

All right,  
so we are here with Mike Grandy and Alan Loeb sack today in local history.  
It is October 18th, 2016,  
and thanks for being here, you guys. It's  
good to be here.  
Me too. All  
right,  
so  
let's start with,  
it doesn't matter actually who goes first, but  
am I  
correct in thinking that both  
of you gentlemen have  
lived in Waterville  
or the Waterville area  
pretty much your whole life? Pretty much forever.  
Since there was dirt.  
Yeah,  
yes.  
What year did you graduate, Mike?  
1972.  
72.  
1972  
when I graduated. 72.  
You guys are in the same class.  
We went to grade school together,  
junior high together,  
confirmation together.  
Cub Scouts.  
Cub Scouts. What  
else did we do?  
Fishing in Alaska.  
Now I knew you were.  
Now we were farming together.  
Now I knew you were pretty good friends, but  
is it safe to say you're best friends?  
Pretty much. Yes.  
Wow.  
Well, that's  
awesome.  
So  
when you,  
now I'm not trying to make you feel old,  
but was there kindergarten  
when you went to school?  
There was, but you  
had to pay for it.  
So I didn't go.  
And talking for Alan, he was too shy to go.  
I went one day.  
Stayed with my grandmother that night.  
It was fun.  
Okay. So  
it  
was in town.  
It was getting into town.

Was that Mrs.  
Bisbee?

Yeah.

So if my math is correct, you started first grade probably around 1950,  
1960. 1960. So we  
stayed.

When we graduated from first grade, it was 1961.

So I could keep track  
of,

72 was when we graduated from high school.

At the end of the year,  
1969, we were

done with our freshman year and that was when the moonshot was.

When the what was? The moonshot was.

When men walked on the moon.

We got to watch it on a black and white television.

In school?

No,

at home.

This was in the summer.

Okay. But

it's

always kind of cool.

I never realized that

the

Oz part of Wizard

of

Oz was in color until after I was married.

I never saw it on a color TV.

The Wizard of Oz? Yeah.

Okay. Until

Joyce and I were married.

So this is just a side note.

So your senior year,

no, your freshman year,

Neil Armstrong walked

on the moon.

My senior year

in this classroom,

During school,

we watched

the horrific

Columbine shooting.

happened

while we were in school.

So

we went from walking on the moon in 1969 to 1999,

seeing a school shooting live on TV.

I mean, not the actual event, but

the news media

and everything.

Wow.

Okay, so let me ask you a question.

Now,

don't worry.

Well, you're not worried.

But don't worry.

I'm going to...

The

students, I think, know you mostly from young life,  
which is great.

And since

we were just on this topic and it just came right through my mind,  
I'm going to ask you, so when you came to first grade at Waterville,  
was it at Waterville?

Okay.

So it was on this premises.

Was it that building over there?

No, right out where the big sign is,  
the big

old brick two-story

schoolhouse brick

and gymnasium in the basement.

That was your first grade?

Yeah. 1960?

Yeah.

When

was that building built?

1970,

no, 69.

Yeah, 69.

We moved in when we were sophomores.

Okay.

Freshmen or sophomores.

So when you were in high school, I'm going to go back to this topic.

I'm not going away from it, but

Right now I'm sidetracked.

So when you came to high school, there was just the one hallway.

Yeah.

Yep.

And that was the same.

By the time we finished high school.

Because we were sophomores.

Okay.

That was the same when I came to high school.

We just had that one hallway.

And then by the time I graduated, then we had this site also.

Okay.

So back to my question here.

When you came to 1st grade in Waterville,

and this question is not intended to

be weird,

But I'm just asking, when you came to 1st grade,

did the

teacher start the day with prayer?

I

don't think so.

No.

I don't think so.

I always pledge allegiance

to learn that.

Okay.

Because the Supreme Court case that took prayer out of schools was, I think, 1962.

So it was right there close to when you guys would have started school.

So that's the reason why I asked.

And then I was also thinking how we go watching somebody walk on the moon to school shooting in 30 years.

But

all right.

Let's see.

So Mike.

Just to comment on that thing, it was probably just generally that was probably a participation of the community you lived in and the teacher.

