

# David R. Williams

SR 1206, Oral History, by Elizabeth M. Reichow  
United States District Court Oral History Project

**1991 December 16 - 1992 January 16**

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THE OREGON  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
FOUNDED 1898

WILLIAMS: David Rhys “Dave” Williams

ER: Elizabeth Marie Reichow

Transcribed by: Barbara Jo Ivey, 2006; Jennifer Powers, 2022

Audit/edit by: Christopher Wahlgren, 2006; Janice Dilg, 2007; Jennifer Powers, 2022

## **Tape 1, Side 1**

**1991 December 16**

ER: For the U.S. District Court of Oregon Historical Society and the Oregon Historical Society. This will begin with Mr. Williams’ early, early life.

[Tape stops]

This is Elizabeth Reichow recording, December 16th, 1991. This will be an interview with Attorney David R. Williams for the U.S. District Court of Oregon Historical Society.

[Tape stops]

Okay, just a minute. Let’s see. Alright, I’ve got Mr. Williams.

[Unidentified male]: You do?

ER: Yeah. Yeah. It has to be both of these down to do this.

[Unidentified male]: All right.

ER: Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Are we uh...

ER: Let's see, I wanted to know what your father was doing before he actively practiced law?

WILLIAMS: He worked for Star Sand Company, which was a sand and gravel aggregate company in the Portland area. I think he did that for a few months after he passed the bar, and took his exams. Two members of the same class with him, that I can recall, were, one was Aaron Frank, who he used to see all the time. I believe Aaron Frank was the youngest graduating person in the law school class. Another was Hawkins. I've got to think, who became a circuit judge. For some reason his first name escapes me right now. Martin Hawkins.

ER: Martin Hawkins.

WILLIAMS: [Hawkins] was an Olympic hurdler for the United States when he had been in college, so those are a couple of the more interesting fellows in his class.

ER: Where did your father take his college work?

WILLIAMS: Father took his college work at Pacific. This was Pacific College, which was in Newberg, [Oregon]. And then eventually, of course, he went to U of O [University of Oregon] Law School, which was here in Portland.

ER: Well, I didn't know that.

WILLIAMS: Yes it was. I believe it was in Portland until maybe almost the end of World War I, something like that.

ER: Oh, yeah. That was after I [best guess] was born. Then Mr. Williams, did you go to school right there in the [Ladd's] Addition someplace?

WILLIAMS: Yes. I went to Laurelhurst. This isn't [Ladd's] Addition.

ER: [Ladd's] Addition.

WILLIAMS: It isn't [Ladd's] Addition. It's Laurelhurst. It's the Ladd farm.

ER: The Ladd farm, okay.

WILLIAMS: And that is right near the Joan of Arc circle, 39th and Glisan and Burnside and all that.

ER: Oh right there. I love that Joan of Arc circle. Do you know who put that up?

WILLIAMS: I did know and right now it escapes me.

ER: We'll look it up and I'll add that in here.

WILLIAMS: Yeah, yeah. All right.

ER: And all of you children?

WILLIAMS: All four of us walked a block and a half to Laurelhurst Grammar School, which is still there. It's on Royal Court across 39th Street from where we lived, and a block and a half up the street.

ER: That's a lovely neighborhood. Was it always this nice and built up?

WILLIAMS: Well, yes. During the Depression, which was when I was going to grammar school, there were homes that were unfinished that were around and there were people that were in school with you and next thing you know they were gone. And that's part of the Depression.

ER: I remember very well.

WILLIAMS: Yeah. Yeah.

ER: All right then. Let's see. And tell me, while I have it right in here, I understood that your father participated in establishing the Oregon Bar? Did I hear that correctly?

WILLIAMS: No, not to my knowledge. I'm sure that he was active in all those things but I don't think if he did anything more than just be another member, it's something that I don't know.

ER: All right. How about their political affiliations – were they active?

WILLIAMS: Yes. My mother was a — you know Missouri, you may recall, kind of belonged to the South. And she had family members from her father's side that were from Virginia so she belonged to the United Daughters of Confederacy. And she was very much a liberal Democrat however, except on one issue, and that issue had to do with people of color. She had a kind of a typical Southern view of that. [She] was surprisingly conservative on that issue but very liberal on all others.

ER: That's interesting.

WILLIAMS: These ladies, including the mothers of many of my friends, would get together once a month in somebody's house and somebody would start the piano and they would sing Dixie.

ER: Dixie [Laughs] that's a wonderful memory. Did you pick up any of her attitudes as you grew up the four of you?

WILLIAMS: I'd say since my mother was, as I say, a liberal Democrat, my father was a middle of the road Republican and certainly wasn't very fond of F.D.R. [Franklin Delano Roosevelt]. And so, you know, they had differing political viewpoints and I think we all went our own different ways, kind of depending on how we felt about it.

ER: You had a house with opposing views and...

WILLIAMS: Oh yes. We did indeed and we had people who were able to articulate those views very quickly, my mother being a schoolteacher and my father being an attorney.

ER: The background of teacher and attorney helped you children grow with appreciation...

WILLIAMS: Yes it did indeed. My grandmother and my mother's sister, whose name was Elizabeth. My grandmother was Elizabeth Leonard and her daughter, who didn't marry, her name was Elizabeth also. They lived on 29th and Sandy in a large house where she had grown up and it wasn't far from us so we would go down there to see them once in a while. And I remember, you know, exchanging old tales because this grandmother had been around, you know, during the early part of the Civil War.

ER: Civil War. That's a long way back. And she would tell you about that?

WILLIAMS: Oh yes. Yes. She had people in her family that fought on both sides.

ER: Both sides?

WILLIAMS: Both sides, yeah.

ER: [Inaudible] heartbreak in that thing.

WILLIAMS: Yes it was.

ER: It's a wonderful family history you have.

WILLIAMS: It's different.

ER: Alright, tell me please about school. Did you — obviously you did very well in school. Did boys playing, running around the neighborhood, did you have — did you like your classes? What about teachers?

WILLIAMS: Well, I liked my classes. I think Laurelhurst, you would call it an upper middle class area generally, and fairly homogenous, and we really had, I think, a lot of advantages. My mother being a schoolteacher, as well as my aunt and my grandmother, they tended to kind of, let's say, prepare you for school. And as a result I started in what we called the one B, another words I didn't have to go through the first half of the first grade because I was...

ER: You were reading already.

WILLIAMS: Oh yes, I was reading. I was doing all kinds of things. And I later on skipped grades at differing times so that I graduated from Laurelhurst at age 12.

ER: And you were out of high school at 16?

WILLIAMS: Yes. My birthday's in the fall in September so I'm not 16 in college very long. Like a week.

ER: Where did you go to high school?

WILLIAMS: I went to Grant High School. And in our area about maybe a third of the people, the dividing line was up close to Burnside Street so about a third of those people went to Washington High School, all the rest went to Grant.

ER: Alright, and did you read constantly as a boy?

WILLIAMS: Yes, I read a lot.

ER: Do you remember what you were reading? Did you have the *Book of Knowledge*? Did you read...

