GROWING UP IN KLAMATH FALLS WITH THE ELLIOTT'S

This is a story of growing up in Klamath Falls in its earlier years as told to me by the three remaining Elliott children, Dortha Elliott Reed Ackerman Hawthorne, Nelle Elliott Motschenbacher and Robert Redfield Elliott, better known to all as Bob.

Ernest Lee Elliott born in Bremer County, Iowa attended the Northern Illinois Normal School and taught in Iowa and Wisconsin before attending the Iowa College of Law which was a department of Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. He was admitted to the bar of Iowa in 1898. In 1903 he was appointed Superior Judge of Oelwein, Iowa and served until 1907.

Ernest married Clara Bell Redfield on 29 January 1903. Clara Bell was a graduate from Cedar Falls Normal School and taught grades one through eight before her marriage to Ernest Elliott. Daughters, Dortha and Nelle were both born in Iowa.

In 1907 the family moved to Lewiston, Idaho where Ernest practised law for two years before moving to Oregon in June 1909. He was admitted to the bar in Salem, Oregon and began his practise in Klamath Falls.

The family lived in a house on Second Street on the hill above Main Street (in back of where the Willard Hotel was later built now called the Lake Park Towers and also houses the Linkville Theater and a restaurant). Jack Elliott was born while they were living there.

They next moved to the lovely two story "Van Brimmer house" on Seventh Street between High and Washington Streets. The house was
moved to Tenth Street, according to Dortha when Fremont School
was built because the school and play grounds took in a square
block between Seventh and Eighth Streets. During the time they
lived in the Van Brimmer house, Dortha attended old Central
School which was located on Main between Tenth and Eighth Streets.
The school and playgrounds took in two square blocks. Ninth
Street was not open from Pine to Main Street.

Their home at 523 Lincoln Street was being built and they moved
into it in 1912. The house was built of redwood and was painted
grey. It had about twelve steps from the porch to the lawn and
then there were two or three more steps to the street. The
children attended Riverside School which had opened in November of
1910. Dortha remembered Miss Aldrich was the name of her teacher.

Robert Redfield Elliott was born in the home on Lincoln Street
in 1912. Later another daughter, Maxine was also born there.

For her birthday in September, Nelle received a ring with a
little blue stone in it. The bridge across Link River had a
wooden side walk with cracks between the boards large enough to
look through and see the water below. While Nelle and Dortha
were walking across the bridge, Nelle removed her new ring to show
to a friend, the ring was accidentally dropped through a crack and
was gone. Many tears were shed over her beautiful ring that day.

Clara Bell Elliott's parents had bought a ranch in Swan Lake
Valley from the Hibberts. It was on the south west side of Swan
Lake. Bob said, "Our Uncles, Lloyd and Don both had homesteads.
There is a canyon that goes up over in back of Hogs Back and over
into a little valley. That is where they homesteaded".

Dortha continued the story. "In the summer time when I got
out of school, I can remember Dad used to take me down to the old
Golden Rule Dept. Store on Main between Fourth and Fifth (411-413
-415 Main St.). There he would buy me a couple pair of bib over-
alls and a couple of chambray shirts, a straw hat and some sandals.
Then I'd go out and live all summer long with Grandma and Grandpa
Redfield on the ranch. They didn't have a car but Grandma had a
horse named Hazel. They used to hitch Hazel to the buggy and come
to town. It was an all day trip. You had to stay overnight in
town, then load up and go back to the ranch the next day".
"Grandpa Redfield was in the Civil War. He was a drummer and went with Sherman to the Sea. He was also a corpsman and helped to carry the wounded off the field. When he was discharged he was a musician".

Dortha said, "He played the drums and he was in that review before Abraham Lincoln when the Grand Army of the Republic had their review. He had those drums for years until he loaned them to somebody and never got them back. He also had a violin. When he and Grandmother were married they used to play for dances. But Mother was very victorian. She wouldn't dance or play cards; called them the "devils bibles". Whereas, Grandmother was quite liberal. Grandmother used to pick dandelions and make wine out of them and pick elderberries and make elderberry wine and Mother wouldn't have a bottle of wine in the house".

