

Gathering Our Voice

Interview with Don Olin

Interviewer: Nancy Warner

December 5, 2012

Transcribed March 25, 2013 by Marlena La Paz

NW: Ok. We're gonna start this again and, umm, it, the date now is December the fifth, 2012 and I'm with Don Olin. This is Nancy Warner at his house in Entiat and we're gonna be doin' an interview as part of the set of interviews with Entiat residents that, that we're doin' to mark the Summit - to learn more about Entiat. So, I want to talk with you about, umm, your experiences and, and also, umm, particularly, successes that you've had in, in your life in Entiat. So, if we could start, Don, with the real basics - what's your birthday?

DO: Ah, eleven, ten, and thirty-five.

NW: Oh, ok. So, not too long ago you, you celebrated, umm, your birthday...

DO: (laughingly) Yeah. Yes.

NW: Ok, so, 1935.....

DO: (coughs) Excuse me.

NW: And you were born in Entiat or in Wenatchee?

DO: Born in Wenatchee at the old Deaconess Hospital.

NW: Ok, all right. And, and your parents were, umm, long time Entiat residents?

DO: Well, depends on what you consider long time. They came in '25 and '26 - one of 'em, each of 'em did.

NW: Ok. And what were their names?

DO: Ah, Olin family and the Cook family.

NW: Ok, and so you're, you're dad's name is -

DO: Is John Olin - Mother's name was Susan.

NW: Susan Cook?

DO: Susan - yeah.

NW: And so, they came here, umm, individually with their own families?

DO: Yes.

NW: Ok. And where'd they come from?

DO: Ah, my dad came from Wisconsin and then they came into Wenatchee. And my great uncle owned a share of the flats - I don't know what they called it - Quaker Flats. So, they, he and my dad worked - er, my grandpa,

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worked in Wenatchee for Wells & Wade at that time. And he drove a team of horses delivering stuff up ah, on to Chelan and the terrace on this side of the Columbia River and then he worked on, umm, river boats for a short time. And when they found out that they could get the ranch up here they decided to get into the apple business. They moved up here with Uncle Shelnick on his ranch and later on bought it from him.

NW: Oh!

DO: So, and then, and - ah, but that's way before I came along! But my dad was, he's 17 when he came, actually came to town - to Entiat.

NW: Ok - from Wenatchee.

DO: From Wenatchee, yeah. He'd worked for the Daily World, my dad had, for about seven years down there.

NW: Oh, really?

DO: Yeah.

NW: Ok, so what did he do?

DO: He, he was the delivery and then they, he'd just moved up then in duties as typesetter and -

NW: Oh!

DO: A lot different than the way they do it now! (laughs)

NW: Yeah, but they know him down there - Wilfred -

DO: Well, they probably should. Well, young Wilfred [Rufus] would, his, his Dad, yeah.

NW: Oh, well, that's neat!

DO: Yeah.

NW: Well, of course, umm, this, this will probably become a column and so there will be a chance to share some of that association.

DO: Yeah. Yeah.

NW: So, so then, umm, that was your father.

DO: Right.

NW: And his name again, was - ?

DO: Olin, John Olin.

NW: John, John, ok, John Olin. All righty. So, but it was, umm, but you had roots here then when your parents moved up here already from your, your grandparents.

DO: Yeah, yeah.

NW: And so, tell me about Quaker Flats.

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DO: Well, it was a, it's a large flat out there and mostly the Quakers moved in there.

NW: When?

DO: Oh, from the 1890's to 1907.

NW: Really?

DO: Yeah. I, I don't know exactly for sure. I just know that, how I know, they came because they worked on the ditch that came through town that comes around from the Entiat River about 6 miles up. They come down to water the flats.

NW: So, is it Stayman Flats - is that the - ?

DO: No, it's just, ah, Quaker Flats starts about where the, ah, fire station is.

NW: Oh, ok ...

DO: And, and it goes north from there.

NW: Oh, that's interesting!

DO: Yeah, they, that, that's a big flat area. It's not really flat but, you know, generally flat.

NW: Ok. All right.

DO: And at the end of it, the, you've talked to Virginia, ah, trying' to go through last name, but -

(Linda Olin yells out – “Sage”)

DO: Sage - they owned the place that the, the last place where the ditch stopped.

NW: Oh! Actually haven't talked with Virginia -

DO: Oh, yeah but - oh. (chuckled)

NW: Oh, so that would be a person, huh?

DO: Yeah.

NW: To talk to - Virginia Sage?

DO: Yeah she, yeah, she's written a book about the Entiat.

{5 minutes}

NW: Oh, ok. I guess I need to talk with her.

DO: Not Sage is it, Linda? Excuse me I should -

Linda: (from another room) I think she goes by Sage. She's in a nursing home in Wenatchee.

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NW: Ok, well, let's follow up on that.

DO: O. k.

NW: Umm, on that de, de, detail but -

DO: Yeah.

NW: So, of course, you can see the remains of the, of the, umm, conveyance of the water -

DO: Right.

NW: The, the stone work and the flume?

DO: Right.

NW: And so that was headed for Quaker Flats to irrigate.

DO: Yeah. And clear through town. It started, it actually irrigated from just this side of Keystone Bridge clear on out. All of the town, everything, was here.

NW: Wow, ok!

DO: Yeah, there was 800 shares which is considered 800 acres.

NW: Ok.

DO: And, umm....and that's stood up for a long time! (chuckles) It's now in pipe, but -

NW: Yeah!

DO: Yeah.

NW: So, so, umm, what brought your, your grandfather to be part of that? How did he come to be part of that and where did he come from?

DO: Umm, you mean my great uncle.

NW: Oh, great uncle.

DO: Yeah.

NW: Oh, ok - sorry.

DO: He came from Wisconsin, too.

NW: Ok.

DO: And we don't know hardly anything about him except his name was Shelnick. (chuckles)

NW: S- H- E- L- N- I- C- K?

DO: I think that's what it was, we, like I say, I just - I have a watch that's has his, supposedly belonged to him.

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He was a railroad man 'til he came out, got into the orchard business.

NW: Oh, ok, maybe Phyllis could do some digging around on that for ya.

DO: Yeah.

NW: So, he, so he's your, your great uncle.

DO: Yeah, great, great, uncle or whatever. I, you know, jest (laughs) - that's far enough back, that -

NW: Yeah, yeah, that's a pretty loose affiliation you, you have -

DO: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. (laughs)

NW: But anyway, he was an in- he was an incentive then through your dad to move up here.

DO: Right, yeah. From, my grandpa.

NW: Oh, your grandpa...

DO: and Dad and the, the family, I should say.

NW: Ok.

DO: The whole family moved. My Dad and, ah, my grandma and grandpa, and Dad and his two sisters and brother moved up here, you know.

NW: Ok, ok. So, so the whole gang moved out from Wisconsin.

DO: Yeah, and moved Wisconsin and Earl, my uncle Earl was born out here, so -

NW: Ok.

DO: I, I can't even tell you when but -

NW: That's ok.

DO: Yeah.

NW: So, what's your sense of why they came from Wisconsin to Wenatchee?

DO: Cuz there was not, no jobs there. And the, and they'd came out here, they, they, they had family so they followed the family out. It's kinda like, like the people came Oklahoma/Arkansas, it's all the same thing. They came from every state. They just came a little earlier before the, the Dustbowl came along.

NW: Right, cuz times were tough in the '20's -

DO: Oh, yeah! Yeah.

NW: in many places. So, do you know what part of Wisconsin they came from?

DO: O'Claire.

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NW: Is it central? I don't know Wiscon -

DO: It's central, yeah.

NW: So, farming country?

DO: Yes.