WILLIAMS: We had many different things. Probably the time I did the most reading was my last year in Laurelhurst School when I was ill. I had rheumatic fever and I was in bed about half the year. I had a heart murmur and I wasn't suppose to get up and move around or do anything and I had just joined the Boy Scouts earlier that year and so I kind of worked my way through the Boy Scout Handbook and I got things all set up so that about within a year after than I'd become an Eagle Scout because I was all prepared to do it.

ER: Then you could get up and go.

WILLIAMS: Yeah. Yeah.

ER: Did your family go on vacations?

WILLIAMS: Oh yes. Most of our vacations took us to the coast [of Oregon]. Sometimes they took us to where my father had come from, which is the Long Beach peninsula and let's say Pacific County, Washington across from Astoria. But many times we stayed other places for the entire summer and they were on the Oregon coast. One [place was] Rockaway a couple of times and then another place down at Gleneden Beach.

ER: Did you do any mountain camping or anything?

WILLIAMS: The mountain camping and that sort of thing, that occurred with my father and his sons when they were old enough to do that. We'd go fishing, and sometimes hunting. Of course, the fishing was often in the mountains. That would happen about every two weeks in the summertime. We'd go...

ER: Were you up at Eagle Creek at anytime?

WILLIAMS: We've been to Eagle Creek. We've been right across at Wind River, in Washington right across — you go across the old Bridge of the Gods.

ER: Did you get up to Wallowa at any time?

WILLIAMS: I have been to Wallowa, but it was later on.

ER: Many of the things you say correspond to what I remember.



WILLIAMS: Yeah, much, much, much later we went there. I've driven to Burns and back with my father when he had a lawsuit to try there and that's the first time I'd seen a lot of eastern Oregon and it was a very different...

ER: So different...

WILLIAMS: Yeah, very different country.

ER: Can't believe it's same state. Now tell me, please, your brother and sisters.

WILLIAMS: Alright. The oldest person in our family is my sister. Her name is Margaret. Her [last] name is Parker now and she's married and lives in Anchorage, Alaska. Where she's lived for many years, and her husband and children are close by there.

The next oldest would be my brother John D. Junior, who was in law school in 1941 during Pearl Harbor and immediately thereafter volunteered for the Air Force. [He] went in and became a B17 pilot and was killed over Naples in Italy in June 1943.

The next one in order is myself and then – my [older] brother was about a year, and not quite two years older than I. Then my younger brother, who was almost four years younger than I, was born in 1927.

ER: So it's the three boys and one girl?

WILLIAMS: Three boys and one girl. Right.

ER: And next on this is the impact of World War II. Obviously your brother was the big impact.

WILLIAMS: Yes, it was and, of course, my own service is not without some excitement.

ER: And tell me about that.

WILLIAMS: Well, I was in an all-volunteer outfit of mountaineers called the 10th Mountain Division. It was the only mountain division in the U.S. Army. The Germans had, I believe, 12 or 13 mountain divisions. Perhaps because of the topography of Europe. That had never been done much in the United States and so I was in the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, which ran heavily to volunteers from the northern tier of states, going Oregon, Washington, all the way across to New England.

ER: Was this also a skiing...

WILLIAMS: Oh yes, oh yes, oh yes, it was skiing. Oh, it was indeed.

ER: Oh that's very wonderful.

WILLIAMS: Skiing and rock climbing and snowshoeing and mule-packing at high altitudes.

ER: Wonderfully strong people to do that.

WILLIAMS: Yeah. Well it takes...

ER: And exciting.

WILLIAMS: Well you had to exist out in the—and sleep over night on top of [Laughs] mountains that are 14 thousand feet and it would be 40 [degrees Fahrenheit] below. And we had the equipment and we would be inside in a mountain tent, which would take two people. About all you'd do to get ready to go to sleep would be to take off your boots and put them in between the layers of your double sleeping bag.

ER: So they wouldn't freeze up?

WILLIAMS: So they wouldn't freeze up and you'd go to sleep and you'd wake up in the morning with maybe two feet of snow on top of everything and a hole where your breath had melted it up.

ER: Wasn't that wonderful though – you knew you were training for. Wasn't that wonderful?

WILLIAMS: Well, it was interesting. The training and the reality of combat in Italy were, of course, quite different.

ER: You were active then. You moved into....

WILLIAMS: Yes, well what the difference is, of course, in Colorado where we trained primarily, the elevation of camp was 9800 feet.

And then we'd climb these mountains around there and go on maneuvers. Well [in] Italy the mountains aren't anywhere near that high and so our use in Italy — we came into the war fairly late. We landed in Naples. The ship we came across on the *SS United States*, which was a passenger liner. It was rigged to take troops over to Europe, and so it had six-inch deck guns and a marine gun crew on it and it was filled with our division. The only time we had escorts was going through Gibraltar.

And then we went to Naples and landed and got up, got an L.C.I. [Landing Craft Infantry] and went to approximately 350 miles north to Leghorn or Livorno, and landed there and then almost within a week or so we were up in alliance, taking Mount Belvedere and some other places.

ER: So you did do some active service [Inaudible]...

WILLIAMS: The division fought, I would say, with great distinction. It suffered more casualties for the amount of time they were in action, which I think it's about 120 days, than any other outfit in the war.

ER: That is sad.

WILLIAMS: But it's because we were being used for, you know, for our spear heading purposes. The other units were tired and they had fought their way up there and taken their own casualties and they used us a lot for that purpose and so that's what happened.

ER: How many months were you over there in active duty?

WILLIAMS: Well I was there from just before, in late, very, very late, 1944 to the end of the war, which is in May 1945.

ER: That's enough. That's enough. Glad to get home. And have you kept skiing? Have you kept...

WILLIAMS: Oh yes.

ER: Do you still meet with some of the men that you trained with?

WILLIAMS: Yes. We have a 10th Mountain Division Alumni Association just right here and of course we do all over the country. But we have one here and they meet the last Thursday of every month at the River Queen Restaurant, for lunch.

ER: Oh, that's great. [Laughs] That's wonderful.

Tell me, were you married when you went into service?

WILLIAMS: No, I think I was 19. I was a junior in college.

ER: You were a junior in Reed, then you...

WILLIAMS: No.

ER: No?

WILLIAMS: I was a junior at Stanford.

ER: Oh at Stanford.

WILLIAMS: I went to Reed my freshman year of college. But just my freshman year.

ER: Then did your parents realize where they'd put you? [Both laugh]

WILLIAMS: I think they realized by then. I think they realized by then.

ER: Well that's wonderful. Now let me see, what have I got here? Did you work at all, before you went...?

WILLIAMS: Yes. When I was in high school I worked for a building contractor, a house builder, whose name was Inor Olson, an old Swedish friend of my dad's, and I worked as a carpenter's helper and I got about 60 or 70 cents an hour, this would be in the late 1930s.

ER: That's good money.

WILLIAMS: It wasn't bad then. My brother and I had a paper route in Laurelhurst. It was really his, but I helped him on it, and we were considered really entrepreneurs to have that because you could buy and sell a paper route for about \$40.

