograph to show that. This is Mrs. Landon who died in 1995 at age 96, now she left the restaurant in 1967.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance book that was given to you plots all the different houses in the neighborhood

(NH) And I see in your notebook or binder here quite a few documents discussing the history we've done in this oral history and one of the things you mentioned to me was a Sanborn Fire Insurance book that was given to you that plots all the different houses in the neighborhood. Is that correct? And all the details of the structures, which it went up to what year?

(EK) I'm thinking the early sixties. So we could look at that map and see which properties predated at least that period of time, and then we have some pictures of what the area looked like. This is Dunn School, which is now next to our new post office on Willamette Street. And then it was in the country and we can see some cows.

(NH) So this would be the area on approximately 36th...

(EK) 33rd, 34th and Willamette.

(NH) And this looks like it's dated in '47 and there is no housing development close by, very rural with, would you say that's an unpaved road?

(EK) It looks unpaved and it's interesting, it essentially would have been a country school.

(NH) It says something here, "nestled next to the Prall Dairy Farm." So definitely farming right up in the area here before this area was as densely populated and developed as it is.

(EK) Right

(NH) I don't want to jump ahead if there's other history in between, your family had a bed and breakfast here, but before we get to that I was going to ask what special memories your family has of the house. Anything unique or special that you or your children or husband...? I know that in our previous interview you mentioned the nature of the area and the setting. Are there any unusual things in the house, or traditions that you developed here?

Your family had a bed and breakfast here

(EK) I can't think of anything other than our usual family traditions, but I think what attracted us and what **we treasured were the trees, the wildflowers, the critters**, even though we sometimes find them inconvenient to have around. They are what makes the place special.

(NH) And you ran the house as a bed and breakfast for many years.

(EK) 21 years.

(NH) And what was your experience like doing that, both as a business and in an historic setting like this?

(EK) Well, people did enjoy the house and they enjoyed the setting, and I always thought the name we chose, House in the Woods, was attractive. That probably brought some people to us because they liked the way it sounded. Not that we have huge woods anymore, but we're so blessed with trees.

**We had 20
or so foreign
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including
Russia**

(NH) And you had visitors from many different places.

(EK) We did. I kept a list for a long time for along time. We never did accomplish visitors from every state in the union. We had 20 or so foreign countries including Russia. I think the one of the most interesting times some Russian scientists who stayed with us, thanks to some friends we have in the science field at the University, they were staying when there were monumental changes in Russian politics and they would come home every day and watch, see the news and know what was happening in Russia because it was so—it was before the wall came down. I think it was when the communist government really fell in Russia.

(NH) So besides just operating it as a business, it kind of sounds like the world came to your door.

(EK) We did a lot of vicarious traveling. We were blessed with a helper who stayed here so we could do some traveling, and we did go to Europe three times while we had the bed and breakfast, so the traveling worked both ways.

(NH) How did most people find out about this business? I remember you had a brochure and there was an association in the area and you said you had contacts at the University, but how did most people find your place and did you have a lot of return visitors?

(EK) We had some people who returned almost the whole time. We started the bed and breakfast. From the beginning to the end, we had one family come for a baptism of a grandchild and then that grandchild graduated from high school or college, that kind of span of return guests we had. It was wonderful.

(NH) And because this house is on the Lorane Highway I know you have quite a bit of history in here, and you had mentioned to me previously about a significant list of names, of notable names, in Eugene or Lane County. It was the petition to have the road built, and do we have a date on there?

(EK) It should be 1919, but I don't see the date there. There were signators like Whitten, Cressey, Emry, Brothers, Shumate, Young; both Don then William Young signed this petition. Donald was the son of the builder. Blanton, Irish; there was an Irish grocery store when

we first came here. McCormack, probably the name for McCormack School. And so there were a lot of people who made an impact in the community, Chambers is also on this list. So, those were real people, not just streets we drive on.

Barbara Wirtz

interviewed by David Kolb

36th Avenue, near Crest Drive

June 3, 2009



Barbara Wirtz
Courtesy of
Barbara Wirtz

(DK) When did you move into the neighborhood?

(BW) August 1988.

(DK) What was it like then compared to now?

(BW) It seemed more rural than it does now. It wasn't as well developed. The end of the street from Monroe down, there were only a couple of houses there. Those were all blackberry bushes; none of those new houses were down there in the cul-de-sac. There was a walkway -- there still are some steps that go down. But all those houses were just blackberry bushes, so we used to go down there and pick up our blackberries. That was the walk we used to take with the kids; we called it **the goat walk**.

(DK) The people with the goats had them even then?

(BW) Right. They had them at the bottom of the steps when you took a left, so they've been there a really long time. That was the goat walk that we used to go on in the evening in the summer with the kids. That's the main thing I remember. The rest of the street was pretty much the same, from Monroe up 36th towards Crest.

(DK) The trees must have grown up.

(BW) The trees have grown; the view isn't much any more. There used to be better views of the hills. The Beck's old house, the one right across the street from Lafferty's, before that fence was up that was a beautiful lawn; it looked like a park. When you walked by you didn't see that

fence; it was meticulously landscaped and their house was seen in the back. The new owners bought the house and put up the fence. So that's changed the landscape of the front part of 36th. That was a beautiful yard. So I kind of miss that.

The other thing that has changed: **there were big cherry trees down at Crest Drive School**. Probably six or eight very old trees filled with cherries. In the spring everybody in the neighborhood would take their ladders and go down and get cherries and make pies and all kinds of things. In the early nineties, they got a new principal at Crest Drive School and he thought that the trees were too dangerous for children, although they'd been there for about fifty or sixty years and never heard of a kid falling out or dying. But he cut them all down.

(DK) Were they between the street and the school?

(BW) No, behind the school.

(DK) Up on that high area?

(BW) In the low area and the high area. Then they built the playground -- the trees were interspersed there, wide enough apart that there was a playground. And then they took down all the trees and they took away all the shade so they had to put up a lovely wooden structure to put some shade there. So that was disappointing, because it changed the landscape of that very pretty schoolyard.

[Note: A resident was able to date the removal of the cherry trees: "The cherry trees at Crest Drive were cut down June/July 1992. As a child I climbed those trees and picked their cherries. After returning to Eugene following an 18 month absence, I went for a run at the school. When I arrived men were cutting down the trees. It was very sad to see. They told me that parents had complained about kids climbing them, and safety issues. Funny they put swingsets in the same area. When I was in school there we were always told swings were too dangerous to have at school. Another big change in 'recent' years at the school is the cross-country track being taken over by weeds. We regularly ran out there during gym class. It was created in the mid 1970s. Though I didn't enjoy it much as a student, I can appreciate now what a fabulous 'facility' it was" (Ann Koelling Reeder).]

**It seemed
more rural
than it does
now**

(DK) Where else did you go with the kids? Did you go up over 38th street?

(BW) No, we usually just did the goat walk, the school yard, and Morse Ranch Park. In Morse Ranch Park there's a little creek and a path, and the kids would like to go in there.

(DK) How would you get down to Morse Ranch?

(BW) We usually drove; we never walked down there. That road wasn't particularly good for walking with little kids. Even then -- it wasn't as bad as it is now, but it wasn't a good road for walking.

(DK) Was there a fair amount of traffic?

(BW) No, the traffic was much less. I think when we moved here that sign on Crest said 110,000 people, now the last time I saw it it said 140,000, and I think it's more than that. So no, there wasn't as much traffic up here; it was quieter than it is now. This was a dead-end; nobody came down 36th because there was nowhere to get out. So it wasn't until they opened that new subdivision down there that they put the road through. That wasn't too many years ago; my kids were still in school. So now we get more traffic because there is a way to get down to 46th, whereas before there wasn't much reason to come down this street. The increased traffic has increased the damage on the street, from all the construction they were doing down there. All the trucks had to come down here, so I really think that's probably what wrecked our street more than everyday traffic. And what I understand, before I got here this road was put in by the neighbors; it's not a city street and the city doesn't maintain it because it doesn't meet city code. My understanding was that all the neighbors chipped in and paved it themselves because it was just a dirt road. Now that was before me; that's a rumor.

