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MEET JUDGE HAGGERTY *Oregon's Newest Federal Judge*

OREGON BENCHMARKS is a publication in which we report on historical events—both those that occurred long ago and those that are happening today. As Ancer Haggerty, our newest federal judge, joined the bench of the U.S. District Court for Oregon this spring, he took time out to tell our editor, Carolyn Buan, about his life and some of the cases he has tried.

Buan: *I understand that you have a very interesting history—that your family has been in Portland for a long time.*

Haggerty: Let's see. My mother and father moved here from Texas in 1943. My father was working in the shipyards and my sister was probably one year old when they moved here.

Buan: *So you were born here?*

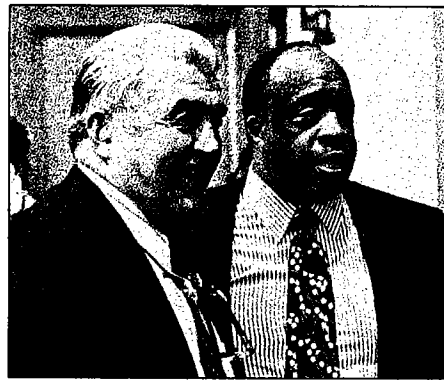
Haggerty: I was born here in Vanport, which was destroyed in a flood. I was born there in 1944 and grew up primarily in North, Northeast Portland. I went to Woodlawn Grade School and Jefferson High School and then the University of Oregon.

Buan: *When was that flood? Do you remember it?*

Haggerty: I think it was '48, but no, I don't remember it.

Buan: *One thing I'd like to talk about in this interview is some of the experiences that led you to be a judge or may have made you a better or a more understanding judge.*

Haggerty: Early on I enjoyed athletics. People who participated in athletics, even in the school setting, were friends and worked together. I think that aspect



Judge Haggerty (right) and his high school football coach, Tom DeSilvia.

of being involved in sports leads you to enjoy working with other people. Sports I'm sure had a role in what I am today.

Buan: *Were you a football star when you were in high school?*

Haggerty: I wasn't a star. I played, and as a junior at Jeff, I was a starting fullback at a time when Jeff had very strong teams. So to be a starter other than as a senior, I would say I had a lot of potential. Then before my senior year I broke my leg, so I didn't get to play any football my senior year in high school. And that, of course, affected the colleges' interest. I had received the traditional flyers from schools on the West Coast when I was a junior, and then when I didn't play at all my senior year the interest waned—to the point that I didn't see any type of a football scholarship offer. My coach and his wife—that's Tom DeSilvia—drove me down to the Oregon spring football game on a Saturday. They came and got me and we went down there and watched the game. And he took me into the locker room and introduced me to the freshman coach and said, "You know, here's a freshman who's

going to be a player and you guys ought to take a look at him." I had worked that summer as a busboy at the London Bar and Grill [at the Benson Hotel in Portland] and I had saved about \$500 to \$600. And in conjunction with a \$500 development fund grant, that was my first year at Oregon. So once I enrolled at Oregon, I played on the freshman team, I played spring football, and then they offered me a scholarship for the remaining years. So I can't say I was a star in high school but I can say I was better than average.

Buan: *Well, you must have been a star in college.*

Haggerty: You know the old saying is, "What's a star?" There were stars like Mel Renfro and Dave Wilcox and Bob Berry—there were lots of stars. I was just a person who tended to get a fair amount of newspaper coverage. I wouldn't say that I was a star—I was good. I wasn't an all-American or anything like that.

Buan: *Have you done any coaching?*

Haggerty: Yes. Last year, as a matter of fact, I received an assignment of the drug docket, and that typically ended around 3:30 or 4:00 in the afternoon and I had no jury trials, so I coached Pop Warner Football over at Whitaker. I was a line coach. It's really difficult going right back in and working with seventh and eighth graders. A lot of them never played football before. A lot of them think they're really tough and they're not. It was fun. I don't know if I'll be able to continue that. I intend to do something. I just can't be as active as I have been.

