

## TUALATIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Taped interview of Joseph Galbreath /

by Alton Robbins - no date

Transcribed by Debi Hager - finished Feb. 28, 2000.

- 00 (AR) OK, today we're talking to Joseph Galbreath. Could you tell me, when did your parents come to this area?
- (JG) Well the book says 1852.
- (AR) Did they settle in this particular farm at that time or...?
- 27 (JG) No my Grandmother, uh, settled on the homestead over here and my Granddad...
- (AR) How, how far from here was the homestead?
- 40 (JG) Just across to the line.
- (AR) Oh, uh huh.
- (JG) But then we still, (my brother & I are ) part of the Cummins estate and my Grandpa Galbreath... Great Grandpa Galbreath settled in Tualatin. Which is now the city part and most of that stuff in there. park?
- 68 (AR) uh huh.
- (JG) By Peerless...
- (AR) Who was George and Bessie Galbreath to you? Were they your Grandparents?
- (JG) That was my Grandpa's (F) (brother).
- (AR) Oh, your Grandfather's brother.
- 80 (JG) Yeah.
- (AR) Uh huh. And it said that, uh, says that, uh, Jessie was, uh, John L. Smith's daughter? Is that the Smith that had the sawmill in Tualatin?
- 96 (JG) No that was Bessie.
- (AR) Yeah.
- (JG) See Bessie Galbreath, she married Don, Don Galbreath, which was my uncle.
- 108 (AR) He, he was your uncle.
- (JG) Yeah.

- (AR) Uh hum.
- (JG) In fact he was a...he was...his son was your coach at Tualatin.
- 117 (AR) Yeah, I had Don Galbreath in high school as a coach.
- (JG) Yeah.
- (AR) Yeah. So he was your what, cousin?
- (JG) Yeah.
- 124 (AR) Uh hum. Uh, how many, uh, children were there in your family?
- (JG) In my family?
- (AR) Yeah, how many brothers and sisters did you have?
- 136 (JG) I...John Galbreath was my Dad, and we had...there were 4 boys and, well there were 4 boys and 4 girls and the 5th boy was the oldest ( ) died at 3 years old.
- (AR) Are any of the rest of them still living?
- (JG) They're all living but my youngest brother. He got killed over on the highway. (Clear throat) ( J.. ) ran into him and killed him.
- 169 (AR) Uh hum. When they homesteaded this farm, do you remember how many acres there was in it?
- 177 (JG) (clear throat) No, I really don't. I've got uh, ( ) around somewhere signed by one of the presidents. That's the Cummins, no, the Galbreath estate in Tualatin; I don't have too much on that.
- (AR) Uh hum.
- (JG) The only thing I know where it was. It was still in the family owned by Lloyd Curtis up until his death.
- 201 (AR) Uh hum.
- (JG) Then it was divided up ( ).
- (AR) You say they came in 1852?
- (JG) Yeah.
- (AR) By wagon train?
- (JG) Yeah. My Grandfather, Joe was only 2....6 months old <sup>I think</sup> when they came across the plain.
- 218 (AR) That's interesting. My folks came here in 1853 by wagon train.

226 (JG) (clear throat) The story is that my Grandad's father...Samuel, they come out of Pennsylvania and went on to Iowa, and then they went to New Orleans and all got k... died in the cholera, but Grandpa's dad. Then he went over in Mexico, and, not Mexico but Texas, and helped S...Houston chase uh, Mexicans out there. And then he came back and married a ~~Byrd~~ ~~girl~~ and then they came to Oregon, in '52.

Uh huh

(AR) What was his wife's name?

266 (JG) You got me! I...If I'd have known it I'd have looked it up before.

(AR) I meant her family name, if you knew.

(JG) I think it was...I think she was one of the Byrds.

(AR) That's interesting, cuz I have some Byrds in my family history, too. I don't know if the same Byrds or not, but....

(JG) I got all the history of the ~~(Dade?)~~ <sup>Byrd</sup> family, too.

(AR) Yeah.

291 (JG) One of the Ford's looked it up.

(AR) Did you go to Grade School out here, or....

(JG) Yeah. (We were set in?) about 500 feet out.

(AR) Oh, is that right? The building was close to where we are now?

