

# DON BROWN

## Interview: May 24, 1975

Interviewer: Ivan Donaldson

*Today, this 24th of May, 1975 in Camas, Washington, with the sun shining brightly outside, we will have an interview with a Mr. Don Brown of North Bonneville, Wash., long time associate in our Skamania County Historical Society.*

Ivan: Don, it's good to see you feeling better than when I saw you last, that day we moved you. When did you come to North Bonneville?

Don: We came in July of 1920.

Ivan: July of 1920, and how big of a town was it then?

Don: There was no town at all.

Ivan: Just your home was the only home there?

Don: Well, there was a few little scattered cabins around in the woods and ours was one of the first but the only thing the way we had a town, was the saw mill camp down on Pony Slough.

Ivan: Pony Slough, is that Greenleaf Slough?

Don: Greenleaf Slough, that's right and that's all of the settlement there was except just a few scattered houses up and down the highway. There was no actual town and there was no highway and no dam and there's been many changes in the meantime, of course.

Ivan: When did Deltia come there? Do you remember Deltia from Maupin, Oregon, who had the Gallent house at Maupin, Oregon and then the hotel at Maupin which burned in 1921. He had a store there in North Bonneville.

Don: Deltillya?

Ivan: Yes, an Italian. He had a son by the name of Yoland.

Don: Yes, yes. He had a store there and quite a while he had it and then the boy across the street, he was a Chinese boy that had a charge of one of my cafes., He and his brother were drafted in the military service and John Deltillya, he

was quite sorry that they left. In fact he told me that he liked to come over to my cafe and get a dish of chop suzie.

Ivan: Chop suzie.

Don: That's the way he expressed it.

Ivan: Will you describe John Deltillya?

Don: Oh, he was a little short thick set man, Italian, and he was very, very devout Catholic. For a time one of the priests from Goldendale/Stevenson, he came down and said mass in my chapel every Sunday and John used to come over to my place to the mass in my rosary chapel and, of course, I felt very pleased about that. Fact it was quite well attended.

Ivan: Was he running a store or hotel in North Bonneville?

Don: No, no. He was running a little grocery store and we traded with him.

Ivan: Do you remember Yolanda *(blank space in tape for 10 minutes)*

Ivan: *(came in on conversation already in session)* met the daughter of Nancy Evelyn and \_\_\_\_\_. Her name was Ada \_\_\_\_\_. She was in the nursing home at Washougal in the late '90's. She gave me permission to have access to her records and a niece of hers, a Mrs. Brown, of that area, gave me her records and many pictures and the story, *Trip down the Columbia*. Ada Ball McConnell died a few months after I met her, she was a darling. Now this was signed Mrs. Davis from Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Davis, 1322 S. 38th Ave, Yakima, Wash. 98902. Now, is this Mrs. Brown any relation to you?

Don: No, I didn't know her at all.

Ivan: When was the road, the newer road built through North Bonneville?

Don: In 1923.

Ivan: Was that when they put the road across Greenleaf Slough?

Don: Yes, down along side the railroad.

Ivan: Earlier as it had gone around back of Greenleaf.

Don: On Moffett Hot Springs Rd. That was taken out and it was run right down along

side the railroad in 1923. We were there in 1920 and it was three years after.

Ivan: Did they push it through all in one year?

Don: Oh, not all the way. Just at intervals and a certain portions they built up around, down towards, well, they was pretty well straightened out there through what is North Bonneville now. But it used to go up over the Cape Horn hill, if you remember, and then it followed down the old Washougal River Road. That's the way it was at first.

Ivan: Do you remember the road before that? You came in 1920 and there had to be a road before the one in 1923. What kind of a road was that one, the one that went around by Carpenters?

Don: Yes. It was the old up hill that went up around there and as I say, up over the Cape Horn hill and then it followed the old Washougal Road. It was sort of a Snakes trail and there was not much regulation to it but the real highway was started in 1923.

Ivan: How many acres did you have there at North Bonneville?

Don: 23, the same as now.

Ivan: Did you purchase this from someone?

