

**00:00 - 03:24 Introduction, early life**

**Interview Oliver Harstad, who is the son of the founder of PLU, one of the sons, and we'll ask him to tell a little bit about himself. First of all, Oliver, you were born in Parkland. What year were you born and how long did you live in Parkland?**

I wasn't born in Parkland. I was born in North Dakota.

**What year were you born in? What's your birthday?**

1889.

**What date?**

June 18.

**June 18, 1889. And in what town in North Dakota?**

Mayville.

**I know where it is. My dad came to Buxton, North Dakota, about that time. My uncle had a farm out there in a place between Mayville and Buxton. His name was John Ausland.**

I see Buxton, I heard that name.

**It's right on the border, it's right, it's just north of the county seat there, which was at Hillsborough. It's right near Hillsborough.**

**Then you came out here then in 1890, or a little later?**

Father came in 1890 and the family came in July of 1991. And I was the baby at the time.

**Oh, you were the baby of the family then? And how many children were there in the family then?**

Well, I have to count them every time. You see, the two first children died in infancy while in North Dakota, and were buried there. And then we came west. In July, came on the train, of course, and everybody was sick all the way. That was in the days when they had stoves and everything handy for immigrants, you know. So we just lived in the car. I don't know whether it was smallpox or measles or whatever the world it was.

**Well, anyway, you came out here to Parkland and then you went to – Pacific Lutheran was founded then in 1890 by your father, and then in 1894 they opened up for classes to begin with. But you started going to school at the Academy there, what year then? Did you go to grade school there?**

Well, yeah. I went through the grade school there.

**So you must have started there in about 1895.**

No. No, I didn't start school. Father had the idea that we never started school until after we were seven. And I was a sickly boy in my youth and at least one full year, I was out after that. And another year I just went in the Norwegian department half a day. So that set me back. I was 24, 25 years old when I finished Luther.

**And you went to Luther how long? Four years. Three years?**

Three years.

**03:24 - 07:20 Harstad brothers' athletic activities**

**You went back there in 1911. Back to Luther. But then you were at Pacific Lutheran and you started in the sports there. All the boys in your family were very active in sports, weren't they?**

Yeah.

**You're all baseball players?**

Yeah.

**Let's see, who was that? Which brothers? George was a baseball player, no?**

Yeah.

**And then you had one... what was the name of the brother that played in baseball?**

Theander.

**He played Major League ball, didn't he?**

Yeah.

**What position did he play in?**

He was a pitcher.

**He was a pitcher and he pitched for whom?**

Cleveland.

**He pitched for Cleveland. How long was he up there then?**

He was up there one year then he had arm trouble. Then he went back, they put him back into the Coast League with Portland. He was there a year or two, I guess, but then he quit pro ball and played ball during his summers while he went to dental school.

**Oh, I see. Now, what years were those then that he played Major League?**

Well, he was sold by Van Kuber in 1914.

**So then he played up there in 1914. In 1915 he played in the big leagues and then he came back and played for Portland. Then he went to dental school. Where did he go to dental school?**

North Pacific.

**Oh, he went down to Portland?**

Yeah.

**That later became University of Oregon. Was he a dentist then for a while?**

Oh, he's been a dentist.

**Oh, he's still living, huh?**

Oh, yeah.

**I didn't realize that. Where does he live?**

In Milton Freewater, Oregon.

**He's retired now?**

No. Well, he's retired, but he's got a son in with him and he works about a half a day and plays golf the rest of the time.

**How old is he then, Theander?**

He must be ... I think he's three years younger than I am.

**Oh, he was born in '92 then? So he's 80 years old?**

Yeah, should be.

**He's right up there. Well, now he played, did they have a team at Pacific Lutheran when you fellas were going to school that Theander played on and you played on and George?**

Yeah. No, George didn't because he was through before they got started.

**Oh, I see.**

It was, well, I suppose I started off. They tried once in the '90s, but there weren't enough people to get a baseball team. So I think the next was that we started, I was supposed to be the bossman in 1910 I think it was. And then I played through '11 and then I left, and then it was after that. We beat UPS and Whitworth and...

**Whitworth was a school here, they were out at Auburn then, weren't they?**

No.

**They were Tacoma then, weren't they?**

Tacoma then, yeah.

**That was 1910?**

'10 and '11.

**Who else played? And you had a regular schedule and you played town teams and...**

Yeah, we played anybody we could.

**Played the University of Washington, too?**

No, not in baseball.

