

## A VISIT WITH JAMES DAVID HALLMARK ABOUT GROWING UP

A conversation between Dad and his daughter, Pam Hallmark Wagner, July 2002

I was born in Ogden UT [20 July 1917], in Grandma Grow's home [Mary Luetta Rawson Grow], a big home across the street from the big park; I think it was a big white house. It is gone now. There were no other buildings on the street, just the park. Mom may have needed help, so she & my sister Norma went to live with Mom's mother in Ogden. Dad worked for railroad & had to work so late, he couldn't be there with her. A nurse [midwife] delivered me. Dad worked on a line cars, repairing the lines, but I'm not sure when. A nurse [midwife] delivered me; she called me "Buster" - she may have had some problems with delivery and said, "Okay, Buster, let's get going." Spanked me to start me crying [then they knew I was breathing]. I was called "Buss" more than Buster; teased later in school about the name. They named me James after my Grandfather, James Isaac Hallmark & David after my Grandfather, David Henry Grow. We went back to Cove, Oregon to live for a time.

We lived in Cove, then Telocaset [Union Co OR], then Walla Walla WA. We also knew people in Union and North Powder, so I am wondering where else we may have lived. It seemed like there was another town between LaGrande OR & Walla Walla [could not find anything on the maps].

We had two moves in Walla Walla - really don't remember either one. We first lived in a house on Elm Street by the Penitentiary. We didn't like that house, as we were concerned about living so close to the Pen, having an inmate get out & coming to our home. We then moved to the house behind the [railroad] car barn, and last to our home on 12th St, where I spent most of my childhood. After Mom died, Dad lived on 12th St with my youngest brother, Ron, until Dad and Elsie - moved into her home on Colville.

HOME ON 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET: Mom cooked an old wood stove, & she would warm her feet in the oven of that stove, when her feet were cold. There was an old coal oil stove on the back porch, in the corner, & that the screened in porch was where the family would all live when a member of the family had a disease, like measles or mumps. Mom was the only one who would go inside to care for the sick one - otherwise everyone would get what he or she had. When one got a disease, it went through the whole family.

I remember when we had a fire in our home, which started in the roof. We always thought it was caused by the heavy paper around the chimney on the ceiling of the attic. It did quite a bit of damage to the roof, but we did not lose furniture, etc. Up in the attic was where all of the kids slept, one bed at each end; the girls at the front end & the boys at the back end. 2 x 4s were put up, then the heavy paper on the ceiling, shingles on roof. We had a closet for clothes & a phonograph, which sat beside the chimney. We pushed it out of the way, when the fire occurred, so that it would not get hurt.

When you walked into the house, you entered the dining room, where we had a large oak round table [and a mirrored hutch to the left of the front door]. We did a lot around that table - games, studying, etc. There was a window seat next to the wall, & some of the family would sit there, others on the chairs around the table. I can't remember where we ate - we may have had a table in the kitchen. I don't think we ate at the dining room table except on occasions. There was an oil-stove in the dining room, which shared the flue with the wood stove on the other side of the wall in the kitchen. The living room was to the right of the dining room [like a sitting room], and a bedroom off the living room, towards the back of the house. The living room was pretty dark - had a couch in there, I think. The bathroom was off the kitchen. The toilet had a tank high on the wall [left back corner], & a chain was pulled to flush it. If it leaked, of course, it dripped on you. In the bathroom, just inside the door & to the right, was the stairs to the attic - barely open the door & slip up the stairs. An old-fashioned tub was on the right side. At the end was a little window. No sink was in the bathroom. We would wash our hands in the sink just outside the door in the kitchen. There was the screened-in porch, with the kerosene stove at the end. There were stairs out there, which led to the cellar. Mother canned on the stove on the porch.

MY GROWING UP: We played lots of ball games next door to the house [12th St], in the field between house & Pine St... played a lot of baseball - & basketball at school [Washington School]. I started playing basketball about 6th grade. That's where we would practice, but I can't remember the neighborhood friends going there. We played next door in the field. We would dig caves out of the dirt - next to the park, where the street curved. The streetcar went around. On the corner was a confection store. Dad would stop and get a fruit drink occasionally. We never went on trips or vacations, but we went to the park a lot [Washington Park], played softball. We fished in Walla Walla River by the park. By the time I was a teenager, we were playing basketball, baseball in the field, some football. The lot (to right of house) extended to the railroad tracks [Pine St], which was at the end of our street. On Pine were the Pineway Cabins, which were small, separate cabins used by campers or for workers at the gardens, etc.

