

## Carol Drew Interview on the Gay Nineties and Barbershop Ballad Contest

Recorded June 20, 2025 at her residence in Forest Grove, Oregon

Interviewer: Elle Griego, History and French undergraduate student at Pacific University

Note on the text: This transcript was made through AI in 2025 with manual corrections. We recommend checking this text against the audio recording before quoting the speakers, as it may contain errors.

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Elle Griego 0:00

Greetings. I'm Elle Griego behind the camera, and I am here with the lovely Carol Drew. We are at her home in Forest Grove, Oregon, on June 20, 2025. I will be asking Carol about her memories and thoughts surrounding the Gay Nineties Festival and the Barbershop Ballad Contest. Thank you so much for being here with me, Carol.

Carol Drew 0:19

You're very welcome.

Elle Griego 0:20

Yeah, I would first like to start at the very beginning of your life, outside of the context of the Gay Nineties. Where and when were you born?

Carol Drew 0:29

I was born in Lebanon, Oregon in 1939, and my parents lived, actually, in Sweet Home at the time. But yeah, I came home from the hospital to a log cabin. [Griego: Really?] I did. My grandparents happened to live in one, and my mother had to stay in the hospital longer, so my grandma brought me home to her house, this little log cabin. I've seen it. It's still there.

Elle Griego 0:59

Really? No, that's really neat. Were your parents originally from that area?

Carol Drew 1:04

My dad was. My mother was from Southern California. They had moved out from the Dakotas, and jobs were kind of lean. It was right after the Depression, and so they kind of came back and forth, I think, between their Oregon little cabin and California. But she went to school in Sweet Home for quite a while.

Elle Griego 1:28

I see. So did the Depression, kind of, push them to move out here? Was it for... [Drew: Yes.] farm work or anything like that?

Carol Drew 1:35

No, it was carpentry. Carpentry. He was a woodworker.

Elle Griego 1:37  
And what were your parents' names?

Carol Drew 1:40  
My parents' names were Cleo and Ruth [Comstock] Bowser.

Elle Griego 1:45  
Those are such neat names.

Carol Drew 1:46  
Yeah, yeah, old names.

Elle Griego 1:49  
And what was your childhood like?

Carol Drew 1:53  
Well, the first, about seven years, I was raised in Van Nuys, California, North Hollywood, and Van Nuys... while my dad was in the military, he was in the Philippine islands during World War Two, and after he got home from the war, we moved to Sweet Home, and bought his family farm that he had grown up on. So we had 160 acres on a hillside above Sweet Home, and I grew up there all my school years after that.

Elle Griego 2:26  
Wow, I see, and do you remember -- not to get too off topic, but I'm so interested. Do you remember World War Two at all, or...?

Carol Drew 2:34  
Yes.

Elle Griego 2:35  
Oh, wow. What do you remember?

Carol Drew 2:36  
Very much. I remember the air raids going off all the time. Because we were in North Hollywood, it was part of... we were fairly near an Air Lockheed, where they built airplanes. And we would have, my mom would have to go out and lower blinds, shades over the windows if we were having any lights on. I remember my dad coming home on leave once, and my uncle dropping in in his uniform on leave. You know, from another part of the service. I remember saving tin foil. It was amazing, the war efforts then, what we saved. We saved rubber bands and turned them in. We saved the foil off of a stick of gum. [Griego: Wow.] And made balls of foil, and they were used then in the war effort. It was, it's kind of unbelievable now.

Elle Griego 3:33  
Oh, certainly.

Carol Drew 3:35  
Yeah, that's what they did.

Elle Griego 3:37

Do you remember when the war ended?

Carol Drew 3:39

Oh, yes, my uncle and aunt came and got my mother and my brother and me, popped us in their car. We went over the hill into Hollywood, and there was a long parade, and I just remember soldiers walking from the hood of one car, over the car, and into the next car. They were walking the parade route over the cars, and just everyone was so giddy and silly. You know, it was just happiness, sheer happiness. Paper flying everywhere. It was a parade.

Elle Griego 4:15

Wow, that's wonderful. And so what year did you start at Pacific?

Carol Drew 4:25

In 1956. That's when I graduated from high school. And I was only 17, because moving from California to Oregon, I had started school in California in February. And so when I moved in the third grade, they just put me ahead into the fourth grade, you know that September, so it kind of made me younger than my class. But start at Pacific at 17.

Elle Griego 4:54

I see, and did you go... was it from California to Sweet Home, and then from Sweet Home to Forest Grove for school?

Carol Drew 5:00

Yes, I was just nine when we moved to Sweet Home.

Elle Griego 5:02

I see. And why did you choose Pacific?

Carol Drew 5:08

You know, I didn't choose it for a program, because I didn't know. I thought I wanted to major in music until I met my roommate, who was a serious musician practicing eight hours a day. And I thought, no, no, no, I don't think that's for me. And Herb was studying journalism, and he kept saying, "Take journalism, take a couple classes. You'll like it." And yeah, I ended up editing the Index, and he edited the annual yearbook.

Elle Griego 5:41

And how did you meet Herb?

Carol Drew 5:44

I met him in the seventh grade, [Griego: Really?] In junior high. [Griego: Wow.] We were in the same class in Sweet Home.

Elle Griego 5:52

And when did you first start dating?

Carol Drew 5:56

Oh, in high school. Probably junior year, maybe,

Elle Griego 6:00

Really, so high school, sweet hearts.

Carol Drew 6:02

Yeah, and his dad really wanted him to go to Pacific. He had gone to Willamette, and he was the school principal, and he kept talking to me, saying, I think you'd really like Pacific, thinking Herb would follow. And it worked, you know, he decided he wanted to go there too, because there was a good journalism program, and he was very interested in journalism and photography. So, yeah.

Elle Griego 6:28

So what did... do you remember what you contributed to the index, or anything about the journalism program in particular?

Carol Drew 6:35

Oh, just, oh gosh, I've got lots of things I could show you in yearbooks. Just starting from scratch. You know, I had never written for a paper or anything. In my freshman year, I got assigned interviewing the homecoming court. I was going, "Oh, what am I going to do?" But it all worked out fine, and went on through and ended up editing the paper, and, yeah. The paper is very different now. [Griego: Oh yes.] Oh yes. I've read a couple issues and just gone, "Oh!"

Elle Griego 7:10

Yeah, no, I agree. Over at the archives, we have both the Pacific index and then the Forest Grove News Times. Like, all these really, really old copies spanning back from the first edition or so, I believe. And it's interesting looking at the newspapers from the 20th century, 19th century, them being so large and so full of writing, and now they're very short articles.

Carol Drew 7:41

Yeah, and too much opinion, in my thought, it's too opinionated, that we were taught not to insert our own belief into an article, unless it was an editorial, then you would and it was signed with your name. But yeah, it's very much opinion now. It's just changed.

Elle Griego 8:04

I'm curious. Why do you think that change might have happened? Is it something local, or is it a bigger, wide scale issue?

Carol Drew 8:09

Oh, it's a wide scale. Yeah, all newspapers do it pretty much now, so. Not so good, but it's happened.

Elle Griego 8:10

Do you think there's a specific time...?

Carol Drew 8:22

You know, online stuff is all opinion, and I think that has influenced it a great deal too.

Elle Griego 8:32

Oh, yeah. Oh, I agree. So it sounds like journalism really interested and interests you. But from my understanding, you didn't go into journalism after you graduated.

Carol Drew 8:46

Well, I was scheduled to teach journalism and English that following year. I was first hire of my class. I got hired back in February by the school district. I was just so excited, but I was pregnant when I walked across the stage to get my diploma, and back then you could not teach if you were pregnant. So, that was it. I wanted to stay home with Jo, my first born, and Herb was working for the studio, so I stayed home and took care of teachers' children five days a week.

Elle Griego 9:28

Yeah, and how long did you do that for?

Carol Drew 9:29

I did that probably, oh, about eight years. Probably about eight years, because I had all four of our kids by the time... maybe nine years.

Elle Griego 9:41

Oh, wow. And you said that Herb worked at a studio. Was it a photography...?

