

a marker over there in our cemetery and they were - the Christiansons lived over in Cipole and these two boys were working in the Hedges swamp at one time and their son, the old man's son, Evan Owen, and Dan Christenson were eating and they took a notion to go over to the Tualatin River to go swimming and they run right from the onion patch and jumped into the river and they both drowned.

And that was a BIG funeral over in Sherwood. Everybody knew Evan Owens because he was our mailman's son.

Loyce: And what was the other kids name?

Irene: Dan Christianson. Now he has a little marker and it makes me sick because nobody pays any attention to it.

Karen: In the Winona Cemetery?

Irene: Yes. In the cemetery down there.

Loyce: You know, I.. - Where is it? I was down there a couple of times and someone said, "There should be a stone there, this guy drowned in the river!"

Mike: When you go down to the cemetery, go in from the Martin's side of the house there, and behind the full length - and it makes a turn there where you go out, it's right by where you turn there. Made out of steel. Somebody with a welding torch or a cutting torch, they -

Irene: Dan Christianson was going to be my first.. My first date out on a date. He was going to take me to a dance and show me how to dance and that next night he was drowned, and I.. My goodness, I thought I'd never learn how to dance because he was going to teach me how to dance up at Sherwood.

Loyce: Isn't it odd that they both jumped in and drowned!

Irene: They both jumped in the river and they both tried to help the other and they both drowned.

Loyce: They didn't know how to swim and they just jumped in?

Irene: Well, they were too hot, they were working in that heat and they run all the way down to the river.

Loyce: What part of the river did they go to?

Irene and Mike together: Jurgens Park!

Mike: I still remember that very vividly because my dad went over there and took me along, and I sat in the car and I happened to glance over to another car and here was one of those poor guys in the car with a blanket over him sitting in the back seat. And I thought, "Holy Smoke!" That's kind of..and I'll always remember that.

Loyce: You were there when they took him out of the river?

Mike: No, not when they took him out of the river. But he was in the car there waitin' to take him someplace.

Loyce: Well, tell me about what year was that approximately?

Mike: Oh, 19--, Oh, the marker over there, does it say 1918?

Loyce: I don't know.

Irene: Does it say anything on the marker? Maybe we can look at it. It made me feel real bad to think that somebody's family don't come there cause he had quite a big family there at Cipole at one time.

Loyce: Where about did they live?

Irene: Right in Cipole. Right where you make the turn there about the turn there where Rasmussens and so on lived. I used to go to Sunday School there always. And they had a little church on there and that's where the Christiansons used to live. Right on the railroad. The Ellers..

Karen: About three houses kind of close together there.

Mike: Ellers house is right across the street.

Irene: They had quite a big family and I can't figure out why they didn't pay any attention to this!

Karen: Now, where is the Owens boy buried, in Sherwood?

Irene: The one boy ..up on the hill.

Mike: Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Karen: What was his name?

Irene: Evan.

Karen: Evan Owens.

Irene: Yes.

Mike: Johnny Owens, he was the Dad. He was the mail carrier.

Loyce: Well, who was Henry Owens?

Mike: He could be..At least we called him Johnny all the time. He drove in a horse and buggy.

Karen: Well, we have a picture that Mrs Joe Byrom would have taken from , I think from, our front door looking down on the picket fence and there is this little horse and carriage and that was..mail carrier.

Mike: See that road there by the Nesoma Station comes off from your right, was a little dirt road and they had mud there that deep in the wintertime and in the summertime we had dust. We used to throw it up in the air and watch it. [chuckles]

Karen: Not very many people traveled that road. That little stretch was called "Nesoma Road" and now they've changed it to Avery Road.

Irene: Why did they call it Avery Road? The Avery's didn't have anything to do with it!

Karen: Well, Avery's had that same name on the other side where it crosses.

Loyce: Well, I wondered how "Nesoma" got it's name.

Mike: It's an Indian name.

Loyce: Did they just pick a name?

Mike: There are others. Tonquin. Tonquin/Mulloy - the station.

Loyce: Oh, was there a station at Mulloy there?

Mike: Yes.

Karen: Of course, Mulloy was a family name.

Mike: Every two or three miles they had a station. A lot of stations! A lot of trains every half hour there was a train during the day.

Loyce: It sure makes good sense to have trains where everybody can use them.

Irene: And the Electric down where the Walgraeves are. There was lots of transportation back and forth to Portland at that time.

Karen: Now the East and West Southern Pacific now. SP&S it was originally, that went, it went in to Portland eventually, but it went by way of Lake Oswego and cross the river, I guess.

Irene: Is that still there?

Mike: The track is still there.

Loyce: Well, what can you tell me about Jurgens Park?

Mike: We used to play ball there.

Irene: That used to be a popular place in the summertime, very popular.

Loyce: Are you talking about down on the river or up on the highway?

Irene: Jurgens Park up on the highway and Roamers Rest was down by the river across the street. That used to be popular, too. They had a ball park in there. That didn't last very long.