Played in the field a lot. I also played some in the car barn. The car barn stored railroad ties, cylinders for electrical wire, etc.

There was a trail that went across the lot – led to Main St. We all used it when we walked to Walla Walla High School, which was quite a walk. We had no bikes then - walked everywhere. The bikes we did have, we put together ourselves, with the help of the Wilkinson brothers, who worked at the Pen. They would show us how to put ours together, probably did half by themselves. We never went camping, though we wished we could have. We would have liked to go fishing or hunting, but I never had a gun until I had my own, then I had two... a 30-30 rifle & a pistol (inexpensive) before I got married. I remember it had a clip in the handle & that it took 22 super-sized shells. I don't remember Jack having a gun - never hunted together. We did fish in the Creek with an inexpensive bamboo pool we fixed ourselves. It didn't have a reel. I went later with Jack and Ronnie.

Our neighbors next door were the Schicks. Ruth Van Natten was a relative of the Schicks & a good friend to my sister, Norma. Fremont Cummings lived across the street, then the Wetzels, Russell & Cecil Stewart on the corner, next to Cummings. Shore was an engineer for the railroad & lived on the other side of Washington School. Wetzels had a big house. The boys were grown when we were just kids, but we spent time with them. In the next block was Tom Blackman. His dad worked at the concrete pipe company. I used to go there once in awhile. Unusual [ask why], Tom Blackman, Russ & Cecil Stewart – would go to Tom's home & visit, played some ball. We made fun of the Cummings kid – thought he was a sissy. He later became a chiropractor. Played basketball together at Washington school.

I remember going to Jesse's in Seattle, when Grandma Grow was there. She was there about a year around 1930 [I was about 12-15 years old]. Jack & I went – must have been on the bus. We did a lot of walking while we were in Seattle. Spent the summer there as vacationers.

We had a dog, named Brownie, who was a terrier. I remember Dad taking Brownie to the car barn when we were bad. He would put him in his big locker there. I remember my Dad whipping me a few times, especially for walking on the concrete wall across the creek... Milk Creek in Walla Walla, where Walla Walla River joins: I was walking on top of the cement buttrice & the water was up. While I was walking, Dad came around the corner in the train. When he got home, he whipped me with razor strap. Afterwards, he would think about it & give me another whipping.

SCHOOL: I enjoyed school. I should have enjoyed English more, but I didn't. I enjoyed History & Science, although I don't feel I learned a lot in History, because of the way the teacher taught us. I like Geography, too. I was on the shy side. I went through the measles, chicken pox, mumps, but I don't remember ever having my tonsils out. We received our vaccinations at school. There was a big room, where we got our shots. It was in between the grade school rooms.

We had good teachers. Mrs Harris and Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ were first grade teachers in the basement. Mrs Harris also taught 8th grade, where we had field trips... went to airport. Mrs. Rounds was the principal. She was younger than a lot of the teachers. She also taught eighth grade & would give us our shots, with 6th grade teacher helping her - was a short, husky woman. We had 2-5th grades, 2-6th grades, 1-7th & 1-8th grade. Mrs Harris & Mrs Rounds were my favorite teachers. I don't remember the writing teacher's name but I remember not liking her. She had buggy eyes & an attitude. She would snap you on the head with her fingers, when you were not paying attention.

We had a cloakroom next to each classroom, which had hooks for coats - had a divider, open at the top and bottom. There was a big bell & they used it. I remember being late one day – told the teacher a fib, but she never said anything about it - told her that the streetcar was late, but it hadn't been late. I never had a broken bone, stitches, or crutches. We would get hurt playing ball, etc. but not badly. Competitions were fun, like track, games, basketball - between Walla Walla schools. I was teased about my nickname, "Buss" – pretty shy, not many girl friends. I don't remember much about holidays celebrated at school. I do remember we had programs on the stage, so those were probably part of celebrating the holidays.

Probably 6th-7th grade, I began to play the cornet, then the trumpet. I even tried the violin long enough to know something about.