ER: [Laughs] Tell me about high school. Was there anything special? Athletics? Teachers?

WILLIAMS: Well, athletics, I was interested in. I had just gotten over, well you know, to the extent that you do, rheumatic fever and my doctor told my parents that their son would always be badlyh, let's say, diminished in physical activity and so the first thing I did when I got to high school is I signed up for cross country racing, or running.

And I'd always been a good runner but I had never done any long distance running and they had that at Grant [High School]. And you'd go out and you'd run around—you'd start [at] Hill Military and you went up around Rocky Butte and then you come down again. A typical race is about two and a half miles.

ER: And this is what built you up enough so that when you went into service...?

WILLIAMS: Yep. Yes it did.

ER: Yep. For the boy who could never be active again. Alright now, let's put on here about going to Reed because that's interesting.

WILLIAMS: Alright sure. I went to Reed. I wanted to go to Stanford and my parents thought that I was pretty young. I was only 16 and that I should start closer to home where they could kind of keep an eye on me. So I went to Reed College and met some very interesting people that I run into from time-to-time still.

There were at least five people like me, that I can remember, who went to Reed because their parents wanted them to stay closer to home [Laughs]. And they usually only stayed a year or two at the most.

ER: Until the parents realized [Laughs].

WILLIAMS: But it think even though I was kind of not that pleased about going to Reed at first, I think in retrospect I learned more that one year than I learned at any one year in college any place.

ER: The opposites [Inaudible].

WILLIAMS: The reading assignments were rather extensive. Everybody had to take Western Civilization and take a science and you had to pass a qualifying exam in either French or German. Well I took French, not having had any before. I can remember one of my teachers, let's see. Her husband had been the, I think the president of Reed until he had died not before that — Mrs. Schultz. To think of her first name — she had a son whose name was Jerry Schultz who was in my class. And she taught Western Civ. They used to say we were all strained through a western sieve.

ER: Ah, that's [Inaudible].

WILLIAMS: I played football for Reed. I was their second biggest football player. I played defensive end and offensive tackle because they didn't have contact lenses then and so I had to play without glasses. That meant that I couldn't catch passes or [ER laughs] but I could catch people.

ER: People. How did you choose Stanford? You had wanted it and...

WILLIAMS: I had wanted to go to Stanford before. I had many friends from Portland who were there and so I went there after [attending Reed College].

ER: Alright. How about your influential professors at Stanford? Who would—did any of them, any particular one?

WILLIAMS: Well there were several. I was interested in several things in particular. There's a man whose name was Shaw, who was a professor of economics, who I was particularly fond of. Most professors taught Keynesian doctrines of economics, and Lord Maynard Keynes, most people, let's say old timers, know who he was and he basically is the father of, let's say, hands-on government, you know controls the economic things and does everything.

That's just a reverse of what you might call laissez faire economics. And at any rate, Professor Shaw, he taught everything. He taught every school of economics that ever existed, and said what he thought fairly about all of them and I thought he was a very interesting man. Very interesting man.

I liked doing that. I was on the Reed ski team. I was also on the Stanford ski team.

ER: You had a wonderful life. Mr. Strassmaier said something to me that I don't understand but I'm going to ask you.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

ER: That a new jurisprudence came out of Chicago in the 1930s, maybe late 1930s, 1940s, a difference in thought, went into Yale and he wondered — he said I should ask you if you found that at Stanford? That instead of cases being decided on precedence you could always go back and find something back and bring it up, that it came to more of a recognition of a different kind of justice.



WILLIAMS: Well, we're now — you have to shift me up till after the war because I'm not in law school yet this point.

ER: Alright. Then let's stop that. We'll get to that later.

WILLIAMS: You see what I am saying?

ER: Yes, I do. Alright. And you went through — you didn't work and you didn't have to work your way through any of these things. You had time to study and be a young man.

WILLIAMS: I didn't work going to school after the war. Until I went in service I worked on and off all the time. Just to give myself extra spending money, whatever.

ER: Have you used the building trades since you...

WILLIAMS: Oh yes. I have, or I had, a card you know in the International Carpenters and Joiners Union. [ER laughs] Yeah, I was a carpenter.

ER: Have you had any union work in your practice? I'll digress here a minute.

WILLIAMS: Oh, some but as I say, they were building wartime housing for war workers in 1941 and 1942 and I worked for — doing that in Vancouver, Washington, an outfit called [Haddock?] Construction Company. So I worked as a carpenter there, and I worked for Willamette Iron and Steel for a while, you know, doing ship's carpentry work.

ER: When the shipyards were active here?

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

ER: Vanport.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

ER: Do you remember Vanport?

WILLIAMS: Oh yes, very well.

ER: Alright. Let's see. Were there any books, magazines or journals that interested you particularly in law school?

WILLIAMS: In law school?

ER: [Yes].

WILLIAMS: Well, your reading assignments are fairly heavy in law school and I can't remember any outside things that I was, you know, in other words, other than what was required, that I was particularly fascinated by. I've always been interested a little bit in, you know, in the business affairs and the stock market and all that, so I kept up on those things then.

ER: While we're finishing with your, you know, this personal history, when did you marry, please?

WILLIAMS: I got married in June 1948.

ER: 1948. And your wife, her name?

WILLIAMS: Her name was Donna Rockwell.

ER: Donna Rockwell. Donna Rockwell Williams.

WILLIAMS: Donna was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota but her family moved to Hoquiam, Washington, which is where she lived. And she was in nurses training at Good Samaritan Hospital in 1945, when I got out of the service and I met her. She had a roommate that was going with a good friend of mine who was a pre-med student.

ER: That's wonderful. Alright. Let's see. How much time do you have?

WILLIAMS: Oh I'm okay for...

ER: You've got another five minutes?

WILLIAMS: Oh sure. Sure.

ER: Alright. And your personal outlook on life, when we go back to that family in Ilwaco, [Washington], and your father. Is this where your strength came from do you think?

WILLIAMS: Well, some of both. I think all of, let's say, the children in my family would say there's an awful lot that came from our mother because she, you know...

ER: Strong Southern woman.

WILLIAMS: She was a strong Southern woman. She had firm beliefs about things but she was really perfectly fair. She also belonged to the, let's see, the Daughters — wait a minute, the D.A.R. The Daughters of the American Revolution because her father had lived in, or I should say her father's family, was in Virginia way before the Revolution.

ER: That's a wonderful history.

WILLIAMS: By this time my grandmother had died and my aunt was living with us and my aunt, Aunt Betty Elizabeth, was very skillful in [Laughs], French, German, and Latin. She still remembered them from having studied all of them in college and having taught for a number of years. She lived in her home at this time and she was a very helpful person. All of those people were.

ER: All those marvelous people. Was your mother a true Southern lady?

WILLIAMS: I would say not. Really, she wasn't any "steel magnolia" [both laugh] because she didn't come from the old South, she came from a, kind of a border state. A border state where there's some loyalties going both ways and so I would say she would not quite be — and a lot of her young life was I think, her family moved out here right about the turn of the [20th?] century so she'd lived here for quite awhile.