Carol Drew 9:47

It was a photography studio right where... it's on Main Street? Well, no, on Pacific Avenue, just past Main on the left. There's a, I think it still says, "The Old Church" or the something...?

Elle Griego 10:02

Oh, maybe... is it "Old Town church?" No...

Carol Drew 10:05

No, no, no, there was a bank, and then a jewelry store, and a barber, and then that little building, and then a hardware store. You wouldn't recognize... the hardware store is now a bank. So it's just to the left of the bank.

Elle Griego 10:19

I'm trying to picture it. I think I know what you're talking about, yeah.

Carol Drew 10:23

And so he worked there for, all through college and the News Times, both. He worked, did photography for both of them, and developing for both of them. And it was owned by twin brothers, the Running brothers, and they were very, very kind to him. I mean, he just, he went to coffee with them, and they went to the big coffee group, and we got to know all the businessmen in town. It was just really a nice arrangement. And then when he started selling insurance, that was a neighbor down the street, also went to our church. Fine, fine man. Just kept watching him, and came down one day, and he said, "I think you'd make a good insurance person on my my sales team," and he tried it and liked it. And we were with Jim for many years, and we lost him. Everyone in that whole agency is gone now. Herb was the last one to pass away, but we had a lot of fun with those people. But then, he worked there. Then he went in, worked the Portland area, back out, had an office upstairs over that for a couple years, and then eventually, well, then he had an office

next to OK Floral, or that little rock shop or whatever it is.

Elle Griego 11:57

I know what you mean, yes.

Carol Drew 11:58

He had an office in there. We did that up really, really nice, and then he moved back into that same building where the photographic had been, and that's where he was for the last several years, having spent his career.

Elle Griego 12:13

Yeah, when did he retire?

Carol Drew 12:16

Oh, gosh, I don't know the exact year. He was over 65 though, so.

Elle Griego 12:22

I see. And so, you've lived in Forest Grove that whole time, [Drew: Uh huh.] in this house?

Carol Drew 12:31

Yes. Well, we lived in a little house over on Juniper Street when we first graduated, just fell into that like... you know how hard it is to find a home on no money practically, you know, getting out of school. The secretary at the photographic lived right across the street from where we ended up, and she said, "Well, I know this young couple, and he's down in San Diego, in the Navy, and she's stuck in the home they just finished buying and getting ready with three little boys, and she wants to go down there. So bad. Would you consider renting it?" Yes! So we rent it for two years, and then they offered it to us for sale. Lived there for a while, and then we sold it to the president of the university! [Griego: Really? Wow.] Yeah, this Dr. Richie was just a good friend of ours, and he and Bill Young lived in this house, was the attorney in town, and he and Herb were very good friends, too. So when Richie decided he could no longer live in his big house down the street, he was looking, we were looking, and Bill Young was looking, so we just went three way. We all moved the same day. Just changed houses. And Richie's had a lovely, large home, and they moved to our little track house, but she had an eye condition. She couldn't climb stairs anymore, and they were only gonna be here another year, and so I did it.

Elle Griego 14:25

Yeah. And why do you think you stayed in Forest Grove your whole life?

Carol Drew 14:32

Loved the town, loved the people. By the time we even graduated, we knew most of the business people downtown. Herb had worked with them in one thing or another, taking pictures for the paper or, you know, something, and he'd gone to coffee with all the guys. He knew them all very well. And yeah, it just seemed right to stay here. Neither one of us wanted to go back to a little logging community. Much as we loved our parents, we didn't want to go back there. [Drew laughs.] So we just stayed on. Felt like we already had roots here.

Elle Griego 15:17

I know that feeling. I love Forest Grove. I feel like out of every place I've lived, it's my favorite place. There's really a sense of community, I feel like, and we talked about last time, how you feel that it's changed a lot in

the sense of community.

Carol Drew 15:37

It has, you know, but the world has changed. [Griego: Yeah.] I can't blame it on just Forest Grove, everything has changed. But, yeah, it's changed a lot because time has gone by. You know, we used to know the names of every store, you know, every... and we had so much more here. [Griego: Really?] Oh yes. Yes, we had three pharmacies uptown, two grocery stores downtown, a millinery, you know, like all kinds of clothing, a penny store, a music store, barbers... I can't even think of all the things, couple restaurants, just a lot of things you would need, you know. And now, if you want a pair of shoes, you go online, or you drive. We had shoe stores, dress shops, two furniture stores, two big furniture stores. So that alone makes it different. We're more of a, I don't know, bedroom community now, I think in many respects.

Elle Griego 16:58

Speaking of things that have changed, most notably is there's not a Gay Nineties festival anymore. So starting to go into that a little bit, do you remember when you first heard about or started going to the Gay Nineties festival? Was it here when you were at Pacific?

Carol Drew 17:19

Yes, it would have been our freshman year, probably, that we would have done that. I mean, Pacific students really took part in the community, a lot more then, I think, then they do now. So, I mean, people like you are, but all of us were. We worked in the local restaurants. We worked at the News Times we worked, you know, that's where they had their jobs, where they could walk to work. So, yeah, so we were out in the community a lot more.

Elle Griego 17:54

Yeah. Was there? It sounded like overlap between the Index and the News Times. Was there people who worked in both, or did students, perhaps at the Index, go to the News Times?

Carol Drew 18:05

Well, I worked for the Index, but I had to go put it together at the New Times.

Elle Griego 18:10

Oh, really?

Carol Drew 18:12

I had to set a lot of the type, set a lot of the headlines myself. They oversaw it, you know, it worked and it was printed there, but I had my deadline, you know, I had to get over there and get my copy over there and get it set on the linotype. Someone would operate the linotype, but the headlines I had to handset, and get it ready to go to bed, as they say.

Elle Griego 18:39

Yeah, do you remember, perhaps you covering or anyone else covering the festival, or do you remember journalists or photojournalists coming in town? I think we talked about Allan J. de Lay last time.

Carol Drew 18:51

Well, Allan de Lay definitely came to town for that. I think radio covered it a little bit, I think television did. You know I wasn't part of that. But I know it probably did, because they were, they were out here for all kinds of things.

Elle Griego 19:10

Certainly for the 1950s, the barbershop ballad contest was on national television and radio. Do you remember... how much of that do you remember? And something I would like to figure out is, how long that was a thing. I'm wondering if that was in the '60s and '70s too, or if it was only...

Carol Drew 19:29

It was in the '60s for sure. I remember my parents came up from Sweet Home to go with us one year when it was out at the old high school, which is now the middle school. They had it there, and then it was moved over to Pacific, so it was for sure going, I think when we came in 1956.

Elle Griego 19:56

The event itself, or the broadcast of it?

Carol Drew 20:03

Yeah, I don't know when that happened, when... I was still going, though, clear up until 1989. I remember one year Judy Sherman was athletic director, then, I think, over men and women sports, but she had a girls softball team that was very good. And she came to me and said, "Will you make a quilt to auction off at Gay Nineties?" And I said, "Okay, I think I will," you know, and I I whipped up this quilt that had, I wish, I had taken a picture of it, but it had, I remember, a big ear of corn for the corn feed that we always had, and all the different aspects of Forest Grove, you know, quartets, I mean, just every square was a different aspect of Forest Grove. And it was given away at the Gay Nineties show on a Saturday night. And I was there, I was just really excited to see who gets it, everything. And I kept thinking, "Oh, it's going to go out of town, someone's going to have bought a ticket, and it'll go off to Eastern Oregon, where they don't know anything about Forest Grove," and it ended up that the postmaster here got it. [Griego: Oh, good.] Yeah, and I got to know him later on, and he, his wife, was just thrilled to have that, so.

Elle Griego 21:32

I'm curious where it is now.

Carol Drew 21:34

I don't know. They both passed away, so I have no idea where it is.

Elle Griego 21:43

So it sounds like... was this auction a regular sort of thing with the festival?

Carol Drew 21:48

I don't think so. I don't think it was a regular thing. She just wanted to raise money for the softball team, and apparently got permission to do that.

Elle Griego 21:57

I see. Do you remember how the festival was set up, just generally?