NW: So, they came with farming skills?

DO: Yeah.

NW: Ok, yeah, well, that would be important. But they came with farming skills in a far different environment.

DO: (laughingly) Oh, yeah.

NW: Wisconsin, yeah.

DO: Yeah.

NW: Ok. So, so, umm, your dad then, umm, was, was, umm, did you say 17, 16 when they -

DO: Seventeen.

NW: when they moved up here?

DO: Yeah.

NW: Ok. And then, and then, you were born in 1935. Do you have brothers and sisters?

DO: Right, I have a sister that's 4 years older and a sister that's 3 years younger.

NW: Oh, ok, so, you were the middle guy.

Do: Yeah, yeah.

NW: Ok. So, where, when you were born, where was your family living in Entiat?

DO: We were living on the, on Olin Avenue or whatever they call it, in a little - probably our had four or five hundred square feet of - er, at that time we called 'em "flatboard shacks". They had framing and tongue-and-groove on the outside and then paper on the inside fer, fer insulation.

NW: Like newspapers?

DO: Yeah.

NW: Ok.

DO: Or cardboard - whatever you could get.

NW: And so then, was that covered up with fabric or something?

DO: Nope.

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NW: Oh, really?

DO: The walls were, the studs were open.

NW: Oh, wow!

DO: You, you could see out of - it wasn't the warmest or -

NW: Oh, my gosh!

DO: and the dust, you know. You'd work like the dickens and it wouldn't - (chuckles) you couldn't get it clean and - Now, of course, the running water was a pump outside.

NW: Um-hmm. So, was the water then on Olin Avenue, umm, out of a well?

DO: Yeah, umm, we had to put - a hand pump.

NW: Oh, ok. Every house had a hand pump, then?

DO: Yeah.

NW: Oh, ok. So, when you were born that was common, then.

DO: That was - yeah. Everybody had that they, you know - or a well, you know, and, and then - We didn't have a well. We still had to hand pump.

NW: Ok, ok. So, how many neighbors did you - what was your closest neighbor in those days?

DO: My aunt and uncle lived across the street. And then the other ones were probably a quarter of a mile down the road each way.

{10 minutes}

NW: Ok. And where in relation to Quaker Flats is Olin Avenue?

DO: It's on the upper half of it.

NW: Oh, ok. So, you were on Quaker Flats.

DO: Right.

NW: Ok. All right. And when you talk about your uncle, you're talkin' about your great uncle.

DO: Yeah.

NW: Ok, all right. And did you say what his name was?

DO: Shelnick - S -

NW: But his first name?

DO: I don't know.

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NW: Oh! (surprised) Ok. All right.

DO: (laughs)

NW: Well, (laughingly) that's o.k.

DO: Yeah, it is "Great Uncle," that's all. Nobody ever told us kids any names, you know.

NW: Oh, ok, all right. Too much detail for kids.

DO: Yeah (laughingly).

NW: Ok, so, so, umm, so your dad had worked at the Wenatchee World prior to movin' up here -

DO: Right.

NW: And then, what was he involved in?

DO: Apples. They went right onto the ranch and started in growing' apples. And at that time my grandmother still had a packing shed down there. It's the Todd's now own the orchard. And it had a [indistinguishable] packing shed and everybody worked in it. All the girls, the family, everybody had to work in it.

NW: And where was that located?

DO: Jest, ah, well, that would be, across from the, (pauses) all the, the trailer park down there - where the tavern - you know, jest across the street there was - there's a shed back in there and that was ours.

NW: By the Log Cabin Restaurant, you mean?

DO: Yeah, across from it, yeah.

NW: Ok. So, your grandmother operated the packing shed?

DO: Yeah, because at that time I, ah - she operate - er, my grandfather operated the orchard and she ran the shed. And then he had a stroke in, ah, early '40's. So, she ran everything then.

NW: And what were their names?

DO: My, uh, uh, Golan.

NW: Their first names?

DO: Uh, let's see - Boyd and Nettie.

NW: Nettie? Nettie was your grandma?

DO: Yeah. Yeah.

NW: Nettie - ok. That's a great name! Boy - ok. So, so, umm, how big was, was the orchard then that you call the family ranch - ?

DO: We, started out, probably, 35 (pause) probably about 70 acres at that time.

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NW: Oh, that was pretty big, wasn't it?

DO: It was and, and as the things went on, you know, during the '30's that, that they went down really fast because she's, my grandmother didn't believe in investing back in orchards. She put everything she'd be in cash, so if something happened they just sold off piece of the orchard. And, and one, I guess, probably, it would be in the middle '40's we, the place we lived on we moved off of. We had to move down because she sold it.

NW: Oh, ok.

DO: Yeah.

NW: So, this is what you were talkin' about earlier when you moved out you burned it down?

DO: Well, after that, after the - when it was he - we didn't burn it down but the houses we lived in were burned down.

NW: Oh.

DO: The Fire Department did it a couple of 'em.

NW: Ok.

DO: It was training, yeah.

NW: O. k. All right.

DO: Yeah.

NW: So, it's not like we can go there today and take pictures?

DO: No, no, no, there's n - there's nothin' left! (laughs)

NW: Are there any pictures of Entiat in those days?

DO: Not very many.

NW: Yeah, ok.

DO: I have a few pictures of the family but that's - I'm not sure where they are. They're - we were kinda lookin' 'for you came and I didn't come up with much. (laughs)

NW: Oh, ok. All right. So, so your, your grandpa was, was, umm, managing this 70 acre orchard and your grandmother was managing this packing plant and it was all a family enterprise -

DO: Yeah. Almost, well then, the people they hired. I've got pictures of everybody that worked on the ranch.

NW: Oh, neat!

DO: And somewhere they are - I don't, can't tell ya. My sister has most of 'em. There's, you know, there's - and then friends there were people came to work for us every year on the ranch. Even when later on my Dad had zoned part of one - they split it up when grandma passed away. Why, there's people came for years to pick ev - you know, that was when they'd come there in the fall and stay and pick and then go home. They'd make their

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winter money. They came from Idaho and Arkansas - everywhere.

NW: Huh! And, and ah, where, where would they stay when people came?

DO: We had cabins. And they were just like our house. They were (laughs) weren't very good. They were just cabins, you know.

NW: Everybody had the same conditions, though.

DO: Right. Yeah.

NW: It wasn't like a great big house for the orchard owners and little houses -

DO: In some cases there was, yeah. But that was other orchards. We didn't have that.

NW: Oh, ok. Yeah, ok. All right. Umm, well, before we go too far; tell me your sister's names.

DO: The oldest one is Barbara and the youngest one is Beverly.

{15 minutes}

NW: Barbara and Beverly - are they still in the area?

DO: Beverly's in California and my sister Barbara's here in town.

NW: Is Barb the older one or the young -

DO: Older one.

NW: Oh, great! Ok, good! Maybe I can meet her sometime. Yeah. So -

DO: 'Cept she's -

NW: (laughs) This is so funny! I've never done an interview next to the playground before.

DO: Yeah. (laughs)

NW: So, there's, there's a little background noise which, you know, that's fine. It's part of the ambiance here, isn't it? It's part of your rhythm. Living right by the school.

DO: Yes, it is! Yeah. It's great!

NW: Yeah, yeah. So, it's a most unusual setting, your house.

DO: Yes. (laughs)

NW: So, umm, I have a lot of questions about - I'm trying to picture how this all worked umm, and what you grew up learning. So, so your dad as a young man, when he moved to Entiat, he already had some farming skills? NW: skills?

DO: Yes.

NW: From Wisconsin?

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DO: Ah, I think workin' around in Wenatchee. He started workin' for the, for the paper. He would have worked somewhere else, too. In the orchards or somethin' down there. Cuz I don't remember a day he didn't work, so....