Continued on page 4

President's Message

By George H. Fraser

THE CELEBRATION of the 150th anniversary of the pioneers travelling west on the Oregon Trail has stimulated our interest in history. Our attention has been directed to how short the period of time has been since the Hudsons Bay Company was the principal trading center in the Oregon Country.

The Oregon Trail celebration has also served to demonstrate the importance of recording historical progress by supporting institutions that collect and preserve the writings, mechanical devices, and anecdotes of our times. At some future date, the Ford Taurus and the Boeing 707 will probably be admired with the same incredulity and curiosity that we display when we see a yoke of oxen pulling a prairie schooner, observe the smoke and steam of a coal-fired engine, or wonder at the Rube Goldberg appearance of the many wheels and pulleys in motion on a threshing machine. I ask that all members call our attention to how our Society can expand and improve its preservation of records and memorabilia relating to the history of the U.S. District Court of Oregon.



For the last few months of 1994, we report the following items of interest:

- **The Honorable Ancer Haggerty** has been sworn in as a U.S. District Court Judge for Oregon and has gone through his investiture ceremony (actually *ceremonies*).
- **The Honorable Owen Panner** has provided the Society's archives with two historical documents—a copy of the memorial service held for Roy Kilpatrick and a statement of General Chester McCarthy, given May 4, 1950 in support of Judge Gus J. Solomon's appointment to the United States District Court.
- **William White** has sent his book, *The Lighter Side of Practicing Law*, to the Federal Judicial Center with a request that the Center further expand his humorous judicial stories on a national basis.
- **Jeff Batchelor** has announced that the Society has 364 members, including 12 new members. If the 79 members who have not responded at this date renew their membership, we will substantially exceed the 400 mark! We thank both Jeff and **Laura Hashimoto** for their successful efforts.
- **Caroline Stoel, Don Balmer, and Diane Rynerson** have reported that the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society has marketed 60 copies of *The First Duty*. Plans are now under way to broaden marketing efforts so that the book will appear in bookstores throughout the Pacific Northwest. Judge Goodwin's review of the book will appear in the next issue of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society's publication, *Western Legal History*.



George Dysart Honored by the Federal Bar Association

This year the Federal Bar Association's Oregon Chapter gave its first annual Federal Practice Award, recognizing the highest commitment to the practice of federal law, to a member of our Society—George Dysart.

In announcing the award, Paul Gary noted that George "played a principle role in the development of the law of Native American rights in our region" and had "a long and illustrious career as a Federal lawyer working on building blocks for what we still see today litigated in the context of Endangered Species Act cases regarding salmon in the Northwest." He went on to say that his cases "established principles of law for the first time which...are still being relied upon in our Federal court in Oregon."

Congratulations, George!



Weighty legal matters were far from the thoughts of those who attended last year's picnic. For the occasion, Judge Panner (left) presided at the balloon toss.

IT'S PICNIC TIME!

Warm up your pitching arm, pile the family in the car, and head for our **Second Annual Picnic**, to be held from **1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 17** at the Bybee-Howell pioneer farmstead on Sauvie Island. This year, members of the Federal Bar Association are invited to join us, which means more people, food, and fun for all.

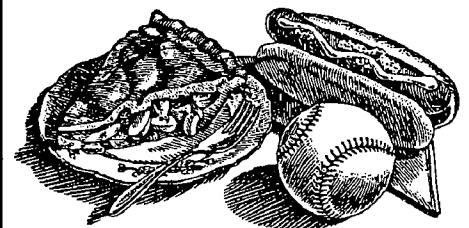
Katherine O'Neil and her planning committee have lined up a sumptuous barbecue with all the trimmings. We'll eat at 1:30, and of course there will be baseball and a host of other games, as well as tours of the historic farmhouse.

Planning committee members are (in addition to Katherine) Judges Janice Stewart, Ellen Rosenblum, Ancer Haggerty, and Don Ashmankas.