Carol Drew 22:02

I don't know who headed, I really don't, but I suspect it was Kiwanis and Rotarians, because I know the Kiwanians did a big breakfast in the American Legion hall every... on the Saturday of the parade. I worked that many years, you know, serving hotcakes and the like. And the Rotarians were very interested too, and



worked hard on it. So I think that's the work workforce behind it. Then the firemen pitched in and did their part. All different groups did. So I was young, I just, you know, and we, I was home with family, and did my best to get them dressed up and off to school in their Gay Nineties outfits. [Drew laughs.]

Elle Griego 23:00

Was getting dressed up, was that an official rule or an unspoken rule? Do you remember where that started?

Carol Drew 23:06

The dressing? [Griego: Yeah.] It was already going when we came to Pacific. So I don't know who started it, but I do remember that you could get a pattern for a girls' bathing suit, you know, which you've seen pictures of those with the pantaloons. It was in the Simplicity pattern book, which I thought, "How weird." But we passed those patterns around, and then when you finished, your child outgrew that outfit. Unless you were passing it down to friends, you gave it to the school, and the school had a closet full of them. So if kids had moved in and didn't know about it, they could put on something to look Gay Nineties at school.

Elle Griego 23:55

Yeah. Oh wow, how special. Do you remember how long it took to sew those?

Carol Drew 24:00

Oh, it took a while. I mean, I sewed all my kids clothes, so it wasn't a big deal for me, but was for a lot of people, you know, because you couldn't go out and buy one, but they had closets at every grade school, probably the high school, too, I don't know.

Elle Griego 24:18

Yeah. Would you describe the Gay Nineties almost as like a holiday that would come up once a year, kind of like Christmas or Halloween? Or was it less of a big deal? More of a big deal?

Carol Drew 24:30

Well, more than Halloween -- well, I don't know, Halloween is pretty fun. They have trick or treaters downtown and everything now, but it was very much looked forward to. It was a big deal? Because you knew that these quartets were coming from all over the country to be here, and yeah, they had a parade. And it was a pretty big deal for a little town. It was Forest Grove's thing.

Elle Griego 25:00

Do you remember where some of the people came from around the country? Perhaps not specifically, but...

Carol Drew 25:11

Well, I remember quartets that came from the South. [Griego: Really?] Yeah, I remember that, and their humor. You know, they joke around a lot on the stage before they sing, usually, and so you can tell by their voice, their accents, where they're from. And there were some from the Midwest, and all over Oregon and Washington, California. They just signed up. I don't know, I wasn't a part of that, so I don't know who recruited them and how they did it, but there were quartets that returned every year, you know, and they had their own following that would cheer when they got on the stage, you know. It just, it was cute,

Elle Griego 26:01

Yeah. Would you say that humor was an essential part of the barbershop quartets.

Carol Drew 26:06  
Humor?

Elle Griego 26:07  
Yes.

Carol Drew 26:07  
Oh yes. Yes, very much. So they all had their thing that they did, and Forest Grove's quartet... yeah, he was just, they had... what was his name? Now, I can't think of it. But anyway, he was a Pacific grad. He'd gone to school with us, and he just was a jokester. He was always doing something. He would come out as an old man, or he'd slip and fall getting onto the stage. Or, you know, he just, slapstick humor, but they're very, very good. He toured Europe with his group.

Was it Chuck Olson?

Yes, yes.

Elle Griego 26:10  
Did you know him, then? Personally?

Carol Drew 26:38  
Uh huh. He was at Pacific. When we were there, he was probably a senior, maybe, when we were freshmen, I'm guessing. But he was back a lot. He'd come back and perform on campus for various things, and always just slapstick comedy type stuff. Loved it. He was very good, and I ended up, his four kids were in my little group after we moved over here, they came after school every day.

Elle Griego 27:31  
Yeah, it's very unfortunate I didn't have the chance to meet him before he passed. But it sounds like he played a really crucial role in the barbershop contest, especially in its later years. Looked like the festival was going on when he was in high school, still, and then it just became an important part of his life.

Carol Drew 27:52  
Yeah, he was a senior in '56, so yeah, he was, you know, we kind of transferred from before us to after us in that respect. Yeah, he was barbershop all the way. The last time I saw him was, they were performing barbershop over in Rogers Park a couple years ago, and he was sitting out in a chair in the front row, very weak and feeble, but he was there to watch that. Boy, he wouldn't miss it. He loved it. He had a whole, I think I told you before, he had a whole basement in his house, which was just around the corner over here, built with barbershop chairs and all the mugs and all the brushes and all the, you know, and he had the music playing down there constantly, barbershop harmony. And it was lovely. It was wonderful.

Do you remember how the contest changed over the years, specifically?

Not so much. No, it seemed to roll along about the same to me.

Elle Griego 29:11  
Yeah. Like, with the Gay Nineties festival? Was it like? Would you say its popularity was the same? Was one

more popular than the other? Or was it...

Carol Drew 29:19

They were so integrated. I think more people probably came from out of town for the barbershop, part of it. [Griego: I see.] But for the Gay Nineties thing, it was a different group. [Griego: Oh, really?] Parade lovers and people who loved, you know, looking at all the windows and seeing every window downtown was set with antique stuff, old spinning wheels or old... some of them had four people in there singing. I mean, they just went all out on their window displays. And so people came just to see that in the parade, and the craziness that went on with that. It was a fun parade. It was, you know, animals, and it was a group from, I think, Medford, that would get off their float and kidnap people, I've heard and take them on their float. And then you had, I don't know how they got out of their jail. They had a little jail, then they'd lock them up in. But I always kind of hoped I didn't get kicked out. [Drew laughs.]

Elle Griego 30:30

So what kind of animals were there? Like zoo animals, circus animals, or just pets?

Carol Drew 30:37

I don't know. I don't remember. A lot of animals, there were undoubtedly horses. [Griego: Oh yeah]. I don't remember a lot of different animals like sheep or cattle or anything like that in the parade. Lot of floats, just a lot of floats pulled by a tractor, you know, just plain old floats with kids on them, from 4H to Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, ball teams, you name it.

Elle Griego 31:05

Did you participate in the floats at all?

Carol Drew 31:08

I never did. I was kind of -- I don't know. I was a mom with little kids, so, you know, I didn't get to do that. I was in the parade the year I was on the court, but I didn't really appreciate... I was too new to it to really realize what I was involved in.

Elle Griego 31:30

Yeah, and remind me what court was it again?

Carol Drew 31:33

Well, there was a Gay Nineties Belle that was elected every year, and back then, now, when my daughter was going through high school, she -- you had to give your speech and be interviewed and everything, and that Belle was selected that way. When I was either a freshman or a sophomore... I don't know whether my sorority put me up, I really don't remember how it happened, but I just remember being on the float in this parade, and I didn't know much about what was going on, you know? So maybe it was my freshman year before I really knew what was happening. But at that time, they had Pacific University, had one or two people, and they had one from Banks, and one from probably Gaston, and then the rest were Forest Grove people.

Elle Griego 32:29

Yeah, and did you do some traveling as part of your duties or responsibilities for the court?

Carol Drew 32:36

No. I just, I really don't remember much about it other than being on the float. My main concern was Pacific

and classes, you know, and I'm going, why am I doing this? I did it, but I was kind of [a dumbo upon it?]. But later, when Jo was on it, I appreciated it more, because I knew she had to rehearse her speech and, you know, compete for it to be on the court.

Elle Griego 33:04

Yep. Was there any specific Pacific events, or events where only Pacific students attended or something?

Carol Drew 33:12

I don't think so. No, and not, not all students went to the contest because it was costly for us, I think probably only \$12 or something like that. But that was a lot of money to us then. So I don't remember many of them going while I was going to Pacific. Later on our first few years we went, took the kids, and they go through the audience yelling, "Popcorn! Popcorn!" You know, or whatever they were selling at the intermission, and they loved it. They just thought it was one big party.

Elle Griego 33:55

Yeah. From my understanding, there was a professor at Pacific. I don't know if it was a theater professor or what, but this professor had some experience in Hollywood, and he kind of helped organize the can-can dances. Do you remember any of the can-can dances?

