

People and places in Walnut Township, Bureau County
an Oral History

Cecil Heaton, Interviewee
Of Walnut, Illinois

Interview Date: September 8, 1975

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NARRATOR: Cecil Heaton
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DATE OF INTERVIEW: September 8, 1975
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Walnut Township Library
INTERVIEWER'S NAME: Don Whitver
FOR: Starved Rock Library System

I: I'm Don Whitver and I'm going to visit for a little while with Cecil Heaton, who is seated across the table from me here, in the Walnut Township Library. Cecil's not exactly a senior citizen, but he's been around quite a few years in the Red Oak district, and I'm sure he can fill us in on some of the doings in the early days, that very interesting area. Cecil, were you born on the home place out there?

N: No.

I: Where?

N: I was born in Bureau County--or in Bureau township

I: Lived down there, how long?

N: I lived there until I was three years old.

I: I hate to ask this of anybody, but when were you born?

N: In 1897.

I: I didn't have any idea you were that old, my goodness! That almost makes you a senior citizen. I think that's fine. Boy. I hope that--- of course, you are---97, you say.

N: 97

I: You're ten years older than I am. You're my Uncle's -----age.

N: Oh.

I: Yup, and born on the farm down there and you moved up here when you were three?

N: No, I lived..I went to school in Bunker Hill. Started school in Bunker Hill.

I: There was a fine school. Who was your teacher?

N: Eddie Sells(sp.)

I: Edna Sells.

N: I don't think you knew Eddie.

I: Well now, Eddie Sells, was that Edna Sells or was this-----?

N: Eddie Sells.

I: You're talking as though it was a man teacher?

N: Yes.

I: Oh, I ~~didn't~~ know--I didn't know any Eddie Sells. I knew, wasn't there an Edna Sells that married----Wasn't Bob Billington's (sp) wife's name Edna?

N. Could be. Could be.

I: See, I went to school with a Gladys Sells, (sp)-uh-they lived down there where Iva Chandler lives now.

N: Eddie Sells was mail carrier at one time.

I: Yes.

N: I'll never forget Eddie Sells, the teacher.

I: Why don't you tell us about him?

N: I went to visit the school, the Bunker Hill school there. And Eddie was in the old school where they just recited, you know, they studied and Eddie would put his feet up on the desk, sit back in his chair and now just like he was asleep. And _____, I went to school and I sat in a double seat with _____. _____ took his hankersheif out and he snapped it _____. It just cracked like a gun. And his feet came down on the floor, he walked back there, reached right in front and here I was visiting school, reached right across and grabbed _____ and shook him.

I: (Laughs) Didn't bother _____ a whole lot, did it?

N: No.

I: I bet not either.

N: No, no.

I: Ah--he was quite a character. Now how long did you go to Bunker Hill school then? All eight grades?

N: No, just two.

I: Just two.

N: I was eight years old when I moved to Red Oak.

I: I see, and of course,-uh- that would be 1905 or thereabouts and ~~who~~ was your teacher at the Red Oak school?

N: Uh _____let me see now. _____Alice Vagen(sp).

I: Alice Vagen, Now thats somebody I never knew.

N: From Ohio.

I: Yeh.

N: ANd then.....

I: There's lots of Vagens up around Ohio there.

N: And then, uh, I remember one thing when her sister came here and taught and we weren't graded properly. And we had quite a time catching up with the grades. But she was a very good teacher.

I: I see, did you come then to Walnut to high school?

N: No never. I went to Ohio high school. Never finished high school.

I: Well, I didn't know.

N: And then, ~~you know~~ went to business college.

I: You know, at that time, darn gew boys, a lot of boys never finished grade school.

N: Very true.

I: Did your father ever keep you out in the spring and the fall?

N: No, but we did, we walked to school and we'd help him once around the

field. Pick corn.

I: I see, uh-huh. but now, well you wasn't too awful far from school there. I mean, you lived on a place next there.

N: Just about 3/4 mile to go.