Bob recalled and incidence, "Our family was quite instrumental in getting the Massey's down here. Doctor George Massey gave Mother a prescription because her blood count wasn't right or something. My Father called him about the prescription and he said, "Oh, just go get her a bottle of wine". After that Mother would have nothing to do with him and switched to Dr. Truax".

In 1911 Alex J. Lyle opened the "Samaritan Hospital" at 607 High Street at the corner of Sixth, to serve the Community while the modern brick medical facility on the corner of Esplanade and Eldorado was being built. It was named the Blackburn Hospital when finished. Everyone called Mr. Lyle, "Doc" Lyle.

Dortha was about eleven when her tonsils needed to be removed. Her father dropped her off at the Sanitorium on his way to work. Dortha remembered: "They gave me ether and when I came to I began to cry. Alexis Lyle Runyon's mother, Jessie Lyle heard me and came in to help me and by that time I was throwing up. Alexis' Mother was a beautiful woman". Nelle agreed.

Clara Bell made her daughters clothing. Nelle and Dortha said their Mother had one dress pattern and made all the dresses off the one pattern changing the neckline a trifle. She bought wool material for the school dresses. Dortha remembered one dress made of navy blue wool that was trimmed with a translucent taffeta that changed colors. The dresses were made with a yoke at the top and
all had a belt. There were no dry cleaners at that time so in order to keep their wool dresses clean, the girls had to wear calico aprons over them to school. Dortha hated wearing the aprons so much that she would remove the apron as soon as she got to school. Their shoes were high button black shoes and they wore long black cotton ribbed stockings and black sateen bloomers. Some of the other Mothers bought extra material and made bloomers to match the summer dresses but Mrs. Elliott never thought of doing that so it was always black sateen bloomers for her daughters. They described themselves as looking like the children in "Little House on the Prairie".

Bob remembered having to wear knee pants long after his brother, Jack who was two years older, started wearing what they called "extensions" or long pants. When Bob complained about it his mother would say, "Well, when you get as old as Jack". Bob would say, "Mommy, I'd never get that old". But it didn't seem to make a whole lot of difference, I was the youngest. It didn't take too long before I was bigger than my brother and she'd buy him bigger socks than she would me because I was the younger".

They laughed as they remembered how their Mother put everything all in one drawer instead of having a separate drawer for each one of them. When they wanted some stockings or underwear they had to go down through that drawer to find things to fit or to match the socks. In the winter they wore long underwear and it sort of ruffled around the ankles when the black socks were pulled up over the legs of the long underwear. They were very glad when spring came and they could take off the long underwear.

They remembered the winter snows back then. Nelle remembered that her Dad would put on high top boots and break a trail for them. They walked down Fifth Street trying to follow in his long foot steps until they came to the part where someone else had already walked. Dortha would keep telling him that he was taking too long a steps but they kept following him.

Nelle remembered, "Several of the businessmen in town had bobsleds and the police would close off all of Third Street down past the Elks Temple, clear to Klamath Avenue. It didn't matter whose bobsled you got on. Everybody would get on a sled and go
to the bottom, clear down to Klamath and then pull it back up. They must have had five or six of those bobsleds. That's the way we had winter fun. We skated on upper Klamath Lake and would build fires out on the ice and the fires would burn through the ice".

Dortha added, "I never skated on upper Klamath Lake but I can remember we kids used to go down on the Lake below Klamath Avenue (Lake Euwana) and go skating and when we got through we'd go up home and Mom would have hot chocolate for us".

The Elks Club was built in 1915 on Main at Third Street and Bob remembered going into the Elks Club where they were given something warm to drink and could warm themselves in front of the fireplace.

There was a barge on Lake Euwana and a fire was built on it and everyone would skate across the lake to the barge. In summer there were dances on the barge. Nelle remembered the little boats that would carry the people over to the dance and how wonderful the music sounded drifting across the water. One 4th of July the fireworks were set off from the barge and it looked extra pretty from across the water.