ER: Alright. It's very, very interesting. Are you remembering things that I'm not asking that you would like on this?

WILLIAMS: Oh, you know...

ER: It's interesting.

WILLIAMS: I can't think of everything. Father Tom, whom you had mentioned is, of course, a great friend. I saw him — His, let's see, this would be his cousin, who was a four-star admiral in the Navy, died just about two months ago, down at the beach. He was retired and lived there. And so I saw him then. I hadn't seen him for quite awhile. He was the Jesuit priest in the family. My younger brother Evan was an Episcopal priest in Southern California.

ER: Your family's geared to service.

WILLIAMS: Yes. Yes.

ER: Very much so. Well, I thank you.

WILLIAMS: Well, you're most welcome.

**[End of Tape 1, Side 1]  
[Tape 1, Side 2 BLANK]**

**Tape 2, Side 1**  
**1992 January 16**

ER: January 16th, 1992, a continuing interview with David R. Williams, attorney for the U.S. District Court of Oregon.

[Tape stops]

We go when you talk.

WILLIAMS: Oh, okay. Alright. Yeah. That's fine.

ER: Is it going?

WILLIAMS: Yes it is. Yeah, it's moving.

Well the thing is, I went to Laurelhurst Grammar School and it's still there on Royal Court where it was. It's about four blocks from Providence Hospital. Laurelhurst is a fairly large district. It goes from, really basically from Laurelhurst Park or a little bit beyond that, down to Sandy Boulevard in general, and over to Burnside [Street]. And it had been the Ladd farm and my parents bought a lot at sometime earlier and had a house built on it in 19 – about six months before I was born. So I always knew the area. I knew it quite well.

[I] stayed there all the time through grammar school and high school and we had many people coming and going during those Depression years. There were hardly any new homes built during the Depression years, hardly any at all. I can remember when there were some built in the 1920s. There would be a new house being built on the block and we'd always go and climb around new houses. That sort of stopped about in 1929, or 1930. There were a few extremely wealthy families that sent children to Laurelhurst Grammar School. I remember a couple of them. They came from an area over by Laurelhurst Park that were, you know, really mansions [Laughs]. And they sent them – Chauffeurs brought [children] there in cars, you know, in limousines and dropped them off and picked them

up. That ended rather abruptly [Laughs] sometime in the low 1930s. Everybody kind of retrenched, and people lost jobs.

Somebody that lived next door to us with children our age, the gentleman was an architect and apparently there was no work at that time and so he sold his house and moved. There were people—the area instead of being kind of stable in population became kind of fluid because of the financial problems that people were having.

I remember also that the Williams' were a family of four children and the spread between our ages (the oldest, my sister to the youngest, my younger brother) was, I guess, about seven or eight years, something like that. During the Depression it was unusual to see a family with a lot of children. May be that they stayed home but if we would go to a restaurant, we were kind of considered to be an oddity because all those children were there and they had fewer families with a lot of children during that time.

That's one of the things I can recall very much. I remember people in my class would just, they just wouldn't show up and you didn't see them anymore and somebody would tell you that they moved. And that's all I can remember of the Depression.

My grandmother lived in a house on a large lot on 29<sup>th</sup> and Sandy Boulevard. It had some big fruit trees that my brother and I used to climb and jump from tree to tree on up at about 40 feet in the air, which we thought was a lot of fun. I remember that President [Franklin Delano] Roosevelt came to Portland<sup>1</sup>, and I think it's about in 1934 or 1935 and his motorcade came in an open car and it went up Sandy Boulevard from downtown, so I got up in the upstairs porch. They had a third floor porch in my grandmother's house. Everybody in the house was there. We were all watching down as F.D.R. [Franklin Delano Roosevelt] drove by in his motorcade and I can remember seeing him turn and wave and all that to everybody, which he was doing as he went along. That's just exactly the impression you had is one of a consummate Eastern politician [Laughs]. It was a kind of a patrician looking individual, which he was.

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<sup>1</sup> As reported by *The Oregonian*, Franklin Delano Roosevelt visited Oregon on three occasions while he was president; first in 1934, again in 1937, and a final trip in 1942.

[https://www.oregonlive.com/history/2015/05/past\\_tense\\_oregon\\_presidents\\_h.html](https://www.oregonlive.com/history/2015/05/past_tense_oregon_presidents_h.html)

I remember my dad took me to some kind of a chamber of commerce lunch one time and the guest speaker there was Jimmy Roosevelt. I believe that he's the oldest son of the president if I recall correctly.

ER: Did he live in Seattle for a while? One of the Roosevelts...

WILLIAMS: I cannot recall that, but he looked a little bit like the president. He was tall than that, however. And the other thing is that he spoke very much like F.D.R. did.

And in our family my mother was kind of a doctrinaire Democrat and my father was a, I'd say moderate Republican would correctly describe him. He was at one time, a little later on, he shared law offices with a gentleman who was a U.S. Congressman from Portland whose name was Homer D. Angell. He was a good friend of ours. He and his wife, who had been a legal secretary in their office after Mr. Angell's first wife had passed away and then he married again. He married Margaret Clagget who was one of the legal secretaries in the office. They were good friends of the Williams' and we would see them from time to time.

Mr. Angell, Congressman Angell, was going to see if he could get me an appointment to West Point when I was in the service after my older brother had been killed. He made considerable inquiries and I guess he got it all set up but they wouldn't accept anybody with vision as bad as mine. I was about 22/100 at that time and they would take you about 20/50 or 20/60, but they had all the people they wanted that had good vision so they didn't have to...

ER: As you look back now, your 10th Mountain Division possibly has meant far more.

WILLIAMS: Well, it probably meant more to me, yes. That's true. But it was infinitely more dangerous than being in the U.S. Military Academy during the war, so. [Laughs]

ER: There are two sides to that.



WILLIAMS: That's right. That's right. My cousin, John G. Williams, who just died last fall, was a four-star admiral and he was in the same class in Annapolis<sup>2</sup> with Jimmy Carter. He lived down in Ilwaco, Washington, down the beach there. He was in Annapolis during the war, so we always used to kid him about being a slacker, you know [Both laugh]. He was in the submarines with Admiral Rickover, he was one of the early officers in the nuclear submarine program.

ER: When Roosevelt...

[Tape skips]

WILLIAMS: I think they were — my thought is that they had already started. I think some of them had. I'm sure that — well I remember the Work Progress Administration, the W.P.A. and the P.W.A. [Public Works Administration] and of course the Social Security system and various other things had already—some of them had started, some of them weren't fully funded because initially, I believe, that [The United States] congress had a substantial amount of Republicans in it and Roosevelt didn't have his own way for his first couple of terms, I think. Later on, he built up a democratic majority, and then he had more programs going.

ER: Will you comment, what was it your father so [Inaudible]...