NW: How long was the family in Wenatchee before comin' to Entiat, do you know?

DO: I don't know. I know that Dad went to Whitman school in ah, 8th or 9th grade. So, ah, he come up here, he woulda been a sophomore or a junior, so....they weren't there that long. Five years, maybe six.

NW: Wonder where they lived in Wenatchee? If you went to Whitman School that would kinda help...

DO: Yeah, it's up on ah - he 'n they lived in that area 'bout two streets up but I can't -

[Linda Olin interjects] It was Emerson Street.

NW: Emerson Street!

NW: Oh, ok. All right!

DO: Oh, ok. And that is right there. That's Emerson - (laughs)

NW: Yeah! Ok, good! Good! That's a little, umm, helpful hint from Linda Olin, who is also here.

DO: Yeah. (laughs)

NW: (laughs) Thank you. Thanks. Umm, so, so, he, he wasn't, he wasn't completely uninitiated when he moved to Entiat and the family really engaged in the ranch.

DO: No, he was willing' - he was raised with work.

NW: Yeah. So then, by the time you were born then, what do you remember? Him - What, what was your family's day like when you were growin' up? In terms of your Mom and Dad and your work?

DO: Ah, this is gonna shock you but I have no memories into probably the third grade of school. I fell out of a car when I was 4 or 5 years old and cracked my skull pretty good. And I have a - (pause) a blind spot. I can remember, and now and then, remember there was a pool across the road my aunt and uncle had. That's when I was probably 5 or 6. But I have a really wide expanse of no - I can't - I have nothing in the first two years of school.

NW: Wow! That's interesting. Well, there's usually you don't have a great memories about that -

DO: Yeah, but no. This is, this is jist a total blank.

NW: That's interesting! But you're just fine now. So, thank goodness!

DO: I did! (laughs)

NW: (laughs) That's, that's interesting. Well, so - thank goodness that, that you're ok!

DO: Yeah. What a surprise - I was in school and I was a problem child. And I got into the fourth grade on condition that Teacher would take me. And after that, I don't know who the teacher was. I can look it up. But I did well. And I, like the one teacher said, it was part of the people you run around with.

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NW: Yes.

DO: When I (laughs) I guess we were not, you know, we were terrors probably at that age. So, she just said, "Well, I'll take him fer, you know, as long as he's good." And I did well after that but we still don't know what fer sure.

NW: Ok. Well, everybody has blank spots.

DO: Yeah, but, but that's just, you know - that just was. And, and then it just, you know. We, we moved down by the shed. We moved down on the place and then, ah, apples went bad so we couldn't run our shed. We had ta, we move, moved into a commercial establishment.

NW: What do you mean by that? The apples went bad?

DO: The price. We couldn't afford ta, to build the boxes, ah, do the packing, ship the apples. And it just - the price was just too low. So, they went and moved in, started takin' 'em all to the commercial.

NW: So, what, about what year was that? Was that in the early '40's or -

DO: Middle '40's.

NW: Middle '40's.

{20 minutes}

DO: Yeah. Well, let's see.... it had be, yeah, the middle '40's cuz I was 10 years old when I was drivin' the tractors on up in the orchards, so....

NW: Really?

DO: Yeah.

NW: Oh, my! So, ah, so you're drivin' the tractors around pickin' up the boxes and -

DO: Boxes, yeah, it was bah, all boxes and, and then, and you, of course, you had ditches then not sprinklers, so.... Ya had, everything was built so it couldn't go very fast. All of the tractors and the puddle-hops and whatever.

NW: What's a puddle-hop?

DO: Well, it's a, it's an old truck or car that you cut down everything except the steering wheel and the hood and the engine. And you put two transmissions together so you can make 'em go slower. You put, put 'em back-to-back and then the output on the input shaft is the same speed that then it, it goes down maybe, down ta - This, ah, input shaft is probably 20 revolutions and these would be about 5, on the other hand. So, when you go across the ditches, you didn't bounce the boxes off the trailer.

NW: Oh, that's interesting! Ok....

DO: Yeah. They made 'em outta model T's.

NW: I think I've seen pictures of some of those. Ok.

DO: Yeah, (laughs) yeah. And they - we had an old - there was Chevrolets and all kinds of - whatever you had,

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you cut down and made.

NW: So, who was the good mechanic in your family?

DO: Actually, probably my uncle Earl was one that - mostly if you had that job you went down to a guy by the name of Hub Breathen, who was a welder in Entiat.

NW: Oh, really?

DO: Yeah. (laughs)

NW: He was the guy that was really good at that.

DO: Yeah. He built trailers, everything fer - (pauses) an' he -

NW: Hub Readman.

DO: Hub Readman that's all I remember, he's a tough, old, gentleman who could make anything.

NW: Oh, ah-huh. Ok.

DO: (laughs) He was a blacksmith before he became a - started buildin' other stuff, so.....

NW: Ok. So, you were, you were drivin' a tractor, what other jobs did you have growin' up?

DO: Well, jest workin' on a ranch you had to - you know I, b'cuz I was small, so until I was probably 14 I didn't have to do anything but, you know, pile brush and maybe thin but not too much. Its jest strictly farm work and the biggest thing was keepin' stove wood to the wood stove in your mother's kitchen. Cuz that was jest sumpin' else. And when I was ok. (laughs) That's the picture of the place.

NW: Oh, wow! Oh! Linda just pulled out a photograph of Hub Readman's shop?

Do: Yep.

NW: Oh, awesome! (laughs) Oh, oh, and it shows your Dad!

DO: My - yeah, my grandpa and, and Dad.

NW: Oh, that's wonderful! Oh, that's wonderful! Ok, so I can see how critical this shop was to the whole community.

DO: Oh, yeah. He did everything.

NW: Yeah, fer makin', makin' stuff. So, so, you were talkin' about the wood. Where would you get the wood for the family's wood stove?

DO: When we, we, ah, thinned, er, pruned in the fall and the spring. And we cut it up and piled it, way, away from the house it seemed like to me. (laughs) And that's th' way had this apple wood which we cooked with. And then my mother died in 1948? No, 19, 1949. And then, ah, (pauses) my Dad was single for two years and then he remarried.

NW: So, you were, you were pretty young, then, when your Mom died.

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DO: Oh, yeah.

NW: You were born in '35 and she died in 1949?

DO: Yeah. Actually, in 1948, I think.

NW: Oh, '48.

DO: Yeah.

NW: Was it related to the flood?

DO: It was related to cancer.

NW: Oh, cancer? Really? Oh.....

DO: Yeah, and that's my stepmother. He married her two years later.

NW: And what was her name?

DO: Rexine.

NW: Rexine?

DO: Shamley, yeah.

NW: Shamley? Oh, S-H-A-M-L-E-Y?

DO: Right.

NW: Was she a local person?

DO: Yeah.

NW: Ok. Oh, it's good he remarried.

DO: Yeah.

NW: So, she was your step-mom fer the rest of the time you were growin' up and -

DO: Yeah. Right, yeah, yeah. Yeah.

NW: Oh, good, good. So, she had cancer? Oh.....

DO: (laughs) Yeah.

NW: Well, '48 was a bad year for your family, then, wasn't it?

DO: Wasn't good! And the -

NW: The flood, and the -

DO: The floods and - yeah. It was - I actually - the people were, the year she died, everybody came out and

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pruned Dad's place - 18 acres.

NW: Oh. What - did she die in the winter when pruning was - ?

DO: In the spring.

NW: Oh, in the spring.

DO: Yeah, yeah, and when it came time to prune we did 18 acres in one day.