**But did anybody else in that team play professional ball?**

Well, Theander did.

**07:20 - 13:31 Tony Brottem**

**How about this Tony Brottem?**

Oh, yeah, he went up from, right from there, the Academy.

**Did he play with you?**

Oh, yeah. Well, that was funny. Tony and I were playing in the City League in the summertime. And then Wilkeson, they always had a semi-pro team. So we went up there in 19, summer of '10 and '11. And ever since after that, I made my own way through college playing ball. In 1911, when I went back to Decora, I had a chance to sign up with Tacoma in the Northwest League.

**What position did you play in?**

Shortstop. That was 1910 and '11 we were there, both Tony and I. And it's too bad about Tony, of course. It's a funny thing. We played in Wilkeson, you know, there was all sorts of things going on all the time. Nothing but coal miners, of course. But Tony never did a thing to injure his health. He was so afraid. He had a brother by the name of Goodwin that was a pretty good pitcher that died just after we started up there. But when he had been up in the big leagues, he was sold by Victoria to St. Louis in 1915. Then he came through Albert Lea. I was teaching there then at the time, just to visit. He was doing pretty well then.

**Well, he was a catcher, wasn't he?**

Yeah.

**How long did he play in the majors then?**

Well, I couldn't say he must have played. He was back and forth, back and forth. He was with the majors at the time of the World War, during World War I. And then he played all over the country, I don't know. He played with St. Louis first, and then I think it was Washington, D.C., and New York. That's three I can remember now he was different times.

**Then he had troubles up there, didn't he? Like you mentioned, he didn't take care of himself.**

That's the trouble, yeah.

**Was it alcohol?**

Yeah.

**And then he finally, he died, didn't he?**

Yeah.

**When he was still in the majors?**

No.

**Was it afterwards?**

Yeah. He had gotten a job then after he could play, or he couldn't play any longer. Well, he was up there, I figured, for fourteen years before. Then he got a job managing a team in Akron, Ohio. Then I guess they let him go and came back to Chicago.

**Chicago was his home, huh?**

No. In Parkland.

**But he died there, huh?**

Yeah.

**What year was that?**

1929.

**Was he married?**

No. Well, that was a sad story. He went to P.L.A. and he got interested and got engaged to a fine girl, a P.L.A. girl. And then he started playing ball in the Northwest League, and he was out training. And I don't know how he got tangled up with some girl up in Everett. And she claims she was pregnant, of course, but that wasn't the truth. So it just broke him up. And the funny part was that my younger brother, younger than Theander,, he played ball too, of course.

**Well, what's his name?**

He was Ingvald. He was left-handed. And it just seemed to break him up. Because Ingvald, or I.T., we called him, he was up there in Everett, I guess, at the time of the ball with Victoria or something he had a tryout with him. And Tony wrote a letter to this girl and had him deliver it. And when he found out what had happened, he said, oh, why in the world did he pick on me to bring that cut into his face?

**Was that the girl he was engaged to? Or this other girl that he got tangled up with?**

Yeah.

**That broke up his engagement too, I suppose?**

Oh yeah.

**Who was he engaged to? Was that a girl around here?**

It was a girl by the name of Olson, I don't know where she lived. I think it was in Everett. No, not Everett. No, it wouldn't be Everett. But she was a nice girl too.

**13:31 - 21:30 Baseball at PLU**

**Now let's get back to the baseball at PLU. Where did you play your ball games out in Parkland?**

Well, we played out there on the prairie. We had two places. You know where that, when you go down C Street, just on the left-hand side there, there's a big apartment there.

**Yeah, a whole bunch of apartments, there's a new one there, you know? That was your baseball field? That's 125th and C.**

And then it was out on the Violet Meadow. I don't know just exactly where that was now because it's been built up so much.

**Now you were manager of the team, were you the coach too?**

Yeah.

**Coach, manager and everything.**

Well, that's another funny thing. We never had any coaches, any basketball or anything else.

**You just get together and go out and play. Did the school support you for uniforms or anything like that, or did you get your own uniforms?**

Yeah, I think we did.

**You paid for everything yourself. How about transportation? Did you get the ball games? Did the school pay any of that?**

I don't think so.

**You just get there on your own, huh?**

Yeah.

**But the school let you use their name.**

Oh, yeah. That was about it.

**You had to be a student enrolled at the school to play on the team, I suppose.**

Yeah. And ordinarily they required grades too, of course.

**You had to be passing your courses.**

Yeah.