At that time there were no other homes beyond Lincoln Street, except a little house on over the hill and down about where Roosevelt Street is now. It belonged to an Indian lady by the name of Matilda Whittle. Mrs. Whittle would climb the hill and when she got as far as the Elliott house she would stop to rest and get a drink of water which their mother always had ready for her. Bob and Jack would whistle just to make her mad at them. She would always say, "Quit your whistling, you'll bring the wind". Dortha remembered the swampy area near the city water tank at the top of the hill where the wild grass grew. Matilda Whittle would bring a scythe and cut the grass to feed her pinto horse. "We'd go over and talk to her while she was cutting the grass and she would tell us stories about different things. I wish I could remember them now. She talked often about Captain Oliver Applegate. (Matilda Whittle was a well known Klamath Indian lady and we will do an article on her at a later time.)

Then Bob remembered an Indian couple, "old blind Charley and
his wife". "She used to lead him around with a little short stick. She'd hold the stick right in the middle of her back and he'd hang on to that stick. Wherever she'd go, he'd hang onto the stick and follow her through that stick".

Nelle remembered, "On all the holidays before the streets were paved in Klamath Falls the Indians would play a stick game. It was sort of like 'button, button who's got the button'. They'd all sit around in a circle and pass the stick around and it was a gambling game. There would be 20 to 30 Indians in this circle".

Bob went on to tell another story. "About where the Chevrolet Garage used to be, I think it is D & R's Automotive now, there used to be an old livery stable there. The O.K. Livery Stable. South Sixth Street wasn't paved and the Indians would go up on top of a manure pile to eat their lunches. Bob Baldwin lived across the street and we'd go out and watch them". That brought other memories and Dortha remembered how the Indian Mothers would sit up on that pile of manure to nurse their babies.

"Then there was another elderly Indian who lived on Pine and Second Streets in a little house. Her name was Mrs. Moody. When the kids were on their way home from school they would throw rocks and things on her roof and she would come out and shake her fist at them. They gave her a bad time".

Nelle recalled, "For excitement we'd take the horse and buggy and later the Model T and go down to Lost River dam. In the spring the Indians would go down there and camp in their tepees and tents and spear mullet. The flys were so thick". Bob added, "They did that for years. Those mullet came out of Tule Lake and came up Lost River. When they put the dam in down there at Stone Bridge it stopped the mullet from coming up the river. Then the Indians changed and came up to the "slack water", I guess you'd call it, on the Williamson River right there where highway 97 crossed the Williamson and catch, split and dry the mullet".

Dortha remembered the Klamath Indian Agency and the cold spring of water. "They had school for the Indians and a hospital and every 4th of July they'd have a big celebration up there. People from town used to go up there and watch the Indians celebrate. They ate fire and did their dances. They had races
and baseball and made a big day of it". Bob added, "I went to school with Joe Kirk, son of Sheldon Kirk and his sister, Laticia. Then Nelle remembered, "One time the folks took a boat up to the Agency; I think it was the Winema. It was the high school baseball team and Verne Motschenbaker was on the team and they played the Indians.

"The Winema used to take church people up to Rocky Point for picnics in the summer time and that was so much fun. It was for all the different churches".

Bob said, "They were called Paddle wheels and then it burned. They had it on dry dock for a long time before it burned in 1927 where the Pelican Marina is. I remember running from our house on Fifth and Lincoln to watch the Winema burn. Then when I got home my mother gave me "what for" because she didn't want me around it. Fred Hale and I got the dickens but Jack was up there and she didn't say a thing to him".

In 1918 the Elliotts were successful in getting an 80 acre homestead situated three miles west of Malin, Oregon. When I asked how to find the old homestead today, Bob told me, "It is on Suty Road. As you come directly west out of Malin towards Merrill, you go about three miles and the road turns to the right and diagonally goes over and hits a section line and turns and goes down to the Lost River High School. Before they straightened the road out, the road came from Malin and instead of going diagonally across the field, it came directly to our place on Suty Road then turned to the right and went over a quarter section and then you went down that road. So we were right at the end of the road coming out of Malin towards Merrill. Our property extended to within about a mile of the California border and the edge of Tule Lake came all along the south border of our homestead property".