(DK) Were the people living on the street the same sorts of people who are here now?

(BW) Just within the last couple of years there's been a turnover. Up to that time the people were the same. The last few years the elderly people, I think it's been three within the last year and a half who have moved away. They were here long before I was here. Other than that it was pretty stable. The people directly across the street from me where the Emerson's live, when we moved in that was a judge, Lynch -- he's

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long time retired now -- they raised their ten kids in that house and the whole downstairs had a full kitchen, it was like there were two houses, up and down. Both and a full kitchen and bath, everything. But then they moved a couple of years after we moved in, in the early 90s, and retired. Since that time there's been turnover in that house.

The steps from Monroe down to Dellwood, on "the goat walk"

Photo by David Kolb

In your house too; the Ritchies were there until somewhere in the 90s. But they were here for a long time. After that your house had a lot of turnover, and the Emerson's house has had a lot of turnover; other than that -- the only other one was Matt Schuler's; there was a single woman lived there when we moved in. Her boys are grown and gone; she sold the house to the Schulers. But there hasn't been any turnover since then. So the neighborhood's changing now, but for many many years it didn't.

(DK) What do you think have been the things about the neighborhood that you've liked best, and liked least?

(BW) The thing I like best is the way it is wooded and our houses have a certain amount of privacy but they're not so far away that you don't have neighbors. So that's one of the things I really like. I think we've always had a pretty good community spirit on the street, which has

The thing I like best is the way it is wooded and our houses have a certain amount of privacy but they're not so far away that you don't have neighbors

always been nice. Neighbors have gotten to know each other. They occasionally do things together but they're not intrusive. So that's what I would have to say. I also like the area in general; I just like the old wooded area that just feels more country to me, yet all you have to do is go down the hill and you're in the midst of everything. I like it that it's cooler in the summer, but it's also cooler in the winter. Probably the thing I dislike the most is in the winter when it's icy or snowy; it's hard to get off the hill. But that would be the only thing. And my water pressure is not great, which I think has to do with being in the hills. I'm not positive; it could be my regulator. But there really isn't anything I dislike about the area. Getting off the hill in really bad weather is the only thing I can think of as a downside of being up here.

(DK) If there were some small change you could make that would improve things, what would it be?

(BW) I'd get rid of those big potholes on our street, and the ones that are about to become potholes. Without having to go through the rigamarole they had to go through on Crest. Just do it.

(DK) How do you see this little street relating to the larger area around, the Crest area?

(BW) I've always thought of this and 38th and right across Crest by Calciano's house as pretty much the neighborhood. We really don't go down past Monroe all that often, although we have friends down there and the kids have friends down there. We didn't usually just wander down there other than when they were little and liked to go walking. But it doesn't have the same sense as when we lived in Maryland where the houses were close together and when people walked by on the sidewalk they'd see people easily. That had more of a neighborhood feel than this does. It's kind of a mixture of people that are neighborly and friendly but yet there's a certain amount of distance between the houses. You do actually have to go out of your way to see people.

(DK) Do you like that?

(BW) I've learned to like it. I can't say I did initially. I thought it was kind of odd that you didn't see people very often. But then I found out that it was very easy to make little paths between yards. Like both my neighbors on either side; we made little paths that made it easy to go next door by cutting through the back yard and not having to walk all

the way down the driveway and all the way round back up someone else's driveway. So there were ways that you could get around it. So now I've learned, actually I like it.

(DK) And what do you think is going to happen in the future here?

(BW) I hate to think of it but I think when the house across the street with the large lot is sold, somebody, a developer, is going to buy up those acres and put some horrible thing in like they want to down there [the Crest Meadows subdivision], where they cram a bunch of houses in a small area. That's my biggest fear. That any land, also an empty lot which I think Bill owns who lives up on 38th. If that would ever sell, or the other lot, they're going to try to put in more high density housing and make it more like the areas I don't like where the houses are very close together and they've taken out the trees and the bushes and you can look into the neighbors' yard. There's not that sense of privacy.

That's what I'm afraid is going to happen, which doesn't make me very happy to think about. Since the city wouldn't let them put only a few houses down on that big lot below here, if the big lot across the street becomes available, the city will let them subdivide it. They have huge gardens. My guess is that theirs is going to be a landmark house that goes by the wayside just like Beck's house where they put the fence up. That was a landmark yard and that's gone by the wayside. So I'm a little concerned about that. But that's what's going to happen. Right now those orchards are gorgeous and I get to look at them.

I am a little worried about the development of the neighborhood in the future, because there's not a lot of space left in Eugene and I think people are going to grab up whatever land, and in the process cut down some of the beautiful trees and change the nature of our neighborhood. I don't know if people today want as much space, because the houses they are building over near the hospital and such, they're big houses but they're not on big plots of land. They're so huge that they take up the whole lot and they're not landscaped nicely around them. Whereas the old part we're in, there's a lot of natural landscaping. So that I'll miss if that happens, and I have a bad feeling it might.

...where they cram a bunch of houses in a small area

Marcella Garcia Moore

interviewed by Anne Niemiec and David Kolb

Friendly Street

March 22 and 29, 2010



Marcella Moore

Photo by
Anne Niemiec

(AN) You have memories of what the area was like going back to the 1940s. What was it like then?

(MM) This was all fields and hills. There was a farmhouse around here, on Friendly going north. There wasn't any road going the other way. This road, it was very crude; you mostly just saw the road coming down what is now 28th then it curved round and went north on Friendly.

(MM) Before coming here **my family had lived in one of the last logging camps** in the United States, Shevlin. It was an actual logging camp that traveled around from one logging site to another.

(DK) Your father worked there?

(MM) My stepfather did. He came from a logging family who worked for this Shevlin company. Nowadays they have mobile homes but in those days they had actual wooden houses that they would move onto each site. The houses still exist, because when the company finally folded, they took all of the houses and located them over near Bend. One time we drove out to Bend and saw all these old wooden houses. There they were all sitting around and I thought, we don't waste anything around here.

(DK) Do you remember living in those houses?

(MM) Oh yes, they used to have church services on Sundays, just one, the Baptist Church. Although we were Catholic my mom felt that

we needed to go to church. Then there was something kind of like a drugstore, and it had a soda fountain, and it moved with the camp.

(DK) How often would it move, every couple of years?

(MM) Yes, it moved with the logging. They were in some pretty isolated areas. I know when my mother was pregnant with my sister she had to move with a family in Bend so that she could be near a hospital. We would get snowed in, literally snowed in, the houses would be covered with snow and we would be tunneling out. I only experienced one move, as a child, and I remember our house wasn't quite put together -- it was in two parts -- and there was rain, and we had to walk on some boards from the main part of the house to the bedroom part of the house. So we had to walk on bridge until they got the house put together again.

I do know that Shevlin was the last one. I do remember one very large reunion that all the people who had lived in the camp came to, the reunion was here at Eugene at the Skinners Butte Park, where there are tables and fireplaces up there. I don't think people do much up there anymore.

**This was
all fields
and hills**

(DK) Moving to Eugene must have felt like coming to a big city.

(MM) Yes, but then again, as I said, **with housing the way it was after the war, we ended up at a riding stable at 29th and Willamette**. That's where I made this friend whose very large Swedish family lived here on Friendly. I was about nine years old and she was 16 and she would curl my hair. We used to come up here to her parents' house to visit. We would walk over to this area. It was all pastures and orchards in the area.