In high school, Mr \_\_\_\_\_ taught manual training or wood working. I made little things there for the kitchen, like stools, chairs, but very simple. We went to Jefferson School for that. I liked sports. We had 2 coaches for baseball - 1 black. He was going to school himself & was older than everyone else. I would have taken science every year if I could have... enjoyed the science projects. I liked ROTC, because we were outside all of the time... did practice shooting, had service projects. It was 3 years & was voluntary... received honors in ROTC. I was a 2nd Lieutenant with my platoon. I loved math. I took extra math

classes: algebra, geometry, calculus, trigonometry, & physics. Some were not regular classes. If you received good grades you could take the upper ones, Algebra 1-3.

There was no long hair then... had to be cut over the ears, with no bangs, no earrings, nice clothes, including nice jeans & shorts. After school we might go to Green & Jackson Drug for a malt. On Saturday night there were dances. I liked to dance with the girls. I guess that was normal. I didn't go to a lot of movies, although I liked some. Music was popular then, but not like what they have now. We had different dances & music, old-fashioned. I liked normal dancing, but not square dancing. For Halloween, Christmas, etc., we would wear costumes. We had some slang terms, but can't remember a lot. I was "Sacagawea," which was something you really liked. Others were "ding-dang, dad-gummit."

The first girl I dated was probably Ann Rehberg. I didn't start really early... didn't have a car, no dances early. Enjoyed mostly times with the guys, playing kick the can, horse shoes, & of course ball games. I didn't go on to college, but I did take some home study courses for electrical projects, TV, understanding the math associated with, so I could make my own. I took everything I could get. I learned about amplifiers & speakers for music. I wanted to be an architect. I liked to draw the things I would make. I made a lot of projects on papers, using a compass & a ruler. [I asked Dad what special qualities and other talents he had, he said he was admired for the electrical work he did, and working on lathes, etc. in school]

Don Cushman & I were good friends (Don died as a young man – had several problems, including cancer) & would play some billiards at the place where his dad was the houseman. We played 4-5 times a week, & his father taught to play. Later, Don & I worked for him [not for pay], teaching others to play.

**JOBS:** My brother Jack began working at Woody's grocery store, even before I had a job (after he married, he owned a grocery store in Klamath Falls OR – would bring or send a box of fresh oranges to our family at Christmastime). It was on the corner of Elm. Vern & Grace lived on one side of it. The whole area was full of bums, between the park & the street where we had the caves. We would give them a bad time. They smoked & sat around a campfire. When one bunch moved on, another bunch came in. They would walk on top of our caves, &, of course, they would cave in when they stepped on them. The Union Pacific tracks were right there. The cannery was there, & boxes of fruit were shipped from there. We would visit with the guys. They would sit by the fire & eat, wore camp gear on their backs. We would even fight with the bums. They would steal anything. I can't imagine doing that today.

My first job was working at the Chinese gardens (owned by Chinese people), weeding, for 10 cents an hour. I would "carrot" the weeds, which meant that the carrots were so tiny, that I wouldn't recognize them as carrots & pull them up with the weeds. We worked with some of the bums that hung out on Pine Street. I also mowed lawns for people, and at our home. We didn't have a big lawn... had maple trees. When I was about 12, I worked in the car barn as a janitor, not with Dad, although I would see him there sometimes. When I was a little older, I worked the brakes on the tracks for the railroad. I didn't get much time with Dad, but I did get more time when I braked. I worked mostly with the people I knew - a lot of Spanish. I didn't work with Dad. He was on the #19, which was the biggest train. My Dad did teach me how to weld. When I was about 16-17, I worked at the Capital Theater for Delta Wright's father, where I ran the projectors. Her parents lived on Pleasant St. She later joined the church & I baptized her, maybe because we were friends at the theater. I also worked at the cannery, in the warehouse, stacking cans & worked the "lidding" machines. It seemed like Mom worked at the cannery after we were married.

Jack & I fixed cars, when we were in high school. After Jack & I had worked awhile, we bought the family a car. It was a 1934 Ford. We maintained it for the family. It was always parked out front, as we did not have a garage. We only had a shed in back, where everything was stored. We would chop wood out there, stoke the coal stove. We would clean out the shed every so often.

Before I was married, I began to work at Richfield station for Norma's friend, with Charlie Wheeler. I went to work for Standard Oil, first at #1029, across from the Marcus Whitman Hotel. When I first got my Oldsmobile, I went to Spokane with another employee with Standard Stations for training. We learned to wait on customers, servicing cars, etc. all under supervision. They showed us what they wanted us to do at our stations. We went out to the dam. I remember something being torn down on the dam, perhaps adding something? It was immense. Later on, I got my own station & was Manager on Alder for #938. At the big station, we had new guys coming & others leaving. At our station on Alder, the guys stayed because they liked their job... they were happy. We had had an assistant manager at the big station. At this one, we all worked together. I had made some good friends while working at #1029. Even the manager & I remained friends after I received my own station. His name was Macovoy.