**But then you had those teams up until, they had baseball all the time until you fellas grew up and went away to college.**

Yeah.

**I suppose up about 1916, '17, and then they dropped it.**

There's something like that, yeah.

**Until the fellas went away for the war.**

Yeah.

Especially while Tony and well, I was there only in '11 –

**But you had Tony. Now, those fellas, could you play for the school team while you were still playing professional in the summertime?**

Oh, yeah. Nobody bothered about that.

While at Luther, there the regulation was in somehow just an understanding with the various teams that we played that we could play ball for money during the summers.

**Oh, yeah. So that's how you worked your way through school, wasn't it?**

Yeah.

**Did you go back and forth to the Midwest on the train then? When you went to school?**

Oh, no. I came back there in 1911. I didn't get back home until 1915.

**Oh, you didn't. You just stayed back there. You just pick up games with teams. I mean, you pick up jobs with baseball teams there in the summer.**

Yeah.

**In Iowa. In Minnesota.**



I was in Minnesota most of the time. I played one year at Little Falls, another year at Marshall, Minnesota.

**They pay you pretty good for those jobs?**

Yeah, considering. I made seventy-five dollars a month and the room and board. It wasn't bad for those jobs.

**Oh, sure. Those days, because you could, you could get through a school year for about a hundred dollars, couldn't you?**

Yeah, something like that. I think board costs just something like sometimes as little as a dollar and twenty cents a week.

**Yeah, just think of it. Fantastic. Then you also had basketball in the academy in those years, too, didn't you?**

Oh, yeah.

**You had a, where did you have for, you'd had an old gym in Parkland to begin with, didn't you? What did they call that gym? Some kind of a club, didn't they?**

No, that isn't one that the school had.

**The school had, well, the school had one out behind Old Main.**

Right, straight behind the Old Main.

**When was that built?**

That was built in 1899. I just looked it up.

**Oh, yeah. And you had that for, and then you, you had basketball teams there starting in 1899.**

Well, no, not, not then. That's one of the things about that situation, too. The reason I think that we got a gymnasium was there was a Norwegian, a fellow from Norway. He was a good looking-fellow by the name of P.W. Lee, I think it was. And he was there the first couple of years after they had the gym, or while they were building the gym. And he had had athletic training in Norway. He started –the first things they had in that gym was these pyramids, have you ever seen?

**Oh, sure. Acrobatics.**

Yeah. And he was instrumental in getting some equipment there. We had, from the middle of the floor, we had these flying rings to swing on. And then, and then on the south side, we had a series of rings. You've seen them?

**Yeah.**

He started in one place and went for one. You hook, you swing back and forth, yeah. And they also had a horse. And they gave exhibitions too for a little time. But then after, it seems that all those people that had showed them how to build those pyramids, when they left, that died out in basketball to grow. And I just, I've been looking in this, and I find here that it states that the PLA basketball team defeated the YMCA team last Saturday, and they beat the Skookum Club.

**Where was the Skookum Club? Was that in Parkland?**

No, that was in Tacoma.

Most of the games we had then were with the YMCA and the Skookum Clubs. UPS there in the high schools. And Whitworth and sometimes the high schools.

**How did you, how did you do? I mean, did the team win quite a few of their games?**

Oh, yeah.

**Same way in baseball.**

Oh, yeah.

**But with those players you had, you must have won everything in baseball, didn't you?**

Oh, yeah. They beat everyone around the country then. Because Theander, he'd strike out up to twenty-two men in a game.

**He would? In a nine-inning ball game.**

Yeah.

**He had a blazing fast ball or?**

Yeah. And he, well, that's what he depended on most of the time then, but he learned to curve. And learned the tricks, of course. And that was the first baseball or basketball, yeah. But they tried to have a baseball team early too in 1901, basketball. But it petered out because they couldn't find nine men that could play ball.

**21:30 - 25:31 Basketball at PLU**

**And then you built that nice, basically, you built that gymnasium in 1912. And then I suppose really, basketball got going pretty well then for a while, didn't it?**

Yeah. Well, the other, you know, old gym, you know, we played a lot of ball there too. But it's funny. I've thought of it so much, you know, that key that they use. That circle.

**Yeah, the key out from the basket. Out to the free-throw line, yeah.**

Well, those keys went right through the center ring. That's how short the floor was, yeah.

**They overlapped the center line.**

Yeah. And, of course, there was no outside on three sides. The only place was a big, big stage on the west end of the gym. And that was left out for the spectators. But that basket, or that basket stood down and called like they do now. So it was outside, but the rest of them.