Carol Drew 34:10

Oh, I do. I remember that a lot, because my roommate was one. She was from Palo Alto, California, and she studied ballet for years, so this was just right up her alley. And in the letters, I found a box of letters of my husband's, writing home his first year, and he said to his parents, "Carol really wants to be on the can-can line." I don't remember ever wanting to be on the can-can line. But he said "She's really kind of disappointed, she's not going to try out." So I don't know, I don't know what thoughts were going through my little brain then, but probably because my roommate was on it, and the girl across the hall was on it, Peggy. So it was a mix of high school and college girls.

Elle Griego 35:04

Do you remember their last names, or their full names? Your Roommates, what were their names?

Carol Drew 35:10

Mariann Nolan was my roommate, and Peggy Wilke was the one across the hall, she was on it.

Elle Griego 35:17

Yeah. What dorm did you live in?

Carol Drew 35:21

We lived, when we came, they had World War Two housing that they had brought to campus at the end of the war, really, for all the military people returning to college. It was out, east of the main dining hall and all that, all out through there. That was what that was. There was a big tennis court, and then, and then these housing. And so I came to campus thinking I was going to be in a dorm. You know, you think that, drive up and they direct us to one of these. And it's, I've got a picture of it, so I'll get you a picture of it. Very kind of dilapidated, old white building, and that's where we were to stay. And I lived in that my freshman and sophomore year, and then they built a new dorm, and so my roommates all moved over there. Well, I got married that summer and lived in the same ones, only farther back for the married students the last two years. So I lived in these awful, kind of crummy place all four years, but we had such fun. We didn't care. When we came to campus, we were so excited, all of us girls, you know, we're just "Oh boy, we're finally away from home. We got this." Jumped into bed, and the next morning, we all got up just with lights all over

us. The faculty had taken the mattresses off our beds to the beach for a big outing that they have just before school starts, and they were loaded with fleas, sand fleas. [Griego: No! How awful.] We were covered with sand flea bites. So they had to take those all out. I don't remember what we slept on for a couple days, but they took them all out and had them fumigated, something done to them. But yeah, they were... I've got a picture I will let you insert of those buildings.

Elle Griego 37:43

I'd love to see it. Yeah, I hadn't heard about that before.

Carol Drew 37:48

They did that there, and they also did it in Rogers Park. They covered that whole park with World War Two housing.

Elle Griego 37:56

Oh really? I'm curious what Rogers Park used to look like, I understand there used to be a house there, and then it was kind of empty. Was it just housing before it became the park that it is now, or...?

Carol Drew 38:10

Yeah, Mrs. Rogers lived there. She had the first library in town, which is, do you know which building it is? It's as you come off the main entrance of Pacific. Pacific owns that little row right there. It's the first one. It's called the Rogers building, and it was the town library. It probably wasn't much bigger than these two rooms.

Elle Griego 38:34

Yeah. Was the -- when you were here, for Pacific's library, was it the old Carnegie building?

Carol Drew 38:43

It was wonderful. I loved it. They had, all the seating was the Windsor chairs. I would love to have had one of those. I don't know where they all went, but yeah, long tables and lots of Windsor chairs and, yeah, it was a great, great building.

Elle Griego 39:03

Yeah, it looks like -- was Old College Hall, was that in use for students as well, that building?

Carol Drew 39:09

Old College Hall was over... it was, you know, where it was originally? It was back.

Elle Griego 39:16

Yeah, sounds like it was moved, which is kind of crazy to think about, moving a whole building.

Carol Drew 39:20

It's where the central dining room, dining everything is now.

Elle Griego 39:25

The UC, yeah.

Carol Drew 39:27

And it was a little chapel, basically. And yeah, we had chapel in there every Wednesday.

Elle Griego 39:36

Do you remember what denomination -- I know that St. Bede's Episcopal Church was there for a little while.

Carol Drew 39:40

It was congregational. [Griego: I see.] Yeah, which, the church across the street from the campus. Called the United Church of Christ now, but it's congregational. And so when the choir toured, we sang in congregational churches throughout Oregon and California.

Elle Griego 40:01

I see. And was there also a chapel in Marsh Hall?

Carol Drew 40:07

Yes, yes. I don't know what's there now, is there a large room?

Elle Griego 40:14

It's like an auditorium, so that makes sense. [Drew: Yeah.] So it's interesting, it sounds like there was two different chapels?

Carol Drew 40:20

Well, there was a whole chapel in there at that time. It maybe had been, you know... [Griego: That makes sense.] Yeah. But we held assemblies in there, you know, anytime we need to get together for something that was where that was held. And the choir room was upstairs on the third floor over that. Journalism was right next to it. It's changed quite a bit.

Elle Griego 40:48

Yeah, speaking of choir, in terms of singing, besides the quartets, did you or your family or other people in Forest Grove learn songs for the events? Do you remember your children learning...

Carol Drew 40:58

Learning some songs? Oh, yes, in school, they did.

Elle Griego 41:01

Do you remember any specific songs that come to mind?

Carol Drew 41:06

I wish the kids were here.

Elle Griego 41:10

Maybe I need to speak to them next.

Carol Drew 41:12

Yeah, they were just old, old barbershop songs. I'll think of one or two. The kids at little Central School over here, which is now the district offices, they taught them all the old songs, and they had an assembly, and they had a little stage where the school board meets now in that area, and they put on quite a little show. They danced and sang and did the little barber shop harmony if they could. But then the faculty always put on a wonderful bunch of skits for them, and they were all dressed in the old costumes too, for the couple days, I think they did it. Think the kids wore the costumes most of the week. [Griego: Oh really?] Yeah, yeah. They loved it. You know, dress up in something different and brought off to school.

Elle Griego 42:19

So I think what's really fascinating to me about the whole Gay Nineties festival is the fact that there's this celebration and festival around the 1890s decade. It's like, why in mid-century, small town America, are we going back and to the 1890s and do you have any sense of why that was or what it represented?

Carol Drew 42:42

Well, it represented the age of the town, I think. You know, the fact that the town was old, and somebody got to be in their bonnet somewhere along the line and said, well, let's celebrate our age. Let's put it out there and tell people, you know, it's a great little town that started back when and make it known. And it only takes two or three people with a great idea to do something and get it done. And I don't know, I don't know who started it, but when we were there, there was a man named Ralph Shumm. And Pacific... oh, shoot, I need to get my yearbooks out. But there was, yeah, a speech teacher, Hingston. [Griego: Yeah, that's right.] Yes, he was very involved, and had a great tenor voice. And he, you know, he got kids on the campus excited about it.

Elle Griego 43:43

Yeah, oh I certainly recognize both those names. But do you know if either of those individuals were there to remember the real 1890s? Do you think it was...? [Drew: No, no.] So it wasn't like there were people in town who remembered the real 1890s, it was just like, oh, celebrate the town's history.

Carol Drew 44:00

Yeah, yeah. They were just going, you know, movies had used some of the old music and the old things in some of the movies. So they knew.

Elle Griego 44:10

Can you remember what movies specifically? Oh, I'm interested in if this was just like a Forest Grove phenomenon, or if -- not to say that there was other Gay Nineties festivals.

Carol Drew 44:20

No, no, I think it was a Forest Grove phenomenon. A lot of the homes were built here in the 1890s you know, the older homes and the university was just getting going. And I think they just thought, you know, hey, this is an old community. Let's celebrate it. Let's bring in that popular music, do something. And television, you know, was new then, but I'm sure there were TV shows that were featuring some of the 1890s music, movies, and stuff that were being shown more. They were more available to homes, they were learning more about our history, and so that helped spur on a little bit... Little House on the Prairie. And some of those...

Elle Griego 45:12

Oh I love Little House on the Prairie. I was just watching that the other day.

Carol Drew 45:14

Yeah, The Waltons. I mean, that was a little... set a little bit later, but those shows taught us about the 1890s.

Elle Griego 45:24

Yeah, why do you think it was, I guess, the context of these TV shows, why do you think they were looking back on the 1890s as well? Or it sounds like, in that sense, at least in popular culture, there was this kind of looking back at the 1890s. I often, I've heard from others, as it described as simpler times. Do you agree with that sentiment? [Drew: Yes, yes.] Even back when the festival was going on, you know, the '50s, '60s? Was it...?