Bob remembered one time his Father pulled a wagon for the farm behind his car all the way from Klamath Falls. He had to stop every once in awhile to grease the wagon wheels. Coming from Merrill to Klamath Falls at that time there were twenty or more gates that had to be opened and closed. Past Merrill it wasn't so bad.
Nelle recalled something about the Model T Ford. "There wasn't a viaduct over the railroad track so when we got on Sixth Street when we lived out in the country, before we could cross the railroad tracks, Dad had to get out and light the car lights with a match. They were carbide lights." Dortha added, "It had isinglass curtains and when it rained they'd have to get out and put the curtains up". Both regretted it when their Dad got a new Saxon and sold the Model T, they were very fond of it.

In order to prove-up on the homestead someone had to live on the land several months out of the year for five years. Mrs. Elliott, Bob and Jack would go down to the homestead and set up housekeeping on or near the first of April and stay until November. The hired man would do the farm work. During that time Bob and Jack attended Shasta View School which was "on the North Poe Valley road right across from where George Micka lived". In November they would move back to the family home and Jack and Bob would continue their schooling at Riverside School with their sisters. By the time the Elliotts got their homestead, Grandpa and Grandma Redfield had sold their ranch in Swan Lake valley and moved to a house on Fifth and Washington, directly across from the High School.

Mr. Elliott stayed in Klamath Falls to keep up with his law practise. In September Dortha and Nelle came to town and stayed with their Father so they could attend school in town. Dortha and Nelle remembered their Dad saying that Dortha always fixed salad and Nelle always fixed soup. Dortha remarked, "Yes, one meal we'd have soup and salad and the next we'd have salad and soup". This reminded Dortha of the first time she had ever tasted mayonnaise. It was at a birthday party for Miriam Martin given by her aunt, Mrs. Obenchain. Up until then Dortha and Nelle made salad dressing with vinegar and oil after that they learned to make mayonnaise too.

Dortha said, "that reminds me. A lot of times the farmers couldn't pay Dad so they'd bring him produce, eggs and things from their ranch. I remember one time before Thanksgiving some farmers' wife came in and she said, "Mr Elliott, I brought a turkey in for you and it's in the wagon down there on Klamath"
Avenue". Remember how the old hitching posts used to be along there? She tried to describe to Dad where the wagon was but of course there were a lot of wagons down there. So at noon time Dad went down there and found the turkey and put it in the car and took it home. A day or two after Thanksgiving the lady again came to town and stopped by to ask Dad why he had failed to pick up the turkey that she had brought into town for him". It was only then that they discovered that Mr. Elliott had not found the right wagon and turkey.

One of the things Dortha recalled were the water snakes. "In those days, down by the River there were a lot of water snakes and after school the boys used to pick those snakes up by their tails and swing them over their heads and let fly and hit us girls. We'd go screaming down the street. Sometimes the boys would have a fight down at the bottom of the hill and then all of a sudden someone would look up and see some of the teachers coming and the fighters were some of the first ones to get out of there".

During World War 1, Mr. Elliott was interested in selling Liberty Bonds and Nelle remembered that the people in Malin were the first in the county to go over the quota.

Memories of summers and week ends flooded back and Nelle and Dortha recalled all the wonderful Czeck people they knew and the dances held at the Lodge Hall. Mary Victorine's family, Katirais, lived across the road from the Elliott homestead. There was Miss Hatch and Mr. & Mrs. Freier and on Drain 10 Road the Crandalls and further down were the Rajnus'. Dortha remembered that she and Marie Rajnus were born on the same day. There were the Victorines, Onax, Poshpicels and the Havalinas, Jobes, Kalinas, Ole Hunt, Charley Faught and others. Mrs. Giacomini had an orchestra and Joe Catura played the trombone. The dances lasted until daylight and about midnight everyone would go across to the Hotel for refreshments. One of the dances enjoyed by everyone was "Annie in the Cabbage Patch". The dances were family affairs and everyone took their children. The younger ones fell asleep on the benches and the floor. Bob remembered Mr. Kalina's Mercantile Store on the East side of Main Street. The night of the opening there was a big dance in there and Bob and
the other young ones would sleep amongst the harnesses and things.

