

## Thoughts From Hugo

### Jessie Edie Walker's<sup>1</sup> Memories: I

August 25, 1999

**Bill Clinton** - I think the Monica Lewinsky controversy is way over blown. It does not bother me. As far as I'm concerned he could have had a dozen women. I kinda think that a man's private sex life is not important to judge; what is important is how a man conducts the business of his elected office. Why dwell on the subject of women when it will not amount to nothing. That whole thing was a waste of time.

I don't think the medical managed care plan (HMO) pushed by Clinton has paid off. It is just like Oregon. I voted for Clinton two times, but now I wish I didn't. I did not like Bush giving all those millions of dollars to other countries. Some is O.K., but let us take care of our own country first. And then Clinton started doing the same.

I also do not like the stance Clinton has on guns. The NRA [National Rifle Association] has it right.

**George Bush** - George Bush should have followed through during the Gulf War. He should have went all the way to Bagdad and got Saddam.

**Ronald Reagan** - I liked Ronald Reagan.

**Jimmy Carter** - Carter was a hard working, smart, honest President, but he tried to get morals involved in government. He also was a loner and did not know how to work with Congress. He had a lot of problems.

**Gerald Ford** - I do not think much of him. He just filled in the gap; they had to have somebody.

**Richard Nixon** - He would have done all right if he had not got his nose in there (Watergate). You did not hear a lot about him that the people did not like until he got into that trouble.

**Lyndon Johnson** - I did not think much of him; I thought he was one of the biggest crooks there was.

**Vietnam War** - They did it all wrong, just like in the Gulf War. We were just being a policeman, that's all. You can not go into a country and let your men get killed everyday. That is a bunch of shit. If you are going to fight, why not fight.

**Korean War** - Korean War a little different, but about the same. They just fought to the line [military demarcation line between North Korea and South Korea] and that was it.

**John F. Kennedy** - He was not in office long enough for anybody to hate him.

**Dwight Eisenhower** - I thought he was a lost cause too. He only got to be President because he was the Supreme Commander of the Allied forces during WWII. I voted for him, but found out later that Eisenhower did not treat his men very well. He was always chewing on his underlings all the time.

**Harry Truman** - Truman did the right thing when he dropped the bomb. It is one way to stop a war. I think they could have done it a few other places, the Gulf War for instance.

**Franklin Roosevelt** - He helped a lot of people.

**Voting** - I did not vote a lot until I was got older. Very few people I knew voted while I was in the Navy from 1936 - 1955. I voted in the Presidential election for Eisenhower when he was elected for his second term after I left the Navy and went to Oregon.

**Hugo Hitching Post** - Post Office was in the Hitching Post in 1955 when we [Jessie Edie and Elsie Hlobil Walker family] moved to Oregon. There were not very many people around at that time, may be a dozen families on the entire Three Pines Road which was called Route 1.

**Redwood Drive-In** - We used to go to the drive-in movies a lot when the kids were little.

**Blind George's** - He had the best popcorn there is. Otherwise, I did not buy much there. We bought the corn when we went to the drive-in theater and sometimes after Sunday church.

**Kelly's** - I had not been to Kellys Market at Jumpoff Joe since it was built in 1998. I told mother one day during August 1999 that I would go over there and get some hotdog buns. Boy, they were \$1.69 for a small package of buns; you could buy a package downtown anywhere for less than a dollar. The store owner got to talking with me about small businesses and why they were going out of business. I told him, "I don't think so, I think small businesses are just too damn greedy. They want every darn penny they can get and they were just not selling their merchandise because they were just charging too much, and then just went out of business."

**Caveman Bridge** - Just a bridge.

**Rural Living** - I would not mind living closer to Grants Pass (about 5 miles), but I would not like to live in the city; the lots are too small.

**Abortion** - If a woman has to have it, she has to have it. And, she should be able to have it, to save her life or something. But, if she is silly enough to get pregnant, then I think she should just keep it. There is no reason to get pregnant anymore. People should be responsible and should deal with it. Any life threatening situations should be dealt with to protect the mother.

**Assisted Suicide** - If everybody got together, and they knew that the person wanted assistance in dying, "Why not.?" The doctor should help the person die with dignity.

**Crater Lake** - Jess has been to Crater Lake a half-dozen times at least. It is so big. He goes there to entertain guests sometimes.

**Chickens** - I read a lot of things about chickens before I retired from the Navy. I figured, that is one way to work for yourself. You do not have to go out and work for somebody else. I think we would have done alright if mother [Elsie Hlobil Walker] had not got sick.

**Oregon Caves** - I only went to Oregon Caves a couple of times. Once you have been there in the dark, you have been there.

**St. Anne's Catholic Church** - The church is a deep subject. I do not have a hell of a lot to say about it. I guess your supposed to go to church whether you like it or not. I did not like to go in there and sit, then I saw what everybody else was doing, so I followed suit . . . cause I could not hear them. Well, they would not turn the damn speaker up. In fact one time, some young people from the church went around and tried to get money out of people and asked them about any problems with the church. Another couple came to our house one time and they said that one of their main concerns was that they could not hear the priest or what anybody was saying. This was a concern of a lot of people and they did not do anything about it.

I think church services were much better in the 1950s and 1960s. You had your rosary and I was getting pretty good at that, saying the rosary. And, then they changed things and I could not hear nothing anymore.

**Hugo Elementary School** - I did not get very involved in the Hugo Elementary School. I was too damn busy working (raising chickens, cows, pigs, etc.).

**Seals** - There are too many seals. Seals should be managed like elk. If there are too many, they should be thinned out. In lots of places there are too damn many seals and they should be thinned out. One study said that the seals are eating 65 percent of the salmon, that is too damn much.

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1. Jesse Edie Walker: born 1915 in Iowa, retired U.S. Navy Chief to Hugo, Oregon in 1955; 48-years later he died April 1, 2003, 87-years old in his Hugo, Oregon home. From 1999 interview by his son, Mike Walker.