(JG) Yeah, right back there where that pile of brush is, and then they...well last year ( they finished up the new?... ) It's a steel plant now.

316 (AR) Yeah it's an office building now, isn't it?

(JG) Yeah.

(AR) Uh huh.

(JG) Yeah the fellows that took it over done a real nice job.

(AR) Yeah it's a nice looking building. <sup>You never</sup> You'd never know it's as old as it is. Did you ever know Art Casteel?

(JG) I've met, I knew who he was, yeah.

336 (AR) Cuz, see he was my uncle. He was born here in Cipole, someplace but I don't know sure just where. Charlie Casteel lived out here when he was born.

(JG) Well there wasn't too many places here.

(AR) Uh huh. Do you remember any of your neighbors, any of the people who

(AR) (cont.) lived out in this area at that time?

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(JG) Well, most of them were related or else they lived here. Cereghinos was here. They come about 1888. I guess it's somewhere in there. Then Coles. (clear throat) (Prior?) Cole married my cousin ( ). Their house is still standing over there. That's all. There wasn't too many people really here then.

(AR) What were the roads like when you lived out here? Were they....?

(JG) Same roads as we got now only they were gravel.

(AR) They were gravel, they weren't, uh, corduroy or anything like that?

(JG) No....I don't.....no.....gravel.

(AR) Uh huh.

(JG) No that's why I say, what the hell are we gonna do? Uh, they...hundreds of people moving in here, and the same roads as what there were 50-60 years ago. The only difference between them then and now is that they're blacktop.

421

(AR) Yeah.

(JG) That's all.

(AR) Uh huh. In your original home, what kind of heat did you have?

(JG) Wood.

(AR) Did you put in, uh...uh, gas or anything later?

(JG) No.

(AR) What kind of lights did you have?

(JG) Oh when I was a kid we had (coal?) lamp.

(AR) Kerosene lamp (coal lamp?).

445

(JG) Yeah. And then...and then when Yamhill Electric ran the electricity it didn't take everybody long to change over, I'll tell you that.

(AR) About when was that? Do you remember?

(JG) Well it was back when I was in the grade school, so it must have been in the '20's.

(AR) Yeah, I think that's when most of this area got electricity, in the '20's.

(JG) I've got a woodstove in the house, but I sure as hell don't burn wood in it. I've burned uh, Presto logs.

(AR) Oh yeah.

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(JG) God damn this wood business. (Chuckle) Used to go out, fall a tree, and buck it up, and then split it, then haul it down then they come in with the old wood saw and cut it up and then you'd have to ( ) it down and saw it in the basement.

(AR) Yeah.

(JG) And stack it up and split it, and pack it upstairs and....Good Lord!

(AR) Heck of a lot of work.

(JG) Yeah. Everybody talks about the good ole days. (chuckle) To hell with it as far as I'm concerned.

(AR) Now if you buy it, it's so darned expensive. My gosh it's 80-100 dollars a cord in some places.

(JG) Oh yeah!

(AR) For good, good dry wood.

503

(JG) I can get a unit of Presto logs that'll last me this long.

(AR) Yeah?

(JG) No fuss, no muss.

(AR) That's right. Do you remember your first automobile in the family?

(JG) Not really. It was on ole EMF. They used to call everyone who can fix it. I used to have a ( ) but I don't know where it's at anymore. I remember the Model T that they use to have. In fact that garage, you know you come in that garage they half tore down and stuff?

(AR) Yeah?

(JG) Well that's one my Dad built for his Model T.

(AR) Is that right?

(JG) Yeah, my nephew's living there and my sister.

(AR) Do you remember, Did your Model T, uh, uh, the front fender, was it square or was it round?

(JG) I don't remember.

(AR) The first one we had was square.

(JG) Yeah.

(AR) Then the next one about 3 years later was rounded. I know they made a difference. I think they changed them in '22 or something like that.

(JG) First car I ever owned was a....I wasn't 16 yet. I had a old Maxwell which is a forerunner of the Plymouth.

(AR) Yeah.

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(JG) If I had that I'd have a million dollars today.

(AR) Oh yeah, it'd be worth something.

(JG) Yeah.

(AR) My aunt and uncle had a Maxwell.