**That was in the, that was in the first gym.**

Yeah.

**Then did you have any other sports such as track or?**

No.

**You just had, you had gymnastics, baseball, and basketball. Did they have girls' teams when you were here?**

Oh, yeah.

**You had those two, huh?**

Yeah.

**Did they play boys' rules or girls' rules in basketball?**

Well, I couldn't say definitely. But, oh yeah, I can remember that, too, now. Because I remember the rule was the girls couldn't tackle another one. Basketball, for us, in those days, you know. Boy if you had the ball, somebody would jump on you.

**Oh, my. Did you, did the same fellows play baseball and played basketball, and baseball both?**

Yeah, that was a rule.

**Theander, was he a baseball player, too?**

Oh, yeah.

**The rest of your brothers?**

Yeah.

**How about your brother that's a minister. What's his name again, Alexander?**

Adolf.

**Was he an athlete, too?**

Never, no. He ran into music.

**Oh, I see. He's the youngest, isn't he?**

Yeah.

**But it was you and Theander, and Ingwald, and George that were in sports.**

Yeah.

**Where's Engvall? What became of him?**

He was back at Luther one year, and then he found that wasn't the course he wanted. But he, like Theander, I told about them, he was the brightest one in the family. Like Theander was saying, he went to school with them, and they took the Latin together. And Theander would sit there for a couple of hours, and he would try to get his lesson, and Ingwald would sit around there, and he'd read it through once, and then he'd throw the work aside. Then he came home again and went to the University of Washington and became a mining engineer. And then he went down to South America for the Guggenheims, and then he died down there in 1940, I guess.

**Oh, I see. Did he ever play professional baseball?**

No, he tried out. And he played ball at Luther one year.

**But did you play at Luther all the time you were there?**

Yeah.

**25:31 - Oliver's professional career, time in Midwest, basketball memories**

**You played for the team, and you played the summer. But you never played any pro ball, though, did you?**

Yeah, I played with Little Rock.

**Well, you played with Little Rock? What year was that?**

1919, that's the funny business.

**Well, you have to tell us about that.**

Well, I joined the Army in 1918. I came home then, and because I wanted to get home, and stay there as long as I could, so I went into the Army. And the first day I got into the Army, some sergeant came through the barracks where we were, all the little pieces were coming. They wanted to know if there were any ball players in the bunch. So I thought I was pretty dumb, but it turned out all right. I said, "How fast ball do you play?" "Oh," he says, "Coast League." "Well," I said, "I can play with you." So I started to play with the ball.

The result was we had all the privileges and no duties, except drill, of course. So then after the war was over, we were all trying to get out of the Army, and then they got it out that you had to have a job before you could get out. I was fussing around there until way out in 1919.

So one Sunday, or one Monday, there was an order came into the orderly room that was the authority to discharge about eight or ten of us. We were all sergeants, of course, that amounted to a training battalion. So we got a hold of these orders and started through the men. And the captain came home Monday morning. He had been in Tacoma all through the weekend. And he sent through an order, these men are all necessary to the organization. And that was that.

Then a little later, I don't know how that happened. But I had played ball with some of those other fellows. Tony Brottem was on the Little Rock Club at that time. And then there was another fellow I had been playing ball with up in Minnesota. Evidently they had talked to the manager of the Little Rock Club because he was short-handed. And all I knew was that one day an order came for my discharge. I was the only one. Discharge.

**This is out at Fort Lewis?**

Yeah. So I didn't know a thing about it. I don't know how they got it. But I imagine what the regulation was at any time, a baseball player requested a discharge it had to come from the management of the baseball team, of course. So I got discharged. And that was how I was –

**So then you went back to Little Rock and you played for them that summer, in 1919. Did you play any more after that?**

No.

**You played the one season.**

In fact, I didn't stay there long. I had an appointment to get married on the 20th of August and I had just left. I was past my prime, although I did pretty well down there when I left the manager – that was old Kid Elberfeld, that's one of the old-time Yankees – he said, "Oh, you helped us a lot."

But I was in good shape then. But before I got away from there, I joined Little Rock in New Orleans. Boy, the hot weather. So I lost weight. I couldn't keep my weight up in that country but I did pretty well up in northern Minnesota.

**When did you come back out the west then? Did you live in the Midwest for a couple of years?**

Yeah. I lived –

**You taught back there, didn't you?**

Yeah. Right after I got through with Luther, I taught at Albert Lea Academy from '14 until I went in the service.