(DK) How old were you when you moved here?

(MM) I was about six, because I started going to school not too long after we moved here. I went to St. Mary's.

**The Amazon
then was all
kind of wild**

(DK) And how long did you live above the stables?

(MM) I'm not quite sure; then we found an apartment. Above the stables was very small, and it wasn't too pleasant -- I remember my mom was very upset about it -- because it had an open sewer right beside it. And the horses too. Actually there were several buildings on the property; there were a couple of houses and Charlie Whitham rented everything out.

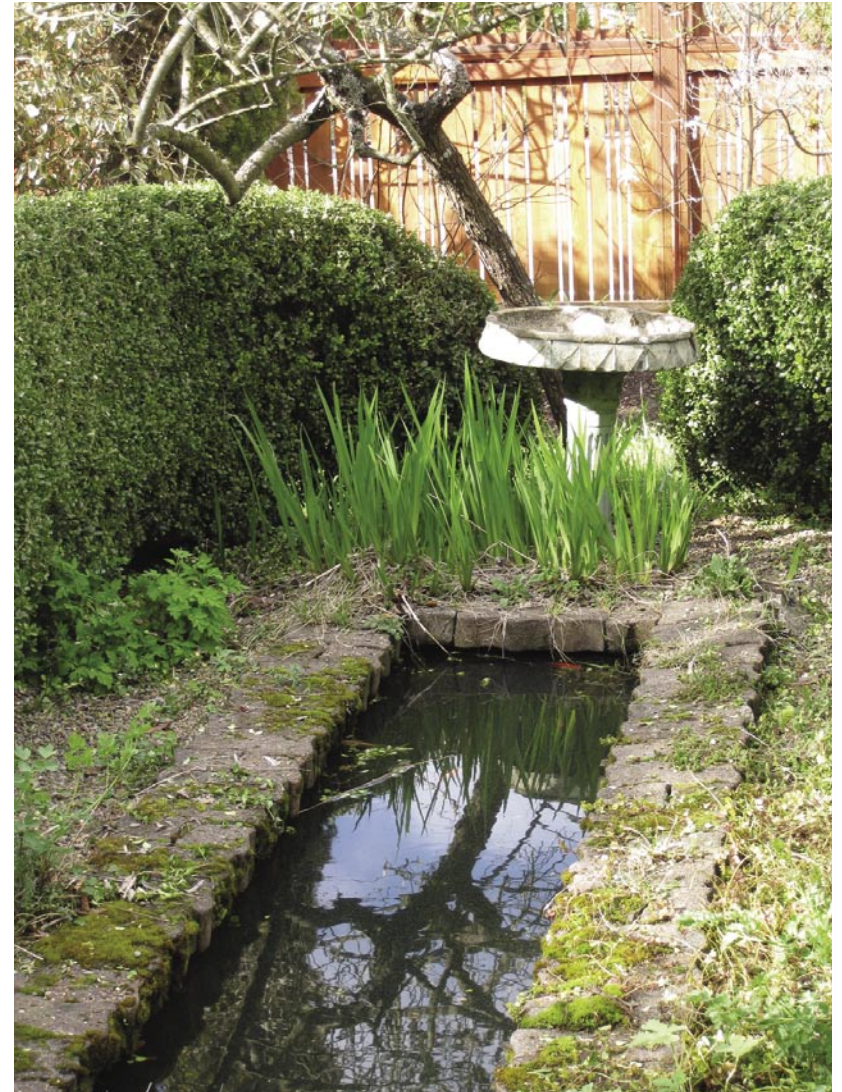
(DK) What's there now?

(MM) There is the 7-Eleven. The area on that corner must all be fill. When we lived there it went down the way it does at the baseball field. **Then we moved further up Willamette next to the ballpark.** That was nice. The Amazon then was all kind of wild; there were actually some pheasants out there, you know. There were a lot of old apple trees along the creek; I wonder why they were there. And just tangled up brush. I used to love to play along the Amazon; there were lots of interesting things to do.

After a few years we moved back to New Mexico, where I'm from originally. We lived there for two or three years, and then we moved back here. My mother really liked it up here. Coming from the desert she loved the trees, she liked Oregon. Then she married a Norwegian, this wonderful man, Olaf; it was the best thing she could have ever done. So I ended up back at St. Mary's, and from there I went to St. Francis down on 18th, which was a Catholic high school then. Then the last two years of high school, a whole bunch of people in my class we all transferred over to South Eugene. So I graduated from South Eugene high school. I went to school there when Ed Ragozzino was teaching; I took everything I could of his classes, he was so wonderful, an inspirational teacher, I loved his classes.

I have also lived on the East Coast; I lived in Richmond, Virginia, and in Toronto, and I used to go to New York quite frequently. Toronto was a little sleepy in the old days but it had a wonderful thriving arts scene life. I was a painter and there were lots of wonderful galleries and lots of exciting stuff going on. I remember seeing people in Toronto taking packages and setting them on top of their mailbox for the mailman to come and pick them up. I was amazed.

(MM) We actually looked at our present house and tried to buy it the year before but there were liens on it. We looked at another house up



the block on Friendly street, where Pete Sorenson lives now. Then when we were coming back along the street real estate agent said there is another house for sale. **We were quite taken with the house though we couldn't see it at first because it was so covered with foliage and things growing around it.**

**Fish pond in the
Moore's garden**

Photo by Anne Niemiec

(MM) This house became a rental in the late 1930s, because of the shortage of housing. The upstairs was made into a separate apartment.

There were many people who lived in this house over the years. We had a couple from Nebraska who came here to look at the house. They were parked out in front of the house, and we're used to people peeking into the garden, so my husband went out and said do you want to see the garden, and they said they used to live here and they wanted to see the house. We invited them in and they were glad to see that someone was living here and cared about the house.

(DK) Was there a full kitchen upstairs?

(MM) There was a small kitchen. There are three bedrooms upstairs and a large hallway.

(DK) Did you have to make various conversions when you bought it?

(MM) Yes, there were utilities to deal with, there was a door over there in the corner, but pretty much because it was a rental. They hadn't done much with the house. So it had more of its original shape. We liked the house because it was original; there had not been many changes made to it. It was built in 1910.

It seems like we have always been working on this house. We did build an addition a few years ago for my mother. My mother was the only person I knew who could watch C-SPAN all day. She was very political, she would have me drive her downtown for this or that city or county meeting to discuss something or to protest something.

I remember the first housing development we ever saw; we were just amazed

(DK) At the end of the war did housing construction start up quickly?

(MM) I remember the first housing development we ever saw; we were just amazed, we thought, look at those wonderful modern houses, they looked like mansions to everybody. The Lindbergh housing development, all these houses off 30th near Amazon -- when you look at these houses today they look so small. That was the first housing development I ever saw. Actually they all looked alike, with slight variations.

(MM) We pictured the house as having a picket fence so when we bought it we put up a picket fence. But it was hard to take care of and keep up, so Glenn built a new fence. Now two sides of the property have a very nice cedar fence. In putting up the fences we became trendsetters. When we put up a picket fence many other neighbors put

up picket fences. When we switched to a cedar fence then more cedar fences appeared in the neighborhood.

(MM) We moved to the area because we wanted both children to go to the Willard school. **It took a long time to make friends on Friendly Street.** I was working at the time and didn't meet very many people but when my children went to school I met the parents of other children.

(MM) We like living in the neighborhood very much; **I like the urban and the country feel.** It is strange to say urban because of this bumpy road out here. There was for long time a video rental store across the street, and there is still the deli and a nursery and the farmers market in the summer. We were lifetime members of the video rental store, could get two for one, but then it closed. There is a church across the street. We don't go to that church but there are events there, things that we do go to.

