

The Legend Lives On...

BY LOYCE MARTINAZZI

In an ironic twist of fate the devastating fire that just consumed Clark Lumber Company surprisingly left one Tualatin landmark standing along Boone Ferry Road. In 1944 Herman and Mary Silvey purchased the lot and built a lumber company where a blacksmith shop used to stand. When sons Vincent and Don returned from the service after the war they joined their parents and helped build the hardware store.

Silvey Lumber and hardware store supplied the entire region with lumber

and hardware just as a building boom began in the area. While the elder Silveys lived in Multnomah, Vince and Don built homes in Tualatin on Sagert Street. Don and his family lived upstairs in the hardware store until the home he built on Sagert Street was finished. Don later sold the home to Dr. Stearns and moved his family into a charming older home downtown. Well known as kind and generous people, the Silveys invited several pastors and their families from the next door Community Methodist Church to live in the upstairs apartment, as there was no parsonage at the time. Vince served as the youth leader in the church, and many a teenager at the time, including myself, respected and admired him for his dedication to youth. Vince would hum whenever he heard someone say anything he didn't agree with. Don played the saxophone in church, once standing up in the middle of a service and playing "Onward Christian Soldiers" when some women were engaged in nasty gossip.

As time went on, Vince ran the store business and Don ventured into building, erecting many homes which still stand today. Don and his wife Vi had three children, Donald, Debbie and Diane. Don Jr. currently owns Silco Construction Company which renovated the old Methodist church when it was moved and turned into the Tualatin Heritage Center. Diane is curator for the Tualatin Historical Society.

Vince and his wife Barbara had seven children, Donna, Barbara Jean, Carolyn, David, Virginia (Ginny), Mary Jane and Doug. Donna's

husband Lee Ohanesian, along with David and Ginny's husband Ed Drawz started Suburban Door Company 1971 which still operates on Herman Road. David Silvey is the current owner

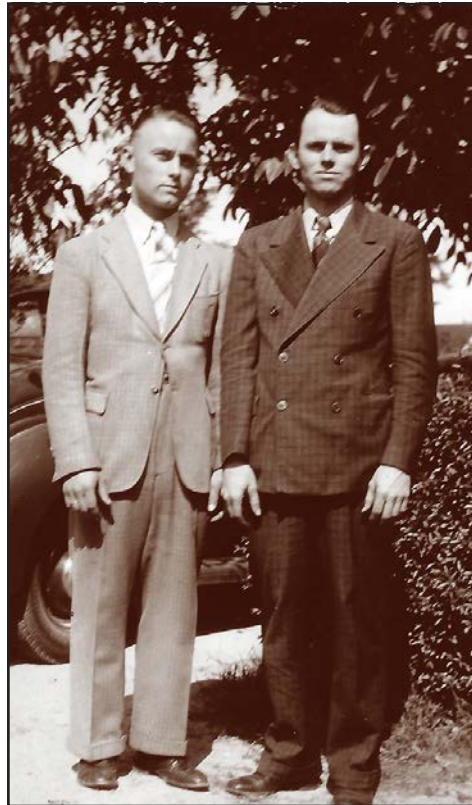
After the their parents passed away, the brothers sold the business to Clark Lumber Company in 1965. Don became the housing director for Portland's Urban Renewal district and Vince worked at appraising homes and businesses for Multnomah County.

Tualatin owes much gratitude and respect to the fine Silvey family, many of whom still live in the area.

Loyce Martinazzi was born and raised in Tualatin and is passionate about Tualatin History. She is currently Lecturer of the Winona Grange, Co-Founder of the Tualatin Historical Society and Co-Author of *Tualatin... From the Beginning*.



Vince Silvey made Christmas cards by taking photos of children



Don (left) and Vince in 1940.



Mary and Herman Silvey started the business. Mary was bookkeeper for years.



This building, still standing along Boones Ferry Road, was erected in 1946.



Silvey Lumber Company in 1944.



Silvey Lumber Company in 1961.



Barbara Silvey with her and Vince's children. Left to right, top row: Donna, Barbara Jean, Carolyn, Virginia (Ginny), David. Bottom row: Mary Jane, Doug.



Methodist churchgoers parked at Silvey Lumber Co. lot. Here is Vi holding baby Diane.



The building, soon after the Clark family took over the lumber store.