NW: Wow! One of those Entiat things. One of the Entiat ways.

{25 minutes}

DO: Yeah. Happened all over. It happened a lot, though. Guy gets sick or break a leg, well.....here we go! (laughs) The whole bunch, you know! I can remember (pauses) Red Galbraith, I think, was, the same thing happened to him. He had a stroke so everybody went and did his place, so.....

NW: So, did, when people came to prune your orchard after your Mom died, did you know every- did you know all of 'em?

DO: No. I - very, actually, very few of 'em.

NW: Oh, wow.

DO: Because at that time, you know, you didn't get around much. You'd know the people up the river. You knew the kids in school but you didn't know the Mom's and Dad's and all the people worked for 'em. So, that was, ah.... that'd be people just show up and, "(gasp), Who's that?" you know? And-

NW: Oh, yeah! Neat!

DO: (laughs)

NW: So they probably heard about it through the school, then, didn't they?

DO: Yeah. Oh, no, I don't know. It jest - somebody jest decided to put it together. Coulda been the Grange at the time. (coughs) Sorry!

NW: That's ok. Huh. So, that's, that's interesting. Umm, but in terms of going to school - were you going right over here?

DO: Right.

NW: Yeah, right across from where you now live. You're actually almost in the middle of the school -

DO: We are.

NW: property -

DO: We are.

NW: in 2012. But when you were a kid, umm, you didn't live in this house.

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DO: No and there was very little school over there. There was the old - I graduated right after the, the new, ah, chem was built in '53. In '52 that was built and I graduated in '53.

NW: Ok, ok. So, all your schooling was right there in that location.

DO: Yeah, 13 years. Started out in kindergarten and went right on through. There was, think, 11 of us that graduated together out of 21 that went to bowl - 13 years.

NW: Oh, wow. Ok. And, and, umm, so, it was, it was a community hub, then?

DO: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

NW: Certainly. And, and, but the Grange was, too. And, and, how about the Quaker Church? Quaker Flats, the Quaker Church?

DO: I have no idea. (laughs)

NW: That's interesting.

DO: We - in our family didn't, we didn't go to church. My aunt and uncle finally bought the church and the school that was out there. But they - it's - that belongs to Bob Harrington now. They had his hundredth birthday here a year ago, I think. (chuckles)

NW: And it was a Quaker Church?

DO: Yes. And the school.

NW: Oh! So, the Quakers sort of got Quaker Flats up and running but di - it wasn't necessarily dominated -

DO: No, they jest called it that. That was it - jest one of the - they had settled out there so that was Quaker Flats. (chuckles)

NW: But there is still a church here in town cuz I see the sign for the free dinners on Tuesday night -

Do: Yeah, the 'prentice church over here, yeah.

NW: Oh. Ok. Well, sounds another whole interesting element to Entiat, then. But not one I'm gonna learn a lot from you on. So, ok.

DO: (laughingly) No!

NW: (laughingly) Ok, I'll talk to somebody else about it.

DO: Yeah, somebody else can have a talk about the church. Yeah, cuz that wasn't part of my upbringing.

NW: Well, tell me a little bit about the school. You know, I, I talked to - 'course is - everybody that grew up here experienced the school.

DO: Yeah.

NW: Peggy Whitmore went to elementary school in Ardenvoir before coming up here.

DO: Comin' down here, yeah.

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NW: But, but, umm, what was it like going to school there, other than graduating with only 22 people in your class?

DO: Well, it jest, the one thing I remember was very free and easy if, I mean - in the fourth grade is, you know, I started remembering' stuff. Why, there's - it, it seems to me still at this day, there was not a lot of discipline because they didn't have to. And then, I didn't excel in anything that I remember in junior high. I think I might have played basketball but it wasn't very - it didn't, you know, register on that - (the telephone rings) And I played, uh, at a sports in High School, which everybody did. I been fightin' this little cold for a week.

NW: Oh, yeah, there's a - it's - "'tis the season"!

DO: Yes.

NW: So, yeah, school. So, back ta, ta school. So, sports was one thing....

DO: That was the, probably the main thing and then, at that time, in the fall, we may - as a freshman I didn't get out much for apple harvest. But from I was sophomore we only went to school to turn out to play football for about, ah, 4 to 5 weeks and we had to make up all our classes. And I did that as a junior, I didn't go back until sometime in October. I actually worked in the - they were very good then. They let you make up everything and - I missed by a very little, a gettin' four years in, ah, in the honors club. I had one, one was, year was 2.99 or somin' like that so, I didn't get my four years. (chuckles)

{30 minutes}

NW: Oh! That's an interesting system, then.

DO: Yeah, it was, yeah. If ya had to have a 3.0 for 4 years and I come close but that one year did me in. (chuckle)

NW: So, you were really learning, of course, the, the apple industry but you were learning to work.

DO: Yeah, we learned to work but, you know, there - in FFA, we had the - we did some, each year we had something to do. Chickens or apples or sompin' and they tried to keep farming in. But I don't think there was - of the group that I went to school with - there was over 3 or 4 people that actually thought they were going to go back into the apple business.

NW: Really?

DO: Umm-hmm. None - every one of us - all in the room - they all took at least casuals, heavy classes, so they could....Cuz you know, it, it was a poor place and you look around and - when I was in school there wasn't an - they didn't have cars! Nobody could afford them! So, (chuckles) it was a -

NW: You wanted something better.

DO: Yeah, everybody wants somethin' better and I think my class stands out that way. I think every one of 'em - 'cept maybe 2 or 3 didn't - excel at something.

NW: At something academically?

DO: Academically, or business....some, umm - the majority of 'em went to college.....

NW: They were very motivated, very motivated.

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DO: Yes. That, that's, yeah, there - I think that was the class before us, I don't think, was. But our class and back to my sister's class, from then on, it's, it seemed like there was a lot more motivation to get up and do it.

NW: Hmm. So, tell me a little bit about - you know, I'm interested in what the town looked like, how it functioned when you were growin' up and, and, umm... Let's start with umm, what'd ya do fer fun when you weren't workin' on the ranch and you weren't in school or playin' football?

DO: Went fishin'.

NW: Ok, talk about that.

DO: We used to get on our - well, even when I was younger 8, 9 - we used to get on our bicycles and ride up the river. And we would ride to Ardenvoir and go fishin' half the day or a day and come back home. And now everybody go crazy because they wouldn't know where you were. And we got, we were home by dark, that's - (laughs) And that's what we did we fished and we hunted and, actually, there wasn't a lot of time, if you think about it. There, if you were workin', there wasn't a lot of time to go do somethin' else unless, you know, it's too hot a day to work in orchards, you went fishin'. And you got older, you hitch-hiked to Chelan go swimmin' - we used to do that a lot an'.....

NW: Well, so, what year did you graduate again?

DO: In '53, 1953.

NW: O. k., so, of course, Rocky Reach dam wasn't there yet.

DO: No.

NW: So, was there any good fishin' at the mouth of the river, then?

DO: Oh, it was outstanding!

NW: Well, why'd ya go all the way to Ardenvoir?

DO: Because it'd just to do it. Well, there's, there's fish holes all the way but, you, you know, its drive, ride up there - you may even ride further, go up Mad River to fish. You know, it's, just to be there, you know, an' it's....

NW: Yeah, it was an outing.

DO: It was an outing, yeah. And you didn't go alone all the time. You could always - maybe 2 or 3 and that wasn't good when two or three got together. It's not good. (laughs)

NW: Oh, (laughs) other things happened?

DO: Yeah! Strange things happened! (laughs) (They both laugh)

NW: (laughingly) Yeah, you know, when you go up to Ardenvoir - so, ah....