I particularly love roses and have been president of the Eugene Rose Society

(MM) It was pretty here. There was a beautiful incense cedar across the street; we had no idea that if somebody chopped it down we would end up with a view of the electric substation across the way. The tree was beautiful. Many of the neighbors were very very angry when it was cut down.

(DK) Who cut it down?

(MM) The pastor of the church at that time, he said they didn't like trees. But then he was there only a short time after the tree was cut down. They left two weeks later to go to another parish up in Washington. My next-door neighbor at the time thought it was really beautiful to look over at the tree; then she got a good view of the electric substation, too.

(MM) We have been very happy living in the house and building the garden. **We're both passionate about gardening;** I particularly love roses and have been president of the Eugene Rose Society. I took courses at the Extension and **have become a master gardener.** I have written articles and the garden has been featured in some magazines. **I was inspired to develop the garden by a woman by the name of Elizabeth Lair** who was the first to open her garden to the public. She did it for the Eugene Symphony tour in

**Friendly
Street was
once a path,
not a road**

the 1980s, and I went and was very impressed by what she had done. This really inspired me to work on my own garden. Elizabeth was an inspiration to this town. People didn't appreciate her enough.

(AN) Were there places that you went to on a regular basis besides the ones that you mentioned which are right nearby.

(MM) **We used to go up to the Morse family farm**, and Friendly Street was once a path, not a road. **People would ride horses, including Senator Morse's daughter, who would ride down that path.** I liked very much walking and seeing all of the cherry trees in bloom. There were many different kinds of cherry trees.

(AN) What is your vision for the future of the neighborhood?

(MM) My daughter lives in Amsterdam right on one of the larger canals, where nearby there are apartment buildings and housing that are mixed for different economic groups, and the mix is working. One of these days there will have to be more housing in our area and I think that it could be positive, looking at what Amsterdam has done. What we liked originally in this area, too, was the mix of economic groups living in the neighborhood.

(DK) That was true when you moved in?

(MM) Yes.

(AN) Are there places that you tend to avoid?

(MM) Soon after we moved to the house, we were watching the news on television and there was a report about crime, speaking about a high crime area at 28th and Friendly. This is right where we live. We had the only house at the corner, though there were the stores. So we thought that was very strange, but then we learned that not too far away there were people that were growing marijuana and there were drug deals going on, and we figured that that was what the report was referring to. We have not had any problems with crime.

(AN) If you could make one positive change in the neighborhood what would it be?

(MM) It would be to have some people improve the landscaping in front of their houses. That church -- I'd volunteered to do some landscaping for them.

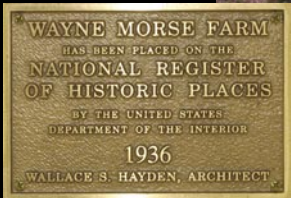
(DK) It's still used as a church?

(MM) Oh yes, very much so. The pastor now there with his family, we've watched them grow up. They also rent the church out to another denomination, a Mexican group, on Saturday. Then they have their own services on Sundays.

(AN) Do you remember the big snowstorm in 1969?

(MM) I wasn't living at 28th and Friendly at that time but I did get stuck in someone's house, and the people who lived in that house were stuck up the hill around Crest visiting somebody. So they had to stay in that house and I stayed in their house. The woman who owned that house was a very good cook so there was good food in the refrigerator.

Wayne Morse Family Farm



Photos CW from left
Plaque designating The Wayne Morse Family Farm on the Register of Historic places Photo by Lee Eide

The farm house today Photo by Lee Eide

The Morse family in their living room. Beyond the trees you can see undeveloped land Courtesy of Wayne Morse Historical Park Corporation

The view from the Morse living room window today Photo by David Kolb

Sign that stood at the entrance to the Morse Family Farm Courtesy of Wayne Morse Historical Park Corporation



Wayne Morse Family Farm

Aerial view of
the farm with
development
on all sides



COLLEGE CREST COMMUNITY CLUB

Balance on hand April 30, 1931	\$6.27
Receipts:	
Net from dinner April 30	1.05
Dance May 15 - rent	5.00
Gross from Strawberry Festival	44.60
Dues F. K. George and wife	2.00
Total	\$58.92
Disbursements:	
Expenses of Strawberry Festival:	
Orchestra	\$5.00
Christensen's	5.98
Perlick's	9.00
Haskell's	2.67
Natron Printing Co.	2.25
Dishwashing & soap	3.30
Underwood & Elliott	6.00
	34.20
May 29 Eugene Water Board	1.10
June 25 Eugene Water Board	1.45
Balance on hand	\$22.17
Error in balance last month	1.10
Balance	\$23.17
Net amount from Strawberry Festival	\$10.40

The excerpts from the 1930s and 1940s are from a ledger preserved by Waneta Ritzman and donated to the Lane County Historical Museum. The newspaper articles are from the files of the Register-Guard

Eugene Register-Guard - Jun 21, 1929

Strawberry Festival To Be Given On Friday Eve

An event of interest for Friday evening, June 21, will be the annual strawberry festival of the College Crest Community club which is to be given at the club's house at eight o'clock.

The program for the evening is to be as follows:

Accordion solo, Dalton Shinn.
 Clog dance, Vernon Russell.
 Vocal solo, "The Walts Song," Miss Geneva Zimmer.
 Playlet, "The Cough," Mrs. M. M. Boney and Hubert Moor.
 "The Wandering Minstrel," vocal solo, Jean Young.
 Reading, Mrs. F. L. Shinn.
 Numbers by male quartet, the Harmelodians.
 Pantomina, "Alice Blue Gown," Virginia Stacks.
 Numbers by women's quartet.

The following committees have been named by Hubert Moor president, to take charge of the event: Mrs. O. W. Gordon, general chairman of refreshments to be assisted by Mrs. William Lightfoot, B. W. Perry, R. B. Witbeck, H. C. Delaney, George Wills, Mrs. Paul Simshauser, and Frank Rhode; Mrs. Donald Young, chairman for the entertainment, to be assisted by Mrs. E. S. Tuttle and Mrs. J. I. Hollingsworth.

Eugene Register-Guard - Dec 14, 1947

Community Club Announces Dinner

College Crest Community Club will meet Wednesday evening for a six-thirty o'clock potluck dinner, in the clubhouse. All residents of the community are invited to bring a supper dish and join the group.

The club, dormant for a time, has been re-organized recently, and new officers were elected as follows: Curtis Trenholme, president; W. M. Koons, vice president; Mrs. Michael Wall, secretary; Fred Getchell, treasurer; Mrs. H. B. Plaisted, George Wills and Sam Magee, trustees.

The officers have pledged an active season, and invite the interest and cooperation of the neighborhood. Regular meetings are on the last Thursday of each month, the present meeting having been set early because of the Christmas season.

Benefit of Club To Be Friday

A benefit card party sponsored by the College Crest community club will be held Friday evening at eight o'clock at the community clubhouse. Prizes will be given for bridge, five hundred and pinochle, and refreshments will be served later in the evening.

Mrs. Harry Plaisted is general chairman, and will be assisted by Mrs. William Rankin, Mrs. Arne Strommer, Mrs. Ralph Gilbert, Mrs. George Wills, Mrs. Ida Rankin and Mrs. Ray Smith. The public is invited.

Eugene Register-Guard - Mar 28, 1954

College Crest Club Sets New Day for Meetings


The time for the regular meeting of College Crest Community Club has been changed to the last Wednesday of each month. First meeting under the direction of new officers will take place at the clubhouse Wednesday evening. A potluck dinner will start promptly at 6:30 p.m., and will be followed by a short business meeting and later a half-hour of special entertainment.