WILLIAMS: I think that [President Roosevelt's] broad Eastern accent and his patrician manner perhaps irritated my father who came from perhaps more humble surroundings than that. [President Roosevelt] seemed to him and to many people and many Oregonians that [President Roosevelt] was kind of sort of talking down to the rest of the people. And

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<sup>2</sup> The United States Naval Academy is located in Annapolis, Maryland.

[President Roosevelt] had fireside chats that we would listen to on the radio every once in a while and my father would sometimes sort of imitate the President in a humorous sort of way. [Both laugh]

ER: He'd poke fun?

WILLIAMS: Yeah. He was not that impressed and, of course, as a lawyer he was unimpressed when [President] Roosevelt tried to, well pack the court so to speak, to increase the numbers of courts so he could have more appointments so he could get what he wanted.

And those were things that would be — I guess they probably wouldn't be irritating to a doctrinaire Democrat lawyer but they were to a moderate Republican lawyer.

ER: Alright. And we want to know please, did Margaret — she was the only girl in the house, the only daughter.

WILLIAMS: Yes.

ER: Did she play with the boys?

WILLIAMS: Yes. Margaret, I think I've told you before, my parents were married a long time and decided they wouldn't have any children so they adopted a child. That's my sister Margaret. Then they had three boys that landed on them when they were in their 40s, all of them. So it was a little [Laughs] — the circumstances kept their hands full because they had been married a long time and suddenly they had a house full of children. So it was different.

They belonged to a Welsh society that we would all go to and meet these people, including Mr. Roberts, who was the owner, he and his brothers were the owners, of Roberts Brothers, which was largely a furniture store and other general department store

merchandise, on Third and Morrison Street, southwest. And many of the Welsh people – he employed a lot of Welsh people and so many of them were employees at the store. We would see them at these Cambrian society meetings. Cambria means Wales in Welsh. C-A-M-B-R-I-A.

ER: Did anyone speak Welsh?

WILLIAMS: Oh many of those people did. I was taught to sing Welsh songs and I think I can perhaps remember them right now, but I sang maybe 15 or 20 of them. All of the people in our family were expected to be musical.

ER: You sang?

WILLIAMS: We sang and we played piano and my brother played violin and when we were in high school we both played a little bit in orchestras for dances and things like that. So we had a lot of interest in that.

ER: And then you have continued with the Welsh society yourself?

WILLIAMS: Oh I haven't in the last – oh I guess following the death of my parents in the 1960's I probably haven't and I think that the Welsh society is probably less of a factor in Portland than it was then. They still have the meetings at the Welsh church out at, I think they call it Bryn Seion is the name of it but it's in Beaver Creek, Oregon out behind Oregon City.

ER: I remember that and the Sunday singing.

WILLIAMS: I sang with a group later on when I became a lawyer that was really started by another lawyer that I knew whose name was Jim [Biorgi?] and they were called The

Bohemians and many people have heard us sing at different places. It's 13 men singing a cappella. I sang second bass. I really was a baritone, but I sang second bass because I was a heavy smoker and that lowers your voice several notes. When I quit smoking about, oh 12, 15 years ago my voice went right back up to where it had been before and I lost the lower part of the register and picked up on top.

ER: I have never heard that there were only 13 men in there.

WILLIAMS: Always. There were a different 13 from time to time, but it was exactly 13.

ER: Anyone who has heard that [Inaudible] remembers...

WILLIAMS: Well I persuaded them to sing a couple Welsh songs, which they did and, of course, we sang all kinds of things in all different languages, yodels and things like that.

ER: How many of the group, when you were active...

[Tape skips]

WILLIAMS: We get together on kind of a reunion bases about once every two years. I think the last time we had a formal thing was they had a big anniversary celebration of some sort at Timberline [Lodge], and we went up. It was about four years ago, the more I think about it. We sang at Timberline for that big program. The members were heavy to doctors and lawyers. It seems to me like they had two, well, three lawyers and about four or five doctors. Several of them are around; several of them have died surprisingly enough. There were some teachers among them too.

ER: Men who had cultivated tastes and while they were learning their...

WILLIAMS: Many of them had gone to Grant High School and they had quite a strong youth program at Grant High School. There was a teacher whose name was named Jean Acorn. I think she later got married and became Jean [Vansle?], but she really carried a lot of people along with her in the music program. Many of these people had gone to Grant High School and Jim [Biorgi?], who's kind of the starter and leader of the group, knew many of them, particularly the ones that were younger because Jim was younger than I too.

ER: Do you specifically...

[Tape skips]

ER: I was at Jefferson [High School] and Hopkin Jenkins<sup>3</sup> and the teachers...

WILLIAMS: Hopkin Jenkins was a Welshman as you may know and he belonged to the Cambrian society. We'd see him all the time. He was sort of an archetype of a Welshman, a tiny little man and spoke with a considerable Welsh accent.

ER: I'm glad you knew that, thank you. [Laughs].

WILLIAMS: Yes. Oh yes, I knew Hopkin Jenkins very well.

ER: Alright, let's see. Margaret did she learn to be a lady?

WILLIAMS: She did. To cook and sew and do things like that. We'd go down to my grandmother's house, which we could walk to. It wasn't that far away. And she would teach Margaret some things that her mother hadn't taught her, about baking pies, or maybe something like that.

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<sup>3</sup> Hopkin Jenkins was the principal of Jefferson high school from its opening in September of 1908 until June of 1940. [https://library2.up.edu/theses/1950\\_poliche.pdf](https://library2.up.edu/theses/1950_poliche.pdf)

ER: It's a good childhood. Now when...

[Tape skips]

WILLIAMS: Oh yes, you had to. You put your finger on it. We were all going to be called in. When I went up to Fort Lewis in the spring of 1943, I had just finished two thirds of my junior year in college at Stanford. And in Fort Lewis<sup>4</sup>, which was the reception center, I saw probably 50 people that I knew from Stanford that were all going different directions, people going to Navy, sometimes. Actually, that's right, it's Army only at Fort Lewis, but they were going into different branches and so they were there.

To get into the 10th Mountain Division you had to have two letters of recommendation from people that were recognized as authorities on skiing or mountaineering or something like that and I knew people like that. I'd worked up at Mount Hood and you know, skied and worked on ski tows up there, so I didn't have any problem getting those recommendations.

ER: We would like more on Mount Hood at that time.

WILLIAMS: Alright. I think the first time I went to Mount Hood, my father had told me that that he had climbed Mount Hood in about, I think he said 1914 or 1915 and he said he went up with a group of people that were Mazamas<sup>5</sup>, I believe. He said he just wore just regular, you know outdoor hiking boots and they just simply walked up the south side of the mountain in the summertime. And he said there was really nothing to it. It was quite easy.

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<sup>4</sup> Fort Lewis was a United States Army post built in 1917 near Tacoma, Washington. Fort Lewis was merged with McChord Air Force Base in 2010 to form Joint Base Lewis–McChord.

<https://home.army.mil/lewis-mcchord/index.php/about/history>

<sup>5</sup> The Mazamas is a mountaineering organization founded in 1894 and based in Portland, Oregon.