Nelle and Dortha both recalled their horse, Pet, given to them by the Jobes. Dortha said, "I used to ride her to Malin to pick up the mail because there was a certain area in there that flooded and the automobiles that used to come from Klamath to deliver the mail couldn't get through. So I'd get on Pet and go to Malin and get the mail for all the people who lived along the road that we lived on". Then Nelle had a tale to tell about the horse. "I would go to get the mail part of the time and if you didn't tie her tight to the hitching post she'd untie and go home and then I'd have to walk the three miles home delivering the mail".

Bob remembered picking mushrooms and how Nelle and Dortha would blow duck eggs. Dortha added, "Yes, the wild ducks were so thick. Mom went out one time to kill some ducks around the ditch bank. She had a 20 gauge shot gun and when she shot the gun it kicked her and she landed in the ditch".

Charley Faught taught Nelle to drive a model T Ford out in his field when she was about twelve or thirteen. She became a very competent driyer, thanks to him.

Then there were the cattle and sheep drives that lasted for several days and nights and all the dust they created going by their house. Most were from the Carr and Dalton ranches. The shepherders gave the kids "bummer" lambs. The little lambs would follow the kids around every time they went outside. But come fall they had to be slaughtered which was heart breaking.

Back in town there were other things to do. All three remembered the Houston Opera House which had been built in 1897 for J.V. Houston. It was a wooden structure built especially for stage entertainment for traveling and local performers and was located on the south side of Main Street near the corner of Second Street (136 Main) where Molatoes Motel is now located.

The Houston Opera House was also referred to as the Lycium when there were plays, Chautauquas, lectures and boxing matches.

Nelle said, "We used to go down there to have plays. That is where we saw "Birth of a Nation". They brought their own orchestra with them and played at the Houston Opera House".
"Dad was very cultural minded. He was always in the Chautauqua, Community Concerts and was interested in getting speakers and singers and these were all held down at the Opera House".

Dortha recalled, "Grandpa Redfield was sort of a small man and because of a hernia he wasn't able to work very hard. They didn't operate on them like they do now. So he had a peanut and popcorn machine that he'd pull down the street to wherever there was any public gathering and sell his peanuts and popcorn. Grandma would stay by the machine and pop the corn and Grandpa would put the little bags of popcorn and peanuts in a small market basket from which he sold his wares.

One time I was with them down there when there was a boxing match. The box office hadn't opened yet and there were men lined up over a block waiting for the box office to open. "Old Polly", an Indian lady who lived on the Reservation, came to town and got drunk. When she came by the popcorn machine she said, "Redfield, I want peanuts!" So Grandpa got a bag of peanuts and handed it to her and she gave him a quarter. Peanuts were only 5¢ a bag and he started to give her the change but she said, "Keep the money! Keep the money!" Grandpa didn't want to argue with her because she was drunk. She went down the street and in a few minutes she realized she hadn't got her change and came back. She said, "Redfield, you cheat me!" and she reached into where they had the peanuts and she just showered him with them. He stood there with his hands up over his head. Grandma was laughing so hard she couldn't do anything. The men standing in line were just getting a "big bang" out of that. They got more fun out of that than they got out of the boxing match".

Dortha recalled another incidence. "Dad was on the Board of Directors or something of the Lyceum and they brought in this lady who gave a reading and her name was Margaret Stall. She was quite a lady. She had a room at the Baldwin Hotel and Dad went down to the train to meet her and take her to the hotel. He let me stay with her for awhile and she showed me some of her evening dresses. She had two or three and they were beaded. I was just a kid about eight years old and I thought they were just the most
beautiful things I had ever seen. She gave me her picture and autographed it and I still have that picture at home."

Bob, Nelle and Dortha all have vivid memories of the Houston Opera fire which occurred September 6, 1920.

Dortha started out by telling her memories. "Norma Adams, a chum of mine lived in Macdoel and came up on Labor Day probably because school was going to start the next day. The folks were down at the homestead, so we were there in the house alone. We were sleeping upstairs and woke up in the night all of a sudden to the sound of bells ringing. They had a bell that tolled for each ward in the city. It was terrifying to hear that toll in the middle of the night. We looked out the window and saw this huge, huge fire and from where we were we figured it must be the Houston Theater. Well, it was the Houston Opera House but it was also the Livermore Hotel across the street and all of that area down there. It was on Main and Second Streets and all those buildings next to the Opera House went up in flames and it was terrifying."