A general invitation is extended to all residents of the area, and to those in adjacent areas desiring to participate in College Crest activities, to attend. Plans for the entire year, including activities and projects both for children and adults, will be announced at this meeting. The first project, an Easter Egg Hunt for children April 17, will be explained in detail.

The club's goal for the year is announced as modernization of the clubhouse kitchen and dining facilities. For the present it is necessary for each family to take its own table service, in addition to food for the potluck dinner. Coffee will be furnished.


COLLEGE CREST COMMUNITY CLUB

COLLEGE CREST COMMUNITY CLUB





REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COLLEGE CREST COMMUNITY CLUB, WILL BE HELD THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 25th, 1932, AT THE CLUBHOUSE. POTLUCK DINNER AT 6:30----FOLLOWED BY A SHORT BUSINESS MEETING AND PROGRAM.

DR. REBHAN OF SPRINGFIELD WILL SHOW THE PICTURES OF HIS THRILLING BOAT TRIP DOWN THE UPPER ROGUE RIVER. HE IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW MEN WHO HAVE MADE THIS TRIP AND HIS STORY AND PICTURES WILL BE VERY INTERESTING



THE NUTT BROS. FROM THE EUGENE POST OFFICE WILL GIVE A FEW MINUTES OF FUN AND PERHAPS A SONG OR TWO.

CHES WAL

BE THERE

Thursday

One hundred and twenty-five attended the monthly supper and meeting of the College Crest Community Club on Thursday evening. Mrs. B. W. Perry had charge of the dining room.

For the entertainment, Dr. V. Rebhan showed pictures taken on the Rogue River. Frank Rhodes in charge of the entertainment.

The club's next meeting will be the last Thursday of March.

College Crest Club Sees Humorous Pantomimes

A varied program followed the October potluck dinner and business meeting of College Crest Community Club recently. Miss Betty Byland gave humorous pantomimes "In Paducah," and "Sunday Driving."

Three sections of the program were devoted to music and included a vocal solo, "The Old Master Painter," by Miss Donna Dyer, who was accompanied at the piano by Waldo Nielsen. Leslie Redgrove, playing the musical saw, rendered "I Love You Truly" and "Tis Love That Rules the World."

Mr. Nielsen then gave a small musicale of his own, including piano selections from the old masters, Bach, Mozart, Chopin, and a number of modern composers. Each selection was preceded by a brief commentary about the composer.

Miss Raydonia Snyder of the Irene Albino Dance Studio, danced two ballet numbers, "The Painted Doll" and "Con Amour," in costume.

The second Tuesday of each month is set aside by the club for its potluck dinner, program and business meeting.

New Groups Do British Aid Sewing

MANY groups are now at work in the county doing sewing for the Bundles for Britain, several new ones being formed recently.

One group met last week at the home of Mrs. E. L. Younger and made plans for a Whitaker neighborhood program. They started on children's garments and some military knitting, and next week will tack a comfort. A benefit supper at the school is scheduled for the near future, the receipts to go toward the purchase of more material and yarn or special calls for civilian relief.

Other groups which have been sewing are:

The College Crest Community club, with Mrs. John A. Cressey in charge of Bundles for Britain work.

The Walnut Acres club with Mrs. E. E. Eggleston as chairman.

The Monday afternoon group, meeting at Mrs. George Hitchcock's home. This group has made numerous small children's garments.

Eugene Register-Guard - Mar 2, 1952

College Crest Club Seeks Membership

College Crest Community Club is conducting a membership drive, which will last until March 19. An old-fashioned round-up, complete with chuckwagon dinner, is planned for the closing date. Earl W. Snyder will act as sheriff and master of ceremonies on that occasion.

At the February meeting of the club, a potluck dinner in the clubhouse, 200 baby chicks given by a hatchery in the neighborhood were given as prizes. Other prizes also were contributed by merchants of the area.

Plans are made for an evening first aid class, beginning about March 10, which will be taught by James Walsh. Hours will be 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Information may be had by phoning Mrs. Clifford Robertson, 4-9126.

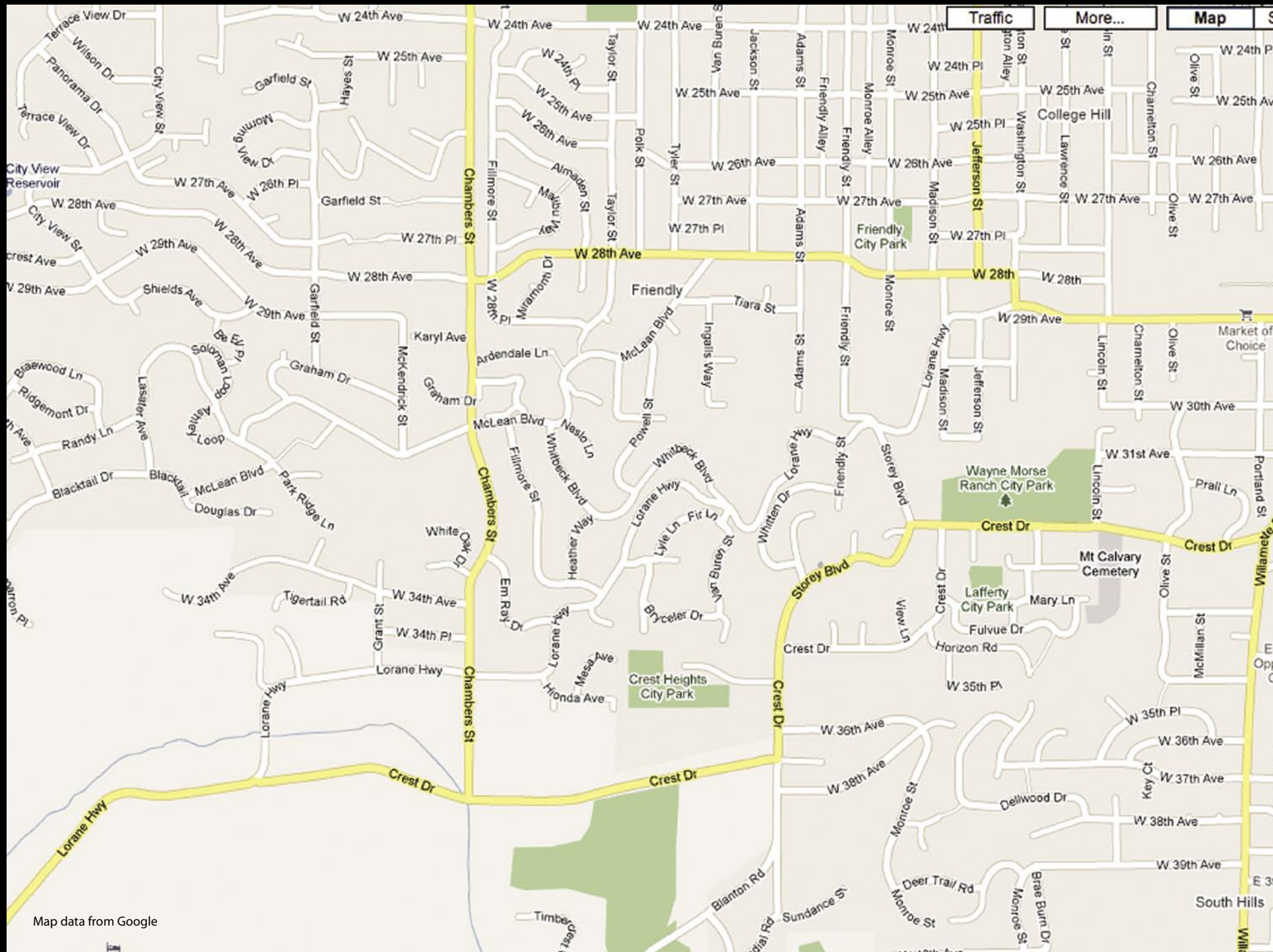
Eugene Register-Guard - Jan 7, 1961

Troop Finds Temporary Meeting Place

Scouts and Explorers who lost their meeting place when the College Crest Community Club Bldg. burned down last week have found temporary meeting quarters, troop committeemen said Friday.