Carol Drew 45:53

Much simpler, much simpler. Yeah. I mean, we didn't... Our salaries were nothing, but we didn't have to pay much for anything either. And nickels and dimes and quarters still meant a lot. You know, and now people practically throw those away, you know? They're just, yeah, children were raised differently. Men were, I think I told you before, about walking down the street as a college kid and having men tip their hats to me. They don't even wear hats anymore, just the baseball cap. But they certainly wouldn't tip it, you know? You'd go, "Wait a minute. What's going on here?" If they did, so, yeah, it was a gentler time.

Elle Griego 46:43

When you say gentler, I'm assuming you mean like the '50s and '60s, now, but back then, it sounds like you also thought they or others that thought that the 1890s were also a simpler time.

Carol Drew 46:54

Yes, yes, much simpler our grandparents had been in that era, and their idea of, well, my grandparents' idea of earning some extra money would be to go to the hop yards and pick hops. And they'd get their little truck, and they go off and meet the same people at the same hop yard every year and have wonderful evenings together, out around a campfire and pick hops. And you know, people today would never think of going out and doing manual labor. You know, especially as grandparents. These were my grandparents. But they loved it. They loved the people that they met every year, and it was just so, so much simpler. So much simpler. Dress codes, you know, for kids in school, learning, yeah.

Elle Griego 47:58

Were your grandparents here in Oregon when they were growing up?

Carol Drew 48:03

Yes, yes. My grandmother grew up around Gates, Oregon, if you know where it is off of going over the pass. My grandpa grew up in Sweet Home, and his father brought him and his four siblings, I think there were five of them, out to Oregon after his wife... that's my great-grandmother in that picture over there. After she passed away, he brought all the kids West. Raised them all by himself. Never remarried, and he was the head of the family until he died in his late years, but he always had the family around him. It was just neat to watch. But they had that same farm and then so we were the third generation on it, so it's kind of neat, but they, plowed their fields with with mules, the old Ron equipment, cut the hay and piled it in little shocks on the field, and then gathered it up with a hay wagon. And we did that still when I was in high school, even though we had a tractor, we just did it the way they always did it.

Elle Griego 49:18

Yeah, and did they go to these Gay Nineties celebrations? Any of them?

Carol Drew 49:24



Did whom go?

Elle Griego 49:24  
Oh, your grandparents?

Carol Drew 49:26  
No, no, they were too old at that point to do that? My parents did. Herb's parents did. Yeah, they each came up a couple different times with us. But for them to drive 100 miles up was a big deal. Now we think nothing of it.

Elle Griego 49:48  
What do you think they would have thought of the festival? Do you think they would agree with the sentiment that, you know, the 1890s were simpler times?

Carol Drew 49:58  
Oh yeah. They would have. Even then, what they were going through in the '60s. Yeah, they would have thought, yeah, that much simpler times.

Elle Griego 50:06  
Yeah. Could you expand on that, in terms of the '60s? Well, I guess, what was, in contrast to the simpler times, what made that era kind of difficult?

Carol Drew 50:19  
You know, when we moved to the farm, I was like nine, but we had a spring up on the side of the hill that fed water down into a little cistern, and we had a pump on the back porch, that was the water supply for the house. We had outhouses. We had no plumbing in the kitchen, wood stove, you know, it was just a very simple old farmhouse, carbide lights, no electricity, carbide lights and candles. And my dad, of course, we lived in California, so my mom went, "Hey, we have all these other things available. Why don't we have them?" So he was a carpenter, so he kind of remodeled things and put it to put in a fireplace. And, you know, brought it up to the '50s. Which was still, you know, a radio in the living room until, I think I was probably a senior before we got a television, a black and white television. And I tell the kids who were wandering around with this phone in front of them all day, I said ours was on a line about, oh, maybe three feet from the phone. And so if you took a call, it was in the dining area. If you took a call, whatever you said was [Griego: Yeah, in the dining area.] broadcast over the room, and you couldn't take the phone anywhere else.

Elle Griego 52:01  
Do you think, I suppose, I think it's interesting, the idea of simpler times. Why do you think there was a desire to look back on simpler times? [Drew: Simpler times?] Yeah.

Carol Drew 52:28  
Well, you know, I don't know that they were looking back saying they were better. I think they were just, there was a charm of that music from that era, just like there's a charm of the music from the South, or, you know, and they chose that to represent it, basically, you know, I mean, the scenes in the windows and everything complimented it, but it was the festival that... the music about it. And the quartets would just stand on the street corners and sing, you know, just performing. They loved it. And people would gather around, and then they'd see one across the street over here starting to sing and drift over there and listen to them. And, you know, it was just, and it wasn't, I don't know it just, it was just very ordinary and plain. It wasn't orchestrated too deeply. I think sometimes parades now are over orchestrated to the point where it

loses what it started out to be.

Elle Griego 53:46

Yeah, I know what you mean. So it sounds like everyone was involved in this... this was a community-wide event for all ages.

Carol Drew 53:56

Very much so. The fire department, you know, lighting the little outhouse on fire and putting it out with the old, old pumps. You know, showing, and kids learned some things from that, you know, "Mom, what's that?" "Well, that's the way we used to put out fires here." You know, they learned a little history along with it.

Elle Griego 54:17

It sounds like a balance of fun on one end and then education...

Carol Drew 54:22

Education on the other. [Griego: Yeah.] They learned how people dressed, and how they sang, and how they put out fires.

Elle Griego 54:28

Yeah. Do you think that the history part of it was always accurate, or was that kind of not seen as something most essential?

Carol Drew 54:35

I think they tried to get accurate, but it probably slipped a few times. My husband and two or three other businessmen in town, later on... I think Gay Nineties was still going on... they bought a hook and ladder truck from the fire station, and they drove that thing in the Portland parades, you know, advertising Gay Nineties in Forest Grove, you know, just because it was an old truck. It wasn't 1890s, but they had a lot of fun doing it. You know, sometimes they took a quartet with them, that's the singing, and other times they just hooped and hollered and drove their truck.

Elle Griego 55:21

It almost seems like to me that the 1890s part, well, I will say for my research, the Gay Nineties was not a term that the Forest Grove came up with. It was actually coined, I think, in the 1920s by either a Time or Life magazine artist. [Drew: Probably!] It almost seemed like the Nineties part wasn't the most relevant, in context of, you see pioneer wagons, which wouldn't have really existed by the 1890s, or 1920s cars. So it's really almost like the turn of the century.

Carol Drew 55:48

Yeah, yeah, yeah. It was just celebrating the past, celebrating the origin of the community, I think, you know, more than anything. Just fun. Celebrating the music more than anything.

Elle Griego 56:04

It's interesting, I think, but it doesn't exist anymore. Today, the festival, at least the barbershop contest, exists in like a much smaller scale. Something I'm trying to investigate and figure out, is we have this big, grand celebration and festival broadcast on national television and radio, people coming from in all over the country, to today, where...

Carol Drew 56:34

They don't even know what the barbershop pole at Pacific is for.

Elle Griego 56:39

Exactly. I talk to so many people about that. And when I talk about it, they don't recognize or know that barbershop is a type of music. They'll think I'm talking about hair cutting.

Carol Drew 56:49

It was quartets, and then they sat around in barbershops and sang. It was just a fun...

Elle Griego 56:59

Why do you think that change happened? Or how did it happen? Was it a gradual kind of decline? Was it like one decade or one year, it just went off?

Carol Drew 57:08

Yeah, I think that, you know, it was popular, sorry, in the '90s, and then we came into the next century, there was more emphasis on whether it were movies getting going, you know, theaters getting going. There were, for entertainment, there were different things, and men sitting around a barbershop singing just lost its appeal. It just didn't... it was a different time. And then we went to war, and there were no men at home, hardly. And so it just changed, you know, scrambling. A country scrambling to get back on its feet after the depression and lost track of a lot of that kind of thing. And I really think, I'd love to have talked to some of the people starting Gay Nineties here, but I think it probably was looking back at the origin of the town, you know, the age of the town.