**Then after you got married, where did you go then?**

I went up to North Dakota's principal of a high school at Mohall. And then the next three years or four, I was superintendent of McRae, North Dakota. And then I came west again.

**What year did you come out here?**

'31. I guess I had just been away from there. I had been thinking of getting back.

**What did you do out here then?**

Well, first, I bought an interest in a sawmill with my oldest brother.

**Which brother? What's his name?**

Theodore.

**He was not an athlete, was he?**

No.

[TAPE CUTS]

And the school was Macalester, and the other one there.

**Hamlin?**

Hamlin, yeah. And...

[TAPE CUTS]

**You did? You played UPS? Almost knocked you out? What happened there?**

No, it didn't get knocked out. But the only time I got control in a basketball game, and the guard, I was playing forward. The guard, I would run and the guard would get ahold my back and hang onto me so I couldn't run away from it. I would always figured if I can't, if I can't beat him one way, I can run away from it. So I was running away from it and he'd hang onto my back so one time when he held me back, I knocked his hand off my back with my hand and he thought I was trying to punch him in the body.

**He climbed all over you? What did the official do then?**

Well, they run him out of the ballgame. They left me in.

**Well, good. How many officials did you have? Did you have one or two then?**

I think it was only one most of the time.

**Do you have many people come out for the ballgames? Basketball? Baseball?**

Yeah, out there at Parkland. You know, we didn't have room for many, but there was much room there was there. Of course, after they built that new one in '12, then they had more room in the balcony up there. They had the track around.

**Yeah, the track up there. I suppose they filled that up there then?**

We played UPS and Whitworth. And I think we won. And that 1906, of course, that turns out probably the best team. I started to talk about it.

**1916 was PLU? They had a real good team then?**

Oh, yeah. They won. I don't think they lost the game at the end of the year. They lost the University of Washington. But that was another deal.

**Was that the time that they went up on the Interurban? It was real cold and they passed this bottle around. I've heard that story. I think that said, when they got into the ballgame the first half, they were terrific and they led the University of Washington. And the second half it began to get warm and all this stuff began to get to them in the second half, I guess they couldn't even see the ball.**

Yeah.

**So they got beat.**

They got beat. But they had beat them months down home.

**Oh, yeah. Who played on that team?**

Oh, that was Gint Storresley.

**Gint Storresley? Oh, yeah.**

He died recently.

**Yeah, he died here a while back.**

Yeah.

The center was a part Indian by the name of Clarence Webster. He was from – what's that logger town out there?

**Kapowsin?**

Kapowsin.

**Yeah, I've heard stories about this fellow Webster. He must have been a, well, how long did he go to Pacific Lutheran?**

Well, he must have gone three, four years.

Yeah.

**He was quite an athlete, wasn't he?**

Yeah.

**Pretty good student too, or?**

Yeah.

**Whatever happened to him?**

Well, his people who were in the butcher business, in the meat market up there, and they got their beef from the farmers around and butchered him, and he went back into that and went to butchering, and he had a knife, you know. He rode the horseback when he went up to the farms to get the beef. And it seems, that's the way I heard it anyway, the horse shied or something, and threw him off, and he had a butcher knife, a knife somewhere in his belt or something, went into his body. His body somewhere and killed him. Died of it.

**Oh, that's too bad.**

Yeah, he was a fine fellow too. He used to go at that time with what became Mrs. Xavier later. Signe.



But the others, that's it, that's the only two, which was Gint and this Webster and Eigil Bushman.

**Eigil Bushman later became the big salmon man, salmon canner.**

Yeah.

**I used to work for him up in Alaska.**

Oh, is that so?

**Mm-hmm. He was General, General Superintendent for Nackett Packing Corporation.**

That's it.

**And Ginther Storresly, he became the chief of the Air Force chaplains during World War II.**

Yeah.

**And then, who else was on that team? Was Stuen on that team?**

No. There was two Severson boys from, and Bangson from down there on the mouth of Columbia River.

**Astoria?**

Astoria. And that's five. I wonder if there were more than five. There's a picture.

**Did any of your brothers play on that team?**

No.

And I was, I was only 16

**You weren't old enough then, yeah.**

And I weighed only about 90 pounds at that time. But the funny part is, of course, they were playing against people. Nobody at that time at PLU or any other of the schools had played any basketball or even seen basketball before they started playing.

**And you didn't have any coach either, did you?**

Well there was a fellow by the name of Peterson. They just turned out to help us kids. You know. They helped us.