"The next morning we went down to see it and they were still working trying to put some of the embers out. We saw them bringing bed springs out and there were people who had just melted right into the bed springs. The stench of burning flesh was just terrible. I don't know if we went to school the next day or not, it was just so upsetting. The whole town was there."

Bob said, "Well, I remember after that Houston fire. I don't think we went to school until the following day. We had to go down Pine Street because they wouldn't let us go down there but we "snuck" down there anyway. Those beds were still around there and they were trying to identify the bodies that were burned into the springs. They weren't coil springs like we have now. They were more sort of a mesh, kind of an elongated spring. They weren't individual coils like now but ran the full length of the bed. The fire hoses burned right in the street. We used to walk a good two blocks just on burned fire hoses that were in the street. It took them until about Christmas time to get it all cleaned up, as I remember."

Then there were visits to Commodore Alex Nosler's castle,
named "Saint Cloud". It was built about 1908 and was situated on a high point in the Buena Vista Addition and was the only house above the swamp area at that time, where Pitt Street is now. The Commodore always wore a brass buttoned suit. Dortha recalled that it was a big two story house with a picket fence around it and there was a great big swing out in front. Young ladies and men when they went courting on Sundays would walk out to Saint Cloud. There were pictures of ships and things carved from wood. Nelle remembered a bookcase and all the books were carved from wood and there was a carved alligator with wheels that kids would get on and ride around. "They used to have dances there and the Literary Society met there. He lived at the back of the house and grew roses and had a potato patch. The water for them had to be hauled up the hill by bucketfuls to water the plants and for household use because no provisions had been made for water inside the house. He was at the height of his glory when people came to Saint Cloud". Bob agreed that he was a very friendly fellow. After Alex Nosler moved away the house deteriorated and then burned in the late 1920's. (See Trumpeter #7, March 1987 and Pages From The Past by Harry Drew for further information)
Then there was the George Hurn family. George Hurn engaged in the Hardware business in 1902 with his partner under the name of Goeller and Hurn. The store was on the corner of Fourth and Main Streets where later the First National Bank building was erected and still later the building became the California Oregon Power Co. (COPCO) building.

After buying out his partner Hurn moved to 435 Main. In 1909 he built the big home at 439 Pine Street at the corner of Fifth.

Mrs. Jennie Hurn was active as a home maker and Mother and raised prize dahlias. The largest and best were entered each year at the Fair. Dortha especially remembered the dahlias.

Earl Whitlock, a mortician, came to Klamath Falls in August 1905 and rented a store room from B.St.George Bishop. The following year he erected a Mortuary on Pine at Sixth Street where the First Presbyterian Church is located. In 1912 he purchased the opposite corner lot and built the Whitlock Funeral Home at 539 Pine Street and turned the adjoining property, the site of his Mother's home, into a Memory Garden. Bob and Dortha remembered the building about a half block from Link River Bridge and across from the Lakeside Hotel where Whitlock stored his caskets as being a rather unusual looking building. Bob remembered it had a sort of "hipped roof (a dutch design). When the bridge was changed George Grizzle bought the building and moved it behind his home at 927 Jefferson Street. It is still there. George Grizzle was a Judge in the County Court system. He also built the Grizzle building on Main at Eleventh. On Eleventh by the alley he had a store where he sold headstones.

William Shive bought a grocery store from Shallock & Daggett at 507 Main where La Pointes was later located. He sold to his sons, Oscar and Alex and they were in business there for a number of years. Cora Bell Elliott always did her shopping with them.

There were small stores on N. Fourth Street between Main and Pine behind the bank, Boutiques, Antiques, a Japanese Laundry at 123 N. 4th, a Second Hand Store and a shop which sold juices of all kinds and apple cider.

Nelle had permission from her mother to have a Halloween party
and had invited some guests. Dortha being the older was sent to the "Juice Shop" to buy cider; couldn't have donuts without cider you know. She was sixteen at the time but when the clerk ask her what kind she wanted, sweet or hard Dortha didn't know the difference so she told them to mix it. As the party progressed everyone got "swacked". Herbert Landis' mother was MAD! The next day Mrs. Landis called Mrs. Elliott and gave her "what for". Dortha was called "on the carpet" because she was the one to buy the cider. But evidently a good time was had by all.