Elle Griego 57:09

Yeah it's interesting. You think about the context of the Great Depression. I've always, from my lens, not to say that this is the right one, but I almost think that the Cold War has some sort of influence on it. I just realized recently that the festival happened all within the years of the Cold War. Pretty much it was like, I think '46 or '47 and the festival ended early '90s, I think.

Carol Drew 58:36

I think it ended before we got into the '90s. [Griego: Yeah.] And, you know, at that time, gay was getting a little different context. And I think as a city, they didn't want that as a -- yeah, it was just, a lot of things happened all at once, and they didn't want to go there, so. Plus, people were beginning to slow down on civic things like that. We stopped. We had the car show was starting up at Pacific, the Concours, you know. Emphasis was going in different directions. The old cars, all of a sudden, were taking the stage. Not... but a lot of the years with those old cars, they would have old quartets come back and sing, entertain on the stage during the Concours event. So, you know, and a lot of it is run by, like, I say, Rotarians, Kiwanis.

Elle Griego 59:52

That's so interesting. I haven't thought about the Concours d'Elegance, the connection, but it seems like that, almost, like they switched events.

Carol Drew 1:00:01

Yeah, because Herb was, he was a Rotarian, I think... but no, he was a Kiwanian when we had the breakfast and all. But then he joined Rotary a little bit later on, and it was very active in the car thing too. And, you know, it celebrated wonderful old cars from the beginning of automobiles out here.

Elle Griego 1:00:30

Yeah. Oh yes, I love the Concours d'Elegance. I went when I first moved here, and Old College Hall was open, and that's what convinced me to apply to Pacific. [Drew: Oh really?] Yeah.

Carol Drew 1:00:31

But it had already moved, right? It was already out...

Elle Griego 1:00:43

Yes, yes. But, that's fascinating. And then, it's interesting, you mentioned civic engagement has changed. Do you think that was a change in Forest Grove residents, or a part of a national trend of people becoming less involved.

Carol Drew 1:01:02

Yeah, I think it was a national -- it was just a trend. People were, well, more of them were probably working out of town, you know, traveling. Didn't have time to invest in the community. The community was changing a lot, you know, like, I say, from the streets lined with little shops to what it is today.

Elle Griego 1:01:29

Do you feel like there's a loss, whether it's the Gay Nineties, or what Forest Grove used to be like?

Carol Drew 1:01:37

Well, I loved it. I don't know. You know, young people today have never known anything different than what we have today. So they don't miss it, you know, have any nostalgia about it. And I would probably say that about my own kids, you know, they're all grown. They've all gone to college and other places and they grew up in a different decade.

Elle Griego 1:02:12

Do you miss that time then? Would you say it's because of just where you were in life?

Carol Drew 1:02:17

I think a lot of it had to do with that, but I also joined a women's group, a P.E.O. chapter -- I don't know whether you know what that is, but they raised money for women's scholarships, basically -- right out of college, and I adored working with and learning from the women in their 40s, 50s, 60s, who, you know, their husbands owned shop, shop, shop, shop, shop, shop, shop right down the street. Herb knew them all, knew the men, you know, and looked up to them. And then I, I just, I learned so much from those women. You know, a lot. I'd gone up on a farm. I hadn't entertained or had teas or not that I wanted to particularly but you know, it changed a lot for me learning from older people. And Herb and I've always been that way. We've always associated, seems like with people older than ourselves, because that's where, that's where the wisdom is passed down. [Griego: Exactly.] Not wisdom necessarily.

Elle Griego 1:03:27

I was going to use the same word. Wisdom and knowledge.

Carol Drew 1:03:37

Yeah, and I don't see that happening so much now, you know, with my four are all very involved with careers still, beginning to age out. One is retiring this year, but they're interested in their own age group, not so much the younger ones or the older ones, just their age group. So it's just things like that change a community too. If you have younger people involved with a generation maybe ahead of them, or two

generations ahead of them, you know, you just learn about osmosis.

Elle Griego 1:04:29

Yeah, when do you think that change could have happened? Something that you brought up was, you know, tea like tea parties, and learning how to entertain guests. I feel like that's not something that's taught.

Carol Drew 1:04:40

I offered you some stale brownies, and... [Drew laughs.]

Elle Griego 1:04:43

No, that was very nice of you, but like stuff like that. You know, it's important. I don't think people my age learn what it means to really entertain besides... which is unfortunate.

Carol Drew 1:04:51

No, but you know, that might not be the entertaining style of your age. Every age has its own, you know, ours, I mean, our friends didn't necessarily have teas, but I like to have tea. So heck, I have teas, you know, and invited people over. Our last one here at this table was, you know about the Red Hat society? [Griego: Yes! I do.] The head of the Red Hat society called me one day and she said, "Carol, would you do a tea for us?" Because they don't have tea rooms much anymore. "Sure. Come on over." So we put leaves on the table. I think we had eight or 10 people here for tea, you know. And it was just fun. Just a fun thing to do,

Elle Griego 1:04:52

Yeah, no, I've, I mean, myself, I've organized... what's it called... like, tea parties, my friends, I'd invite them over, but there's no sort of sense of etiquette or anything.

Speaker 1 1:05:12

It doesn't have to be. Yeah, it doesn't have to be. I mean, it was at one time.

Elle Griego 1:06:02

When you were growing up, was that, was etiquette more important, would you say?

Carol Drew 1:06:09

Well, I don't know. Or even growing up, prior to college, I didn't have any exposure to that kind of thing at all. I mean, my exposure was picking strawberries and running around and bare feet, you know, cattle and sheep and that kind of thing, it was very foreign to me, and maybe that's why it was so interesting to me when I got to school here.

Elle Griego 1:06:36

Was it a big deal here in town, like, properly...?

Carol Drew 1:06:42

Yeah, you know, one of my first exposures, we had a... I think she was the Dean of Women, or maybe just the chaplain's wife, I don't know at that time, but she lived in a house next door, which I realized just a few years ago. "Oh my gosh, that's the house I came to visit." But she would have teas, and invite the sorority girls, different sororities to come, or just girls. And I just, wow it was a different world for me. But it was kind of fun.

Elle Griego 1:07:17

Yeah, may I ask you, you probably already mentioned it. What sorority were you in?

Carol Drew 1:07:21

Philos.

Elle Griego 1:07:21

I see. I'm in Theta Nu Alpha.

Carol Drew 1:07:26

Are you? Well, my roommate, I had a roommate, was a Theta. Yeah, yeah, in fact, there were two Thetas and two Philos. We were together, very close. The two groups were then, at least. In fact, out here, the other day at Herb's celebration I had, there were two Philos I was sitting with at the table that came, you know, it was just fun to see them again.

Elle Griego 1:07:52

How neat! Were there fraternities? [Drew: Uh-huh.] There were fraternities back then too, right? Right now there's not any active fraternities.

Carol Drew 1:07:59

Yeah, Herb was an AZ [i.e. Alpha Zeta]. He never lived in the house, but he was an AZ.

Elle Griego 1:08:06

But it sounds like you didn't have a sorority house?

Carol Drew 1:08:09

No, we met in the basement... would have been the girls' dorm, which was a big old dorm that was torn down years and years ago. But I've got a calendar in there that Herb did one year that I'll show you some of those buildings in. He put together that, I think he was president of the alumni group or something. It was a fundraiser. We sold this calendar.

Elle Griego 1:08:47

Yeah, I would love to see it.

Carol Drew 1:08:48

Yeah, different buildings and things, yeah. And I've got some pictures. Well, you've probably seen them in the yearbooks of the can-can dancers.

Elle Griego 1:08:57

Yeah, but I'm always looking for more photos. I think most of the photos I've seen, or the ones that I've digitized, at least, are all from Allan J. de Lay, so they're from a specific area, mostly like the '60s and '50s. But I haven't seen too many photographs from... [Drew: the '50s?] yeah, or from just people who are not Allan J. de Lay, you know, or not in the newspaper, people who just photos themselves. So I'm always looking for new photos.

Carol Drew 1:09:22

Yeah, Beth may have some, and Jo may too. They both danced on that line. And Beth is now married to Brad Bafaro, whose dad was Chuck Bafaro. The Bafaro stadium is named after... he was a baseball coach. And Jackie, his wife, was the one that coached the girls. She was quite the dancer, and she put them through their paces. They did an amazing routine, usually very similar routine every year.