**But you just had high school and fellows who were going in the short course, the older fellows, they could play if they, if they were good enough to play.**

Yeah. There was no restrictions.

**No restrictions then.**

No.

### **38:54 - 55:14 Parkland and Tacoma memories**

**How did, uh, how did you get over town? Did you go over in a streetcar?**

Oh, yeah.

**Old Betsy, that train that used to go over town or?**

I was just looking up that here. The first streetcar ran to Parkland in about the middle of June in 1901. So that, I was just reading here how they took advantage of that. They used to, first they used to have to take, when we came out in '91, there was what you called a hack, stood there on Jefferson Avenue. And then you got on there and they rode way out to, out to Center Street to Lawrence, I guess it was. And there you got on Little Betsy. She chugged up here. And then.

**And then the Betsy got to Lakewood, didn't it? Then it cut across to Parkland.**

No.

**Or didn't it?**

That's the mistake.

I researched that whole business and I got everything done. Like one fellow from Spanaway said that he rode on that Betsy in 1888. And he said it went on the north side of that lake in there, Wapato, to Fern Hill and then south. And that was a mistake. Because it went straight from Center and I think it was Lawrence, south to 45th. And then straight east to ...

**Park Avenue? Yakima? Thompson?**

It, anyway, it came straight south past the cemetery and

**The Fern Hill Cemetery?**

No. The Tacoma Cemetery. That street on the east side. And then they went straight into what's now McChord Field. You can still see some of the grade there, to 116th. And then straight east to C Street. And then south to Spanaway. Cut across there and entered Spanaway. Anyway, on Park Avenue, what street was that? Well, anyway.

**When you came to, when you first came to Parkland, did you, where did you live? You lived across Pacific there, didn't you? Didn't you have a big old house over there? The Harstad family didn't you all live in one? On top of the hill?**

No, we didn't. We didn't come to that.

**You built that after you got here?**

No. Ward T. Smith built it.

**Oh, he did, huh?**

Well, that's the long story again. That house that we lived in has now stood at the time we moved in. It was a new then. They had built it for our folks. We came in July. They were supposed to have a place somewhere near fit to live in. We got out there and there was nothing in there the first night. And then the house then has moved just east, across C Street, and it's there yet. It hasn't long since I walked in there. We left there in 1900.

I walked in the back door there, and as soon as I got in, I looked over there and there was a door. And I asked the fellow, I says, "Well, is that the door to the upstairs steps?" "Yeah," he says. Everything was the same.

**Where is that? 125th and what?**

C Street. The house was built just as close to the bottom of the hill as they could get straight south of the south entrance to old PLU. And it still stands there. It's been changed a little bit, but not much.

**Who lives there now then?**

Well, it used to be some Lundus. But the last time I was there, I've been there several times.

**You say Ward Smith built that house, huh?**

Not that one.

**Oh, not that one.**

He bought the one on the hill. Yeah, that's another story. Well, you know, he was the real estate developer there. And PLA – well it was the PLU to start with, of course – they got a commission of the lots that were sold. And that went pretty well for a while until that depression of the 90s came. And then he went broke.

He spent real money on that place. It was everything from 121st south to 124th. And everything between 121st and 124th between Pacific and A Street. There was 18 acres. He had developed that yet. He had cleared some of it, of course, but had the new timber on it. And he grew strawberries, at last he was even trying to make coffee out of it. I don't know what it was, but he had one leg on there. I don't know, but I heard that he was lost a leg in the Civil War.

**Did he build that house for your dad, then, and your family?**

He built it for himself. And he was heavily mortgaged. And we had lived then in that house.

**Down below the hill.**

Well, the house was too small for the whole family, so about half the family always stayed. There was lots of room in the building. Well, Lydia, she was born up there, whether I don't remember if any of the others. Then those tough days when the Depression came, why Smith, had gotten in financial difficulties, of course, like one prominent man down by the name of Mason down in Tacoma when he came back there about fifteen years later.

And he said that everything went like, what was it? How was it? The expression, anyway, it was all wasted. Jetsom. Everybody was broke. And so Ward T. Smith, there was a mortgage in it, of course. He wanted a father to get that. I shouldn't tell you this, but there was, my father and my mother never agreed on money matters. Money was only for one thing and that was church. That's Dad.