<https://mazamas.org/about/>

And I can remember when I was in high school I went up with a group of people that were at Reed College. And they were encouraging people to – I think it was the Wy'East organization. They were encouraging people to go up the northeast side, which went from—you took the road around Mount Hood like you're going to go to Hood River and then you got in the northeast corner and you went up to, oh I can't think of the name of the lodge. They have a lodge there. Last I knew it was still there. Immediately above the lodge the glaciers start and we climbed. Of course we were roped together because in the glaciers there often are snow bridges over big chasms and if you drop in there you can go down hundreds of feet, you know. So we were roped together and we had crampons.

ER: How old were you, 16?

WILLIAMS: Yeah, or 15. No, younger than that, maybe 13 or 14, yeah. See I started college when I was 16. Yeah. So I would have been younger, a couple of years younger.

ER: Did you do that more than once?

WILLIAMS: That's the only time that I climbed Mount Hood and it was up that side. Elliot Glacier is the name of the glacier but I can't think of the name — there's a lodge right below it and it's been there a long time. I don't know if it's still in existence or not but it's...

ER: I've been up to Lost Lake. I know Lost Lake [Inaudible].

WILLIAMS: Well this is way around, you're way around – You're on the Mount Hood loop road going to Hood River. And then you turn off and go right up like that.

ER: Are they still using that route to do this?

WILLIAMS: Near as I know, everything is as it was. It's probably used as a fire road if there was nothing else there.

Then my Boy Scout troop, I was in troop 103, which met at Laurelhurst School and had my older brother in it and myself and many people that I see from time to time even now. We went up to Mount Hood I think in the, I'm trying to think the first time I would have gone was when I — I had to wait an awful long time to get in the Boy Scouts because you had to be 12 and I was, after all, I started high school when I was 12 [Both laugh]. I was in the eighth grade and we went up to somebody's cabin that was at Rhododendron. In other words, one of the troops — and they took the whole troop up there. We stayed there and then we went up to Government Camp and threw snowballs at each other and that's about all we did.

Maybe two years after that, I went with two good friends, who I still see. We had to pay — we stayed up at Mount Hood at a lodge that was arranged for by the Boy Scouts, the regional area of Boy Scouts and it was expensive. It cost like about 14 dollars for the week, I think. But you had to pay extra and that gave you food and board for a week. George Wallace and "Chuck" Charlie Wentworth and I were the three that went up. We skied. Initially we skied at a place they called Red Devil, which is now called Summit. And then, we went up to Timberline and they had a truck that they took us around in. So we got to Timberline and the lodge was being built but it wasn't open or anything. A little bit of it was open I think, but largely you just kind of stayed in big snow sheds that they had there that they put equipment in, you know, snow plows and things like that because that's all that was there. The skiing was better there. The snow was drier and there's a little more slope. They had a portable tow that was at a place they called Otto Lang Hill and that's immediately up the hill from the lodge. And it was just a motor that was attached to a toboggan and they put a pulley on the other end. An endless rope would pull people up about, oh maybe 100 yards, something like that.

I noticed that there was a fellow there that was giving skiing lessons. And we had rented skies to go up there. I think we'd rented them from the Mountain Shop. They didn't cost very much. And so I had some money because my brother and I had a paper route in



Laurelhurst and that made us capitalists and I took a lesson from this man whose—I can't think of his last name right now. At any rate, he taught me how to stem turn, that's the way people started to ski, and then a little bit of stem christie. I imparted my knowledge to my friends Wallace and Wentworth, so they kind of learned what I had learned and we've all skied a lot ever since.

ER: That's wonderful. Do you remember parking in the lot?

WILLIAMS: Yes. Oh yes.

ER: No people [Laughs] [Inaudible].

WILLIAMS: Oh yes. There really were beginning to be crowds just kind of about the time the war was breaking out, because the lodge was up there and people would come up to see the lodge. They'd just come and park and they'd go up and wander through the lodge, you know, looking at the high ceilings and the fireplace and all that. Sometimes they would take the chair all the way up from Timberline up to — I'm trying to think of the name, what they call the upper end of it. But anyway, they'd get off and look around there a little bit then get on the chair and ride back down again.

ER: Summertime visitors in the wintertime.

WILLIAMS: No, they did that in the winter too.

ER: They did that in the winter too.

WILLIAMS: Yeah, yeah.

ER: Okay. And then...

[Tape skips]

WILLIAMS: And the reason was that my brother, who was a year ahead of me in school, was at University of Oregon. My sister was at Oregon State [University] and they thought that Corvallis and Eugene were quite a long ways away for a 16-year-old college freshman to be from home. They thought it might be a little better to keep me under a little more parental scrutiny for a least a year or so. So they told me I should apply for entrance to Reed and I did and was admitted. They thought that, that way I could avoid some of the, let's say, distracting influences that can be found at those iniquitous places like Eugene and Corvallis, but the reality was that Reed was a much wilder place than Oregon or Oregon State [University] ever thought of being. I sometimes tell my friends that I may have been the only Republican at Reed as far as I know. I never heard anybody else admit being a Republican. But, in addition to that, there weren't very many Democrats either. They were way to the left of that. So was most of the faculty, with some exceptions, of course.

One of my instructors was a Mrs. Scholz who had been the – she was the widow of a president of the college. She had a son whose name was Jerry who was in several of my classes at Reed. He was in the same class with me. They had a couple of older brothers too. There was Mrs. Scholz and then these three boys that were all at Reed at the same time. And Mrs. Scholz eventually remarried to Mr. E.B. MacNaughton. And I think she passed away rather recently, but interesting. She taught history. Every freshman at Reed, they used to say, was strained through a “western sieve.” You had to take Western Civilization, which is what she taught.

I learned more in my year at Reed than I did in any one year at college or school anyplace. Because of the homework; there was lots of work for you to do and it wasn't easy. Maybe part of it – I didn't get particularly good—I'd always had pretty good grades but I didn't get particularly good grades at Reed. I was, oh C plus to B, B minus, something like that and there were other people that were there that were brilliant and were very motivated. [Laughs]

ER: They challenged your mind.

WILLIAMS: Yes. The competitive element was very strong there. There were all kinds of people. There was one fellow that was a freshman with me and he was a pro-German. And he thought that Hitler had the right idea and should win the war. When I told my father about this, he wanted to find him so he could beat him to a pulp because he couldn't imagine – My father being a kind of a Anglophile really never had any trust in the Germans. It was still World War I to him and he had no use for Mussolini or Hitler at all.

ER: Was it possibly, that they...

[Tape skips]

Parts of it maybe.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

ER: But was it – Why did people think that there could possibly be...

WILLIAMS: I don't know. I think that — we have to remember, in our country we think it's primarily Anglo-Saxon but there's a very considerable population of Germans too. And they were here in Portland and they used to have some meetings during the time that Hitler was — and they had a Turnverein society. I don't know if you remember this.

ER: Yes, I do.