**MARRIAGE:** It was while working for Standard Oil was when June & I were married. And my future boss from United Air Lines would come by & we would talk. He had something to do with the decision not

wanting to stay with the oil companies... \_\_\_\_\_ Hall. I least liked serving gasoline & servicing the vehicles. When I was Manager, I was able to do other things, like meeting the customers & I liked that.

UNITED AIR LINES: The most enjoyable job I had in my life was working for United Air Lines. I started out on the ramp, which was not the norm; usually one would start at the counter. I was made a supervisor in charge of the freight. There was a gal that took care of the Teletype, and she was under my direction. I worked with the operators to get the flight crews ready to go, to make clearances. When we were out on the ramp, one crewmember was out with me - one member of the flight crew saluted the plane off and someone drove the tractor (for the baggage). When Marlene used the Teletype, she would collect the weather, post it & we would fill in if she were busy doing something else. I would go out & help at the counter, but that was not part of my responsibilities.

It was an interesting job. Sometimes if people did not get their freight, they would get mad at the crewmembers. Generally we had good answers for them, but some just didn't get what they wanted. Those in first class griped the most. We even had people out on the ramp, because they wanted their suitcases faster - it happened a lot. I took some management training & was working with people of equal commitment & assignments. We all did our jobs - that was enjoyable. When I was out on the ramp, I had to be the "boss," & make sure everyone was doing their job of freight bag handling, seeing that the aircraft was off on schedule. This job, offered to me, was the one I really wanted, to work with the airlines. Those over us recognized our accomplishments through letters of appreciation. I received letters for being on time and not missing any days at work, for not taking sick time. We had a nice airfield in Walla Walla, but the people of Walla Walla did not want a larger airfield, so they removed some of the larger planes & eventually, moved out altogether & sent their people elsewhere. I was the only one to go to Boise. The family was transferred to Boise ID in 1959, where I worked for United until I retired at 62. I was a radio operator, worked the reservations, baggage, maintenance on the airplanes, when no mechanic was sent. Others went elsewhere across the map. In about 1980, when United Air Lines took over, they did not do what the patrons wanted & it went down hill from there.

Sometime after I was married, I worked down at the Mill with Clarence Edwards [Church member], where I learned to work with wood. I read a lot in Popular Mechanics & learned how to do many things - built my own TV set, radio-record player, etc. This is where I really became interested in working with wood & began buying some of my tools.

In Boise, about 19\_\_, I worked as a security guard at night for Ore-Ida, until the company left there.

MILITARY: After World War II began on December 7, 1941, with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, many were going to be drafted into the military service. I wanted a rating, so I took the Eddy test after taking specialized training in electrical. I was made First Class, with three stripes when I entered the Navy. I had training classes in Honolulu, Hawaii & Chicago.

CHURCH: It was held in our home on occasion - Sunday School, Sacrament, etc. It was also held at the home of Bishop Hiatt in Milton-Freewater. Baptisms were done in the Christian Church (by the public library). Later, we met in the Odd Fellow's meeting hall, upstairs above the bakery on Main Street, across from the County Court House. That building is no longer there. We had other meeting places before that.

WALLA WALLA: I asked Dad about his recollections of Walla Walla. His first thought was the State Penitentiary, then he mentioned the retired ranchers & rich farmers that made Walla Walla. There was Fort Walla Walla & the Whitman Massacre site outside of town, closer to College Place. There was a big field behind the Depot at the end of Main Street, which was a landing field for small planes. The Veteran's had a building behind that, up on the hill. To continue driving out of town, you had to take a right turn at Depot, then left past the Depot.

IMMEDIATE FAMILY: FATHER - WORK: Walla Walla - Dad worked for the railroad, usually late...could have been on a freighter. After he was big enough to know, David was told he was on the freighter all the time - Dad delivered freight by train. When he came home, he would talk to us kids about what we did during the day. Mom & Dad came out on the front porch & would talk, mostly about the neighbors & what was going on. Mom would sit in the rocking chair & Dad would sit on the steps.