And there was a mortgage for forty-eight hundred dollars on that place. And Smith had very little to say about it, but he told Father to buy it. Pa said, "If I can buy that for what I can give for my homestead back in North Dakota" – he took a homestead when he first came up there in 1874, and he got a good piece of land. So he went to mother, and he wanted to buy a place out there by Tule Lake, a farm. But that was too far away, and mother wouldn't stand for that. But she finally got interested, and she said, well, if you can get that, pay the mortgage, and get that clear, she'd sign for it, of course. So they got it.

And there was a gentleman's agreement between Ward T. Smith and Father that if he ever got back in shape, he could buy that place back for what the folks had paid for it. But he died in Tacoma some years later. And that was, mother had got a lesson while they were still in North Dakota about that. When Dad sold the best team of horses that they needed on the farm to put into some church proposition he had. So she was the financier because he thought money was only for, you know.

**Well, that house now, that, that's still there.**

The foundation is still there. That burned down in 1920. Early in 1920.

**Nobody around at the time, huh?**

Well, yes. The fire started right up on the roof. There was one of these cold, blistery, cold wind. And Mother had the fire in the kitchen stove, of course, and that went up. And they figured some, some flame got under the shingles.

**And then it started up and then it was gone before you could get in there.**

Well, it's funny, the firemen came after them. They thought that the roof would fall in on them. But they said afterwards they could have saved everything upstairs. But they saved everything downstairs. And then this stuff here was actually downstairs.

**So the foundation is still up there. That's alongside where you used to, where you, where the family home was.**

The house that's there now was built on the same foundation. Because the same, the foundation is all that same kind of stone.

**I've seen some pictures of that old house. That was a huge place.**

Oh, yeah. Yeah. Well, it was the same size as the one that's on there now.

**But it looked bigger than the present house.**

Yeah, it was, it was high ceilings, both, both downstairs, upstairs, and in the basement. So that was a nice house. I know mother was pleased, she never forget that. After he'd bought it, evidently the Smiths couldn't really finish the house. The walls weren't painted or anything done with. Mother came up there the first time and she stood there and wept.

**You're talking about these lots in Parkland that Ward T. Smith had. Now this, how much did the school get for each lot that was sold?**

I couldn't see how much it was. Whether it was five dollars or a lot.

**How much did the lots sell for? Do you remember that?**

Around a hundred dollars.

**A hundred dollars apiece. And the school would get five or ten dollars for each one.**

Something like that.

**And then they also donated the property for the, where the school is now, didn't they?**

Ward Smith.

Well, some of it. Some of it, you know. But Wilson. William Wilson. Well, that whole part in there from 121st to 128th is what they call the Tallentire Donation Claim. Tallentire was one of the first ones to get a donation

claim of one whole section. So, William Wilson bought the north half in 1872 for five, five hundred dollars, I guess.

Wilson gave some. I don't know whether Smith gave anything or not, but Wilson gave some. He made money on his deal in 1872.

**Yeah, he must have sold it for five, got it for five hundred and sold lots for a hundred dollars apiece. That's pretty good money.**

But he gave, he must have given several lots to the PLA and the Methodist Church there, he gave to.

**The one up on the hill?**

Yeah, that's on the hill now, but used to be down there.

**Used to be down there by the school?**

By the school.

**And he gave that to the Methodist Church?**

Yeah.

**And whether the old Park and Lutheran Church was there, they gave that too, I suppose?**

No, I think they had bought that. I wonder if that, I don't remember about that. It might have gone through someone else's.

**Your dad, your dad was pastor of the church, wasn't he, after 1920?**

Yeah.

**He was pastor for a few years.**

I think he retired in '27, was it? Something like that.

**You belong to the church out in Parkland now?**

Yeah.

**Yeah, you still belong there, yeah.**

Yeah. I went to a meeting down there during Homecoming down the PLU here, not long after I had come back out here and there was a German pastor, I think he was president of the Missouri Church or something like that.

He gave a speech. And he got in on that subject of the school. And he said, well, he says the times were desperate.

[TAPE CUTS]

**55:14 - 01:03:37 Family memories, more basketball**

**I was going to ask you about your dad. Now, was he sports minded at all?**

No.

**Did he come out to your ball games or?**

He came out to one basketball game and I asked him afterwards. He didn't come anymore. I said, "Why don't you?" "Well," he said, "it's too exciting." He said, it's all exciting.

**How about baseball? Did he come out and watch you fellas play baseball?**

No. That was one thing with me. I knew at the time I could have signed up with the Tacoma team that I would be troubling the family.

**Because you have to play on Sunday?**

Well, because of professional baseball.