And so

if they

had Christian feelings, I think that they could pray in there or facilitate prayer.

And if they didn't really feel that way, and they just probably didn't.

And that was probably our case, in our case.

So it may have been

the case that there were other teachers at Waterville at that time that did.

Maybe, I don't know. Yeah. Okay.

Do you ever remember a teacher specifically that did?

Yeah, 1963

when JFK got shot.

Because we were in the 4th grade then.

That was pretty traumatic.

I remember coming home,

hearing about it, walking across the crosswalk,

and the crossing guards,

or girls who were coming back from town, said the

president got shot.

It's like, no way.

The presidents never get shot.

So

that was a traumatic day.

OK.

So I was going to ask you, Mike, where did you grow up?

It's specifically

what I was

born here.

The Waterville Clinic used to be a hospital and they had like 2 operating rooms. So

that was where all six of us were born,

my

siblings and I.

Then we lived,

we lived with my grandma

first, which is up where my  
little sister Dorothy lives now,  
west side of town,  
the rough side of town.

And

then we moved to  
what we called the Pink House,  
which is now  
Apple Green.

It used to be, what  
was that guy's name? He  
made

peanut brittle  
all the time.

We lived there for a while,  
lived in the gray house,  
lived in the back of the liquor store  
for two years,  
and I was in junior high.

I went to visit Mike there one day after school. Yeah.

I'm

probably at a couple of your houses,  
the gray house.

The gray house, my  
3rd or 3rd grade, so the  
10th birthday, 11th, 12th birthday. That  
was fun.

So you moved around.

We moved around a lot.

We had like 6 different houses in Waterville.  
In town.

So we are really good at  
moving furniture.

You never ended up living out of town.

Okay. No,

not until after I was married.

Okay.

Alan, what about you? Where'd you grow up? I grew  
up at a farm, the Lopesac Homestead Farm,  
and it's about 8 miles  
out of town.

It's where

Mike's daughter lives right now  
and her husband,

Steve and Hannah Ott, live there.

And I lived in that house until I  
went to college, and

then when I moved away to  
crabfish, and

that was all,

I always lived there.

It

was my home.

Until I got back from crab fishing and got married.

Okay,

I've never been to the Loeb Sack Homestead,

so I guess I'm going to need to  
talk to  
and see if I can come out and visit.

So let's  
take a side  
tour here.

You brought up crab fishing.

So are we talking deadliest catch?

It  
was like that, except for it was about 25 years  
earlier,  
and there was  
no safety at all.

So deadlier.

We're on  
a third, a boat, a  
third the size.

What's on the deadliest catch? Did you go too? Yeah, we  
were on the same boat.

Alan kept me alive.

He was our cook.

He made me eat.

Which was good.

I did not feel like eating.

I just wanted to sleep. It

was the hardest job I've ever had in my life.

How long did you guys go?

Three years for me.

Yeah,  
four years.

A  
three-year period or? No,  
it's seasonal.

Seasonal.

So, yeah,

Starting out on a processing boat, which was a floating processor in this little bay  
called Akutan.

And then

Alan got a job on the Mary Allen.

I came the next year.

He was already a fisherman.

Then I went fishing on that boat  
that following year,

1979,

78, and then

fished for a couple more years.

Alan got smart and retired.

You had your own boat, Alan?

No.

No, that  
would be a whole different deal.

But just how things happen, just like a little local flavor to this.

One of the

women that grew up here, she was a Mansfield Navy, and  
then she ended up in her second marriage,  
married a fellow named John Boggs, and he owned crab boats.

And so what they did was then you got a connection back to this area, and there was quite a few kids from the Lauderdale area that went up there.

And not that there were any people in shining armor, but we would generally stay there for our six-month contract. If you stayed on the processing boat for six months and worked, you got your airfare and your rain gear and stuff paid for. And 15 cents an hour bonus. And 15 cents an hour bonus. But if you quit and had to fly home, you basically were indebted to, you needed to pay that back to the company. Well, it doesn't take long. It's a pain for the company to have people come up and then quit the job. But we, from Douglas County, Mansfield and Waterville area, were, I guess, high percentage people that stayed and finished the contract.