WILLIAMS: But some of those were just ethnic ties just like the Welsh meetings that we were going to. And others — there were people that wanted to influence people to Hitler's

way of thinking at some of those meetings too. So, there were plenty of “America-firsters”, mostly back in the Midwest, that we would hear from all the time and sometimes you would often find Irish people that were pro-German because they were so anti British. So you had all these crosscurrents going all the time. The one I’m telling you that was pro-German that I knew, he lived in east Portland in a very nice home and all that. He was Irish. He and I used to argue about things all the time. [Inaudible].

**[End of Tape 2, Side 1]**

**Tape 2, Side 2**  
**1992 January 16**

ER: [Inaudible]

WILLIAMS: Communists at Reed. There had been meetings of the, I'm trying to think – in Congress they had a congressional committee, I think it was the Dies Committee<sup>6</sup>, if I remember right. The Dies committee or something like that on Un-American Activities. The problem was that many of the congressman that were active members of that committee were pretty close to being pro-Germans, so they weren't universally accepted as such, you know.

They had among them – at Reed they had professors who had been called before the Dies Committee (if I'm remembering the right name, but I think it is) to hold them up to public shame and [Inaudible] and that sort of thing because they were infecting the minds of our tender young people with their thoughts. Many of them had been to Russia at one time or another and marveled at all their progress. You know, people can get impressed with lots of things.

I can remember one professor, I can't think of – his name was – I think it was [Eiloff?] who I believe was an ethnic Russian but I believe he had grown up on the East Coast [of the United States]. He had gone back to Russia and seen, you know, during the 1930s and observed what they had done and he thought they had made great progress. He spoke rather glowingly of what they had done [in Russia] and he thought it was marvelous.

All of us [at Reed] had heard a lot on both sides of that issue and it wasn't easy for, I would say, the people that I knew to be moved by most of those arguments. There were people that had a strong left-leaning viewpoint, but they had that before they got there!  
[Laughs]

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<sup>6</sup> The Special Committee on Un-American Activities was established in 1938. Texas Representative Martin Dies Jr. chaired the committee, so it is often referred to as the Dies Committee.

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/10459812>

I don't remember a great number of rallies or things like that going on at Reed. I played football for Reed and I was maybe in a little bit different group of people. I was on their ski team, played football for them, and ran track.

ER: You didn't have time for...

WILLIAMS: I guess I didn't. Or maybe I didn't have an acute political awareness. Actually I did cause I got quite a little bit of that from my father.

ER: Do you have a comment on what is happening now in Russia?

WILLIAMS: I – the thing is I'm just holding my breath and hoping that the Russians can be patient enough (and I'm not sure they are), to let a free market economy give them the chance to have a good life. I think that so many of them, the Old Guard, have had – they're used to the old way of things, where you subsidize the price of bread and a few basic commodities in order to keep the peasants from revolting and there are those that are a little bit too simplistic in their approach to accept anything else. I fear that there are some hard times ahead for the Russians.

I would personally like to see the United States do whatever it can, at least as far as the shipping of agricultural commodities to Russia, to help out. I think it'd be a good investment for us. I know people that will disagree with me violently, and say "We ought to feed our own hungry here before we take care of any Russians." Well, I think it would be a good investment. I'd rather invest in – take a chance investing in that than have to go back to the Cold War again. I'm glad that the Cold War appears to be somewhat behind us. Hopefully we can keep control of the crazies of the world.

I frankly think that the Gulf War was one of the best events as far as mobilizing [a] disparate group of nations with different interests to fight a common enemy and I think it gave something to the United Nations as a peace-keeping force that it did not have before.

ER: It never had...

WILLIAMS: It never had before. I would hope that that can continue. I think Russia is probably going to need some help too. I think that all the members of the United Nations should chip in to help and not be quite so invert about their own economies and their own politics because in the long run, we're all the same planet. [Laughs]

ER: On planet Earth. Alright. Now, I'm going to jump a bit here. When we spoke of your marriage, we didn't talk about dating. What were – were you going to dances? Were you climbing Mount Hood together? What were you doing?

WILLIAMS: The answer is "yes" as to all of those things.

When I came back from Italy in August of 1945 – the war in Europe ended in, as I recall, in May of 1945<sup>7</sup>. At which point we were almost in the Brenner Pass going north when the Germans surrendered. We were then sent back to help stop [Josip Broz] Tito<sup>8</sup> from invading Italy, which he was then doing, trying to re-draw the boundaries which had gone back and forth many times in the past.

Eventually we were – our division, the 10th Mountain Division, was furloughed via the [United] States to go to attack the island of Honshu, the main island of Japan. We were – my regiment was on a ship going back. We were about two days out of New York when we got the news about the atomic bomb at Hiroshima and frankly, all of us were delighted. We thought that it meant the war would probably end and hoped it would. When we got to New York there were tugboats that were shooting, oh you know, streams of water up and all this sort of thing, kind of celebrating the end of the war that hadn't happened yet, but it looked good. Things were looking good. We were – went up to right by West Point

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<sup>7</sup> Nazi Germany surrendered to Allied forces on May 7, 1945, effectively ending World War II in Europe. Japan did not surrender until September 2, 1945, officially ending World War II.

<sup>8</sup> Josip Broz Tito was a Yugoslav communist revolutionary and statesman.

and were left at an Army camp and then put on a train and sent back. We were in Missoula, Montana when we received the news that the Japanese had surrendered.

That was – from my own individual standpoint, I don't see the cruelty in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I see thousands or millions of American and Japanese lives having been saved by that event, which is probably the only thing that could have moved the Japanese militarists to surrender. The dawn of the atomic age was there.

Anyway, we were sent back to Fort Lewis and immediately furloughed home. When I was on furlough, I had a good friend that was in medical school and he was going with a nurse – a student nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital and he got me a date with his girlfriend's roommate. Her name was Donna Rockwell. Donna Rockwell Williams had been a companion of mine for – ever since. We were married in 1948. I think even when I was – I'm trying to think, I met Donna in August, about mid-August...

ER: That would be 1945?

WILLIAMS: In 1945, yeah.

[We] did the usual things that people do on dates in or around Portland. My dad had a runabout<sup>9</sup>. A mahogany, no, launch. I took Donna and other people, other couples, out [boating]. We'd go out and up the Columbia River and pull into the Sand Islands there and swam and barbequed and had fun. Drank beer. [Laughs]

In my family, my mother was an absolute prohibitionist. I used to say that my father drank only on occasion, the occasion being when my mother wasn't present. [Both laugh]. I'm sure she knew, but she could blot it out of her mind. Her father, apparently, had a problem with alcohol over the years and her mother was the strong person in that family. That's where that came from and I understand that. Anyway, I concealed all my imbibing from my mother, you know, as long as I can remember. I'm sure that she knew, because people know.

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<sup>9</sup> The term 'runabout' is used to describe a wide range of small to medium-sized powerboats.