**Oh, he was against that.**

We played baseball on Sundays, right there in the afternoon. And then, I don't remember what was I after.

**You were talking about your dad playing?**

Oh, yeah. And when I went to Luther, he asked me not to play any basketball. So I didn't play it in the first year. I was there. The guys come around and put the pressure on me at last. But when Theander went to play professional ball, now, he settled the whole thing.

He came around once and he told Mother he was going up to Vancouver to play ball. And he only said, she said, "Have you talked to your father?" "No," he says. "Well, you better go upstairs and talk to him." And he went up there. And the only thing I heard him say, and Pa said to him, well, "It's too easy to get into bad company and that." Well, he told Dad, he says, "I can get into bad company right here." He consented then. And after that, he started reading the paper.

**Following him, huh? How about the rest of the faculty? Were they interested in sports or?**

Oh, yeah. Stuen, of course, was. And there was one H.S. Peterson there.

**Did you have any nicknames for the teams then?**

No, we never did.

**You never had any names for anything like that?**

PLA. PLA only. We had some colored uniforms. I don't know how we got them. The athletic department must have bought them. They were gold shirts and black or ebony trousers.

**They've always had the same colors, black and gold since the beginning.**

Yeah.

**Well, that goes back quite a few years.**

Yeah, I don't know what they had in 1901. That seems to be the...

**1901 seems to be the time when you first started to have any kind of sports.**

Yeah, because that old gym was built, I see, in 1899.

**Then you built the next gym in 1912. That was mostly done by the alumni, wasn't it?**

Yeah.

**And a few other people, and they'd built it themselves or they'd let out to a contractor?**

I don't know. I was away.

Oh yeah, you were back in the Midwest then.

**Yeah.**

Yeah, that was pretty nice for that. At that time, they had a much better playing field.

**Did you play any baseball out behind the school in later years?**

No. Well, I don't know. They had some kind of a baseball team, or at least they played amongst themselves in the '90s.

**But they never went off the campus until 1901.**



Yeah. Well, that's the first. They had basketball.

**First basketball.**

Baseball didn't come later.

**Yeah, it was up to about 1910 or 11, right in there.**

Yeah. And they got well then the basketball. I don't know why it was, but I guess, you know, there was some big men out there, big Bill Storsley.

**Yeah, he played there too. He played baseball too did he?**

Yeah.

**And I suppose the Daniels boys played, you know?**

No.

**No, they weren't in sports.**

It was... Well, let's see.

**Ellingson?**

No, I can't think of it. It was a fellow named Johnson.

**Lots of Johnsons.**

Yeah. Well, he was one of the Johnson's that came to Parkland early. I can't remember who those were. Well, we've got a picture around here somewhere. Let's see it was Tony, Theander, Ingwald, Bill Storsley. That's four in those teams. And then it was this Harold Johnson, that's five. And Gerhard Storsley, I guess six. I think he played too.

**So this is off the point, but there's a fellow named Harstad who's an engineer around here.**

Up in Seattle.

**Is he related to you?**

Yeah.

**Who's son is he?**

Theodore's.

**Yeah, he's working on a sewer program, you know, out in Parkland.**

Yeah. How is that going to come?

[TAPE CUTS]

It's marvelous the way they can shoot nowadays. We never could shoot. Never practiced at all.

**You never practiced shooting. What did you do?**

All we did was run back and forth and pass the ball and shoot once and then back.

**And then back down the floor again.**

Yeah, we never...

**Yeah, of course you'd have... After a basket was made, but then you'd have to center the ball again.**

That's right.

**Start all over.**

Well, I remember, I saw a basketball game out at PLU when I was going to school. Final score was 18 to 14 and two overtimes. The score was tied 12 to 12 at the end of the regular game.

Well, that's about how they were, but I remember at Luther, we played...

**St. Olaf?**

No.

**Carlton?**

Carlton.

Yeah. We played Carlton. You got beat 9 to 11.

**9 to 11?**

Yeah.

**You just couldn't hit... did they call many fouls in those days?**

Oh, I don't think they called as many as they did.

**But you didn't get... You weren't very good at free throws either, huh?**

No. The only thing was, I remember... I was good one night. We played with YMCA down here and we beat them. I forget what we scored. And I made 14 free shots out of 14.

**Oh, my word.**

And I never had a spell like that since.

**You shot with two hands underhand this way.**

Oh, yeah.

**And then when you shot from outside, for field goals, did you shoot underhand then, too, or did you shoot up?**

Oh, no, I shot

[TAPE CUTS]