DO: Well, you didn't know, you know - those people were different up there.

NW: Oh! Talk about that a little bit!

DO: (laughingly) Yeah! Yeah! Well, yeah, you know, you had the upper valley and the lower valley. And they jist, you know, I don't know why, jist seemed that you could tell the difference in dell people versus the farmers

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down - jist one of those things, you know, they.....

NW: Were there fights?

DO: Oh, yeah, but that was not a big deal. (chuckles) Nobody ever got hurt that I remember.

NW: So, in the school, you're all in the school together.....

DO: Yeah, no problems.

NW: Ok, jist outside -

DO: Outside, yeah.

NW: A little territorial -

DO: Yeah. It'd be no different than goin' to Chelan or Wenatchee, a kids did then, you know, that's - they got over....weren't very smart! (chuckles)

NW: Well - (chuckles)

DO: But you had to protect your territory that was your - y' the ladies, you know. (chuckles)

NW: Oh, right, right right!

DO: Right! (laughs)

NW: So, umm, so did ya ever take, umm, girlfriends on fishing dates? Was that something you did?

{35 minutes}

DO: No.

NW: No, it was a 'guy thing'.

DO: Umm-hmm. (chuckles) First place, I don't know any of 'em that I was in school with that were away at [indistinguishable] us. They were tastes - they all had to work, too, though. You know, that's - there wasn't a free ride for 'em. So, they were all working.

NW: Were, they're workin' at home and in the packing sheds?

DO: At home and some of 'em, a lot of 'em worked in the orchards and, you know, whatever you had to do. All of 'em worked at home, there's no doubt about that but - Well, I know a couple that maybe didn't. (chuckles)

NW: Good. Ok. So, when you'd go fishing, what would you use for bait?

DO: We'd use flies all the time.

NW: Really?

DO: Yeah, that's almost strictly a fly fisherman.

NW: Really!?

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DO: Yeah.

NW: So, who taught you how to tie flies?

DO: I didn't, I - my Dad bought 'em for me.

NW: Oh!

DO: Or my uncle made 'em for me.

NW: Oh, which uncle was this? The great uncle?

DO: No, this is, ah, uncle on my mother's side.

NW: And he was a good tie -

DO: He could, yeah, yeah. He, he was real good about that. He, he, well, he'd tie them for my dad and then I'd sneak 'em when I needed 'em.

NW: Ah! Pretty neat! So you, so you, have you always been a fly fisherman, then?

DO: Yeah.

NW: Yeah, why would you go to worms if you knew how to fly fish?

DO: Yeah. When we used to go up to the lakes with Dad, we would, when I was older, we'd take single you'd, you'd - single lakes or sompin' like that but not, not in the Entiat. That was strictly fly fishing.

NW: Up at Lake Chelan, you mean?

DO: Yeah, Lake Chelan or, or up Colville or the Twin Lakes or Lake Wenatchee. My Dad was an avid fisherman so we went a lot of places. (chuckles)

NW: So, so you had a boat? Did ya have like a row boat, or - ?

DO: Yeah, I had a little 14 foot boat with a 5 horse kicker on it an'.....

NW: Great!

DO: Yeah, that's all we needed. You know, we weren't goin' anywhere in a hurry.

NW: So, you'd go, go up the Entiat fishing and go - did you go up to like Heather Lake? Not Heather but, umm.....

DO: Mad Lakes and those areas?

NW: Yeah.

DO: Yeah. We hiked in there, yeah.

NW: You and your Dad?

DO: (coughs) No, ah, my dad'd never went on a hi, hike with us. We all, always jist a bunch of the boys. There'd

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be three or four or five of us...

NW: Uh-huh. Great! Just leave your bikes at the trail head?

DO: Yeah. Well, well, fer if we left 'em home, we actually, probably, with that many guys, we rode up. Cuz you had all your gear so, so somebody had a car. Always had somebody that was old enough who could steal their Dad's car, use it. (chuckles)

NW: I imagine in the Entiat that that could happen around 14 or 15. (laughs)

DO: Yeah, because I was actually haulin' apple boxes an' apples back and forth to the warehouse at 14. I couldn't hardly reach the pedals but I could git, git 'em there and back, so....

NW: O. k. And that was between Quaker Flats an'....

DO: Yeah, it was - it wasn't very far. It would be the last road out to where we're jist goin' down over the hill to where the industrial area is now.

NW: O. k. It'd be neat to see a picture of that old packing house.

DO: It's been, well, actually that's still there, our old house, the packing house is.

NW: Oh, really! Oh...

DO: Yeah, the Todd residence out there on 97A, it's, doesn't look much like it did then because they've got stuff scattered all around of it.

NW: I'll look for it today when I go up that way. Huh.

DO: O. k. Its right-ah - it used to be the Soapmeister. It's right straight across from it.

NW: Oh, sure. Yeah, Sherri's place.

DO: Yeah, just across the street, we're there.

NW: So, there the - there were the 'townees' and there were the 'valley kids'. And, and so, besides fishing, goin' into their territory, what did you do fer fun in your own territory in, in town? I'd like to get a little sense of what that was like.

DO: Actually, like I say, 'til I was 12 and workin', we didn't do much in town.
(Linda adds: In High School there was always dances, school dances, Grange dances, that kind of stuff.)

DO: Yeah, well, she talkin', we're talkin' about the' downtown people versus uptown.

NW: Yeah, or just getting' a sense of what was downtown.

DO: Yeah. Well, starting', well, well, we played pool at the Grange Hall. There was, ah, Dauncey's Hair - Barber Shop and he had a pool room on the lower floor. And then upstairs was the Grange where they danced.

NW: Really!?

DO: Yeah.

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NW: And what was it called? Tonsee's?

DO: Dauncey. D-A-U-N-C-E-Y.

NW: Wow! That must have - that sounds like a very important place!

DO: It was! 'Specially since I ran wi' his boy was same age as I am. We ran around together and I didn't have to pay to play. (laughs)

NW: Great, great! So, a barber shop and a pool hall.

DO: Together, yeah.

NW: O. k., great!

DO: And then.....

NW: That's on one end of town?

DO: That's right in the middle. Yeah, it's - to the station down there is the building that's got this Hick's Automotive. That was the top of the hill as you come into town. (Pick 'em up there where you dropped 'em. Oh!) And, fact, I'll start out - down by the bridge there was a, a service station. And, a quarter of a mile or less up there was another service station. And another quarter of a mile and on the left-hand side now, as you go up, was another service station. And you get th' top of the hill was another one. (laughs) And then the next one was a cafe, ah, store and, ah, then another cafe and store. And then a post office, and then, with the first street in Entiat you hit the Grange, th' tavern, candy store, the, ah, barber, the butcher shop, then a park. And a saddlery shop, shoe repair shop, then Redman's place - that was the last business.

{40 minutes}

NW: This one?

DO: Yeah.

NW: The machine shop, would you say?

DO: Yeah, yeah, on the left side. And as you going up the right side, when ye, about the third, ah, ah, service station, they started the warehouses. And the warehouses stretched all the way to the top of the hill. And then we had the theater, tavern, motel, cafe, Odd Fellow's, risk store - (laughs)

NW: What was that?

DO: Risk store, the main store in town as far as anybody was concerned. And then, ah, jewelry shop - a lot of people don't remember that. And that was also the headquarters of Justice Dunn. Their church, he's the Justice of th' Peace. And then had the hardware shop, another, dah, service station -

NW: That's five.

DO: Yeah.

NW: Oh, my!

DO: And then around the corner from it was the bulk plant fer Standard Oil.

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NW: The bulk plant? Oh!

