



Neil Pattie Cox

September 6, 1936 - April 2, 2025

Neil Pattie Cox, age 88, of Corvallis died Wednesday, April 2, 2025. Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at www.McHenryFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Part 1 In an interview conducted by his brother Ted Cox, Neil recanted the first 18 years of his life. Below are some quotes from the 2008 interview. Neil: "I was born in Bend, Oregon, September 6, 1936. A very good year I might say." Ted: "Why was it a good year." Neil: "I was born (Neil laughs)." Ted: "What are the earliest things you remember in Bend?" Neil: "It is hard to say. I remember drawing what I thought was a very nice picture on the wall. I think with a pencil. As I remember, my Dad was not happy because we were getting ready to move and he had to cover it up somehow. I did not appreciate that, because I thought it was really nice. I was maybe three or four years old" Neil: "In 1940 we moved to Shevlin Camp. I think I was four years old. This would be about a year or so before I went to kindergarten. I didn't get to school until we moved to Portland." Neil: "One thing I remember at the camp, and I talked to Mom about this, there was an Indian woman that used to smoke her meat, like jerky. I would help keep the fire going by putting wood in the fire, and she would give me some of her jerky, and I really liked that." Neil: "While we were living in Portland, I had a little rubber duck. It was sponge rubber with a slit on the bottom. You could put a small bar of Ivory Soap in it and it would float. You could wash yourself with it or play with it. One day Janis and I were mad at each other in the back seat of our car when Dad was driving over the Steel Bridge. I always sat behind Dad and was upset with Janis because she was sitting behind Dad when she dropped my duck out the window. I will never forgive her for that. (Neil laughs). I used to send rubber ducks to Jan, and now she is sending them back to me. My daughter Leanne is sending them to me too, so it all sort of backfired on me. I now have more damn ducks than I know what to do with!" Neil: "In Portland I used to listen to the radio. I can remember when we lived on Baldwin everyone was listening to Red Skelton in particular. Bob Hope would be on sometimes. And then I remember over there at our home on Knowles listening to the Lone Ranger, particularly Terri and the Pirates and Jack Armstrong, Captain Midnight and Henry Alderich. They were all 15 minute serial programs that were on late afternoon. There were others." Ted: "Were you aware of any TV at that time?" Neil: "I never heard the*

word TV at that time. In Portland we didn't know there was such a thing." Neil: "In Eugene after the war I think I heard of TV but I had never seen one. Eugene had no TV at that time." (TV was introduced to Eugene in 1954). I don't even know if Portland had TV at that time." (TV came to Portland in 1952). "So, I think I was aware of it but it was a non-thing because there was no choice about it at the time." "In 1941 we moved to 6614 N. Knowles St., North Portland, across the Willamette River, maybe 4 or 5 miles from Baldwin. I have a lot more memories from that time on. That's where I learned to ride a bicycle. Dad got two old bikes, painted them up and gave one to me for my birthday. I guess I was about 7-years old. I remember mother was running along side of me helping to steady the bike, going up and down the sidewalk in front of the house on Knowles. I think I piled it up once or twice, but it was pretty easy to learn how to ride. It didn't take me long to do that. My friends across the street had bicycles. I mostly rode with them." "Mom would ride with me sometimes. Later, Dad put foot rests on her back axel so she could take Janis. "I used to get flat tires. I would take the wheel off, take the inner tube out, patch it and put the inner tube back in using a screwdriver. Too often I ended up punching another hole in the inner tube with the same screwdriver." Neil: "after the war, we moved to Springfield in late fall of 1945 or early spring of 1946. When we moved to Springfield they jumped me ahead to the fifth grade, so I only spent a half year in the fourth grade."