(JG) Yeah, I think in '25 they went to the Plymouth is when they....they just changed the name is all they did.

(AR) Yeah. Do you remember when you got the first radio?

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(JG) Yeah. First radio I ever saw was a crystal set.

(AR) That's right.

(JG) I think John Cereghino built it or something. And I remember we was all down there and listening, John was listening to the world series and then they announced what it was. Who was playing, I don't remember. I wasn't a hell of a lot interested in them then.

(AR) Had ea...earphones.

(JG) Yeah.

(AR) And you'd take your little deal and on the....

(JG) on the wire and move it till ya...

(AR) found the place on the crystal.

(JG) Yeah.

(AR) Yeah.

617

(JG) I'll bet every one of us has made one at some time or other.

(AR) Oh yeah, they were quite the thing when they first come out.

(JG) Yeah.

(AR) Ah,. Do you think, uh, recall anything else about your early life out here that...?

(JG) Hell the same as yours or anybody else. Hunted and fished and caught trout fish<sup>ns</sup> and...it's about all we had to do. (chuckle) Talk about the radio... I don't know why in the hell it made me think about it. A guy come down to sell Dad an Atwater (cannon?) ( ) he was showing ( )

He asked my mother, he said, "What do you think of it?" She said "Well you don't stand in one place (long enough to ~~left~~) what to think about it."

661 (AR) Had to experiment, huh?

(JG) Yeah.

(AR) Yeah. (noises) When....

(JG) Talk about airplane, you made me think of when I was a kid. Ed Rasmussen lived up here on the corner. Right by the railroad track, and his Dad and Mother went down to Long Beach. They used to go down there all the time in the summer time to the coast, and his Dad had 2 gallons of gas in the basement there. So Ed was quite a guy, 'n... He...him 'n... got acquainted with some guy in the, uh, airplane ( ) and ( ) landed at Grandad's field and they sprang a leak flying around down here with that plane 'n... ( ) his Dad's gasoline. I can still see old Ed out there, wing walking on that plane.

long blank

(AR) Yeah. When you're farm was first established out here, what did they raise? Onions at that time, or...?

(JG) Yeah, onions same as everybody. Onions, 'n grain and hay 'n horses, cattle.

(AR) Uh, where was the market for onions then mostly?

724 (JG) Far as I know, Portland.

(AR) Portland.

(JG) At one time this Sherwood or they called it this Sherwood area, which included Tualatin, Malloys, 'n Kenton, 'n Scholls, and stuff, was the leading onion producer in the state of Oregon, in here.

(AR) Yeah, I know it had a history for that.

(JG) Yeah.

(AR) Yeah.

(JG) In fact I got a newspaper around somewhere that tells about how many they shipped out in 1914 and stuff.

(AR) Don't they still raise onions out here?


751 (JG) Yeah. But not like they used to. No, the Scholls area's gone, Kenton area's gone. Uh, Malloy swamp, you know what that is now.

(AR) Yeah.

762

(JG) That in there. By the way (clear throat) Uncle Don dug most of them ditches over there, 'n he used to leave ~~Carton on the train~~ from Malloy station 'n he'd pack his dynamite 'n I was wondering why he had 2 lunch boxes 'n he told me he had somebody he was paying lunch for, and one of them was filled with dynamite. *CARLON*

(AR) Um, that right?

(JG) Yeah, He used to laugh. He said ( )  
He certainly did. He said ( )  
walk up to Malloy station in ~~Carton~~. *Carlton* 

(AR) Oh, that's right.

790

(phone rings)

(AR) You know where your father was born?

(JG) Born here.

(AR) He, he was born here?

(JG) Yeah.

(AR) Where was your mother born?

(JG) Uh, I think she was born up... you know, come to think of it, I can't quite think, I think she was born in Portland.

810

(AR) Least they were from Oregon here, they didn't.....

(JG) Oh yeah.

(AR) Yeah.

(JG) Yeah.

(AR) Uh hum.

(JG) Yeah.

(AR) Did you know your Grandparents pretty well?

(JG) I knew my Grandfathers real well.

(AR) Um hm.

(JG) In fact I used to run around with them all the time.....Yeah, Grandpa Joe and Grandpa Andrew.

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(AR) Um hm..... Uh, do you have any children?