MOTHER: I felt sorry for Mom, as she had to work so hard, & we always wanted to help her. Dad was away at work, long hours. She probably had had cancer for some time but did not know it. Margaret would come to visit. Dad was not active in church at all - smoked. He was gone most of the time with work. Mom & all of us kids were active - I was baptized in the Creek. We would hold some of the meetings at our home. Mom had the Elders over whenever they were in town (2-3 months at a time). Not sure where they slept - maybe in the living room, probably put quilts on the floor. She made quilts, when she had time. She took care of the house & the yard & worked with us kids, prepared all the meals, canned.

Dad went to work by 7-8 in the morning, home sometimes by 6 pm, so we often had late suppers. He would eat on the railroad during the day, as Mom would pack lunches for him in a black metal lunch pail. We had some poor families at our home, a lot... friends of Norma. They would come & visit, & we would all help them. Mom fixed meals for them. They went to church with us sometimes but don't think they ever joined.

Mother was always loving... had her arms around us. We felt close to her. She was the one who talked to us about how to treat others, about church, etc. We had family prayer & scripture studies, especially when the missionaries were there. She fixed a lot of meals for them. It didn't seem like we had rules, except to let Mom know where we were going & to be in by certain hours. We did not have to worry about Dad, as he was not there. We didn't have an allowance like kids do now. The only allowance I received was when I worked. For birthdays we would get together as a family, but I don't remember ever buying or getting presents. We had cake & ice cream. It was just family, no friends, although Norma had Ruth from next door come a few times. I don't remember ever having my or Jack's friends come for birthdays. Christmas Eve was when we celebrated Christmas. We had some tough Christmases, as there wasn't much money. Everyone contributed to the family. We had no car until Jack & I bought one when we were in high school, so Mom & all of us walked wherever we went.

When she was dying from the cancer, I received a call down at the pool hall, where Don Cushman & I had gone to play some billiards. I can't remember who called me, but they said "Mom needs the family." It was a long trip home, as I was thinking of things. I wonder how I even was able to drive home. She was not sick a long time, but she never talked about it, so I wouldn't know how long she was sick. Grandma Grow had come to help take care of Mom the last few weeks. I was very upset at what they told me on the phone. She may have even been gone by the time I got home. I can't remember if there was a doctor there when I got home. Dad was working & was not there. When he was, we sat on the stairs and talked. I don't remember him being very affectionate. He was not businesslike, just tired when he got home from work.

NORMA – sister...was always shy, not talk much... but not her eyes! Norma dated Fred Silk – didn't like him too much. Fred was a redhead. Norma married Lester Hawkins. He seemed stern to me.

GRANDPA JIMMY worked on railroad in Texas, then in Cove they when moved there from Texas. He did section work, repairing tracks, etc. He & the family lived in Cove, as did Fred & Bea Grow.

MARY LUETTE GROW, OR GRANDMA GROW: [See her story] She lived in Seattle for a year or more when Jesse's first wife died, so she could take care of their little boy. This is when Jack & I went to visit. I really enjoyed visiting her – thought a lot of her.

RELATIVES: Aunt Leatha [Arleatha Hallmark Richardson] was one of my favorites – we were close enough to her, that we could see her a lot. Some of the boys lived in Island City [Bill Hallmark's son, Arnold, had a furniture store there, called "Hallmarks."] Bert and Jesse Grow, who were single, lived with our family for a while. Lived in a little separate house, had bunks there. They came from Chicago. Jesse was in the military, & then he moved to Seattle. He lived on Green Lake. Pearl Grow lived in Ogden before moving to California. Fred & Margaret Grow also moved to California. There were no relatives in Walla Walla & no relatives close except in Cove. We did go there at least once in the car that Jack & I bought for the family. We had to be careful to park it out between their home & the home next door, so they had room for their cars. We went there to see Grandpa & Grandma Hallmark. Grandma Carrie would chew on her tobacco. I was always glad we didn't have to stay long - so glad because of that. My Dad went, but Jack & I drove the car. We did go places on the train, as we had passes. I don't remember where we went, maybe Cove [before getting the car?] to see Grandma Grow.

MARRIED: I remember our first trip to Salt Lake City in 1948, when we were going to the Temple in Logan. We drove up to Idaho Falls to see the Temple there & then south to Logan. We must have stopped by Aunt Leatha's, but I don't remember. After going to the Temple in Logan, we drove south to Norma's, where we stayed a short time before heading home.