And so There was a lot of people from Waterville that ended up being up there, and it'd be hard for me to rattle them up, but my cousin Dave and Larry Landon, and there's my brothers. Yeah, there's my brother was up there, my older brother, so they're probably end up being maybe 20 people. Jay Landon's dad. It was the connection though from the... It was just a connection through, you know, through a marriage and he was part owner in the processor and he was part owner in the fishing boats. What season was that? What type of the year? What time of the year? September through March. Wow. Yeah. Actually our boat did, which made it, like Alan said, it was a safety issue. It was a shrimp boat originally. double dragger shrimper so you could pull up 20,000 pounds of shrimp in two nets every two hours. And you had to shovel them, wash them down, shovel them down and ice them. But because of that, when you tank down, when you're full of crab, you were this far off the water

on a calm day.

So usually, there was one time

I went racing out the back end of the boat and

Alan grabbed the hood of my

Haley Hansen's and stopped me because there was nothing.

The back of our boat was open, there was a rail going across and that was it.

This wave was so big, it was just taking both of us out.

He fell in one of the hatches,

grabbed my hood on the way out in the railing.

And that kind of stuff happened

A lot.

When you almost died, it was hilarious.

You didn't get hurt.

So we'd laugh, go change clothes, and then go do it again.

So Taylor, I think that

I don't see any reason why we couldn't write an article

and put it in the Empire Press about

our local

deadliest cast

fishermen.

I mean, we have our own version, really.

I mean, I'm learning so much.

Yes.

So,

all right.

Well,

that's good stuff.

But yes, let's come back to

Some of

the other stuff about this area. And

my

great-grandfather came here,

and it was, I think it was about the last time of the Homestead Act, and I don't know how much you guys

know about the Homestead Act, but it was actually settled the West thing,

get the West settled,

and they did.

But this area was one of the last to be settled, and my

great-grandfather came

like about 1900,

on

that batch of

people that were exiting the European continent.

And

so that's a really big player in the history of places like Washington, rural Washington,

and

Oregon and Idaho,

because

it was what,

it was the way that

the federal government, tried to get it,

established.

And to just be quite frank, that's

where there became,

a conflict between what

the Native

American population that was here.

That's when  
a lot of that  
displacement happened,  
basically farming the land instead of,  
instead of just living off the land like  
nomads. So  
there's a lot of history took place between  
the end of the Civil War and  
when  
in our time.

There's a lot of things that happened in America.  
It changed A lot.

So Loeb Sack is, what's the origin of Loeb Sack?

They, what they, it's German.

And German,

and they were so poor they left Germany and they had Catherine the Great  
from the Russian czar, was

actually had them, had a lot of the Germans, the poor Germans come because they were pretty decent  
farmers come and they did

the farming there and some really rich land there.

But then when she  
died or lost power,

the things weren't so good for the German immigrants to Russia. And so

most of them immigrated to the United  
States.

I  
told my great-grandparents,  
the boys in the family, either join the SARS army  
or get out.

So they left.

And

of course, where they head to, back to Germany.

1917 in Germany wasn't very much fun.

they came to America.

And

one of the, another side note, we can go off on these all day,

is some of my grandma, and my grandma was

17 when

they moved here. So

they didn't speak

any English at all.

My aunt and uncle,

my uncle just passed away a couple years ago,

ripe old age 92.

When he went to high school,

it was in German.

They were in Montana or when he went to grade school.

When he came here to Waterville,

he had to learn English

and still graduated.

I mean, they were at the top of his class.

I mean, they

were

hard-working

people.

And then got to go back

to Europe,  
World War II,  
and fight some of his cousins  
in France.

Which  
is a weird concept  
because they're Germans and we were Germans.  
That's what they did.

Joyce, I thought by marrying someone from Yakima  
that we wouldn't be related, like it seems like everybody else in town is.

Her  
parents,  
Alan's parents were Goldsacks,  
his wife's parents were Eichlers,  
mine were Basil's, Joyce's  
were Krieggers.