Don: From E. P. Ash. My father bought it from Pres Ash's father and then he died shortly after, so we didn't, I never did get to see Mr. Ash. But I knew Pres, his son, quite well.

Ivan: I should have got more interviews from him.

Don: I don't know whether his son, what's his sons name?

Ivan: Lowell.

Don: Lowell, whether he could give you anything more on it or not, I don't know.

Ivan: We have some information but Mrs. Ash was lamenting today that they did not get tape recording from her father-in-law. Did you know about the fish railroad, Warren's fish railroad, which . . .

Don: No, that was already established before we came.

Ivan: But you do remember seeing it in use?

Don: Oh, yes.

Ivan: And where did that start? Did it start there at the wheel number 2 at North Bonneville?

Don: It started down there at the lower landing and then I never did try to follow it all the way up to Rock Creek at Stevenson but that's . . .

Ivan: No, we're talking about the little railroad, the little one where he just had paralleling the old footage road from wheel 2 down to wheel 18.

Don: Yeah, that was, as I say, that begin down at the lower landing and the upper landing, but I couldn't give you a description of the road in detail all the road through, but I did see part of it. I included some of that in my story of the history of the Cascades, but after the fishing wheels were taken out, why, of course, they took out the little road, too, the little railroad at that time.

Ivan: Did you ever examine those three fish wheels along there?

Don: Oh, not in detail, I saw them and I was quite close to them and we got a number, they used to get fish from them and . . .

Ivan: How did you get fish from them?

Don: Well, they just threw them up on the bank and we just got them out of the wheels after they were taken, just discontinued and stopped. Yes, we got shad and we got carp and we got salmon and quite a few different varieties of fish from them.

Ivan: Does this mean that you, your friends, helped themselves to the fish?

Don: Well, some of the fishermen did help us to them but that's just one of those things that happens everywhere and we got many, many fish from them. It was quite a rare treat at that time and I must say, we appreciated it very much.

Ivan: Did you know wheel tenders, any of the wheel tenders before . . .

Don: Yes, Peter Birkland was one of them and, oh, I can't just name them off at the time, but he was the main tender for awhile . . .

Ivan: He was the tender of that one right there at North Bonneville?

Don: Well, yes, a couple of them and that one out by the upper landing at the Upper Cascades there was one there you know.

Ivan: Did you know Al Hendricks?

Don: Yes. There was quite a few of them, I can't remember their names. They were Scandanavians, that whole bunch of them, that's all I can . . .

Ivan: Were there any remnants of the Thomas Moffett Landing remaining there at North Bonneville in 1920, '23?

Don: No, not that I remember.

Ivan: Had Thomas Moffett disappeared before you came?

Don: Oh, yes, yes. I didn't know the Moffett's family at all. They were old timers and they had the Hot Springs before it was taken over by Murray Wilkonson and Marie Schick took it over.

Ivan: I see. Was the hotel still there, the big hotel still there when you came?

Don: No, it wasn't. That was built, I can't just recall the time it was built, but it burned down in 1927 and nobody knows just how it happened. It just, they saw a fire up in the ceiling and that's the last time it was ever built except the party that took over at present and that was according to his idea.

Ivan: It was my recollection of it that it was a rather large frame structure. Yes, it was, two-story.

Don: Yes, it was two-story.

Ivan: About how many rooms would you estimate?

Don: Oh, I would say 12.

Ivan: And they had a cuisine there, good food?

Don: Oh, yes. I boarded there, not board but I was invited out to dinner a number of times there and it was very, very nice.

Ivan: Where did they get their clientele, from boats, steam boats or railroad?

Don: Oh, I would say partly by both.

Ivan: Would the steamboats land there at North Bonneville? Did they have a landing there when you were . . .

Don: No, no that was after we came.

Ivan: Have you heard, ever, that Captain Nelson took the Tahoma up through Greenleaf Slough in high water?

Don: I knew about those things but I never witnessed it at all.

Ivan: You heard that he took the Tahoma up through there?

Don: Well, I did hear it but I don't know. I don't know all the details now. You can be misled by so many of those old timers.