Naturally they remembered the Court House fights and the Carnegie Library and the people involved.

The Klamath County High School was built on the upper side of High Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets and completed in 1905. It served as the High School until 1928 when it was closed and Klamath Union High School opened 1928/29 with 520 students.

Dortha started high school at the old High School in 1918. There were 20 students in her class and about 100 students in the entire student body. Horace Getts was the Principal. Maysil Sanderson taught Economics, Rachel Applegate taught Latin and Lucile Marshall taught English. Dortha remembered the time Miss Marshall brought her brother, Edison Marshall the author, to speak to the English class. Lucile Marshall later married Mr. V.E. O'Neill who worked at Swan Lake Moulding. Lucile O'Neill School is named for her.

Dortha remembered some of the students she attended High School with; Lois Saylor, Paul Musgrave, Sibil Member, Norma Adams, Jerome Henry, Forrest Cooper, Fern Hanks, Gracie Hoagland, Robert Getts, Wilbur "Hookey" Henry and Cecil Adams who graduated in 1919 and went on to become a doctor. Dortha graduated in 1921.

Dortha was taking singing lessons from Mrs. Zumalt and was asked to sing at different affairs at the White Pelican Hotel and around town. Marie Obenchain, organist at the Pelican Theater for years, played the piano and accompanied Dortha. She remembered singing for the "Irish Relief Fund" at the invitation of Chas. P. Maguire (had The Bootery at 713 Main) and sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The affair was held in the old Olympus
Theater on Main Street (next to Gust Lompopolis' Grocery Store 1128 Main).

Nelle attended High School with Alice Miller, Betty Ramsby, Vern Moore, Cliff Hogue, Kenneth Meyer, Pete Motschenbacher, Stella and Helen Turner and they too had Rachel Applegate as one of their teachers. Nelle remembered there were no classrooms and the students met in the auditorium. Sometimes pranksters would get in there and remove the books from the desks and pile them on the stage.

The school had no gymnasium but they had a gym teacher who taught them swimming in the old Natatorium which was a wooden building on the corner of Esplanade and Spring Streets. Dortha recalled the Baptisms that were preformed in the Natatorium. When the Baptismal Class arrived with the Minister, family and friends, the owner of the Nat ordered the swimmers out of the pool and they would sit on the side of the pool to watch. When the Baptisms had been preformed everyone got back into the pool and started swimming again.

The football field was in the same area as Modoc Field now. The spectators sat along the canal bank. Later wooden bleachers were built right in back of where Doctors Sharp and Adams had their Clinic. Pete Motschenbacher was quite an athlete. He was captain of both the football and basketball teams in 1924 when he and Nelle graduated. Nelle was a cheer leader and earned letters for softball and basketball.

The old High School had no place for school dances so the dances were held at the beautiful White Pelican Hotel ballroom. The 1924 graduation exercises were held at the Pine Tree Theater. Everyone sent bouquets of flowers to the graduates and the whole stage was full of flowers.

The "K" was built on "K" Hill and painted white in 1926.

Bob attended K.U.H.S. and played football on Modoc Field after it was built. On "Dedication Day" the team played Ashland and Bob gave the helmet he wore that night and the official program for the Dedication Day to the Klamath County Museum. Nelle had memories of how proud they were when it was announced that Bob was to be Captain of the team that night. Bob also belonged to the
Traffic Squad to control rowdyism in the school. All infractions were handled by the Student Council. There were 300 students in Bob's graduating class in 1932.

From her Freshman year in 1921 through 1925, Nelle worked in her father's office while he was a Special Prosecutor and learned to make out all of the John Does and Jane Does and knew many officials. Governor Pierce appointed Mr. Elliott District Attorney when the elected D.A. had to take sick leave about the time Nelle was a Senior. This was during Prohibition and Klamath County had the highest rate of bootleggers in the State of Oregon.