I: About like I was when we lived on the home place. It was just about a scant mile.. But oh, could it take me a long time in the morning. There was an apple tree on the way to school and I always dawdled under that apple tree. But til Nellie Ross found out what was keeping me.

N: Well., one thing with going to a country school, that was, you know, we had to make our own games. We had no --uh----

I: Well even in town, at that time, there wasn't any playground equipment.

N: No.

I: No you played crack the whip, run, sheep, run, and uh.....

N: Ante over the school house.

I: Yes and all sorts of devilment that wasn't really allowed. (laughs) or did you?

N: Oh, no, I was a good boy.

I: Elmer Redding, (sp) was the man's name, _____, man down by Seatonville, told me one time. HE SAYS, "is Elmer still over there?" and I said, "Yeh," And he said, "used to go to school with him. One time we sneaked a turkey hen in under...Elmer did it, under his coat and turned it loose in the school house." (Laughs) I kidded Elmer about it. He says, "I never did it." (Laughs) But if he didn't, he's one of the few kids that didn't get into some sort.

N: And I remember when us country kids come to town, the -uh-well, we were hicks, in a way.

I: Yeh, I think, more so then now, because you hadn't been to town.

N: But we had three, _____, Terrence Fisher, and _____ Walter, John _____, anyhow there was three . We could come into town and they would take us under their wing.

I: I see. Well, that's good. Yes, I can remember coming to town. We lived out here east of..., edge of town in cement block building. And we always had to kind of scout around or run because Rocky Wilson would be waiting. Do you remember Rocky Wilson? It was Cleon's boy?

N: No.

I: Well, they liver over there where _____ lives now. And by george, I wasn't to by there because he was tough. And he was waiting for the kids from the country. (Laughs) But-us-well, a good school there cause Red Oak was always a good school.

N: Yeh, it was.

I: They kept that school up. Good quality education.

N: Good teachers.

I: But you went--now when you went to high school, did you board in ~~PRINCE~~ton, then?

N: No, I went to Ohio.

I: Oh, Ohio. You told me that, you told me that, too. I'm sorry. But that wasn't so bad. You just drove back and forth, then?

N: No.

I: But the time you went to high school, I mean, You were still driving horse and buggy or what-----?

N: Oh, yes, very true. And then I went to business collage in Naperville.

I: Oh, fine. And then after that, you what? You came back to the farm or did you work?

N: Oh, yeh, no, I came back to the farm here. Uh--I think in those days the kids had, well, had a fealing for their folks that would help them

Come back and help on the farm.

I: I think so. It was a good opportunity, I suppose, in those days too.... I remember, your father being a big cattle feeder and I suppose in those days he did too, and so there was always lots of work.

N: And then, one thing that was unbelievable, out of my class, or out of the whole there, there was only about two that went to high school.

I: Oh, yes.

N: It wasn't accepted. Accepted practice.

I: You didn't-uh- well, I don't know, the feeling was that boys, in particular, didn't need and education.

N: No, work on the farm.

I: Yeh. Your Dad needs you at home. So-uh-how old were you when you started farming on your own, Cecil?

N: Twenty-one.

I: Twenty-one. Is that when you got married?

N: Yeh, I was twenty-one and then I started farming and the the war came along, And I enlisted in the army and sold out. And then I moved just a mile North of the home place and I was there until In 1962. And then I came into town.

I: That's quite a stretch, isn't it. But now, course, when you started farming--married and you started farming, why, everything was with horses.

N: Everything with horses.

I: Power machinery hadn't come into use yet. But when you come back from the war, they was just beginning then, I suppose,--a little bit.

N: Well-no- yeh, a little bit, but not much.

I: When did that come along? About the middle Twenties?

N: Yes. Fact of the matter is-uh-I remember one thing. An incident. I loved horses.

I: Yes.

N: And I was one of the last, that is, to buy a tractor. And I was sitting out there plowing in day with 5 horses and Cliff Hill come along. And that was befor they took over International--uh--business. Of course, and Cliff was quite a horseman. And I says, to Cliff. "Cliff" I said, : I'm sitting here thinking, is-uh-am I right?" Sam _____ had a tractor. Albert _____ and Walt _____ and I says "And I'm sitting here wondering whether they're right and whether I'm right and they're wrong. Sitting here driving by."