DO: Yeah. Yep, and then, and then after - that was the main part. And then the railroad tracks run through town and we started out below the railroad tracks there was a small ranch. And you get to the next set of, down from this store there was - warehouse, warehouse, and they went on out past the bulk station. There was five different warehouses.

NW: Apple warehouses?

DO: Apple warehouses, yeah.

NW: Or fruit warehouses?

DO: Fruit, well yeah, mostly apple. Yeah. Most the cherries went to Wenatchee or somewhere else.

NW: They were trucked down there to be packed?

DO: Yeah.

NW: Oh! Wow, that's a great portrait! That's a great memory - you have that.

DO: Why, I think I gotta picture somewhere..... (laughs)

NW: Well, that would do it, too, but that was fun! So, so did ya go ta th' theater a lot? Did ya go ta th' movies?

DO: Yeah we went - it was only, it was only opened on Saturday. And you, you [indistinguishable] went and - actually, the theater went out while, I think, I was in the service. It went out and they built another warehouse up there. (laughs) And there was a, another - at that time, there was a Shell station there, also. And they took those out an' put in more warehouses but - I was gone at that time, so -

NW: Ok. Let's, let's keep you home fer a jist a little while longer and, umm - So, you said it was fun; it was good fishing at the mouth of the river?

DO: Right. It was good fishin' anywhere.

NW: And so, even out in the main river, you would fish?

DO: Right. Right.

NW: So, what did you catch?

DO: Mostly rainbow and steelhead and salmon.

NW: Chinook salmon, then?

DO: Chinook, or spring, or, or was it? Coho - whatever was comin' by.

NW: Oh, man! So, were you told to stay - you weren't told to stay away from the river?

DO: Oh, absolutely not! We're, were expected be in it. How do ya learn ta, to swim where the old dam was down here - There was a, all the stuff was left from the dam. We had big pools there? That's where you learned to swim. And the way you learned how is the older ones threw you in and you had to get back to shore. And

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everybody learned really quick! (laughs)

NW: Well, I guess so! (laughingly) That was a true sink or swim.

{45 minutes}

DO: Yeah.

NW: Wow, so, it sounds, it's soundin' like a fun place to grow up!

DO: It was! It was, you know, no, ya didn't bother anybody, nobody bothered you. But everybody was watchin' out for ya.

NW: So, was there a time when you kinda got yourself in a squeeze, a little bit of a tight place and some neighbor helped?

DO: Not really. I wasss - well, yeah, when my mother died everybody helped. There was probably, I think, I'm tryin' to remember, our little group was four...there were four of us, pretty well. And we could land at any one of the four houses that evening and that's where you'd be. You'd just call home and tell 'em yeah, this is where you were gonna be.

NW: Oh, you mean, you and your sisters would do that?

DO: No, my group of boys.

NW: Oh, your - Oh, I see!

DO: Yeah, their, ah, my friends went.

NW: Oh, so who were those other guys?

DO: Well, Wesley Dauncey, and, ah, ah, Bill DePies, and, Ronnie, most of the time. (laughs)

NW: Who?

DO: Ronnie Synes. He was....and we had a gr - we had a little pretty good group of kids we did things with and we still got in trouble. (chuckles)

NW: But that was really important to have those friends when you lost your Mom.

DO: Oh, yeah, you had to have that! Yeah. Well, and the lady, she lived right over here, I, she took in all the boys.

NW: What was her name, do you remember?

DO: Ah, Molanis Phipps. And she, she was good to all of us.

NW: Oh, nice! Have you in for cookies and stuff?

DO: No, to stay there ta have your meal and stay overnight. Or if they're goin' fishin' and you want to go along, you went along with 'em. (laughingly) That was just part of the deal. If ya had to be somewhere, somebody was goin', if you, you were asked to go. And we did the same thing, you know, see. Dad decides that, "Well, we're goin' over Blue Lake go fishin' tomorrow." "Well, ya want Wesley to go?" "Yeah, long as he's quiet." Because

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my dad, when he fishes, practically totally quiet. And ya got to know about it if ya didn't. And Wesley learned that really quick. (laughs)

NW: (chuckles) Sounds pretty, pretty open. So, did the Phipps have children of their own, or -

DO: Yeah, ah, Bill and his, his twin, ah, (there we go with names again...) -

NW: That's ok.

DO: Patsy.

NW: They had their own children but they jest really liked, they regarded -

DO: Yeah, yeah, everybody was their kids.

NW: Oh, that's neat.

DO: Same way with Mrs. Dauncey. She, she had some boys of her own that (pause) I think she'd rather have her other kids in there. (laughs)

NW: Yeah! I see! Might be good for a little variety! Well, so then, you did start dating in high school?

DO: Nnnn - Not much.

NW: Did you go to dances?

DO: I really - every weekend. Ah, the school, when school was in session, every week there was a, every Saturday night, or after a foot - every game, was a, a Friday or Saturday, you had a, a dance.

NW: And they were at the Grange?

DO: No, at the school, yeah.

NW: Ok, so who played? What kind of music was it?

DO: Jist records. Jist sock, you know, like they say, "sock-hop."

NW: Did j'ya ever have live music? For events, like the sh -

DO: Yeah, well, fer the prom. Yeah.

NW: And who - do you remember who would play?

DO: Absolutely not. (chuckles) Probably the Rose family at that time. I don't remember what his first name was....anyhow, but -

NW: Rose family?

DO: The Rose family, yeah. There's quite, there's a lot of background on them in Wenatchee, so -

NW: Oh, ok. How about the Shanks?

DO: Well, I didn't even know the Shanks were there 'til I started workin' at the Forest Service. That, you know, I

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jest, I - and they'd been there - I don't think they played music when they were younger that anybody knew about.

NW: Ok, ok. All right. I haven't met them yet but I look forward to doing that.

DO: Yeah. Oh, they're great people!

NW: Yeah, that's what everybody (laughingly) says, so....

DO: (laughs)

NW: Well, so, how did you meet Linda?

DO: Well, I (chuckles) I was in the service and she was, probably, at that time, 12 or 13.....
(Linda says something indistinguishable from the next room)

DO: Well, anyhow, she was young and I came home the service and, ah, she was with my sister and my grandmother. And I met her there. I didn't think much about it. And I know she didn't much give a darn for me. But then, met her then and when I got out of the service we kinda went off together - off and on. And then we finally end up gettin' married.

NW: Oh, ok, ok. So, when you graduated from high school did ya go directly into the service?

DO: Jest about, I went, I got out in June and I was in the service in September. Had to be 17 and a half to get in, so.....

{50 minutes}

NW: So, you worked that summer on the ranch?

DO: Yeah. And for - I worked on other ranches. Dad didn't pay enough (laughingly) for my lifestyle.

NW: (laughingly) Oh, ok. Did it include a car by then?

DO: Yeah. I had it six months before I went in the service. I bought it that spring and that was it.

NW: So, did ya go up to the Lake Chelan a lot with that car?

DO: Nope.

NW: Oh! Jist stayed around here?

DO: Yeah because I was workin'. At that time, you know, you had to stay with it; couldn't afford gas otherwise, so - Remember prices per hour then were pretty down in the dollar and less. (chuckles)

NW: Right. Least ya had plenty of gas stations to choose from.

DO: Yeah, oh, yeah. (laughs)

NW: (laughing together) It's amazing!

DO: Well, if ya think about it, there was more repairs done then and tires didn't last as long. And they all, all those - nobody had a good car. They were all repairs, you know. I think (chuckling) of some of 'em that - they

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had. They were jist - (laughingly) wonder how they got around. Mine was part of 'em.

NW: What was your first car?