Ivan: George \_\_\_\_\_ related that to Bud Ramsay. He and his mother were apparently picking blackberries in the vicinity. Blackberries that early in the year, in the spring of the year, that's puzzling, that's a little bit awkward but apparently they were in the vicinity when Captain Nelson took the Tahoma through there.

Don: Well, that was before we went there. We were not really pioneers, we were just later settlers there, that's all.

Ivan: When did the Petersons and Boys come and develop that area?

Don: Oh, he bought that property up there by a fellow name of George Skamin. I don't just exactly remember the year that they took over, but I would say around 1935; that's just my guess.

Ivan: Did you know Turner Levins fairly well, did you come to know him?

Don: Yes, I knew him, I visited with him several times around here to Washougal

Ivan: He was living down here or . . .

Don: No, no, yes, he was living here, he wasn't up at North Bonneville.

Ivan: How old a man was he then?

Don: Well, I don't know, he was pretty well on in years.

Ivan: You prepared that material about 1934-35?

Don: No, well I would say about 1936.

Ivan: And you knew Turner Levins about that time.

Don: Yes, yes.

Ivan: Did you know any of his sisters?

Don: No, he was the only one that I knew personally.

Ivan: Did you know any of the steamboat captains on the river?

Don: No, I just followed the history from the old records that I had discovered and added to or took from. I was misled in many ways. Some of those old timers they got their dates mixed and the places mixed and so I just had to go by what I could run down.

Ivan: About when was Fort Lugenbill torn down and by whom?

Don: Well, I don't know by whom. It was, I understand a logger went up there and he roomed in the old building when it was just about ready to go to pieces and he pulled the logs out and sawed them up for firewood. That's what I was told.

Ivan: Did he own this property at this time?

Don: I don't know, and I don't know his name.

Ivan: About what year?

Don: I don't know what year it was. Stood 'till about 1894.

Ivan: Oh. And you think it disappeared sometime between 1894 or 1896 thereabouts.

Don: I presume, yes, it must have been.

Ivan: Did you hear stories? Did any of the old timers tell you about Fort Cascades, down there at the Garrison site.

Don: Oh, I heard a number of different stories, but they were all a little bit conflicting and confusing and that was just really, really the main town at Lower Cascades was down there at the old Garrison Point. There's a few remains of the old buildings there and the old court house which was standing but the doors and windows were out of it but it was still standing until 1921. In the heavy snow and winter of '21 it caved the building in. That's all there was except the old jail building, which stood sometime after that, but that's just a memory now. I was fortunate, my brother and I, we were fortunate to get the photograph of the old courthouse.

Ivan: Now was the town of Lower Cascades clustered around the old Garrison site or was it East of that?

Don: I think it must have been pretty well surrounded but there was just a few odds and ends of old buildings that remained and remained standing when we went there. I was down there two or three times; there wasn't much left.

Ivan: When did the construction of the town start in the flimsy construction city? When did that start, North Bonneville?

Don: Oh, about 1934 and '35. Oh, then a few years after that and it just gradually grew and some of the people in the meantime moved away after the dam was constructed and so it changes gradually. One followed another and our town was just a kind of a piece-meal affair.

Ivan: You say it became a town that is incorporated in 1934?

Don: No, I don't think it was incorporated before about 1936.

Ivan: I see. But did you form some kind of a town in 1934, other than just a hamlet?

Don: That's about all it was up to that time and then it was incorporated, but we never incorporated it ourselves. In fact the incorporators of the town George and Woody and John Wilkonson of Vancouver. They were not overly friendly with us because we didn't incorporate but our reason for doing that was strictly financial and it kept our taxes down by not incorporating and it gave us more independence.

Ivan: You had a number of homes on your property there?

Don: At that time?

Ivan: Well, over the years you developed a number of homes there?

Don: Oh, yes. They gradually come in a few at a time and our little town tried to build itself up.

Ivan: For the record then, the Brown Tract was an enclave within the city of North Bonneville then.

Don: Yes, we never were incorporated with the town of North Bonneville.

Ivan: This was my understanding. Who owned the land, you purchased from E. P. Ash. Who owned the land around them that these other people purchased for home sites?