Oh," Cliff says. "you're right. Since you got your own feed and everything." He said, "You're right. There's no question about that."

Well, then in the fall they took over International. Cliff stopped in one day to talk tractor to me. And I said, "Cliff, you remember, last spring when you was out here talking to me?"

He says, "Well, you know, wise men change their views and fools never do."

I: He was a great one. He always could come back and be reasonable about it.

Well, years have proved that -uh- machinery is the answer to our needs.

I mean, you get to be big now. You can't be big with horses.

N: Well, then to, I think with everything, realy, you look back, it isn't condemning the old. It's just better appreciation of the new.

I: That's right. It's a different life we live. Different things are speeded up. But-uh-now you were near the home place there, so -uh- well you were up in there with the _____ and that.....

N: Yeh.

I: That's good farm ground up there.

N: Oh, yes.

I: . Raised some good crops.

N: Good neighbors.

I: Oh, tremendous. Tremendous community.

N: We had neighbors there , we need the hay rack and it was sitting in the yard, you went and got it. That's worth a whole lot.

I: Oh, sure,-why-now, I was going to talk to you the other day. I want to ask you. Maybe I can find out. All my life I've heard of Heaton's Point. Where is it?

N: Well, Heaton's Point is down here, now, I don't remember, it is down here in -uh- Bureau Township. And--well, there used to be what they call a round barn down there. I don't know if you know where that was at or not.

I: I think I do know.

N: That was Heaton's Point.

N: I see. Well, as a kid, everybody--there must have been lots of nut trees down there because everybody used to go to Heaton's Point to gather walnuts and butternuts and such.....

N: Yes.

I: And I just wondered now--was that home country for your forbearers?

N: Yes.

I: And your Mother was a Phillips?

N: Yes.

I: And-uh-so...

N: My mother was barn down here just a little ways from Walnut.

I: Yes.

N: On the place where Russell Polson lives now.

I: That was the homestead.

N: Yes.

I: But...of course, that's a old family, too.

N: Yeh.

I: The Heatons have been around... been in Bureau County, for...how long?

N: Oh, I^m hate to guess. Way back.

I: Ya.

N: They came from Pennsylvania.

I: From Pennsylvania. Do you remember your grandparents?

N: Oh, yes.

I^v Both sides, I suppose.

N: Yes-----My granddad was a race horse fan.

I: Oh, was he now?

N: Oh, yes.

I: For gosh sakes.

N: Ya, he drove horses there at the fair and owned horses_____.

I: Well, yes and no. I suppose. It cost him money but if he enjoyed it, why not?

N: Oh, did he enjoy it!

I: Oh, ya,--the Rosses liked race horses, to didn't they?

N: Oh, yeh.

I: Andy and George.

N: Now, my wife owns the Ross farm over there.

I: I know that. I've heard tell about that. Of course, my mother, you know, is kind of shirt-tail relation to the Mayhall girls.

N: Yeh.

I: See. her mother married their father. Second marriage for both of them. So she was step sister like to Dr. Georgia and all.

N: Your mother was step sister to Dr, Georgia Mayhall? She was my-uh- my mothers Doctor, I.....

I: Ya, she _____, of course. But Moma use to have stories to tell about old Andy and Jule and Lyde and...

N: How about uh-- what's his name-- that worked there?

I: Ya, Miller.

N: Yeh. Art Miller?

I: She never knew him so well but, of course the girls, Georgia, Miami, (sp) and the girls would tell her stories about there grandfather, you know, and she told one time, about-uh- on they put in, when they built that big house over there.

N: Ya.

I: No central heat and no plumbing.

N: No.

