

Memories of days gone by...

Yes, it is a long time ago when my brother and I came to Oregon over the Sis-Q's Mt. or Hwy 99 then. We were in a nice 29 model "A", two-door sedan. Crushing speed was 35 MPH and only a few times we got up to 50 MPH. Lord that was flying to us boys. Mom and my step Dad were doing the driving. I say that because I was only 10 and my brother was 13. We all landed in Ashland, April of 47 and this is when I met John Neley. This was on the Sis-Q Boulevard, caddy corner from the Junior High, where Safeway's is now.



In fact, the little cottages are still there. Being we were close to Lincoln school, this is where I went and my brother was in the 7th grade... I sure wish the old Jr. High School was still there. Anyway, there are great memories. Ms. Kennedy was a great old gal and I had lots of fun with her. I think some times this is why she did not like me too much. I'll explain. On noon hour I had to spend time for being a knotty boy and running through her study hall on the south side of the school. Anyway, back to my story. I got into her room at noon and set down at one of the desks up front of where her desk was. When I came into the room, she, Ms. Kennedy was cleaning her teeth and she had them out.

Well, has you can guess, I could not help myself and started to laugh. Boy that did not go over well at all. If looks could kill, I would not have made it to the 8th grade. So from that day forward, I was on her list through out the 4 years I spent there. I did move on and graduate, all though it took me a lot of extra time in High school to make up for me quitting in the 9th great. I did make it though High school and get my diploma and was the first one to do so in my family.

Speaking of High school, things did not change to much for me and the teachers. I just couldn't seem to stop being a pain in the nick to some teachers. Yes, like now, I was not much of a person that thought of growing up at the time. I am still like that this day. I had a great time with football and track for 4 years. But, my scholastics suffered to some degree. School was not easy for me, but I still enjoyed myself.



Speaking of enjoyment, I do remember one night driving on the boulevard close to the triangle park, in Jack Bears folks 50 Plymouth 4 door sedan. There were 5 of us in the car. Jack Bear, who was driving, Ken Coulter, Tom Eidswick, Charley Dailey and myself. Anyway, we where driving in the fog and could not see but about 30 feet a head of us. When we came up on this car, we all stuck our heads out of the windows and make like a police car. The vocal cords of 5 guys did sound like a siren, lest the people a head of us did. The darn car pulled over to let us get by. Boy, did the people in that car get mad when they saw who was in the car...

I would like to add and say, we kids never harmed any property just had fun and oh yes, that just reminded me of us on top of the Lithia Hotel which is now the Ashland Springs hotel. To make a long story short, we went to the top of the hotel and dropped some balloons and never hurt anyone either. Like I said, just plan fun. No harm no foul. Oh yes, let's go back to the winter of 49-50.

That year Mother Nature decided to drop a lot of snow on us. Down town Ashland received that winter, three feet of snow. The Park was a lot more. I know, because I lived in the upper part of the park on Granite St. I wish I had all the pictures my step dad took of that year.

Speaking of Lithia Park, do you all remember the hexagon platform for the band? Do you remember back then all the fun we had on the 4th of July. Almost all of the challenges were for the kids like the greased poll and the pig and the wheel barrel race. Yes, those were the days. I could go on but I don't want to bore you. So, I got out of school in 55 and headed to Reno to work with my Dad. I was the Appliance stores delivery guy. Went all over Washoe County even up to Lake Tahoe with deliveries.

Oh, speaking of work, I did join the Navel Reserves back in 54 and spent 8 years with them. I got out in 63 and made the rank of Second Class Radioman Petty officer. Then, after that I came back to Ashland in 65 and spent 24 years in the lumber industry. The story continues, but I'll stop for now. Have a great life my friends.

Verle (Rowdy) Yates ...