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“ Part 2 Neil: "For me at that time the big deal was my 5th grade teacher with folk dancing. One of the high lights of my school life. One of the few times I felt really happy about going to school. And that was because she was teaching us all these folk dances. All the kids seemed to like dancing. It went over really well". Ted: "What was her name?" Neil: "Mrs. Velma Burch who taught 5th grade at Whitaker. She is the one I have always thought about as my favorite school teacher. In 1989 I finally went down to Eugene and was able to look her up and visit her. Neil: "When we moved to Eugene, we lived in that house on Ash Street for four years - 1946 to 1950, then we moved to California." Ted: "Did you have eighth grade graduation there?" Neil: "No, there was no graduation for completing junior high in Eugene, you just moved on to the ninth grade. When we moved to California, junior high did have graduation at the eight grade level, so I missed out on that and just started as a freshman at Chaffey High School." Ted: "What was the school you last attended in Eugene?" Neil: "The Middle School I went to for two years in Eugene was called Colin Kelly. Today its called Colin Kelly Middle School." Ted: "Do you remember the drive down to California when we left Eugene? What kind of car did we take off in?" Neil: "We had a 1947 Pontiac Woody Station Wagon that Dad drove to California in 1950. Pulling a big trailer with all of our possessions. That move we did ourselves. We still had the woody when we moved to Eagle Rock." Neil: "The trip took us three days. It was all new to me, I had never gone far south of Eugene. But it was in the summertime, beautiful. I remember I had two boxes of gum, one full of Black Jack and a bunch of Life Savers with multiple flavors. Sitting in the back of that station wagon, and part of the time in the back seat, and part of the time in the back looking out the rear window. So it was a real interesting riding back there. I think we stayed in Weed the first night. Our Dad had built a trailer to haul all of our furniture and stuff on. He had air brakes hooked up. It was a big deal all towed behind the station wagon. "Then we drove down to Fresno the second night. Starting to see all the oleanders there along Highway 99, I had never seen those before." "Right around Fresno where we stayed, they had places where they sold

Orange Julius's at these little roadside stands in the shape of a big orange. We had some of these Orange Julius's, they were pretty good." "We got a big laugh to going over the Cajon Pass. There were signs talking about the forest area, the Los Angeles National Forest, and it was a bunch of scrub trees and brush and stuff. We got a big laugh out of that. As we started to see Los Angeles, one of the things I remember the most was going over the San Gabriel River. The sign said San Gabriel River, we looked down at it and it was just a little stream of water. We thought that was the funniest thing. Of course, I didn't know that it was for floods and they really did have a lot of water go through there. California at that time, around the first of July had already turned yellow. When we left Oregon, everything was green. But, to call all those scrub things a forest was a big joke. And then we drove clear out to Ontario. We went out Foothill Blvd. And so after three days, we got to Cucamonga." Ted: "Did Ethel live by herself there?" Neil: "Yeah, she had either just divorced or was just getting a divorced, and swapped her Eugene property for the ranch property in Cucamonga." Ted: "I seem to remember when we pulled into Ethel's driveway we were all singing, "California here we come, right back where we started from." Ted: "When we had that place in Santa Monica, were you driving at that point?" Neil: "No. I could drive, I did drive a little bit in the Peach Orchard in Ontario, the tractor and the truck. But I never drove in town at that time."

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“ Part 3 Ted: Well, what all kind of work did you do in the Sawtelle shop?” Neil: “I just sold Frostys ice cream cones and that’s it.” Ted: “Did you go to school that summer?” Neil: “No. That was the summer we moved out their to West L.A., to Sawtelle (four miles from the Santa Monica Peer), probably the First of July. By the first of September we moved over to Eagle Rock. I finished school at Chaffey starting the 10th grade.” Ted: “Did you go out to the pike at that time?” Neil: “Yeah. I went to the Pike in the summer of 1951. I think Kay and Norma were with us. One of the most memorable things I remember was that I ran into a guy named Henry Godard. He was one of my classmates in junior high in Eugene, Oregon a year earlier.” Ted: “This was at the Pike?” Neil: “Yes, this was at the Pike in Long Beach. Can you believe that, its a small world. So we said Hi to each other, we didn’t say to much but it was very unique. I remember going through the house of mirrors at the Pike.” Neil: “We did a lot of things when we first moved down to Southern California, I think Dad remembered from his younger days in the Navy. We went to San Juan Capistrano, sort of a big event. And uh, Susie and Powell were there, we have some pictures of that. We went to Tijuana. That was a big deal.” We went to the Pike and the San Diego Zoo. Both Norma and Kay were with us. We were doing a number of things with the Crossland’s. We also went to the L.A. County Fair in Pomona and China Town in Los Angeles.” Neil: “The first time I saw a T.V. program was at Norma’s house. She was living in Redondo Beach which is close to Torrance. I got to watch ‘Time for Beany’ with her two little girls. One of whom I saw for the first time in after fifty years this year, Mary Prange” Mary is quite a character. She worked for the movie studios for quite some time, maybe as a writer, I’m not sure. A real nice person. She came out to one of those taco parties at Sandra’s. Today she lives near Hollywood off Los Feliz.” Ted: “So you started Eagle Rock High School in what grade?” Neil: “The 11th grade.” Ted: “How was your experience at Eagle Rock High School?” Neil: “You know, I had been to so many schools, and had to meet all new friends, that the whole idea to me was probably not as traumatic as it would be to other people. I never had friends for more than two years before we