The boys of Scout Troop 180 and Explorer Post 180 had a loss of over \$2,000 worth of camping equipment, tents, flags, and other supplies in the fire, as well as their meeting place.

Troop Committee Chairman H. E. McGaugh and Ass't. Chairman Ted Mohr said the Explorers are meeting temporarily in a small building owned by the Elks Lodge at the Civic Stadium site. The Scout troop will meet temporarily at Spencer Butte Junior High.



Map data from Google



Olive to Storey in the mid 1940s
Courtesy of the UO Knight Library



Ernie Rankin

Interviewed by David Kolb

February 24, 2011

Thanks for being willing to talk about growing up on Crest Drive in the 1930s and 1940s.

Our house was the third house east of Chambers on Crest Drive. On the north side with a long driveway.

Your parents moved up here from Los Angeles; were you born at that point?

No, my brother was two years old then; he was born in 1932 and they moved up in 1934. At first they lived where Perlicks later took over; they rented from someone named Goodall, I think. If you go up the hill on Crest Drive toward Blanton, My parents' first house used to be the last home on the right, about 500 yards or so back from Blanton Road. It has a long driveway. Then they rented another place. Then they bought the four acres where we lived at 1515 Crest Drive.

Here's a drawing I did when I was overseas, just because I wanted to remember, a picture of what the place looked like.



Wasn't there a house near there that had been a school?

If you went east past where we lived, at 1515 Crest Drive, there'd be my brother's house, and then the Rymer's house, and then Ashley's house and then up the hill there is a gravel driveway that turns left between two small homes. The first home was lived in by folks named Sword, and I don't remember who lived in the little home on the other side of that driveway. Just past that little house was a big house. The big house was the school. It wasn't a school when I grew up. It ceased being a school sometime in the early 1930s or the late 1920s. So all of us kids went to Stella Magladry.

Where did you go to high school?

I went to Woodrow Wilson junior high; that was on 13th. Then I went to Eugene High, the first year at 17th and Charnelton where the Lighthouse Temple is now, and then junior and senior years over to the high school, which was just called Eugene High. Then later when North Eugene was built they called it South Eugene.

We're trying to give people the sense of what it was like to live in the neighborhood then.

I can tell you; we had a chicken coop and I would get up on the chicken coop roof with my rifles and sight in my rifles against the hill, and the neighbors never said a word. You couldn't do that now. And we dynamited our well to get water and buckled the porch floor; the porch was built over the well and then the well dried up. That's what prompted my dad to have a ditch dug all the way from the road and put in city water, when it became available. We would get together for tobogganing. We would walk to school together, all the neighborhood kids.

I was nearly killed by a bees nest when I was three years old; I was in a coma for three days and when the swelling subsided and I awaked I opened my mouth and my mother scraped bees out of the inside of my mouth. I had been down in the little creek bed, a dry creek, between the road and the house, and I kicked over a big yellow jacket nest. My brother went down and rescued me or I would have been dead. He got stung several times. The ground used to dry out around our place so much that the cracks would be six inches wide and the bees would

build nests down in the cracks. There was one year, my mother told me, that it went 129 days without rain. I think that was the year our well dried up.

We couldn't afford much. Every Friday my parents would come home with a quart of vanilla ice cream from Safeway and have some old-fashioned chocolate drops or those jelly bright orange slices. That was the treat every week; there was nothing else, but that was something to look forward to, payday celebration.

Did you have the feeling you were really far from town?

Yes. There were no houses on Chambers Hill then, just an old deserted farmhouse on the right as you went north up the rise and then down. As you came over the hill, at the crest, we would take a trail that went where two or three houses now stand, a shortcut to Stella Magladry. Going down the steep hill, as Chambers leveled out, there started to be a few homes, not many though. And there was the Green's flying service, so there were no homes on the right when you got down to the bottom. On the left there were a few homes.

We would walk to the closest bus stop, where Friendly meets Lorane Highway. We did that walk all the time. If my mother was not with us we could

cut across the fields instead of going out to Chambers; it'd save three quarters of a mile or so. We would go down there and while we were waiting for the bus, which would come along from Willamette Street and then go down Friendly, we would hear Marshall Pallet. He would practice his trumpet for hours and hours every day. I don't know when he ever went to school—he was a teenager at the time. And he could play that trumpet!

Where was the nearest store?

There was nothing at 29th and Willamette except a little service station. So we would drive all the way down to 13th where the BF Goodrich store is now; there was a Safeway there. That was the closest store to our house and every Friday we would go down there when my dad would get his paycheck from Midgley. One time my mom said to us "\$17 for a week's groceries, that's outrageous!" My brother Bill was a teenager at that time, and I was about nine or ten and my sister was about five. That was the closest store that I remember where you could do general shopping. There was a market on 26th and Willamette later, around 1950. It was in the mid-to-late 1940s when we did the shopping at Safeway. Then around 1955 or 1960 they built the stores at 29th and Willamette.

Did it have a neighborhood feeling with people getting together and watching out for one another?

Yes, we would have a big bonfire out in front of our place and put potatoes in the coals. Kids would play kick the can and

neighbors would come from all over. The furthest ones that ever came, I believe, were the Furrows who lived down Lorane highway about 2 miles. Roy Worsrick and his wife came, I think her name was Martha. They owned the service station down the Lorane Highway. Arvin Strand lived this side of the station, and the Browns a little closer, and the Gurlocks on that big curve on Lorane highway. It's not the first place these days. The Gurlock's owned that whole hill, several acres. They were relatives of the Browns who lived on the straight stretch just around the bend. Arvin Strand worked with me at Midgley's. My dad worked there for 25 or 30 years, at 409 High Street.

A lot of those folks would come and gather at our place around the bonfire. We had 4 acres of land so we had a big yard. People would pull up pieces of firewood to sit on and what chairs we had and swap lies with one another, and stories. Some folks didn't come down, because they were too frail. For instance Mrs. Worthing; her driveway was off of Blanton Road The Malkasions lived across the road from us, and we used to slide in the snow on their hill. They owned the hill to the east of them. We would use sleds, skis, toboggans. And there would be enough snow; two feet of snow would stay for weeks.

Mrs. Worthing, who lived with her daughter, Mrs

Brown, was 105 the last that I talked to her. She told me about meeting Abraham Lincoln on the train back in the Midwest. We would go up there and would always get peanut butter cookies. When we were hungry we would go up there and, along with the cookies, they would let us play in their buckboard — they had an old original buckboard, She was still living with an outdoor toilet even in the 1950s or the late 1940s. She was still able to get out there on her own at 105. She was something else!

Her daughter Mrs. Brown would also tell stories. In the summer and the spring we kids would hike up there to visit. They had lived there a long time, I don't know how long, but Mrs. Brown, so I was told, sold her home to a fellow and moved into town into an apartment so that she would be close to shopping, since she didn't drive and her husband and her mother had died. The fellow tore the house down; it was in very bad repair. He was going to build a new place there in the woods but his loan fell through. They had not signed any papers so she did not have a home to move back into. It was just a tragedy. Another family nearby had more tragedies than anyone. Their daughter, when she was three years old, got hit by a car and was killed. One of their sons and a neighbor boy who lived next door were playing with fire in the tool house where gas was stored and they got severely burned, both of them. They didn't know whether their son was going to live but he did. Another son, my boyhood friend, according to his mother, had a .22 semiautomatic pistol and he dropped it, so she said, and it went off and shot him in the head so he died. I didn't find out about it

right away. I was in Alaska at the time in late 1956 and my mother sent me a newspaper clipping about that.