They all came within 15 miles of each other on the Volga River.  
So we're probably all related  
anyway.

Yeah.  
Margie's papers were  
that her  
Eichler family was signed at  
the Franck Russian church there.

That's where the  
records were kept.  
And that's right where the Lobsacks came from too.  
That's interesting.

You run, but you can't hide.  
That's a small, small world.

Okay.  
Wow.  
Anybody have any questions so far?

Go ahead, Taylor. So  
when did your family first settle in  
Waterville, each  
of you? My grandparents came here in 1917,  
or came to the United States in 1917.

I don't think they got here until  
early 20s.

And Alan already said  
about 1900.

Yeah, and  
they got out here in 1904.  
I think that's when they made it the rest of the way out.

So Mike, your mom's family  
are the basils?

Okay. Yep,  
one branch.

One branch.  
I think there's a lot of basils.

It  
was really cool, well,  
kind of.

My grandma's  
maiden name was Basil.

She married her second cousin,  
which is legal.

He was also Basil.

So she never had to change her name.

So

my mom had to fill out papers, you know, what's your grandma, what's your mom's name, what's her maiden name, what's the same one.

And

she would always get upset about that.

My grandma would never say that they were from Russia

if her country of origin was always Germany,

because she didn't

want to be associated with Russians.

That's your grandma,

Basil?

Now, I'm a little bit confused right now, and

it's

probably my doing.

But

the Basils were

from Germany, but Russia was

basically controlling Germany? No,

they immigrated

to Russia, too.

People in power, the Czarina,

in those days gave them 99-year leases.

Okay.

So they were

allowed to live there, farm to ground,

build farms.

It was kind of like our Homestead Act.

It was to break out this really rich land and teach the

Russians how

to

farm.

So now I understand.

Yeah, and that's what happened.

But when

the transfer in power happened in Russia, then

the deal was...

It was not so good.

And that happened

with your family,

the Basil family.

The Grandy family too?

No, Grandy family is from

Norway.

Okay. It

means sandbank.

Sandbank.

And that was the farm that they came from.

You were actually, your surname was

where

you worked.

We just learned that because

that's where the Ruud family's

name came

from.

Yeah.

Okay,

good.

But Joyce's family  
went into Russia also.

Yes.

And then you're saying Margie's family.

The Lobesack family did too.

Wow,

okay.

Interesting

history there.

Taylor, go ahead.

Can you tell us

about the process

of moving your house and why you chose to move it?

We

looked for, we sold some land

that,

when I fished in Alaska,

we made a little bit of money, more than what

We made—

the

first time I worked for my cousin on the wheat farm, I made \$522 a month.

The first year that I fished

in Alaska,

I actually went

fishing.

I made \$1,000

a day.

On the processing boat, it was basically a little bit over minimum wage.

We made \$3.45 an hour.

At that, you worked so hard, so many hours that I could send after taxes 2,500 bucks home a month. We

were in overtime by Monday night,

every day, every week, start at midnight

on Sunday.

But because of that, we bought some land

up

by Chesaw,

which a gold mine really needed

to

use up. So they

gave us some money.

So we were able to buy,

had enough money to actually buy a house.

The house we lived in, we were just leasing.

And so we looked for, we wanted to be closer to Waterville,

looked for some property.

We wanted a road, power, or water,

because

all three of those things are kind of expensive.

And there wasn't,

there weren't any houses, anybody wanted to sell homesteads.