I: And he was gone. He had a son that lived in Iowa. He spent the summer out there one summer. And Jule.... Ya, Jule, was the one that was the stong minded one of the second family. While he was gone she had the bath room put in and the furnace put in. But he, in the winter time, you know, had a fireplace in the livingroom. Had a big wing chair with a shawl over it. And he'd pull it right up to the firplace and päll the shawl over him and he got all the heat. Everybody wise about froze to death. Well, anyway, Jule had the furnace put in and the bathroom put in and the water put in the kitchen. And he came back and he just about went that high. He wasn't going to pay a penny of it. She wanted it in the house, sh could pay for it herself. Well, she let him simmer for a while and after about so long, why, he cind of grumbled and growled and paid for it. But every time everytime anybody came to the house he had to show them what he'd had done.

(Laughter)

N: Did you ever hear about the still in the barn over there?

I: No!

N: Well, Andy _____ they say it was there. In that big

barn that burned here four-five years ago. In the floor there was a pit and Art had a still there.

I: I wouldn't be a bit surprised from all I ever heard of him. Not him.

N: And then the other story they tell of course, he didn't drive a car.

I: No.

N: And, uh-Art would drive him places. And they tell about he went someplace to preach, you know, he was a preacher. He went around, talked and on the way back, just about a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile North of Harmon, why, uh- Art shut the car off. Wouldn't run. Need some oil. Well, had to go get some oil. So Art went in and got a jug of _____

I: Art got oiled instead of the car, huh?

(Laughter)

N: No, he brought back a jug and he made believe he poured in some oil, put the jug between his feet and went home. _____ how much was the oil?

I: (Laughs) He must have been a character. I never knew him.

N: Now, I've been around Walnut, you might say, all my life and I can't say enough for the town.

I: Well, it's a good town. It's a mighty fine town.

N: I was up to the restaurant one day there. Did you ever see a small town with that many people?

I: No.'

N: And strangers, business.

I: That's right. It isn't the only place to eat. The only place downtown.

N: Ya.

I: Well, of course, the do-nut shop, I've never eaten in the do-nut shop.

N: Well, I have. It's just sandwiches and do-nuts. Has its purpose some times.

I: Sure, but no, they have a good trade up there. And they deserve it. they do a good job.

N: Oh, yes, very true.

I: It's a nice clean, well kept town but-uh-well, let's get back to you a little bit here-----you have three children?

N: Three children.

I: You never lost any?

N: No

I: That's wonderful, too.

N: It is. And they're all healthy.

I: They're all healthy and fine upstanding citizens. I knew all three of them. Of course, the daughter, I've lost all track of her.

N: Ya. She lives in Dixon.

I: Yeh?

N: She has two children.

I: Does she, now.

N: And Don has three, and Cliff has three.

I: You pretty hear run out of knees, didn't you, for grandchildren?

(Laughter)

I: But-uh-of course, Clifford, -uh-----have been away enough, I kind of lost him.

N: Very true.

I: But Don, I see Don and the kids just a lot of times and they seem like a real happy family.

N: They aree.

I: It's amazing how they grow up.

N: It's too bad as far as I'm concerned.

I: Ya. You don't have any grandchildren married yet?

N: Yes, have one that is married. But no great grandchildren.

I: One of these days, if you're lucky, you'll have some great grandchildren.

N: Very true.

I: That'll be something. But-uh--were you the oldest in your family?

N: Yes.

I: You're older than Bernard.

N: A year and nine months..... and Bev was about four years younger.

I: Ya----but-uh--how about the farming? I mean, some tough years, some good years.

N: Oh, yes.

I: How did you make out in the depression years?

N: Well, there today we wouldn't make out. That is, I don't think we could. But we lived off the land. You know, had chickens, milk, we even ground our own wheat for breakfast food, you know.

I: yes.

N: If you wanted coffee--coffee and sugar, is about the only thing you had to come to town for.

I: Out in the country, I don't know if you did or not, but a lot of people out there in the Red Oak area burned wood. There was plenty.....

N: Oh, yeh, we did too. We went over to the timber and....

I: You weren't, by any chance, that one of those that lived in a apartment that had natural gas?

N: Well, we had natural gas there a while.