Don: Well, I suppose Ash did, but we had nothing to do with the purchase of their property. My father was one of the last parties to buy in there and we were one of the last ones, too, and we never could understand, we feel that we got the best selection of the whole community there. Our Tract, and the others were there before we bought ours. We were one of the last ones to buy there in 1920.

Ivan: When did you build that ice house, the insulation, with the insulation built of sawdust?

Don: Well, we didn't build that.

Ivan: Oh, that was built when you went there?

Don: Must have been. I don't know just which place you mean.

Ivan: Well, visualize just right back of your home, due North of your home, you have a little cabin back there where we found some records; then there's a little cabin just east of there, maybe 17-18 feet square with walls insulated with sawdust, obviously a nice house.

Don: Oh, yes. That was our old cellar, it was just kind of a house to store things in. We stored canned fruit and other objects in there at the time.

Ivan: Did you build that?

Don: Yes.

Ivan: Your father built it?

Don: Well, my father and I together and my brother, we were there at the time. My brother lived with us for some time.

Ivan: This is Collin? And he lives in Vancouver now?

Don: No, he lives in Washougal.

Ivan: Would you name some of the other personalities of the town, the city fathers, the people who were builders?

Don: Oh, I don't know, that's quite a job.

Ivan: Who built the first theatre there, that big theatre building?

Don: Oh, I can't even remember that.

Ivan: Can you remember about when it was built?

Ivan: And what year did the town burn? The big fire after I came back from the Army?

Don: Oh, that was in 1942, Saturday night 1942. I thought my home was going to burn, too. It was right across the street from us, but fortunately that didn't happen.

Ivan: How did that fire start?

Don: Well, that's a good question, we don't know. Some think that it was some of the Mexicans on the railroad at the time on one of the work trains that was there at the time and it started over in there in the warehouse and the wind coming from the north from the southwest and it just came right thru and it was very hot and dry at that time, August 10, 1942. But it burnt our old barn, it jumped across the highway but my property, none of my property burned.

Ivan: Where was your barn located, east of your home or west?

Don: Uh, Northeast a little bit, yeah?

Ivan: You had a sizeable barn in there?

Don: Oh, small.

Ivan: Did you used to have a few milk cows?

Don: We had one and we had a few chickens. It was just a kind of a little stump ranch at first when we took over and my father, he planted the front of that in strawberries. We had hoped to build a little road house there, a little confectionary, we knew the town was going to come but we didn't know just when so that never developed.

Ivan: Who were some of the mayors of the town, early mayors of the town?

Don: Well, Mr. Price was the first mayor.

Ivan: First name?

Don: I don't know but he was one of the Prices?

Ivan: Was he a store owner?

Don: Yes, yes. He had the Red & White Store.

Ivan: This is where Arch Sams had the store there?

Don: Yes, he took over.

Ivan: Did he take over immediately after Mr. Price departed?

Don: Well, I don't know about that. He took it over sometime but it gradually went to Mr. Sams.

Ivan: Who are some of the other mayors?

Don: Oh, now you're getting into details that I just can't remember.

Ivan: When did Troy Mansfield come to the area?

Don: I don't know that either, he came while we were there, then he took over the Mayorship later. I don't remember the time. He was mayor the longest of anybody that was there.

Ivan: Can you recall any amusing incidents in the history of the town?

Don: Nothing of any importance or interest.

Ivan: Well, I'm sure you could if I just knew the right questions to ask.

Don: Well, some of your questions are a bit difficult to answer. I just can't remember all those details.

Ivan: When did you begin your rosary collection?

Don: In 1917. Well, we were living in The Dalles about that time, but I started my collection in 1917 and when we moved down to the Cascades, I continued.

Ivan: Were you reared in the Catholic church?

Don: No, I was a convert to the church.

Ivan: In 1917?

Don: No, well 1917, that's when I started my collection but I didn't go into the church until 1922, although I was interested in the church before that because I was confined in the little Mercy Hospital in North Bend, Oregon. That's where I had my first attack of pneumonia and where I first saw the rosary. It was used by the Sisters of Mercy and I had my original first rosary. I wish I had it here

but I don't have it with me. It's a very beautiful thing and it's a very special model that they wore on their habits.

