



DO YOU REMEMBER?

Historical notes from the Big Butte Historical Society
Recollections of Charleen Brown

Butte Falls lost a long time resident on Thursday, June 12, 2008 when 90 year old Anzel C. Conley passed away at Providence Medical Center in Medford, OR. Ten years ago, Joyce Hailicka, featured Anzel with this picture and an article in the Winter 1998 issue of *Making Tracks, Big Butte Historical Society Newsletter*. The following excerpts are reprinted here by permission of the author.

“For over six decades Anzel Conley has lived and worked in Butte Falls. As a young boy, Anzel went to Mt. Pitt School... In the Class of '36, Anzel graduated from Butte Falls High School. He started his first job while still in school working during the summer maintaining trails for the Forest Service... Upon finishing school, Anzel landed a job with Medco which lasted 50 years and two days to be exact... It has been wisely said that the most precious possessions that come to a man in this world are a good wife and good children. In 1938, Anzel took Ellen to be his bride. They are blessed with two sons.”



In January of 2000, I had the personal privilege of conducting an oral history interview with both Anzel and Ellen in their home. Anzel shared stories about the changes in the town of Butte Falls as well as in the logging industry over his half century of working for Medco. The complete oral history tape is on file at the William Edmondson Memorial Museum but, my favorite story on the tape is transcribed as follows:

Interviewer: How did you and Ellen meet?

Anzel: “Oh gosh, I tell this story but it embarrasses Ellen. (Ellen laughs) I make a big story out of it. This is true though. There was myself and two other guys, buddies of mine, I forget their names now but, we were going to Eagle Point to go to a dance. We stopped at the Midway Service Station, down here, for some reason, I don't know and we went in and got whatever it was, I don't know, candy or whatever and anyway we went on down the road and we got down towards, course the road was dirt and we went along and so I said, guys, that was a pretty cute looking girl up there in that station, oughta ask her if she'd go to the dance. Well these guys I was with said, 'Yeah, she'd throw rocks at you and run you off' and I said Well, I don't think... anyway this led to a bet. I said, Well O.K. I'll just go down, and so I dumped them off and I said, O.K. I'm just hard headed enough I'm going to do it, so I went back up and asked Ellen. I said I was going to the dance and I would like to have you go with me if your parents don't care. They said well, yeah. What time do you want her home? O.K. And so we went to the dance and that's where we met.”

Interviewer: “So Ellen was the prize of a bet!” (Ellen laughs.)

Anzel: “Oh, yeah, let me finish this, we'd bet a dollar. Soon as we got to the dance hall, I just kind of sat her down and went looking for my dollar. (Ellen laughs) But they each owed me a dollar, so I got the two dollars and I spent the whole works on her dinner.”
About a year later, Anzel and Ellen were married and the rest is history!