Elle Griego 1:10:00

Getting back into our conversation, we kind of talked a bit about how people today don't remember the Gay Nineties festival, for those newer generations or future generations. What exactly about Ballard Town, U.S.A., do you think should be remembered? Is there any enduring value or lesson?

Carol Drew 1:10:22

Oh, there's always lessons when a community comes together to build something, you know, and we, we're not doing that right now. We need to bring people together to do something, and that I think would be the lesson that would be learned, you know, would be, what are we doing? What's our identification here in town? Who are we? And that's what, I think sometimes we've lost a little bit, and that's the result of many things, people living here, working elsewhere, living here, working from home, they don't get out much, or a lack of a newspaper that tells us what our town is all about. We don't have that anymore. So yeah, it's just a change in time. Now, I suppose some of those things are being done online. I'm just not an advocate of... I'm not from that generation. I don't do that as much. But, yeah, last summer... guess it was last summer we had that street party similar to what we had for Herb out here. And 100 neighbors came, potluck, just from me taking an invitation out saying, "Hey, this is the night we're going to close the street." And shortly after that, people from the city came by with a little proclamation, saying this was the prettiest street in town. And I thought at least it drew some attention to Forest Grove, be it good or bad, you show. [Drew laughs.] It brings some attention that we were doing something, just nice. And we need more of that. I like the corn roast and those kinds of things, the street painting and chalk painting and all that. That's fun, it really is. But we need to just have more of that, more community-wide things going on. We used to have at Christmas, we always had... he was a... no, he wasn't a professor, his wife was a gym teacher at Pacific. Jean Horner and George, her husband. Have you ever heard of them?

Elle Griego 1:13:11

I don't think so.

Carol Drew 1:13:12

He was a farmer, and he ran the bookstore at Pacific. That was his vocation, and he loved to get his horses into town. He had big old pulling horses. He'd bring his wagons in and take kids for rides around the community from down in front of OK Floral, kind of in that little, where they could come in undercover, kids would pile on the wagon, and he'd take them for a ride out around and bring them back, all dressed up with Christmas music. And he wasn't playing Santa Claus or anything, but it was just a Christmas activity in town. And he did that. And then... I think it was the appliance store, which is very old in town, always played Christmas music on a loudspeaker over the street. You don't do that anymore. [Griego: No.] And for years, they always decorated every store. And I think at first maybe the city paid for the lights, gave them out. But after that, the store owners bought them, but they outlined their windows and they outlined the tops of all the stores down Main Street, and it just gave a, I don't know, a special small town to the city, and they don't do any of those things anymore. But George was, he was great. We called him -- we had my aunt and uncle and two kids who were here this last weekend, up from LA for Christmas one year. And I said, "Do you want to go caroling?" And they did. "Caroling?" They'd never call caroling. And I said, "Well, you know, you just sing Christmas carols." And I called George, and he brought his team of horses into Forest Grove. He lives way out in the country, brought them in, hitched him up, and took us, just our family, on a ride on his wagon, and we went out through the whole neighborhood, all around Old Town, singing Christmas carols. And you just don't see that kind of thing anymore. We have carolers come by, but not stuff that anybody really has to, you know, for him to bring those horses in and hitch them up and do the whole thing was really wonderful.

Elle Griego 1:15:44

Yeah, that's very, very nice. I mean, it sounds like just such memorable, memorable times.

Carol Drew 1:15:48

Yeah! All those kids, they still talk about it. I mean, they'll never forget the time they got to go caroling on a wagon behind horses. So, those are little things that Forest Grove could still do very easily. You just need to find the guy with the horses. George is no longer alive. Yeah, that generation has died off, and it's going to take some digging, probably, to find somebody. But there's some young buck out there with a farm that would probably love to do that if someone asked him.

Elle Griego 1:16:25

Yeah, exactly. And I was asked this when I was actually interviewed about my project. And it's, I think, fun to ask others as well, when it comes to the Gay Nineties festival, and this idea of the separate idea of, you know, bringing the community together. Do you think that the Gay Nineties festival should or could come back? Would that be the ideal goal, or is it just getting the community back in general? Do you think...what would you hope for?

Carol Drew 1:17:05

Oh, it would be great to have it back. It would be... yeah, I think it would be wonderful. And the barbershop groups still exist. They still sing. It's a lot of work, and a lot of people just don't... you know, "I work all day, or I work online at home all day. I just don't want to, you know, don't want to put the effort out." And we don't have the store windows, the shops, the things available on the main streets anymore. You know, it's a different time, a different age. I just, I don't know that it would, it could be pulled off, but I still think we need to celebrate our past some way. Gosh, if we celebrate the '40s or the '50s, you know, do something. Would be really nice. The Concours [i.e. Concours d'Elegance] feels part of that, but I don't know how many people in town really participate. If you're not a Rotarian, you know, you don't have a job to do, but, yeah, it's hard. It's a small town, and a small town that kind of begins to lose its identity as shops leave and lots of of new people moving in now with our new developments going up everywhere, it's just changing, and hopefully it will morph back, and maybe they'll do a Gay '60s, yeah, yeah. Celebrate another era.

Elle Griego 1:19:07

Yeah, I brought that up with a friend in a different interview. It's like, "Oh, maybe we'll do a Super Seventies festival."

Carol Drew 1:19:13

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Hot rods and craziness. Yeah.

Elle Griego 1:19:19

Is there a decade that you look most fondly back on yourself today?

Carol Drew 1:19:25

Oh, gosh. Well, I look very fondly back on the '60s and '70s, because that's when we had young children, and you know, lots going on in our lives. They were fun, but there wasn't any, there wasn't any defining greatness out of it. The older people during that age were, you know, it was a lot of crazy movies and, yeah, hot rods and yeah, it was, I don't know that it would be something I'd want to celebrate. But we could have a huge pumpkin festival or a fall festival here. There's a lot of ways you can reach back, not to a particular year or a decade even, but just to a tradition. That could still happen.



Elle Griego 1:20:24

It almost seems like, really, what's at the core of this is tradition and community, of all these festivals.

Carol Drew 1:20:32

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I've worked on several big, big quilt shelves that we've had here, which have been a lot of fun and brought a lot of people together, but that could be part of, you know, a whole celebration of, say, the '20s or the '30s, and go a different decade and celebrate that. Celebrate, you know, quilting and I don't know. Yeah, that kind of thing. It doesn't have to be the '90s. And the songs from those eras were wonderful too. We don't have the musicians that we had, say, 30 years ago in the community. When Herb started the Theater in the Grove, this town was loaded with musicians, just amazing people on the campus, men and women that sang, and off campus. I mean, you just didn't have any trouble at all filling a musical with wonderful voices, and that's kind of changed.

Elle Griego 1:21:48

Yeah, why do you think that is?

Carol Drew 1:21:51

I don't know. They're still being done in schools. So you'd think that those people who soloed in those would still have a desire to do that kind of thing. But now our theater in the grove group, they're good, but they're all from out of town. There are no locals in that group. So, you know, it just changes, just changes up. We used to have a... what did they call it? It was a Christmas music, not musical, but a choral event, and it was done every single year, and the little kids, as long as they could play a musical instrument, they could join in, and it was just a wonderful thing at Christmas time. And I'm a great fan of books that tend to go back to that, or the '20s, '30s, '40s, '50s. And I love stories of little towns that start something at one church and maybe have a little prayer session, and then they sing as they go on to the next church and pick up that group. And they go all around town and come back and have a dinner and take food to those who need it. And, you know, those things. I guess people are just too busy. I don't know what causes it to happen. Because, yeah, we had the youth group at our church for years, that same church where the sermon was, and we did fun stuff with those kids. We had about 40 in the group, and it was a little church, you know, but we just had a lot of traditions, same type of year every year. You always went out on the hill outside of town, and Easter morning, and watch the sun come up over a cross that we plunked up there. And you'll always about, eight or nine times a year, we would have what we call diamond dinners. And after church, the moms would all bring in these hot dishes, the mothers of the kids in the youth group, line them up down a table. You went along with your plate. Every dip was a dime, and somebody counted it up at the end, and you could eat for 50 cents, but it was free food. I mean, the parents didn't mind sending one dish, and it just got people together. It was fun. Kids earn something for their camp out, or whatever they were doing next, and they got in there and helped serve food. And, yeah, it was good for them. A lot of that kind of thing I just don't see happening now. [Griego: No, I agree.] Here are the young people, you're the ones that need to stir the pot and get it going again.

