

Picking Cherries

Jon Whalen, StoryTeller

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

2014

We boys picked cherries and pears and walnuts for the orchards in Hugo, primarily for the Downs' Orchard. but Gladys Downs did loan some of her crew to other orchards when they happened to be short handed or something. I remember once being involved in an incident with Gladys. She was up on a fairly high ladder picking cherries and we shook her ladder. She got off that ladder pretty fast, and ran toward the house yelling that we had scared the pee out of her. We had pretty good bosses on that hill.

Sometimes at quitting time brother Dale and I would go find Johnny Halstead and he would tow us home with his motorcycle. We had these new three speed bikes with the really skinny tires. Dale and I saved and saved and Pop payed half, and we got these western flyers from Western Auto. Roads weren't the best around here then and we should have gotten regular bikes with big tires but what fun it was holding onto Johnny's coat and going what seemed like 90 miles an hour down that bumpy road.