DO: A '47 Chevrolet Fleetline. It was strange-lookin' green car I got for almost nothin'. Wrecked it, went in the service, had it fixed comin' back and sold it. No, Dad sold it 'for I got back. (chuckles) Somebody had to pay fer the, you know - He paid to get it fixed, so, he had to git his money back.

NW: So, umm, where were you? What, what arm of the service were you in?

DO: I was in the, the Transportation Corps. I was in the Army's Navy. I spent half my time aboard ship (chuckling) in the Army.

NW: That must have been a big change!

DO: To go from this coast out of the farm to the east coast onto a ship was a shock for some people. And at that time, there was still segregation back there and it was a tremendous shock to me. Cuz I was really young, so - I walked around miles open w/my mouth open, "What's goin' on?" you know? I remember we got into; the group of us went in there ta D.C. after we got off the train. There was a guy there directing' the whites this way and the colored this way.

NW: Oh, gosh. Oh, man! I can imagine! Well!

DO: Yeah, well, I wasn't the only one. There was a bunch of, there was kids, kids from Peshastin all lumped together and we were all, you know. We'd been warned before we left California this might happen. But we didn't, you know, like most, we didn't take anything serious. We did after that! (chuckles)

NW: So, how long were you in the service?

DO: Three years.

NW: So, and, and you were a lot of the time, out at sea....

DO: Actually, we didn't go very far out at sea. We were in the, in the bays - Chesapeake Bay. We spent most of our time in there. We went out it was because we had to go out and bring a ship back, er, on the tug.

NW: Oh, really?

DO: Yeah.

NW: That's what you learned how to do! Wow, cool! You must have fun when you go to Elliot Bay. You must feel very comfortable there.

DO: I would but I jist, ah, we don't - never got back aboard a ship once I (laughingly) got out of the service.

NW: Been there, done that!

DO: Yeah. Don't need that anymore!

NW: (laughs) So, did you go fishing when ya, er, umm, hunting in Chesapeake Bay when you had time off?

DO: No. No. I'd no hunting. The only fishin' we did was fer crabs over the side. You fed, you'd pick your dinner up, you know. We always had a crab pot off to the side of the boat.

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NW: That doesn't sound too bad.

DO: It's good - them little blue crabs...

NW: Umm-hmm. Little crab cakes.

DO: Yeah.

NW: So, then, when you got home, umm, tell me what happened next.

DO: I got home, I was still pretty loose. I worked fer, tryin' to think - I worked, I don't know how many people. I'd get a job and then it wore out. And then I - I'm tryin' to remember what - I went to Boeings for six months. Found out that that was not made for me. That, and that was the yea - a lot of people did that. You tried Boeings. You worked a lot a hours, made a lot a money and you were tired all the time, never could do anything. So, I built, helped build the first TC 135's. And that was - (coughs). And I came home and I worked in the sheds and then we got married and I had to find a permanent job. (laughs)

NW: It does that to ya!

DO: Yeah! (laughs) Went down, I worked at, in a packing house for a year.

{55 minutes}

NW: In Wenatchee?

DO: Yeah.

NW: Which one?

DO: Wenatchee Pack - not there anymore. And then, ah there's another job and then we decided we'd move up here. At that time, they's startin' ta build a town - rebuild it. So, I went to work for J. P. Mac Donald's and Sons fer a couple of years, or a year, I guess. And then this guy from the Forest Service caught me when I wasn't thinkin' and he says, "Did yer ever build a bridge before?" I says, "No, but I can." So, they hired me and they sent everyone up to above the head of the Entiat and build a bridge in, in the middle of winter. (laughs)

NW: Gosh, that sounds fun! (chuckles)

DO: Oh, it was awful! We, we (chuckles) we almost froze but we got the bridge built. I come back down I went to work then, from then on, with the Forest Service.

NW: So, did you work with Les Julian?

DO: Yeah. Yeah, Les, Les and I have done some strange things together. We built that bridge - that was one of 'em. And we were on fire investigations together and we've repainted the numbers on the rocks together.

NW: Really?! That's another hole in your [indistinguishable] Yeah, ok. Oh, that, that'd be totally fun to talk to you guys about that!

DO: That took two years to, ta get it, what we did done. We got a lot of 'em back up and, ah - that was....

NW: Ah, I wondered... I thought they looked a little fresh!

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DO: Some of 'em are. It's been quite a while since we've been up there, though. But we did most of 'em, that start back in the '20's up through and into the, some in the '70's.

NW: So, then, how long did you work for the Forest Service?

DO: Twenty-six years. And I retired at 1986, I think. And then I was workin' in town here, you know. I got to build almost every building that's here when it -

NW: In the new town.

DO: In the new town, yeah.

NW: Third town.

DO: Yeah. (chuckles)

NW: Oh, wow, that's interesting. So, now where were you when the water rose? Were you off in the service when the water...?

DO: No, I was - (pause) I don't re - I was -

NW: '61, I guess, huh?

DO: Yeah, I was probably up somewhere the valley workin' on the, on the job. We used; I used to work four 10 hour days and then be home for 4 days. So, when the water came up I - I just don't remember it, period.

NW: It musta jist kinda happened pretty gradually.

DO: It did, it had to, yeah.

NW: And the town had been either torn down or moved -

DO: It was gone, yeah. Yeah.

NW: And, and, umm, so, you were involved in cr-, in the building of the whole town that's there then, huh?

DO: Yeah. Pretty much so. I was worked on most of the buildings.

NW: Before you went to work for the Forest Service.

DO: Yeah.

NW: Ok. Oh, well, that's really - No wonder, umm, Keith wanted me to talk to you about that. That would, umm, that would definitely be interesting to do a drive-around, you know, and talk about the buildings.

DO: Yeah. Well, it's - it's like the church hall always, when I go in there I always make sure it's not gonna fall because, at that time, I wasn't that great a carpenter! (laughs)

NW: (laughingly) Having second thoughts about the length of those nails, huh?

DO: Yeah. Well, we put up, I remember, they hired me and I did all the acoustical tile.

NW: The what?

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DO: The acoustical tile? Put it, all of it up and all the tile on the floor. And I helped the rest of the guys real good. The guy that did the rock face on the front of the, the - not the French church - but the Federated Church down there. I hauled rock for him - really good mason. (chuckles)

NW: Huh. Well, I will drive around and look at town with a, you know, new eyes now, you know, and that. Umm, I'm feeling like I wanna to move to a couple other questions -

DO: 'K - Go ahead.

NW: knowing that there's, you know, a lot more that I want to talk to you about. Umm, since this is an interview for the Summit, you know, focused on success...Uh, I'm asking everyone ta just kinda think back and go over the span of your experiences in, in Entiat and, and maybe tell me one thing you're most proud of.

DO: One thing was gettin' to the year as president of the Chamber of Commerce when you're a very young man. And we put on a boat race, and a barbeque, and I forget what else that year. And I was tryin' to work and do that, too. And there's three people helpin' ya. That was one of 'em.

NW: What year was that? How old were you about?

DO: Probably 30 years old. I was pretty young. And we jist, and we got together that year and got a new, got this second new ambulance for the town, that was part of it.

NW: The Chamber did?

DO: Yeah. And then, umm, er, the town did. I, yeah. And, ah, and what else did we do? We had another- and then the, doin' the, the, the numbers but probly the best was, not very many years ago, when we started Columbia Brakes. Les Shank, well, Jack Asher and myself cleaned it up. We got it burned. And then Les Shanks come in with his excavator. And his daughter and the three of us built the amphitheater.

{60 minutes}

NW: Oh, that was Fern?