Mike: That was nothing but a woods and they carved out a ball park and, of course, they didn't make it very big. I used to play on the Jurgens Park Ball Team and every Sunday we had an attraction.

Loyce: Now, where was the ball park again?

Mike: Right down behind..give me a pen. Here..here is the road that goes by the cemetery and goes by here. Here's the main highway and of course the Jurgens Park consession stand was by here. Ball park was in here, right back here.

Loyce: Where were the cabins?

Mike: They were somewhere along here. Anyhow, it wasn't very big and a good fly ball would be a home run. So we used to play people and, uh, the rule was : get as many bases as you could regardless of where you hit it. The only difference was, our guys, we'd have an extra ball in our back pocket, see, knock around the brush and rush around, throw "the ball" in and we'd get a home run every time when we did that! [laughter]

Loyce: So there was a Jurgens Park Team. What other teams were there?

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Mike: Oh, boy! every little town had a ball park and a ball team.

Karen: And the Tualatin ball field, where was that?

Mike: I remember it pretty well, it's about where it is now.

Karen: In Tualatin Park?

Mike: Yeah, right where it is now but the home plate was out on the road.

Karen: Didn't there used to be a ball field where Hervin Cat and Dog Food factory place was?

Mike: Yeah, umhum, that was later.

Loyce: So the first ball park was over by the saw mill?

Mike: No, you know where Asa Mack's house is, right? Well, over by where the park is now, home plate was right where you make the turn into the park and in those days they didn't have the bags nailed down like they do now and Clyde Hedges was..No, Skimer Blank wasn't it that played first base?

Karen: Would that be Ed Blank?

Irene: No, Mel Blank.

Mike: No, not Mel Blank, I don't think, but anyway, he got his spikes tangled up in the bag and somebody came along and pulled the bag three or four feet up..and he..

Loyce: Now these teams, were they kids or were they grownups?

Mike: Mixed. Some were in their 20's and some were older.

Loyce: Was it what was called the Town Team?

Mike: Yeah, Art [Martinazzi, Loyce's Dad] played on some of those teams.

Loyce: Yeah, I remember him playing.

Mike: That and Tigard had a team, and they had a good.. Tualatin..Sherwood had a good one.

Karen: Later on, back in the 40's I guess, they had town basketball teams.

Karen again: Another thing I wanted to ask you about, I've heard references to a kind of "Red" activity in the 30's. Pinkos or Communist.

Mike: In the 30's yeah.

Karen: Did you hear of anything like that?

Mike: Was it Communists or Nazi's? or we'd call 'em "Brown Shirts?"

Karen: I hadn't heard about that, but I'd just heard casual references to the..

Mike: I'm thinking of IWW'S .. Wobblies?

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Karen: I guess so, yes!

Mike: I didn't know of any activity here, but of course they were very active all over the place -- the Wobblies were, of course, that's where they had the big shoot out up in Seattle.

Irene: Klu Klux Klan, that's what they had a lot of here.

Mike: Oh, yeah, they had a lot of that around here. Yeah, they were real big.

Loyce & Karen together [astonished]: Really? Here in Tualatin even?

Mike: Oh, yeah!

Irene: Yes, yes!

Karen: Now that I never heard of!

Mike: The minister up there was one of the leaders.

Irene: They were out to get the Catholics or one thing and another. Everybody who was a Catholic was an "anarchs [sic]. The Catholics were on one side and the Protestants on the other.

Karen: What minister was that, did you say?

Mike: Blankinship.

Loyce: From Sherwood.

Mike: Yeah.

Karen: He was a Ku Klux Klan member, you think?

Mike: Yeah.

Karen: Isn't there still a Blankinship family over there?

Mike: Uh huh.

Loyce: Same family?

Mike: I think so, they had a son. I don't know whether he's still alive or not.

Karen: It's Ken Blankinship.

Mike: Yeah, that's the one, a pretty little son. [sounds as if he means small at the time.] *what?*

Irene: Is that Kenneth Blankinship?

Karen: Yeah, was it he or was it his father?

Mike: His father was there, uh huh.

Irene: It was his brother!

Mike: [voice sounds annoyed at his sister] No, it was his father!

Loyce: Well, do you remember a dance hall down by where the park is now?

Mike: Down there? Oh, yeah! Uh huh, sure do!

Karen: Where was that?

Mike: It was right on the river, down where that little covered picnic area is down there.

Karen: Oh, it was a dance hall.

Loyce: Well now, I heard that it was run by the Communists.

Mike: Oh, is that right?

Karen: Yeah, I had heard that, too. They also had some doings there.

Mike: In those days, of course, one of the things that the objective was was to get as many people in there as you could so they made their dough, so they had a dance floor there, and they had one over at Roamers Rest and over at ^{John} ~~Donnie~~ Frederick's place over across the river there - Avalon- and all of 'em had dance floors, and of course all of 'em in session. Right down there at the base of the, uh, where you go into the park now, and you have the ramp.

End of side B - THS#12

for picnic

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