moved. It was a very easy transition." "One thing I noticed at Eagle Rock High School, was that there were a lot fewer fights going on than at Chaffey High School. At Chaffey there was always some big fight on campus, guys beating the hell out of each other, with a big circle of spectators around." "So we went to Sawtelle in June 1952, and moved to Eagle Rock in September 1952. A man named Fisher, owned the Richfield gas station on the NE corner of Colorado Blvd. and Ellenwood. He leased us the building located on the NW corner of same street. It was already set up as an independent soft ice cream business like in Sawtelle. Dad negotiated with Mr. Fisher to expand the building so we could open a restaurant and name it Ted's Broiler". "The day manager at Bob's Big Boy Hamburger in Glendale, where we used to go eat, liked Dad, and came to help our parents set up. Apparently this guy went out of his way to show us recipes and get us started." Neil: "Here is the corner of Colorado Blvd. and Ellenwood. This is the corner where the 76 gas station was (SE corner). I spent a lot of hours working there Saturdays and Sundays. And on the other side was the Standard Oil Station (SW corner). And across the street was the Richfield Station (NE corner), the Richfield Station owner also owned the Ted's Broiler building (NW corner). We lived in a property just down the street on Ellenwood and then moved to where this picture was taken by our mother."

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“ Part 4 Neil: "When we first moved to Eagle Rock we lived on Townsend Ave. I met Judy Shins, she was the girl across the street and I started dating her right away. I seemed to be interested in girls pretty much. She introduced me to Marilyn. I was working evenings and weekends at our family (ice cream store)." Neil: "Once I met Marilyn, I started going with her. I didn't really pay much attention to high school. I just did what ever I had to. I continued working at our Dad's restaurant. In the summer of '53, he bought me a car and I got my drivers license. So I was a senior and I had a car, and uh, I could go to the drive-in theater's. I can remember, taking my girlfriend to the drive-in, uh, making out for hours. That was terrific." Ted: "What kind of car was it?" Neil: "1940 Plymouth." Ted: "Dad bought that for you?". Neil: "Yeah. It was a Club Coup. It didn't have a back seat." Ted: "Where was the drive-in theater located?" Neil: "The drive-in that we went to most of the time was the San Val in Burbank." (about 7 miles from Eagle Rock). Ted: "Wasn't Marilyn a cheer leader at that time?" Neil: "Yes, I went out for football in the Fall of 1953, although I got hurt and dropped out. So she was a cheerleader when I was a senior. I remember going to the first game which was out in San Fernando Valley, but I didn't go to all of the games. The next year some of my friends were still playing football." Neil: "One thing that sticks in my mind all those years, more than moving around, was going to different schools. Even when we didn't move I was going to different schools. At Knowles in Portland I went to two different schools (Kindergarten: Woodlawn), and Peninsula). In Springfield I went to one and in Eugene I went to two schools, grade school and junior high (Whiteacer and Colin Kelly). Hardly any of my grade school friends went to the same junior high school I did. So, all my grade school friends went off to another junior high. And then went to two different high schools after that. For me it was like changing schools was harder than making the neighborhood friends." "Looking back I never had a hard time wherever I went, all of it went pretty well. I just always felt uncomfortable being the new guy." In 1954 Neil graduated from Eagle Rock High School and would go on to marry Marilyn Hileman in 1956. He would then graduate from UCLA in the 1960's with a

degree in Engineering before becoming a piping engineer for Braun. He would marry Linda C. Rehn on March 26th in 1982, who he would spend the next 43 years together until Neil's passing. Neil passed surrounded by family and loved ones on Wednesday April 2, 2025 in Corvallis Oregon. Neil is survived by his wife Linda C. Rehn but also 2 Children: Leanne L. O'Neill and Doug N. Cox, 3 Grand Children: Justin, Hannah, Kevin, and 4 Great Grand Children: Nolan, Olivia, Mickey, and Brayden.

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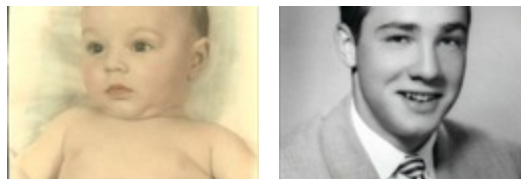
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