

GEORGE McKEEVER

Kendrick; b. 1897

dentist

2 hours

minute page

Side A

- 00 Kendrick flood (1900) caused by breaking of dyke in train wreck.
- 04 Kendrick fire (1904). Tents for meals and materials to rebuild. The fire destroyed their hack at the blacksmith shop. Watching the fire from a bluff. It started from sawdust on a saloon floor. Extent of destruction. Almost all businessmen rebuilt.
- 14 He became interested in dentistry from his best friend in the Navy. He enlisted rather than be drafted, and was stationed at Pearl Harbor.
- 19 Dental training at the University of Oregon Dental College. Two women dental students. Working his way through at the beanery: students who worked all passed their exams, while many of the others failed. He also delivered newspapers, and took care of the furnace for his room; his wife worked at Meier and Frank. How they met. A Chinese student whose father was a rich importer. He drove a milk delivery truck in the summer.
- 29 The Chinese cook at the ~~St.~~ Elmo Hotel. The kids threw rocks on his tin roof, and he gave them Chinese candy at Christmastime.

Side B

- 00 Jean Chinaman and his produce business. High water table in Kendrick. His civic activities in Kendrick.
- 06 History of his dental office. Except for position of the patient, dentistry is virtually the same as it was fifty years ago. A local blacksmith who practiced dentistry. Bovill dentist's dirty office.
- 11 Masonic activities – the honor of being chosen. Masonic social gatherings. Prestige of membership.
- 17 Baseball rivalry was very popular. Fourth of July.
- 19 Moonshiners vs. gumshoes. He transported moonshine for a family to get paid for his dental work. A trip to the Ozarks.
- 25 Trade for dental work – a dozen live chickens. Trustworthiness of people for credit. In a farming community people ate well in the depression. His wife agreed to live in a small town for five years only: advantages of a small town.

minute page

Side B (continued)

30

There was less tooth decay then than now, because there was little sweet food and coarser grained foods. People seldom brushed their teeth.

Side C

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Decline of food quality. People were healthier; when they got really sick they died. Decayed teeth were extracted, and there was little bridge work. People could stand pain and often didn't want novacaine. Men used a rowboat to get to the local whorehouse during the flood. Poor diet caused gum disease and made tooth-pulling easier. Early dentures - they were called "bundle racks".

08

Styles. Grandfather. Good handwriting.

15

Dental work for Nez Perces - he spoke some Nez Perce, and treated them just as his other patients. His wife doesn't like his misuse of English. He never saw the Klan, but heard there were pocket membership cards; Klan developed from Birth of a Nation.

23

His veterinarian friend Van, who filed horses' teeth. They tried to help Van's son, who became a drug addict and finally committed suicide. Van didn't have a license because he didn't take a third year of school. He was a heavy drinker. As a child he got laudanum for stomachaches.

29

Frank B. Robinson's operation. He and other college students in Moscow formed a house to cut costs.

Side D

00

He couldn't afford fraternity living at Moscow. Most people were poor. Low cost of food.

05

Mother's hard work at home. Chores at home for the children. Youth's Companion was the only magazine at home; the twice weekly Spokesman-Review was the only paper. His parents wanted the children to grow up away from town and its bad influences. Cutting hay on their hillside. He had to work after a pitchfork went through his hand. Working in onions for 35¢ a day.

13

Money was no consideration for him in entering dentistry. Dentistry was a better than average living. Gifts from patients. Long days and no vacations. Watering his yard.

George McKeever

minute page

Side D

16

Continuity of businesses. Dr. Foster in Juliaetta. Local printing.

23

Why he stayed in Kendrick – dislike of cities. Dentists' wives don't want to live in a small town. Rivalry between Kendrick and Juliaetta. Kendrick was started because the man who owned lots at Juliaetta charged too much for a right-of-way. A drunk rode his horse on the sidewalk. Indians rode through town.

with Sam Schrager

August 4, 1976