DO: Yeah. And then we put the water in there and, and when - to get to work with Fern and, and Les are really somin' because both are operators and wanted to get - they think they were done workin'. And the other one would get on the excavator and do somethin' else. And it would hilarious. And Fern would be runnin' the excavator and, ah, Les be wanderin' around out there, stompin' and lookin', and pretty soon he'd kick her out so he'd (laughingly) git to work. And she - (laughingly) cuz he jist couldn't hardly stand it! 'Bout an hour was about as long as he could be out of there, maybe three. You know? (laughingly) It jist - it was jist really fun! We put in the water line out there and, ah, and we did the, the amphitheater, and it was - those and - Les, at his age, was handlin' those 70 pound blocks, puttin' 'em in. She'd pick 'em up with the excavator and put 'em up there - bias - and then we'd stuff 'em in place. (chuckles) It were, it was (laughs) really - it was laughable. Tellin' ya, things went on out there that - (laughs) Les is so good and she was and they -

NW: Well, I'll look at that with new eyes, then, too.

DO: Yeah. You go in there, on the driveway, on the right, the water line comes in and those rocks have been moved I don't know how many times to fit. (laughingly) Whichever one was drivin' that excavator- (laughter).

NW: Well, what was the most gratifying about those projects, the Chamber and then workin' on Columbia Breaks?

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DO: Jist, I was jist gettin' somethin' done, you know, and actually seein' - being able to start somethin' and finish it. It's jist like this Fire Station. It's, it's, it's really gonna git done whether anybody likes it or not. (chuckles) It's been a battle, it really has. It's, you know, it's taken us three years to actually git started because we couldn't get funding before. And then people, everybody wantin' to put in their 2, 3, or 4 cents. And then we go and ya jist st -halt, and go over and back up and, you know - kinda... And now it's goin' and... It's (coughingly) gonna, gonna git done.

NW: [indistinguishable] It looks like it's gonna be beautiful!

DO: Well, those guys are doin' a good job! That's, that's one of my - and then, I have to admit - it's one of Keith's projects, too, that we've been workin' on fer about, probly, seven years. And it finally, we're gonna have it but not quite what we want yet, but it's gonna really be a good addition.

NW: It's gonna be a satisfying day when you open that place up.

DO: Yeah. And, you know, our little garage, Emerald's Garage, is fallin' down and then every time we start an engine up down here in the City Hall, we make all the ladies sick because of the diesel smell. And we have an exhaust system on there but it doesn't work very well. Ya can't make the ladies sick it - cuz you're in trouble. (laughs)

NW: Yeah, that's right. (laughing) Yeah. Well, umm, what is there that you love most about the Entiat? You were away for a little while.

DO: Yeah, very short time.

NW: Very short time, you've been here all these years but you've probably traveled and seen some other places.

DO: Yeah.

NW: So, what is there about the Entiat that you think is unique?

DO: Well, because, first, there's four seasons - part and, it's just a nice place to be. (chuckles) I don't know, if I was livin' out in, like, one, a house on a lot, middle of nowhere, I might wonder. But, and you're comfortable, you know. We got, we bought this house in 1970 and so, we're really comfortable!

NW: Oh, it's a great place! And what a setting! Oh, my! Yeah.

DO: Yeah.

NW: Well, I'm gonna ask you one more question, if you're up for one more.

DO: O. k.

NW: Umm, and umm, that is, it's kind of a big question. But IRIS's mission is to foster sustainable rural communities, and so, some of the things that you have to have to have a sustainable community are: you have to be able to meet basic human needs...

{65 minutes}

DO: Right.

NW: and you have to maintain a healthy, diverse, environment since that's the foundation that supports us. And because communities always change there has to be a way to bridge, umm, cultural and political divides. So, is

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there one thing you might want to 'add to the pot' on here or the discussion of success in Entiat that, that you've been involved in that you think has helped create a community that will be sustainable going forward?

DO: Oh, yeah. I, I think from the time I was on the school board, 10 years there, some of the stuff we did then just really, just kept the school goin', I think. At, at that time, I think that was, we set the basic, the groundwork up for that group of people. And that, and since then it's grown. But one of our problems is, is being a bedroom community. There is jist, you don't have enough - if people go to town, they buy everything there, and then they come home. And your local, tryin' ta git, you know, you local businesses - we jist can't sustain 'em. Right now the poor little guy that's tryin' ta do the, the uh, pizza shop down there, now he's - I don't know how he's hangin' on. He's, you know, just doesn't look like he can git enough business, you know? It's tough. We have some good businesses in town but not many. Even the new winery goin' in - of course, that doesn't bring anybody up. But that's nice.

NW: Oh, you mean Snow Grass? Er, not Snowgrass.....

DO: No, no, the, I don't know what the name of it is.....Shasta or somin' - they're from Chelan. They have their, their blending unit down here and there, most of their equipment. They don't have a tasting room or anything, yet. And I don't think they bottle down here. But that's just gone in and then we have a, a manufacturing plant out there that I don't think anybody hardly knows anything about. He, the gentleman, ah, builds stuff for warehouses, cherry, cherry plants and apples and almost anything and that's.....I'm tryin' to remember the name of the company in Wenatchee, it - almost rivals now... the.....I forget what that manufacturing plant was down there. They did a lot of that and - on their end and he, he has 4 or 5 employees, so, we are getting some but we still - the businesses are minimal.

NW: But, but, umm, you started this with your ten years on the School Board, you -

DO: Yeah.

NW: like that was - what, what were you thinking of?

DO: Well, at the time, we, the, the, there was the curriculum, the staff; everything was in a real stagnant position. The people who were there were just great. They were doin' their best but we jist didn't have the right DO: mixture, yeah, to do it. So - and we come in and there was a - one of 'em, the ladies did the contract. Her name just went away but she is jist un-, unbelievably good! Yeah, she, she jist did a - she wrote the contract on work DO: and that, and since then no problem with any, anything, you know? And before that we had had, you know, problems with teachers. But this - with, with her and Mike Asher was on the Board at that time and, I believe, Peggy was on the Board at that time. I was tryin' to remember the fifth member was but -

{70 minutes}

NW: So, what years were those, Don - ? "70's?

DO: Yeah, it was in the '70's.

NW: Oh, that would be a big switch time in the education system.

DO: Yeah, yeah, it was, yeah.

NW: That's when, sort of, home ec and shop started kinda goin' by the wayside, isn't it?

DO: Yes, they did.

NW: Yeah, yeah, and so you were tryin' to adjust to the whole new system and -

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DO: Right, yeah, whole system - and then, ah, the funding was when it started. That's what - one of our problems. Funding at that time was almost in [indistinguishable], you know. If ya didn't git it locally, ya didn't git it. So, but we had a good group and got together and everybody in town backed us up - well, not everybody, but most everybody. And things turned out and I, and since then the school's grown and, done real well.

NW: Oh, yeah - boy! All sorts of -

DO: It's kinda down now because my wife's been workin' over there. But that's a - (laughs)

NW: Yeah! Yeah. Well, is there anything else you would wanna add today? I know you're, you're fightin' this cold and everything and, we've been talkin' for a while but - is there something' else?

DO: Yeah, I jist - yeah. The only thing is that - told you about this bunch. The other half of the, these people were, ah, these were, like, Quaker-type, you know. Really strict, you know, very and - the other, the other side of the family, the Cooks, were 'free-rein' people. (laughingly) Yeah!

NW: Oh, you had this two sides of your -

DO: Yeah, they're jist so, it's so different that - (laughs) Yeah, they were jist - it's hilarious jist how much - they, they were fun-loving and they did crazy things.

NW: The Cooks?

DO: Yeah.

NW: So, maybe that's a subject fer another -

DO: That is another - (laughs) (they laugh together)

NW: Ok.

DO: Yeah!

NW: Thank you! I'll turn this off.

DO: That's ok.

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