If you turned left on Crest Drive the next house was the Henry's. They were wonderful people. And then our house, and the next house became my brother's house. My dad gave him a half-acre of our 4 acres. He got married young and the house had a swimming pool behind. My family doesn't own any of that anymore. The next house was the Rymers, right next door and they still live there. Before that it was Sacketts or McClellan's. I forget the order of the two.

Were there a lot of houses on Lorane highway then?

No. As you came south on Chambers and crossed Lorane there was an older home on the right in that field by the road and the Moores lived there.

I can't remember other homes along Lorane Highway, except toward town, on the left just prior to dipping down into the curves. Their name was Ceballos. Then, on Crest Drive, there were the Perlicks, they took over the Goodall place, the little house you can barely see from the road on the other side. He was a butcher. There was a market on 26th and Willamette. We kept our elk meat in the freezer there. They had drawers you could pull

out and put your meat in. On Halloween we would go out and pound on the Perlick's door. He would stick a hot sausage in your hands and laugh to see whether you threw it down. And I wouldn't; I would always hold that in my hand. It never got me that burned, I guess.

You were not in the city so you could hunt nearby?

Yeah but we never did, we always went to Eastern Oregon to hunt. The whole family went to Silver Lake for over 60 years to hunt. Elk in those days weren't around Eugene like they are now. We had an apple orchard between our house and Crest Drive. There were two or three rows of apple trees and the deer would come down and eat those apples all the time. We never saw an elk, never. I've seen them just recently but not back then. There are deer around here but I don't hunt around here much. We don't have success in drawing an eastern Oregon tag during every game drawing, so when that happens, I do hunt around here usually down Wolf Creek Road or up toward Oak Ridge or the Coburg Hills.

Did people who lived in the area mostly work downtown?

Well let's see, Harry Sackett was an announcer on KORE, years and years ago. Mr. Perlick was a butcher. My dad worked at Midgleys, Theo Schaeffer had a construction company, for roads, Mr. and Mrs. Ashley, who had the next house past the Rymers, were retired, as far as I know. I don't know what work they had earlier. Albert and Florence Rose lived up the long driveway I mentioned. He was a carpenter, a roofer. He was a

shingler. He was strong. Ace Cobisky (son in law) took over the Rose's house and Al Rose built a little dollhouse (that's what Florence called it) out behind, a real small house. Ace was a race car driver for a hobby and drove a diesel truck, logging trucks, most of the time. Ace died and Joyce lived there, she just recently died.

Mr. Mendenhall, to the right at the driveway fork, they were a strong Christian family who adopted several children. Ernest Mendenhall went to school with me. He was adopted. His father worked on the railroad, as a fireman on the trains. He would come home and there'd be nothing but black all over him. But he cleaned up real good. Nice people.

Roy Worsrick was the guy who owned a gas station on Lorane Highway. If you go around the first curve after you get on Lorane Highway from Crest Drive and you go around the big curve and a real long straight stretch and then another curve to the right then about 400 yards down the left was a service station. Clear out in the middle of nowhere I don't know why he ever put a service station out there but he did. Roy and Martha lived just up the hill behind the service station. Roy used to let me pump the gas up into the glass on top of the pump. My dad would always get 5 gallons of gas. I'd pump it up and ask him whether it was five. And for helping him Roy would give me a candy bar. Roy

would buy fish from us when we caught fish.

Did people go to church together or did they all go to separate churches?

There were a lot of churches. We didn't go to church as a family. My brother and I started going to the Lutheran Church down on 29th and Friendly. There might have been others who went to church in groups but we didn't. There was a family that lived on the right as you come down south on Chambers toward the end. They grew cucumbers and our family helped pick the cucumbers. I can't remember their names. They were a Christian family but I don't remember what church they went to. They came by and invited us to their church a couple of times.

A summer job picking cucumbers?

Because they needed somebody to pick them. I didn't work in the summers; I was lazy. I did pick beans at Howells bean yard, but everybody picked those. That was only one year when I was 14 or so.

So you had friends all around the neighborhood?

We had friends all up Blanton Road, the McGees, all down Crest Drive, on Lorane highway, the ones I mentioned earlier. The Lamont's were down on Crest Drive just before Wayne Morse's place. They were members of the College Crest Community Club. The social club brought people together from everywhere, from all walks of life. On the hill there was a

reserve lieutenant commander in the Navy; when I got back from Guam in 1962 he gave me my novice ham radio license exam. The Furrows became school teachers, Mrs. Miller, she was one of the Furrow girls, was my fifth grade teacher at Stella Magladry. Our doctor was from up the hill off of Blanton Road; he used to make house calls and he would come down the hill in the middle of the night.

We found some records of the Community Club and gave them to the Lane County Historical Museum.

My mother's name is mentioned in the account in your oral history booklet. My dad was the president for several years in the late 1930s or early 1940s.

Did you go to the meetings?

I was there all the time. They would have schottische dances. My dad would go around and sprinkle wax on the floor. Mostly it was schottische dances and square dancing. Mrs. Lodge and Mrs. McGee were the life of the party. Ron Lodge, I graduated with him, both of us were about the same age in high school. Mrs. McGee would always go. She was a card; she would come dressed differently every time. It made the meetings. Nobody even cared what went on at the meetings. One man, I think it was Mr. Cheney but

I'm not sure, he would carry in a spittoon and while my dad was running meetings, he would be spitting into that spittoon and you could hear it clear outside, Boinggg.

We would have potlucks there also; it wasn't just meetings. People would come from everywhere. Dave Powell played in the Rose Bowl in 1954 or 1955. They were loggers their kids were big and lived across the street from the College Crest clubhouse.

It must've been sad when you heard that clubhouse burned down around New Year's 1961.

I didn't know it had burned down until later. I went by there one time on leave and saw the lot all covered with blackberry bushes but I didn't know when it burned down. That clubhouse was a real focus for the neighborhood which it has lacked since then. To some extent the Morse Farm Park has become the center but there are no regular happenings or get-togethers and celebrations.

That club worked hard to get the water system and neighborhood improvement.

It was not just a social club, but that's what got the people coming. Mrs. McGee—if they knew she was going to be doing a skit or something then the place would be packed. Everybody loved her. she had pretty daughters too, they went to school with me on the school bus.

Wayne Morse bought a farm in the mid-1930s. So they

would've been in the neighborhood.

They may have come to the clubhouse meetings for all that I know. I was too young and don't remember him there. But I used to see him when he would ride his horse with two or three others. When he was a senator he would ride down Crest Drive (it was a gravel road) and I chatted with him a couple times, just small talk.

Did other folk ride up in the hills?

We didn't have horses ourselves but I took care of some horses across the street. A fellow Coy Halsey was a brand inspector for Lane County and he had a couple of horses. A fellow named Flocker had a Tennessee walking horse and he wanted someplace to keep it. Coy Halsey agreed to take care of it and Coy asked me to take care of this horse and I rode it all around everywhere and I broke it in. I rode it all over the hills. There were very few fences and we could ride anywhere. We used to pick lady slippers up to the hills in the woods areas and then go down to the farmers market downtown and sell them. That's not to be done now.

Where did you learn to ride?

I guess there. There was not much learning period. I got bucked off a couple times and got back on

again. Jess Brown, he and I were both born the same exact day and we grew up together and still keep in touch. He lives up there just before you get to Lorane Highway on Chambers. We used to go fishing every day during summers. We spent a lot of time along Spencer's Creek; there were a lot of trout in that Creek. I think it flowed into the Long Tom, eventually. As you turn from Lorane Highway to go out Fox Hollow Road, right there was the Twin Oaks school and it was still in operation when I was a kid. Behind that school was the best fishing hole.