Ivan: Did you say you were in North Bend, Oregon? Did you live for a time down there?

Don: Yes, three years.

Ivan: What years were they?

Don: 1905 till 1908.

Ivan: Oh, these were your earlier youth, then you moved to . . .

Don: North of Seattle to the town of Snohomish. After we moved to Snohomish we moved to The Dalles and after we lived in The Dalles for three years we moved down to where we are now in 1920.

Ivan: You'd been affiliated with the Lutherans or Episcopalians earlier?

Don: No, I attended a Community Methodist Church but I was confirmed in the Catholic faith in 1936.

Ivan: In our association there at North Bonneville and Stevenson in the Historical Society, you mentioned that you are continuing to receive rosary's almost daily. Does this continue?

Don: From every part of the world they still come. Yes, I have 3,506 up at the museum now, but I have 100 at home and I will list them and take them up as soon as I return from here.

Ivan: You hope to come to Stevenson one of these days?

Don: Oh, yes. I bought me a little cottage up there.

Ivan: Yes, I'm familiar.

Don: I can't think of a nicer place that I could end my years than right in little Stevenson. The people are all so friendly with me, they're good friends and they welcome my project there so much. In fact, I was quite worried for some time, I was not quite sure what I was going to do with my treasures until the commissioners built that museum building, so I'm very happy to have my treasures up there.

Ivan: Yes, I know. Did you know any of the people of Stevenson, other than Pres Ash.

Don: Yes, we knew Mr. and Mrs. Grant Ballard.

Ivan: Oh. Who were they? I didn't know them.

Don: They were old timers there.

Ivan: Businessmen?

Don: No, they were just residents there. She did dressmaking. Then I knew the Menzells and Aalvik Harshman and I knew the Sly's, the Wachters.

Ivan: Did you know either George or Momen Stevenson?

Don: No.

Ivan: Did you know George Christiansen, the banker?

Don: Yes, I knew him.

Ivan: Tell me what mills were there, saw mills around North Bonneville?

Don: There were none except the one down on the pony slough and that stood about a couple of years after we went there and then they went out of business and took the mill down.

Ivan: How did it get that name Pony Slough, Greenleaf Slough?

Don: I don't know. That was hooked onto it before we got there and I don't know just how it got that name.

Ivan: Did any local railroads run back of North Bonneville?

Don: No, just the logging roads that were there at the time that hauled in the logs from the woods and back and over to the mill.

Ivan: Oh, to that old mill you just mentioned.

Don: Uh huh.

Ivan: There was logging after that moved out. Where were the logs taken?

Don: Oh, still from the remains of the trees that were left back there.

Ivan: No, I mean where were the logs taken, to the Stevenson mill or . . .

Don: No, they were taken to North Bonneville. They were taken to North Bonneville. There was another mill in there in 1928. I can't think of the name of it. It was a small mill over there on Greenleaf Slough and it was there about a couple of years, I guess, and then it was taken down, gradually died off.

Ivan: When did Ray Ziegler build his mill?

Don: Well, I don't know.

Ivan: He has that little mill.

Don: Well, you might call it a mill. I don't remember exactly when that was built. It must have been in the early '40's or early '30's.

Ivan: Is that built right on the route of the old portage railroad?

Don: Oh, no.

Ivan: Where was the portage railroad located otherwise?

Don: Oh, I couldn't say as to that.

Ivan: Do you remember the old portage locomotive on the track, on the siding for a time?

Don: Oh, no, just the old logging engines. I don't think that had anything to do with the old portage road.

Ivan: I was told that the old portage locomotive remained there on the track until people cut it up and took it apart. Maybe in the '30's.

Don: I don't know about that. Our house it stood till 1876.

Ivan: The block house at Fort Rains. Yes. About how much of that point is cut off there where Fort Rains stood?

Don: Oh, I couldn't say, a quarter of an acre or something like that.

Ivan: Extended out in the river. Did you know Frank Estabrook?