But

the Peterson place north of Farmer,  
they  
wanted to sell the house.  
There were three people that wanted to buy it and move it, but you had to move it.  
and it  
ended up being about a year-long process.  
The hinders were  
wonderful enough to sell us 10 acres.  
All we had to do was move a house 20 miles.  
So we took the roof off of it.  
Bates Moving Company lifted it up, put it on two big giant  
I-beams  
that had wheels under 16 wheels,  
and  
they drove it down the road  
to where it is now. It  
took 20 minutes.  
Which I think that's a pretty cool fact.  
So I think...  
The drive. It was  
two months to  
actually move the house.  
Sorry. Yeah.  
No, that's okay.  
But I think I told these guys about that.  
So then I think they were a little interested.  
But then since then,  
in talking to people around the area, it sounds like,  
I don't know about a  
home that big, but it sounds like a lot of buildings were moved  
from place to place.  
Yep.  
What we call the Kendrick House,  
and  
who lives there now? I can't remember.  
Jessups.  
Jessups live up there.  
It was moved in  
from out in the country.  
Right, and we might have been in the 3rd or 4th grade, and we all went out of a  
football field and watched them.  
It  
went down the road,  
turned and went up the hill.  
Yeah.  
Teacher took us out so we'd watch house driving down the road.  
Looks kind of cool.  
Wow.  
Even in the 60s it looked cool.  
Yeah.  
We went and played on the foundation before the house got there.  
It  
wasn't so cool.  
They didn't like that very much.  
Okay.  
Anybody else have

any questions?

Breland does.

Dylan. Did

you open a young life in high school?

No, we didn't have young life in high school. I

thought it was so bound

because it was made in 1941.

That was in Texas.

No, I never even heard about it until

like 1997,

1998, somewhere

in there.

Margie had

attended a couple of Young Life meetings in Yakima when she was in high school.

So they had a Young Life

group in that West Valley area.

Yeah.

Taylor was

a question.

Go ahead, Taylor.

What challenges did you have farming?

What who? What challenges did you guys have farming?

Lack of rainfall.

Yeah.

In Douglas County, that's the key ingredient.

It's just the rainfall.

Rain makes grain.

The rain makes grain.

Pennies from heaven.

Rain makes grain.

So Alan, when did you start farming for yourself?

I was

actually in high school and in college age, I worked for a partnership with my dad and my uncle.

And then I actually was kind of

a partner of that for a few years in

the

late 70s

and

the early 80s.

But in 1987,

my dad and uncle split up

their

ownership in

the farmland,

and we split up the leases.

So just my dad and I were a partner until he died in 2009.

And my other partner, my mom, just died

last month.

And so I've been a partner

all these years

in farming.

Wow.

So it's been about 25, 30

years that you've been...

Yeah, I think it was about 38 years I was a partner with mom, yeah.

Okay. Yeah,

okay.  
And then,  
Mike, you've...  
I mean,  
you've done a little bit of everything, it seems like.  
Yeah,  
I guess so.  
Okay.  
But you work with Alan now.  
I worked with Alan now.  
I worked,  
I  
grew up, I  
guess one of the other houses I stayed, I did live out of town  
because I,  
starting spring break,  
most of my high school,  
part of junior high, I'd go out and live with  
Bill and Elma V. Brock.  
They were my godparents, raised my dad.  
So I'd go out there and do the chores,  
which,  
it was probably one of the reasons, like Alan said, about kids coming from a rural area,  
just know how to work.  
And  
I got up and fed livestock and then had breakfast.  
And then got on a school bus and came to school.  
So I watched the sun come up a lot,  
even in junior high,  
in the summer, because there was always something to  
do. And  
so I grew up  
doing that.  
I've always been pretty mechanical. So  
I've enjoyed  
that part.  
When I worked on the fishing boat, I was the engineer.  
So  
you keep pumps running,  
engines running,  
all the stuff that  
is below decks.  
But farming is always-- farming was a thing that I  
absolutely hated in high school  
and  
love now.  
You  
get used to it, I guess, or something.  
So the timing,  
Alan, worked out  
perfect for you to still farm here with your dad and your uncle, but  
go to Alaska?  
Yeah,  
it did,  
although it didn't take them long for wanting me there earlier in the spring and  
staying there later in the summer, so it really wasn't going to work out

for very long.

Okay.

Sometimes I came home and was incognito for a couple weeks, like in Seattle area, and that was before cell phones and stuff, so nobody could get a hold of you.

You needed a little break.

Decompress.

Decompress. Yeah. Yeah.

Wow.

Nobody would really know where you were at.

Okay.

One last question.

Anybody?

We're about out of time here.

Yeah.

Well,

Thanks, guys.

I think we could talk to you for another class hour sometime.

You might have to stop by again.

Cool.

Especially

when we start doing something like the...