That's a ways to go; did you go by bike?

Sure, we rode all over the place; we rode all the way to Lorane one time — I think it's 20 miles. Jess Brown and I we rode to Lorane—we heard there was some good fishing down there but we got down there so late it was time to come back.

We had good times back then. There was a rock pit just past where the Furrows lived, just before Leroy Voorhees' home. His dad panned gold in Spencer's Creek. He showed me a little medicine vial of gold. If he still has that he has a lot of money now.

There's a rocky pool, and it's still there. We used to shoot water dogs with BB guns and 22's. They had some rafts there. It was about as big as our backyard and us kids together out there on those rickety rafts that would almost sink, we'd pole our way along, and I climbed up the back of the rock wall and I got stuck. I couldn't go up but I couldn't go down either. Fortunately my brother was either with us or he came along later and he got over the top and hung down and grabbed my arm and

pulled me up. Crazy things we kids did; that was pretty high up above the rocks.

Do you remember the outbreak of the war?

No, but I do remember the end. I remember red and blue ration stamps. We had a victory garden during World War II. The allotment of gasoline was small. We would go as far as the forest camp (Mossy Maples) that was up Willamette River before Lookout Point reservoir was built. They had a rope there; we'd swing out over the river and drop in. (My mom was a good swimmer and she used to swim in a place called the plunge in Santa Monica California.) She hit her head on a rock at Mossy Maples Forest Camp. She came out bloody; it's a wonder she wasn't knocked unconscious. That was about as far as we would go in those days. The old four-cylinder cars got pretty good gas mileage.

You left Eugene in the 1950s?

I went in the Navy in January of 1956. That was when I left here to tour the world. I came back and visited lots of times since. I was 20 years in the Navy and I got out in 1976. In 1982 I went to the DC area. I was living in LaPine at that time and central Oregon was going broke. There were 17,000 people, and there were 2000 homes for sale. The spotted owl was the death note. Dunkin'

Donuts was boarded up, other businesses were closing, my kids sat around the table and wanted to eat, so I wrote a letter to the NSA, because I had worked there for three years before I retired from the Navy. Believe it or not, the boss that I worked for back then got my application across his desk, and if you knew how big NSA was, this was kind of the Lord's doing. So he wrote to me and said come for an interview and a lie detector test. So I went back there, in February of 1982, and in July 1982 I sent my family the money to come out. I told the wife just to turn the house over to the state VA; we hadn't been able to make the payments for a year and they had let us live there. So my family packed up and put things on the plane and came out to Maryland. I was hired in July AS a GS-9, something like \$22,000 a year. I had not made over \$9000 a year in the previous five or six years. So it was a big step up. I went to work there; it was rotating shift work in communications, round-the-clock. I was promoted many times. In 1993 the government offered an early out because they wanted to get rid of some top-level people, so I retired. I stayed there a while because one of my daughters was graduating high school in June.

Why did you decide to come back to Eugene?

My mother was still living here and I had been away for 38 years. Mother was not feeling well and I wanted to be around her as long as I could. My father had died in 1981. My sister was here also, in Junction City. I also have a sister-in-law who lives a few blocks from here. But Eugene, I was born here on

13th St. and Willamette, and raised on Crest Drive. My dad's brother Lewis lived on Portland Street just off of Crest Drive, and my grandfather and grandmother lived there too. My dad's sister's husband Emery Pruett lived up on Spencer's Butte and Lewis eventually moved up there. Emery had the best beard in Oregon in 1959, he won that title. My dad's sister and her husband (we called him Bezz; his name was Harry Rinnert), they lived on 31st up the hill.

So a whole group of family members all lived within 5 min. of each other. We all would go over hunting. There would be several tents back in the old days, and the ladies didn't want to go when there were tents, but when we started using camp trailers the ladies started coming too. And my aunt Elaine, Lewis' wife, was a better shot than any of us. She always got the deer, it was amazing.

How do the whole family end up here?

My parents were the first ones to move here, then a couple years later my grandparents moved up from Los Angeles. And I don't know the order after that. I don't recall when Lewis and Mildred got married and moved up.

What was the draw that brought your family up here? Was it work?

Definitely not work, because there wasn't much work in the 1930s. My dad would get up at three or four in the morning and bicycle out to Central, out beyond Fern Ridge Lake, just opposite the campground there. If you turned left there that takes you to Central. The roads were gravel all the way. He would ride the bicycle from Crest Drive all the way down Chambers, which was all gravel and then way out west 11th to Central. Then he would chop trees down and cut up and split the wood and he got \$.50 a cord. He could do 2 cords a day and he would get back home at dark. Maybe he would eat a little bit, then collapse into bed and get up at three a.m. again. He did that for quite a while.

Later, my dad and my grandfather had a construction company; they built homes, and a lot of them are still looking good today. They had a special kind of window, octagonal shaped, or a round window, which they would put in the kitchen or in a bathroom as a trademark on every home they built. At Willamette just past 31st there's one of those homes still there. There are several more going up 31st Street west. They went out of business right after World War II. I think my grandfather was getting too old and he wanted to retire. So my dad got a job at Midgley's planning mill. I worked there for six months one time.

Now Midgley's has a stove shop.

Their equipment was so antiquated they couldn't keep it up. They did all special order stuff and they had big leather belts that ran most of the equipment.

We had a 1927 Model T that my dad sold to a neighbor; They lived just over the hill beside the Lorane highway where it starts curving down the hill; they lived off to the left just over the ridge then. Their father was an alcoholic, and their mother—she was a very nice lady, one of her sons was captured by the Japanese during World War II and they thought he was dead. Then they got word one day when the war was over. He was found alive. The whole neighborhood was in an uproar, he's coming home! He got killed in a taxi wreck on the way from the train station to home. His mother went out the next day with bailing wire and hung herself on a tree out back.

And so my dad felt sorry for their teenage son, so he sold the 1927 Model T for I think \$20. That's probably like \$300 now. But my dad knew that the son didn't have much money so \$20 for a perfect running car. Later he sold our 1929 model A sedan to a guy for seven dollars.

So your dad kept an eye on the community.

He would give his shirt to anyone who asked. He was a very giving person. He and I, and my brother sometimes, when the wood was delivered to the College Crest Community Club house for the stove we would be the ones who would go up there. He

would ask for volunteers but usually it was us who stacked up the wood.

You came back periodically when you are in the service; what kind of changes did you notice?

I noticed that there were no more bonfires and kick the can games. Because TV took over. The old boob tube took away the community get-togethers, I believe. Amos and Andy and programs like that took over in the evening. The news, and by the time you saw the news and had a favorite program it was too dark to get together and do anything. So TV was the change. 1952 was when they put the broadcasting towers on Blanton Heights. We had to disconnect our antenna because the signal was so strong since we were not very far from the antennas on the hilltop.

Also the town started spreading out, but not too bad for the first few times I came back to visit.

Did your visits get fewer over time?

Yes more separation and more time between. I got married and had kids and it would be expensive to have everybody come on vacation. Usually I would visit when I was transferring duty stations and the Navy would pay for it. Especially if it was going in the same direction.

Did the kids you knew keep in touch later?

Yes, Jess Brown and I, we still keep in touch. We just attended our 55th high school reunion together a couple months ago.

And John Henry, I found out he went into THE Naval security Group just like I did, and we talked together on the communication circuit. Other than that I haven't kept up with too many people. I have no idea where Mary Ann Ashley went. In that house just before the rise on Crest Drive just after you go past our house. Before Ashleys lived there there was Ron Jaros and family; he and I graduated together also. Ron owned a flower and garden nursery. But I haven't talked to him for many years. Everybody goes their own way.