Don: Oh yeah, I knew who he was. He died the year that we went there in May 1921.

Ivan: Who was it that died?

Don: Oh, this Estabrook that Murphy Reynolds. That's who I was trying to think of. He married this Mrs. Reynolds and then he died and so then she was single for a long time. I understand she married one of the Estabrooks later.

Ivan: When did the first cars, were there many cars in '19, when you first came to North Bonneville?

Don: Oh, occasionally yes, course that was before our town came.

Ivan: Was there a corduroy Road or a Plank Road around Govt. slide there, just east of North Bonneville?

Don: Yes, for a time there was just a plank road but when they built the highway in 1923, they took the top of the hill off and paved the road made it what it is now.

Ivan: Did a locomotive go into the river right there at Govt. slide one time?

Don: Yes.

Ivan: About what year, approximately what year? Was that after you'd moved to North Bonneville?

Don: Yes. The bank caved off and pushed this freight train into the river. I wasn't there at the time, but it happened.

Ivan: Did the locomotive go completely into the river?

Don: I think it might have but some of the boxcars did and they pulled them out later.

Ivan: Were you there in 1926 when Queen Maria of Romania came through?

Don: Yes, but she never stopped. She went right down the Oregon side and that's all we saw of her.

Ivan: Did you go up to the Bridge of the Gods to see her cross?

Don: No, she didn't cross the river at all. She just went down the Oregon side and she'd just put her hand out and wave her handkerchief at the crowd and that's all I ever heard of her, but I didn't go out there.

Ivan: Did you hear any stories about automobiles (Lincolns) in her party?

Don: No, I didn't know anything about that.

Ivan: You remember any real bad winters at North Bonneville?

Don: Oh, '21 and '22 were the bad ones; '28 was bad. But we never had too many bad winters there since we moved and I think the place got a reputation that it didn't deserve.

Ivan: What years did you build your home? That's a fine home there you have.

Don: 1920 and then I built onto it in 1939.

Ivan: Built that room on back.

Don: The two back bedrooms, yes.

Ivan: Do you remember a big fire in 1927 that went over them hills back of North Bonneville?

Don: 1927? No. There was a big fire in 1929.

Ivan: That was the one. How close did it get to North Bonneville?

Don: Well, it didn't get to North Bonneville. It just burned north of there. I was up at Underwood at the time working in the apple orchard so I didn't witness it, but I did see the results of it and right at high noon it was just as black as midnight. The sky was just all blood red. I remember that, but I was in Underwood at the time so it didn't witness it.

Ivan: This must have been driven by an East wind.

Don: I don't remember but it seems to me to have been a west wind blowing.

Ivan: Were there any other fires that you recall?

Don: No. That was the worst one that I ever heard about in that area.

Ivan: Were there ever any manufacturing plants in North Bonneville?

Don: No

Ivan: No shoe factories, or pipe factories as there was in Stevenson?

Don: No. They all went up between North Bonneville and Stevenson and, course, it all benefited North Bonneville the same as Stevenson. The people down there worked in those areas.

Ivan: Can you tell me anything about the Pioneer Cemetery? About when it was established?

Don: No, no, that was several hundred years ago. It's one of the oldest historic cemeteries in that area.

Ivan: I noticed that Dr. Hiram Levins is buried there; some of the old steam boat captains are buried there.

Don: I never did check too close but my father and mother are buried there. My father died in 1973 and my mother died in 1954.

Ivan: Your father died in 1973?

Don: 1973 but my mother died in 1954.

Ivan: Do you have any sisters?

Don: I've got one sister here in Camas, a widow, and I have my brother here in Washougal.

Ivan: Do you remember any of the councilmen, any people with character or traits?

Don: Not specifically.

Ivan: Are you the last old timer left in North Bonneville?

Don: The family that came before us was Vern Carpenter but I think they came in 1915, we came in 1920.

Ivan: Did you know anything about the relationship between Carpenter and the banker, George Christiansen?

Don: Don't think there was any relationship.

Ivan: Not blood relationship, but the way they got along.