I went back to Stanford in, let's see – I wasn't discharged until I think it was November, October or November [of 1945]. We went back to Colorado to our camp, which was then at Colorado Springs. Now I was discharged from there. I came back to Portland and [returned to Stanford for] winter term, which starts right after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year at Stanford. I went winter term, spring term, and summer term in order to graduate. I had, you might say I had four quarters to go and I did it in three quarters. I think they gave us a few P.E. [Physical Education] credits for having been in the service for three years. [Both laugh]. I graduated from Stanford. Well I didn't go through the ceremony till – they had the ceremony in June once a year. My last term at Stanford was a summer term in 1946. I had already applied for Law School at U. of O. [University of Oregon] because I knew I would be practicing in Oregon and my father was here and a lawyer. I started Law School in the fall of 1946.

I remember in the winter of 1945 I took – Donna, I don't believe, had ever skied before so I got some skis for her and took her up skiing. She thought it was lots of fun. She thought it was kind of rigorous and it was. It was very antiquated equipment that I got for her. Skiing is easier now than it was then.

ER: The skis, with wood...

Williams: And bear-trap bindings. That's right.

ER: Does Donna continue to ski with you?

WILLIAMS: Yes. Donna is our only casualty in our family of, you know, my two children and the four of us have skied a lot. Donna broke her leg (fibula) and [had an] ankle fracture, about 12 years ago. She hasn't skied as much since then.

ER: [Inaudible].

WILLIAMS: I just think that, you know, there's lots of things to do and, you know, you probably think about being laid up and having your leg in the cast for a while and [it's] something you can do without.

ER: Right, yeah, "I'll let David go".

WILLIAMS: Right.

ER: Alright, just a minute, there's...

[Tape skips]

Williams: I don't think so. I think that was ahead of them. When I went to Law School, it seems to me that there might have been three or four – I don't remember. I can remember someone Chinese. I can't remember any Black [people] in Law School when I was there at U. of O. [University of Oregon]. There were maybe three or four girls in the Law School at one time or another. There were two [girls] in my class at first.

My class started out at, I think, 126 students and maybe 30 of us graduated. The reason is that U. of O. was very open about letting anybody start Law School. But the Dean of the Law School, one Orlando John Hollis<sup>10</sup>, was very determined that nobody that wasn't reasonably well-qualified, as he saw it, would ever get through. [Some students] were usually just kind of mercilessly sacked in the first year, many of them after the first term.

ER: [Inaudible]

WILLIAMS: Yeah, well they just got terrible grades and they could see the writing on the wall and that was that.

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<sup>10</sup> According to the University of Oregon's Law School, Orlando John Hollis was the Dean of University of Oregon's Law School between 1941-1944 and 1945-1967. <https://law.uoregon.edu/about/history>

ER: They wouldn't make it.

WILLIAMS: Yeah. I think we lost a few people in the second year. Most of them we lost, we lost in the first year. Most of them in the first term of the first year. We lost one of the gals that way and the other one graduated with us.

ER: I have one more question, please. I know that you had thought of being a doctor.

WILLIAMS: Yes.

ER: Have you been happy as a lawyer?

WILLIAMS: Yes. If my older brother – who was going to what is now called Lewis and Clark [College] Law School. If he had come back from the war, he, I'm sure, would have been an attorney. My plan was originally to be a doctor. If he – when he [Williams' older brother] was killed in 1943 in Italy, my father immediately started suggesting to me that I should go to Law School and [that] he would like it very much if I did. I could sort of see that that would be upper most in his mind, so I eventually did.

ER: He loved you.

WILLIAMS: Yeah. Yes he did.

ER: [Respect?].

WILLIAMS: I was married in June of 1948. The church that we went to was – my family had been going to for years was Westminster Presbyterian Church just off Broadway at about 16th. I had one year of Law School to finish, I finished two years and I had one year

to go. My wife and I lived in Eugene in a modest apartment. She worked – she was an R.N. [registered nurse] by then. She worked first for Sacred Heart Hospital. Then she got a better job working in the infirmary for the University of Oregon. It paid more and the hours were better. [Both laugh]. She did that and then after I graduated we moved to Portland. Donna continued to work as a nurse from time to time until we had our daughter. She would fill in once in a while after that, but I don't think she's done any R.N.-ing since the early 1950s.

ER: Just her family.

WILLIAMS: Yeah, that's right.

ER: And the last question. When did Evan, your youngest brother, decide on ministry?

WILLIAMS: I think my – Evan decided that a long time. He was a pre-divinity school [student] when he was at Stanford with me after the war. I think he started college at Willamette University and I think he went to Willamette for what, a year and a half or something like that and then he transferred to Stanford. He was always a divinity student and he had a divinity deferment from the service.

ER: [Inaudible]

WILLIAMS: Well, he was a little younger. He probably would have just barely been in the war anyway because he was pretty young. But I know that he did have – that he'd always planned to do that.

He didn't go to the same church that the family had always gone to, which was a Presbyterian church. He was an Episcopalian. He had a good friend who went to All Saints Episcopal Church, which is down in Hollywood, kind of behind the Hollywood Theater and up a little bit there. Father Ayers, A-Y-E-R-S, if I recall correctly, was the priest there. Evan,

I think went there maybe even in grammar school but at least in high school. He went to church and it didn't bother my parents. Low Church Episcopalianism is very close to Presbyterian [Laughs] faith. In many ways, they're very similar. The High Church is not. My brother eventually became a more of a High Church-man. That's what he became interested in.

He [Evan Williams] went to – he wound up catching up with me [in school]. He was four and a half years behind me when I went in the service and we graduated in the same ceremony together at Stanford in June of 1946<sup>11</sup>. I had already finished a year of Law School then but they just had the graduation ceremony once a year. My parents wanted to go down and see it and they did and they enjoyed it very much. Both their sons graduate the same time.

After that, my brother went to Church Divinity School of the Pacific, which is kind of the Episcopal seminary for the West coast and it's in Berkeley, [California]. Then, from there he went to Oxford, where he received his Doctor of Divinity. He was the priest at Christ Church, which is one of colleges at Oxford. I have since seen it and it's beautiful. They are beautiful buildings, beautiful, a beautiful place.

ER: This is great. [Laughs]

WILLIAMS: I just had a phone call from my daughter this morning who tells me that my brother's youngest daughter just had a child. They live in Sacramento and she's married to a doctor.

ER: This is Evan's family?

WILLIAMS: Yeah, Evan's youngest daughter whose name is Anwylyd.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Based on previous audio, David Williams would have gone through Stanford's graduation ceremony in June of 1947, since he purportedly started Law School at University of Oregon in fall of 1946.

<sup>12</sup> According to the Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru Welsh Language dictionary, Anwylyd is a term of endearment that can mean loved one, darling, and love (among other translations). <https://welsh-dictionary.ac.uk/gpc/gpc.html?anwylyd>

ER: Welsh?

WILLIAMS: Welsh, yes, it means “beloved”.

ER: Oh!

WILLIAMS: And the correct pronunciation is An-hal-lid. An-hal-lid.

ER: An-hil-lid.

WILLIAMS: Yes, part is slightly throat-clearing sound. An-hal-lid.

ER: An-hal-lid. [Both laugh]

ER: It’s beautiful but a nice way to end that. Thank you. And I think I [stayed off?].

**[End of Tape 2, Side 2]**

**[End of Interview]**