(JG) Two. A boy and a girl.

(AR) How many grandchildren?

836 (JG) (to wife) How many grandkids we got?

(wife) Six.

(JG) Six. And 4 great-grandkids.

(mumbled and tape stops)

845 (JG) I said isn't it peculiar how times change? Uh, when you and I were kids, Sherwood was a... covered this whole community. They had two uh, real agencies, a grain elevator, movie theatre, hardware store, and grocery store.

(AR) Tannery.

(JG) Tannery, the whole works.

(AR) Uh, there was a leather shop, a tan, uh tanning ss....

(JG) Well that didn't come in 'till later.

(AR) Yeah.

867 (JG) But I mean when you and I were kids.

(AR) Yeah.

(JG) Things sure change. Now look at the difference.

(AR) You, you're just out of the city limits of Tualatin, aren't you?

(JG) Yeah, Cipole Road's the city limits.

(AR) It comes clear out to Cipole Road now, huh?

(JG) Yeah.

(AR) What are they... do you know what... any idea what they estimate the population is now? I've never heard.

886 (JG) I've never, either. Never really heard. In fact I got <sup>a...</sup> a deed there, uh, a receipt or something that (clear throat) when the railroad went through they put in a switch. They had to put in a switch in at Cipole station which is now in the Tualatin City limits. At uh, they had to put in a switch in there that would hold 3 box cars, and maintain it, and if they didn't do it, uh, they would have to forfeit uh, my Granddad 300 dollars in gold coin. So Southern Pacific owes me 300 dollars in gold coin. I'll show it to you after a while.

(AR) Why don't you try to collect?

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(JG) Oh, I don't know. I don't want.... I don't want my brother to get a hold of it. The one that's (a lawyer cuz he's gonna sure to try to collect ) I also have a piece of paper in there where ( \_\_\_\_\_ Curtis ) Galbreath was, was a ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Galbreath homestead in Tualatin down there sold the right of way to uh, Portland Railroad Company for the.... which is now the SP. I'll show that to you after a while.

(AR) Uh hum...Do you have any idea what the taxes were on this place originally when you homesteaded it?

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(JG) Well, I've got to say, that there was a woman that bought the old Galbreath homestead in Tualatin down there. And when tearing down the old house, she found my Grandfather's... Great-Grandfather's Army discharge. In the Texas Army or whatever it was. And she also found the tax statement on the place. Now I've asked 3 times of different people in Tualatin who knew her, and they all promised to get me a copy of my Grandad's.... Great-Grandad's discharge, but none of them ever followed through with it even the favors I did them.

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(AR) Have you always ran the farm? Or did you work out as a.....?

(JG) Oh, I've worked out. I've done a little bit of everything. I come back to farming in Forty...Forty-Five.

(AR) Do you remember the first job you ever had away from the farm?

(JG) It was farm work. So what ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) ?

(AR) Do you remember what you got paid?

(JG) I think I picked berries and got <sup>12?</sup> 4 bits.

(AR) I was talking to somebody the other day and my first job was grading onions down Nyberg's. I got 10c an hour.

(JG) Yeah. Uh...Really we all know from working the place that by God, you don't have time to work out.

(AR) That's it.

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(JG) Yeah.. (Tellya, before F ) Got mad and I took a job, and my cousin, driving truck at Salem for 2 dollars (laughing) 10 hours a day and room and board, which was pretty good money at that time.

(AR) Oh yeah.

(JG) Yeah.

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(AR) Did you ever raise any cattle?

(JG) Oh, a few.

(AR) Nothing, no milk cows or anything like that? Just beef cattle?

(JG) ( ) milk cows for 2 years, and that cured me of milking cows....yeah.

1052 (AR) How long have you been married?

(JG) 48....(to wife) ( ) this is our 48th year isn't it?

(wife) yeah.

(JG) 48 years.

(AR) Uh huh.

1062 (AR) I don't know if this will happen or not, but uh, this is going to the archives of the historical society and maybe, somewhere, sometime, somebody might want to write a history of this part of the country, 'n they may want to refer to your comments in their notes. Is that alright with you?

1074 (JG) Far as I'm concerned, I probably won't be around here. So it won't make a hell of a lot of difference.

1077 THE END