Don: I couldn't say as to how they got along, but the Carpenters, they were quite antagonistic towards their neighbors. They were quick to get aroused. They were over there to themselves which I think was a good thing. It kept anyone from having to contend with them. They were just that way.

Ivan: Why were they so stand-offish?

Don: I don't know why, that's a pretty hard question to answer. They didn't get along

with Mrs. Milander, the school marm, and just different ones. We always got along with them cause we never mixed too much with them.

Ivan: Did you know Mr. Crates of Crates Addition there? No, not that. On the East side of Greenleaf Slough, that addition right along there where Mr. Rafus is now. *(Tape clicked off)*

Ivan: Along the old highway?

Don: The different ones that settled down there in the Caples addition.

Ivan: Caples, that was it. I was using the wrong name. Did you know Mr. Caples?

Don: Oh, yes.

Ivan: Was he an electrician or a sea captain or . . .

Don: I don't know just what he was. He lived down there in the Caples addition for some time after Donovan & Dubois sold out, Caples took over . . .

Ivan: They had the mill?

Don: They had the mill, they were partners.

Ivan: The mill was on the east side of Greenleaf Slough or the West side?

Don: No, it was on the east side.

Ivan: About where was this situated? *(End of tape)*

Ivan: You say this mill is located on the southern bank of Caples

Don: On the southeast corner of Caples addition of the old Donovan-Dubois mill site.

Ivan: Is that on the east side of the slough?

Don: On the east side of the slough on the *(inaudible)*.

Ivan: About when did Mr. Caples come in there?

Don: Well I couldn't say as to that. Must have been around 1935.

Ivan: What are those two piles of rocks there across from Greenleaf Slough. *(Tried to back up on my tape to get the answer to this and machine wouldn't back up)*

Don: The auditor, he's going to try and see if he could get a little safe someplace so I can put my records in a safe and lock them up, because that's very important to have.

Dr. Dick Nathe: You seem to have taken very good care of them.

Don: Well I feel I've had many disappointments, but I feel like this is going to have a happy ending. I'm still highly nervous and quite worried about my brother but the Doctors in Vancouver in the hospital said that he had a chance to recover nicely and my sister-in-law was down here today. If anything happened to my brother, I tell you, I'd just be lost. I think he's going to come out of it alright.

Nathe: You have to look on the good side of things.

Don: I'm hoping and praying and I'll be so happy when I get moved up there to my little home in Stevenson. That will be the happiest day of my life. I don't know when that will be but . . .

Nathe: I tell you, just to look you, you look really good.

Don: Well, that's what he says and the different ones here . . .

Nathe: Last time I saw you, I thought it would be the last time I was going to see you.

Don: I was awful bad.

Ivan: I wanted to question Don a little bit more about that altar we moved from your kitchen right near your hot water heater, right near your stove there, a foot or 14 inches deep, standing . . .

Don: The one in the museum?

Ivan: No, the one we moved from your home to the museum after you moved out of your home. Is that the St. Martin altar?

Don: No, no. The St. Martin altar don't exist anymore. The one that I have up in the museum; I did have the St. Martin altar but I don't have that anymore and this is from the mission of St. James at McMinnville, Oregon, the one in the museum now.

Ivan: The one in the museum now.

Nathe: The one you're talking about is in the museum on the right, behind the door.

Ivan: Well it's probably in the office portion right now, it's just a plywood altar, quite well finished and we were told it was the St. Martin altar so . . .

Don: Oh, no, no. The St. Martin altar, I gave that to a friend of mine down between Camas and Vancouver. I couldn't trace that right now.

Nathe: Yes any of the altars of that era would be very ornate.

Don: The one that's up there now is from the St. James Missionary at McMinnville, Ore. It's very historic so I love it very much and it's very beautiful and just the right size for that room.

Nathe: You know one thing I'd like to suggest Don, of all those visitors you saw and really appreciated your collection, so many of them asked if you had a hand out, something written, something that they could take with them. Hulda did a very nice job of explaining things but of course not as good as you would have done.

