Greetings,

Over the years, I’ve had the good fortune of speaking with many who have spent all or parts of their childhood living in Annandale. The descriptions, anecdotes, and stories coming from these conversations have run the range: sad, silly, serious, sublime. All have been interesting, a result of the power of shared memories.

Because of these experiences, I am interested in hearing more people’s recollections. I know others would as well. That’s why I’m in the process of putting together a collection of writings that focus on growing up in Annandale during the 1950s and 1960s.

The short writings (100 to 500 words) can be about activities (e.g. roller-skating, playing Army), events (e.g. buggy racing on Back Street), memorable people (e.g. “Pop” Humphrey, Rev. Runge), particular places in town (e.g. the woods below Eick’s Hill, Chandler’s store), or anything else you vividly recall.

I hope you will add your memories to this collection. “But wait,” you say. “I’m not a writer.” No worries! Just put down the words as if you are talking to a friend. You could even speak into a recorder and transcribe it. I’d be happy to support your efforts in any way I can. Just ask.

Each short piece should focus on one topic. Expand it with details. Send as many different pieces as you’d like. I will compile the writings and make sure you get a copy of what everyone else has written. If we have enough contributions, we can create a book to which everyone will have access.

With your contribution, please include the years you lived in Annandale as well as anything else you’d like to share about yourself. Here’s my example: I lived on West Street, across from the church, from 1958 to 1963. I am an author of children’s books (www.realwriting.us), a writing consultant to schools, and a retired teacher. I live in Lowell, Oregon, a small town near Eugene at the southern end of the Willamette Valley. The town is the same size of Annandale.

Contact me through e-mail (areswhy@gmail.com), snail mail (172 Wetleau Drive, Lowell, OR 97452), or by telephone (541-729-4693). I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Robert (Bob) Young

p.s. Please pass this on to anyone you know who grew up in Annandale during the 50s or 60s. If you have parents still living, invite them to participate as well.