Now is the time to let Katherine know if you're coming. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children under 12. Please respond by July 11, by sending your check and a note indicating the number of adults and children in your group to:

Graff & O'Neil
1900 Standard Insurance Center
900 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

If you have questions, contact Ardis Schroeder in Katherine's office (222-4545.)





Judge Haggerty's sister Mary Jo Henderson enjoys a humorous moment at his investiture. Beside her is Society President George Fraser.

Judge Haggerty's Investiture—A Family Affair

The courtroom was packed for the investiture on May 6, 1994 of The Honorable Ancer L. Haggerty. In fact, the overflow crowd had to be accommodated in a second room, equipped with closed-circuit television. The seat Judge Haggerty will occupy on the federal bench is the same one that was once held by the court's first judge, Matthew Deady.

The event must have been both gratifying and difficult for this self-effacing man, who had to sit and hear speaker after speaker refer to him in superlatives.

The media was there, too—drawn, no doubt, by the newsworthy “angle” that this was the first time a black judge would sit on the federal bench in Oregon.

But those who spoke of his qualities and qualifications made it clear that Judge Haggerty is an outstanding choice for the court for a variety of reasons unrelated to color. To mention a few examples—

- Robert Durham, who sits on the Oregon Supreme Court, told of Judge Haggerty's ability to handle a large workload with grace and competence, saying “He brought a big heart to his job [on the Multnomah County Circuit Court], adding “In life as in football, the big guys get what they want!”

- Lembhard Howell, representing the American Bar Association, spoke of things he learned about the judge

during the selection process. He said that Judge Haggerty has a reputation for competence and integrity, as well as an ability to make lawyers feel that the experience of appearing before him in court is an enjoyable one.

- Nearly all the speakers told of Judge Haggerty's honesty and integrity. Among them was his sister Mary Jo Henderson, who told of his habit, when working at the London Bar and Grill before college, of coming home at night and putting half of his tips underneath her pillow.

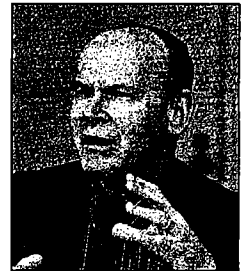
- His wife Julie told of his devotion to his children, saying that after their births, he often sat and held them in his arms

for long periods of time, marveling at their existence.

Indeed, the investiture was a proud hour for the judge's entire family, whose members had traveled from many parts of the country to be with him for the occasion.

Learn to Take Oral Histories Like a Pro!

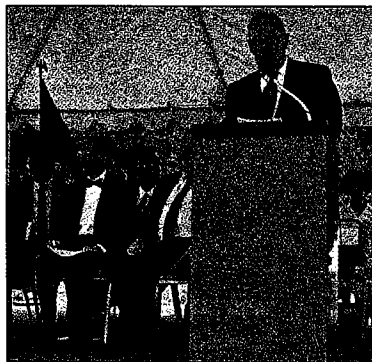
Jim Strassmeier of the Oregon Historical Society will again offer a training session for our Society's volunteer oral historians. The session is scheduled from 10-12 a.m. October



22 at OHS. It's fascinating to interview the men and women whose careers have been significant in the history of the federal court in Oregon. Some of the individuals we plan to interview are Wallace Carson, Robert M. Christ, Hugh B. Collins, John Jaqua, Jean King, Stewart Tremaine, and Charles E. Wright. However, we are interested in having other suggestions, and interviewers may choose subjects not on our list.

We're looking for new volunteers, so why not put the date on your calendar and plan to attend? You can register by calling Joyce Hyne at 697-0393 in Portland.

Ground-Breaking Ceremonies for the New Federal Courthouse



(Left) The Honorable James Redden speaks at the May 31, 1994 ground-breaking ceremony for the new Federal Courthouse in downtown Portland. (Right) Senator Mark Hatfield does the official honors with the press in attendance. Photos by William F. White.