Don: She's very nice. All I have is my records and copies of this and that article but I haven't got a book written up because it was just more than I could handle at the time. I do have my records and they are going to be preserved. I am fanatically particular that those records be preserved and put in a safe.

Ivan: I'm about to run out of questions here. It's hard for me to think of more questions. Do you have questions that you wish to record for the Oregon Historical Society or Washington Historical Society.

Nathe: Not off hand, I was just thinking in terms of compilation of material and getting some kind of, I mean without a person that actually knows that collection very well, the person that comes in cold is actually lost, they're just objects on the wall so . . . The thing of it is you can sit down and pour through the records which is very nice but it's a long process but to have this standup kind of things like, this rosary belonged to Kennedy and this one belonged to so-and-so, the highlights are pointed out to satisfy the curiosity.

Don: There all tagged and numbered and a record is written according to this memory of my record.

Nathe: I was going to talk to Kay Wright or somebody from the Historical Society and suggest that I could offer my services with Don since I am Catholic and I am particularly interested myself.

Don: I'd be delighted.

Nathe: To get the facts straight and get things historically accurate and the things in their true significance.

Ivan: The historical society would welcome that assistance.

Don: Well, for a long time it was quite a worry to me. I tried the Fathers at Portland, the sanctuary down there and they never took the slightest bit of interest in it. In fact one of the head Pryors, I went to show him a rosary one time and he said, "You're always talking about the rosary. I've got other things to think about besides the rosary!" And that was the servitude pryor of the order. So then I tried Mt. Angel and the Benediction Fathers there just dilly-dallied around, didn't do a thing. Then I tried the Fathers out of the Portland University and they didn't do anything, and then I tried the Portland Art Museum and they didn't want this and that. Well, I wasn't going to have the collection mutilated and so then this man in Vancouver he bought the old academy, that was an old historic building and I thought, well that would be a nice place. So I spoke to Mr. Hidden about it and, oh yes, he said we'd be very interested so I looked forward to that. So he fooled around and one day I called him upon the phone and I said are you going to do anything about my Rosary collection or are you just going to do nothing. Well, they had planned to make an office building out of it so that fell through. But when our commissioners built that beautiful building in Stevenson, I said, now this is the answer and, oh, was I happy when they built that beautiful museum building up there. I don't think I could have left my treasurers in all the world in a more wonderful place than right in little Stevenson.

Nathe: Well, when you get back Dominic, I'd like for you to take me personally thru there. Course, I've seen your collection a number of times in your home and have been to the museum several times, too, but to ask you some particular questions that I think would be of significance to other people visiting. We have monstrences there for instance, what are monstrences to a person coming in . . .

Ivan: Would you spell that word please.

Nathe: Monstrences, M-o-n-s-t-r-e-n-c-e-s, they are sun shaped round things, chalices and all those things.

Ivan: You are aware that we moved many items from Don's collection that he had not moved to the museum earlier. We moved those to the museum for safe keeping. Have you seen them since we put them there? They're not in the . . .

Nathe: Hulda took me back in the back room there, I did see some things.

Ivan: Well, we need to know what Don wishes to do with these and you may aid us if you please.

Nathe: I would really like to, from one particular stand point as a friend and I take interest in this great collection and another thing I would, I'm a little bit curious about how people receive some of these things that are on display. I would like to help overcome any barriers like what is the light on for, what does that mean, those kinds of things.

Ivan: When you take Don thru I would like to have this recorded on tape for the rest of us.

Don: Those are just little lights and they are just simply decoration.

Nathe: Yes but in a Catholic Church a lit sanctuary lite means that Christ is present on the alter. In the museum I notice that you have a host there, course, I don't know if it's consecrated or not or that kind of thing. For the Catholics it would mean one thing and to somebody else something else. Well, it's been nice seeing you and when you get back I'll look you up.

Don: Thank you for stopping Ed, I'll look forward to that. All my God Bless to my friends up there in Stevenson, I can't forget any of you.

Nathe: Well, we've been doing a lot of praying for you, we'll see you again.

Ivan: Well, I'm just about out of questions.

Don: I'll have to quit pretty soon, I'm getting kind of (*end of tape*).