Dear Chovernor Pthych,

Here is the draft of Janine and
my article we wrote about you, please
attach any changes you would like to
make. When you are finished, with the
changes, please drop the envelope off in my
mailbox (3935 3w 75th Ave.) Filso there is
an invitation to a special luncheon the school
is naing to honor you and the other guests.
Thank you and we hope you can come!

sincerely,

Javine + Helen bavis

Governor Albeit

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back into the twenties, a time that seems completely unfamiliar to today's youth. As we stepped inside his comfortable home and the interview started, the room transformed into a classroom.

Growing up Governor Atiyeh learned the true value of hard work at a young age.

He became involved with Sea Scouting, an organization designed to develop wellrounded boys. To this day he is still a very strong supporter of this organization, as it has
had a significant positive effect on his life.

Governor Atiyeh also worked in his family owned rug store. The experience made him stronger, physically and mentally, as he "started at the bottom," by manually washing rugs. Working with this company taught him how to make his way through the world with quality work and care for the people.

Governor Atiyeh also learned the meaning of equality. He strongly disliked bullies, and did not agree with racist beliefs and laws. This shaped his career and the things he would accomplish because he became inspired to make all men equal, and to create a safe environment.

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Oral History Project



A Look into the Past to Improve the Future:

An Interview with Governor Atiyeh

Helen Davis and Janine Kritschgau

"Do what you think is right. Don't be persuaded by others." Governor Victor

Atiyeh is a politician to remember, as Governor of Oregon, but also as an exceptional human being. Our opportunity to interview Governor Atiyeh brought back the stories of Oregon's development and early history. In a sense, we felt as though we were traveling back into the twenties, a time that seems completely unfamiliar to today's youth. As we stepped inside his comfortable home and the interview started, the room transformed into a classroom.

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Governor Atiyeh graduated from the University of Oregon, yet still did not have any political aspirations. It wasn't until after friends suggested he run for Governor of Oregon, that he considered a political career. This humble figure describes how his career simply fell into place, he did not spend a lot of time thinking about becoming a politician he, "Just did it."

Governor Atiyeh ran for Governor in 1974 and lost. Even though he lost, the experience running for Governor was very valuable to him. When asked if running was worth it, he responded, "Yes it was worth it. [It was a] marvelous experience." Though he lost the election, he did not change any of his values to win the next election in 1978. Many including his wife, Dolores, whom is his life companion and biggest supporter, supported him. This is a testament to his deep care and devotion to others, a very admiral quality.

Governor Atiyeh fought for many things while in office. He strived to end drunk driving accidents. He told a story about a couple who were driving and the man was under the influence. The man crashed and, unfortunately, the woman died. He explained how the judge gave him another chance to prove himself, but the woman never got a second chance in her life. He started international and domestic trade missions by opening the first overseas trade office in Tokyo, Japan. Another accomplishment he achieved was creating the first statewide food bank in the nation, Oregon Food Share. When congress changed the law on receiving food stamps, the number of people hungry increased. Governor Atiyeh was inspired to eliminate all hunger in Oregon, because, "We can't wait, these people are hungry." Governor Atiyeh also successfully passed laws to

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decrease racial harassment. He treasures Eleanor Roosevelt's words, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."