Elle Griego 1:25:08

Oh, I agree. That's so interesting. I feel like learning for myself, like, why this topic interests me so much is because we don't see that anymore. I think that's why the Gay Nineties interest me is it's not just so much the 1890s with the fact that this sort of sense of community just doesn't exist as much anymore.

Carol Drew 1:25:29

People watch things on their phone and that satisfies them, I guess, you know. It's just different, very different, but okay, I mean, it's not terrible, it's just different. So take what you can get. But I... and part of it's the school systems, I think. They're not teaching involvement, and teaching kids to just get out there and give back to their community. I don't see that happening in any of the I mean, I know kids have all gone through Forest Grove schools and a different time they were a little bit more so then, giving back, but not so

much now. Their kids and their grandkids are kind of suffering for it. All we can do as parents, and grandparents, or great grandparents, is, do what you can with your own. And your parents have obviously done that with you. [Griego: Yeah.] Do you live, do your parents live here in town?

Elle Griego 1:26:48  
Oh yes, I live with my parents.

Carol Drew 1:26:50  
That's so neat. How old were you when you came?

Elle Griego 1:26:54  
I was, I'm trying to think, it was 2022, so I was 19. I've been here since I was 19. I'm 22 now, so it's been like three years. I feel like I've lived here for a lot longer. I moved from Bend. But I live over in a newer neighborhood, over by the cemetery, the Forest View Cemetery. It's lovely. I just do like Forest Grove for the sense of community that I have found, how walkable everything is, and how everything's kind of...

Carol Drew 1:27:28  
That hill used to be one of our favorite sled hills. You know that whole road down there. [Griego: Yeah, I thought about that.] Close it at the top and the bottom on a good, snowy day. And, wow. And we had a sled hill down here, too that kids still come to. And I love it. I stand at my kitchen window and watch them all drag their sleds down there.

Elle Griego 1:27:53  
Yeah, I feel as I don't know what's over down that street over there. I should go check it out sometime. I love this old, these old neighborhoods over here.

Carol Drew 1:28:00  
So those kinds of things they still do, and you know, they've added things like trick or treating, uptown. Trick or treating in the neighborhood. Of course, those kinds of things, and pumpkin patches are still very popular. And you know, that kind of... there's still stuff going on, but I've had to teach my great-grands about May Day baskets, you know, just making a lot of paper and filling them with flowers and hanging them on doorsteps around the neighborhood. And we've gone out and done that. Maypole dances. Some of the schools still do that, but, you know, those are just kind of traditions. They're not something you have to do, but they're fun. It's fun for kids to at least know about them, because you read about them in old novels, you might as well participate, find out what it's all about.

Elle Griego 1:29:03  
Yeah. I think that's all the questions I have for you today. Do you have any more concluding thoughts?

Carol Drew 1:29:13  
Oh, golly.

Elle Griego 1:29:16  
Any other memories or things I didn't, forgot to ask you about?

Carol Drew 1:29:20  
Yeah, when it gets back to Gay Nineties, it was just a very, very fun time. Just relaxed, go out. The kids all

learned the old songs. That was kind of fun. You know, each school music teacher taught the songs, and our kids all looked back on it very fondly, every one of them. I talked to them the other day about it. I had that little picture of him on the front porch, and I said, you remember this? "Oh yeah. Yeah, I remember." Wearing those outfits, doing all that. But it's not something their kids ever did. So, on to something new. [Griego: Yeah.] Yeah, and we will. You know, Friends [i.e. Friends of Historic Forest Grove] could be more of an instigator group, I think, in getting some things going, sometimes, even if it's just a photo day, where everybody, anyone who has any old photo that they can identify or want to identify, you know, could bring it down and say, you know anything about this?

Elle Griego 1:30:44

Yeah, oh, that reminds me. I did. I did actually wish to ask you about Friends of Historic Forest Grove. If I remember correctly, you were a founding member? [Drew: Mhm.] Is that right? How did you get involved with Friends?

Carol Drew 1:30:57

You know, I don't know exactly how it happened. Morellis just live, you know, over here close. We were neighbors. And Marie Mather, who was very active for a long time, lived just right down by Central School. There were just a bunch of us who decided we needed to do something, you know, to preserve the old houses and preserve the information on them, basically. And so we got together and just started brainstorming, and Eric... what was his last name... he just lived over on the next block, and he was a great historian, he was wonderful with pictures, and Gladys Haynes was a university wife, lived over on the other side of town in an old house. And they're just just people drawn together by a love of history. And it's still, the same thing. Still works very well. The Blathering [i.e. Friends of Historic Forest Grove's Blathering Gathering weekly event] is fun. And I said to some of my kids when they were all here this last weekend, I said, "Well, I've got to get back to Blathering." And they, "What's Blathering?" I had to explain to them, you know what it was and why we do it, that we all learn from each other that way. [Griego: Yeah, exactly.] Yeah, but yeah. Would be really fun if someone could write a historical novel based here back, you know, when we started. That would be fantastic.

Elle Griego 1:32:42

Oh, I agree. Well, don't give me any ideas. That'd be cool.

Carol Drew 1:32:46

Yeah, it would. All the old houses involved, and the woman who built, well, she didn't build this house. A banker built this house across the street, but she lived there during her teen years, and then they built this one when she and her husband got married, but she lived over on Maple. There's a big house. I can't remember the color, but it's the big, old house on Maple. She lived there growing up, and she talked. She told me about walking to Central School. She said it was just through fields. And, you know, there'd be a house here, and houses on the corners. They settled first, the corner houses, on the block. But she said it was a lot of just open land. And I learned a lot from her. She would come over and talk to me about this house, what it looked like when they built it.

Elle Griego 1:33:51

What did you say her name was again?

Carol Drew 1:33:58

Faye...Louie Schultz.

Elle Griego 1:34:01

That name sounds familiar.

Carol Drew 1:34:03

Yeah. I've got a, kind of an old notebook that I've kept on the house. And my aunt was here just this weekend for Herb's service, and they lived in the house down across from the church in that big, it's an old Pacific Professor, Price House, is what it was called. And she bought me a notebook. I still have it here. I've got to get it down to the Friends. But of the changes that were made in that house, and they looked back at old pictures of it, and then recreated the original fireplace, tore out the modern one and put... [Griego: Restoration work, wow.] Yeah, and I helped her a lot on that house. We stripped the wallpaper and awful paint off walls, and did it really, it was looking very nice when they left. [Griego: Oh, I bet.] But yeah, so, and that was another corner house, it seems like the houses on the corners, the big one down here, good sized one here, you know, were all earlier, and then it filled in around. Now the developments, they're all built same day practically. You know, they just start one and build.

Elle Griego 1:35:30

Yeah, right. That's kind of insane to think about that change. I hadn't even thought about that. All the different houses, different years.

Carol Drew 1:35:35

There's no slow development going on. Yeah, it's quick, quick and in a hurry. But we live in a great part of town. I love it down here. I love the old trees and the fact that I can stand and watch all the kids go down to the snow hill. [Drew laughs.]

Elle Griego 1:35:57

It's a lovely house, a lovely neighborhood.

Carol Drew 1:35:58

Yeah, yeah. Very special. Well, golly, I don't want to keep you all afternoon, but you've done... I hope you got something you could use.

Elle Griego 1:36:09

Oh, definitely. This was such an insightful interview. Just so wonderful. I feel like I learned a lot. I'm so glad I had a chance to talk with you today. [Drew: Yeah.] Thank you very much!

Carol Drew 1:36:19

Well, my pleasure! My pleasure. Yeah, you'll have to edit out a lot of my...

Elle Griego 1:36:24

Oh, no, not at all. Thank you.