

The following interview is with a most extraordinary man, Mr. Walter Tews. Born in what was known as Centerville in 1891, he and his family moved to the city of Hillsboro in 1905 and became one of the communities' most prominent citizens.

Mr. Tews can be categorized as a classic "Do it yourselfer." He designed and constructed most of the material belongings that he owns and has relied on his own initiative and skills to accomplish his goals. The citizens of Hillsboro depended upon him for much the same reasons. In his varied and 87 years he has worked on or in railroads, a sawmill, a restaurant. He was a volunteer fireman, the city police chief, drove a grocery delivery truck, managed a grocery store, was the city building inspector, plumbing inspector, and sewer inspector, road builder, city constable, and, last but not any less important, the city street cleaner. Through all these professions and avocations, Walter Tews has established his especial philosophy, moral code, and a sense of civic participation.

The quality of the tape is not as good as one would wish for. Cars and trucks are roaring their engines in the background. A little extra patience is required on the listeners' part to comprehend Mr. Tew's words. I will say, though, that it is worth the effort. The narrative is spiced with anecdotes both thoughtful and humorous. Indeed, the city of Hillsboro and the whole of Washington County is indebted to this incredible man.

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MR. WALTER TEWS

ACC. NO. LOH78-216.1, 216.2

TRACK 1

- 0-10 Narrator's introduction. Interviewer's introduction. Born in 1891 five miles outside of Hillsboro in what was then the town of Centerville. The building of the railroad and the transfer of the town from Centerville to the new area of Schefflin. Schefflen station.
- 10-20 Mr. Tews working on the railroad, Buxton to Cochran. The creamery in Centerville. Going to school in Blooming. Move to Hillsboro.
- 20-30 Going to work at the Hare sawmill in Hillsboro. "Wanted to be my own boss."
- 30-40 Working in the Hillsboro sawmill. Mr. Tews writing his life story. (copy in the museum). Walter as Police Chief, volunteer fireman, grocery store worker.
- 40-50 Grocery delivery man. Manager of Aloha grocery store.
- 50-60 Individual fires in district. The "Great Outdoor Toilet Fire."
- 60-70 The Bert Maling Cannery fire. The night watch as city Police Chief. Responsibilities as Police Chief.

TRACK 2

- 0-10 Arnold's store. Wood heat as a major contributor to fire. Continuation of stories as Police Chief and fireman.
- 10-20 Building inspector, plumbing inspector, sewer inspector for the city of Hillsboro. First sewer in Hillsboro, 1911.
- 20-30 The financial costs of a city sewer. The first paved road in Hillsboro, 1919. Plank roads on Main Street in Hillsboro. 1919, the year Wiels department store constructed.
- 30-40 Flush tanks, cleaning the city, and brooming the streets. Cannery fire, operating a restaurant. Elected Constable of Hillsboro.
- 40-50 The cannery fire. Crime in the city of Hillsboro. Store robber.
- 50-60 The story of the robber and Mr. Tews 30 inch special six shooter. Locking up the prisoners. Thoughts on crime today. Anecdote of the "Juvenile thief and the Silver Beam Spotlight."
- 60-70 Continuation of story.