

EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

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Last Week, StoryCorps. Bill noticed on his Facebook feed that his granddaughter and her cousin in Kansas were doing a StoryCorps project with each other. He thought it was interesting and fun to watch kids find ways to connect in the pandemic.

How's it going in Oregon? How is the pandemic affecting businesses in your city and your family?

Bill wants to model to the club how StoryCorps works because a frequent refrain from newer members is that we all know about them from their "classification talks," but they don't know what was shared by existing members.

Mark Moison's kids used the StoryCorps format to interview his parents. Mark speaks to his parents regularly. But, as familiarity often goes, dialog rarely goes deeper than weather and health issues.

The kids, however, had an agenda and interview guidance that made the conversation more deliberate and intimate. Turns out the kids learned things about Mark's parents that he had never known about them.

[StoryCorps](#) is a non-profit organization whose missions is, "...to preserve and share humanity's stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world."



With Sept 11 around the corner, StoryCorps has special content on its home page. One is of the [brothers of Balbir Singh Sodhi](#), killed while tending his garden in Mesa, AZ on Sept 15 because he had a beard and wore a turban.

Since 2003, StoryCorps has given a quarter of a million Americans the chance to record interviews about their lives, to pass wisdom from one generation to the next, and to leave a legacy for the future. It is the largest single collection of human voices ever gathered. These powerful stories illustrate our shared humanity and show how much more we share in common than divides us.

[YouTube video: Learn how to use the free StoryCorps App in five simple steps!](#)

Your story, up to 40 minutes, will be archived in the Library of Congress.

And for today's historical contribution, we have ... Bob. :D

Francisco was kind enough to lead the interrogation, er, interview with Past President, Bob Travers.

Q: "Okay, Bobby, can you tell me about a person that who has been famous to you in your life."

A: That was an easy answer for Bob. Speaking of Judy, his wife, "I don't deserve her."

Q: Can you tell me about one of your most difficult memories.

A: It has to be the loss of my father through divorce. I was ten years old, born three years after the war was over.

I didn't really know him until later in life.

In the war he had been taken prisoner by the Japanese [and forced to walk 65 miles with 75,000 other POWs in what would come to be known as the Bataan Death March.]

Then was transported to Japan to work as a slave for 3.5 years.

Q: So you touched base with him later in life?

A: I did, twenty one years later I reunited with him. He was pretty rough, 59 at the time and still working as a brick mason.

I asked him why he was working? You should have some of that reparation money.

He said, "well I would, but I don't have my original discharge papers."

Apparently there had been a fire and "they lost all my records."

Bob said, in this first meeting with his father, "I'll be right back." He presented a leather pouch to his dad, "is this what you're looking for?"

Bob's mother had given it to him when he was 18 years old, "Here, you need to know your dad."

Q: Who initiated that contact 21 years later?

A: Interesting. Most people don't ask me that. It was my youngest sister who had a strong desire to know her own father who had left when she was a young child.

Q: How did your grandma and grandpa meet?

Slipping in to editorial commentary, Bob's answer, that he had "no knowledge of that," reminds me that I don't even know how my own parents met. Or most of my brothers



and their wives, for that matter!

A: They (both sides) were gone by the time he was old enough to know them.

Q: Did your parents have you at an older age?

A: No, I was the second. With my blood dad I had four sisters.

Q: Do you know how your family came to this country?

A: No, I wish I did. Probably on a boat. [shared chuckle]

Q: Are there any traditions that have been passed down you can share?

A: Only the typical Christmas time, tree trimming, and such. Birthdays, and the love of family have been the tradition we have created for our kids.

Q: Can you tell me the story of when you met your wife.

A: I was at the fire station. One of the guys said, "You have a phone call. She sounds kinda cute."

I went to sign the escrow paper she was calling about.

She was ten years younger than me, and ... ah ... that was the end of me.

Q: How did you propose?

A: We dated for six months, talked about getting married, but Bob was gun shy after his first wife had hooked up with some band leader while his was on rotation.

Long story short, six months later they married on October 17th.

Q: What do you love most about Judy?

A: Wow, uh, her independence; her attention to her own well being; but most of all, her love of our family.