In May 1926, Mr. Elliott was followed home several times by a man. There were many threatening phone calls and letters. And then the house was bombed! The bomb splintered the windows sending shards through the walls on the opposite side of the bedroom. Jack was sleeping in that bedroom that night and if he had not had his head well covered he might have been killed. This room was usually occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Elliott but they were sleeping on the sleeping porch that night. Nelle was sleeping in another room in a single bed which tipped over on top of her when the bomb exploded. Dortha and Maxine were asleep in the back bedroom and Bob was asleep upstairs. None were hurt just totally frightened. Nelle's Lane Cedar Chest, a gift from her parents for graduation was under the window and the glass splintered the top of the chest which to this day bears the scars. Years later the bomber was caught in San Francisco but was held there on other charges.

Then there were the "Hot Springs" around town. Nelle recalled that occasionally a cow would get loose and fall into the hot water and be scalded to death. Dortha remembered people going to the hot springs on Esplanade on Sundays and placing eggs in the water to see how long it took to hard boil them. Bob's memory was that the Hot Springs there were called "Sterno Springs" during Prohibition. "People would buy this Sterno which was a mixture of alcohol and wax meant to be used as a small smokeless heater for cooking. They'd put the can of Sterno in the hot water to melt the wax so the alcohol would be on top. They'd drink the alcohol and throw the wax and can away". They became intoxicated
from this and would find themselves in jail in the basement of the City Hall on Fifth and Walnut Streets. This alcohol would gradually affect the minds of those addicted to it.

Pete Motschenbacher and Nelle were married in September 1926 and lived in the Sunset Apartments (Evans Apt.) for about six months. Nelle worked for Mason Ehrmann's and Pete was working for Shell Oil. Nelle said, "We came home for lunch one noon and saw all this smoke and the White Pelican Hotel was on fire (Oct. 16, 1926). We stood on Main Street in front of the Sunset Grocery and watched that beautiful hotel burn". Bob added, "the firemen chopped it in half trying to save at least half of it but they couldn't save any of it. Then they tore it down and cleaned up the rubble. That's where Balsiger built his Ford Garage, on the same spot using the White Pelican's basement after it was cleaned up. That is where the swimming pool for the guests had been". Cell Tec is in that building now and Dino's Body Shop on the Main Street side.

The Evan's Apartments burned on February 16, 1947, another one of Klamath Falls' terrible fires.

There were so many other memories involving people and places, too many to recount now.

Nelle Motschenbacher lives in Roseburg, Oregon. She and Pete had two children, a boy and a girl.

Dortha Hawthorne lives in Galt, California and has three daughters. She was 90 years young in November 1993. In August 1994 at age 91, she and her oldest daughter, LaVerne Avila took a cruise on the Love Boat to Europe and visited six countries.

Bob Elliott continues to live in Klamath Falls. He and wife Pauline had two sons and a daughter, Robert, Jon and Sally Jackson. The family enjoyed many trips and outings together as the children were growing up. Bob retired as Director of Safety and Health from Weyerhaeuser in 1975. He and Pauline spent many hours with Helen and Devere Heilrich and others tracing the Applegate Trail. After retirement he and Pauline enjoyed traveling, fishing and camping. Pauline died after a long illness on 10 July 1988 after 50 years of marriage. She was preceded in
death by their oldest son, Robert.

Bob and Ruby Parhan Amacker were married in August 1989. The two families shared some of the same tragedies. Ruby's son, Dennis was killed in an accident on May 23, 1985 to be followed by the death of her husband, Carl, on July 9, 1985 from cancer. Ruby has three daughters, Carla Werley, Carolyn Riedl and Becky Hickey.

Bob and Ruby made a leisurely six week trip across the country visiting 30 States. Later they spent a week in Maui. Bob made a special trip to British Columbia for salmon fishing. However, their favorite fishing place is Diamond Lake where they spend as much time as possible. Bob has also led several Historical Marker finding and replacement trips. So time is not hanging heavy on their hands. Their favorite saying is, "When you slow down old age catches up with you".

Transcribed from tape and written by
Mae L. Smith

NELLE, BOB AND DORTHA
SKATING ON LAKE EUWANA

ELKS TEMPLE AND COURT HOUSE IN FOREGROUND