I: Did you? I know in the early days...golly, some characters South of that area when you were growing up. Course, you knew some of the old timers as far as that's concerned. But I think I was fortunate enough to know old Joe Hamerly(sp) of Princeton and John Meyer and I can't think of what Mrs. Meyer's given name was but.....

N: Emma!

I: Emma and Libby was the daughter.

N: Right.

I: Married Marilyn Penicher (sp).

N: Yeh, she's gone.

I: Is she gone?.....

N: And Florence is gone and Elmer. I beleive Elmer is gone.

I: Is he? My goodness, a person looses track of- - -

N: Oh, yeh.

I: Hadn't even thought of any of them except i remembered Lydia.

N: But I can remember when we'd go thrashing, that you wasn't supposed to unhook until the boss told you.

I: Oh, realy?

N: That is, some of them.

I: Yeh?

N: I don't know if I should mention names or not. It's no reflection-uh-Dan Gither(SP). If you unhooked before---what we used to do, we'd look ahead and see,-it's about 12:00 we won't get unloaded, we might as well get out horses in and if you did that, why he'd come tell you "Now, I didn't tell you to unhook."

I: For heavens sake. Well a little bit of Dan's nature and that's the way he was raised. From all the stories I ever heard. ~~Did you ever know his father?~~ Old Henry?

N: Ma.

I: I didn't either. But I got a feeling that was the way he was. He was old country German and he ruled the roost. I betcha when he spoke, everybody jumped and said "what". (Laughs)

N: They could in those days. No other way to go. I suppose you knew Dutch and Homer Winger?

I: Oh, Sure.

N: Well, I'll have to tell you a story about them, then.

I: You do that.

N: Well. they worked for Albert Geiser(SP), making hay and this and that and the other. And they'd been thrashing. And, uh, Dutch, he'd had a little problem on,--having a load shift and pretty disgusted and they went after the cows. Albert sent them to get the cows. They went out to get the cows and Cutch never stopped. ~~HE~~ Walked straight to Walnut.

(Laughter)

I: Oh, boy, he was a little bit German, himself. Well, like both sides of the family. He was quite a Dutch.

N: Oh, yes, and Homer

I: I haven't seen Homer since-uh-I guess I've seen him once since Dutch's funeral.

N: Ya, well, he was down thereto our place not to long ago.

I: IS he still so bad?

N: Yes.

I: That's a shame.

N: But he carries it...he had a personality out of this world.

I: There wasn't a word of com;aint from him. The last time I saw him.

N: No;

I: That was a nice family. The girls all grew up to be real successful.

N: Very true.---But you look back and I often wonder, whether some of the younger folks will look back and say, "So and so was a character, so and soo was a character." I'm thinking about fellows, you know who were outstanding. Like Bert Wallace, for instance, anc Copsy Wallace, or what was his first...

I: Ralph.

N: Ralph. Do you remember him?

I: Sure.

N: Well, did you ever see the picture "The Gay Philosopher"?

I: Yes, yes. It could have been taken from Coxe.

N: Yes. You know I was up in Harold Hopkins office one day. He had this picture, there on the wall and I looked at it and I said to the nurse, I said, "Do you know who that puts me in mind of?" She said, "Yes, I do" She said, "Coxsy Wallace." Always called him Coxsy. And He'd go down the street, you know, dressed up, you know, his hat on his head, "Nice day, today ladies." You know, I looked around. Harold's wife got him that picture. He had seen it some place. So she got it for him. Well, then I looked all over for that picture. I wanted it. I got it down home now.

I: Good!

N: AND one day we were down to Bloomington. My wife go in this art store. Maybe you can find it. Went in, of course, they've got a copy of it. They sent and got it for me. Acertain artist, you know, and, uh....

I: That's a good picture.

N: Yes, it was. And then to there there was _____ Hanson. That picture that Mrs. Christensen. That's wonderful.. I often wonder if someone will look back on us and say, "Well, there was a character in Walnut."

W: I talked to Jeff _____ one time. Oh, this was 2-3 years ago and he was kind of bemoaning the fact that, he says, there aren't any characters around anymore like there used to be. I said, "What'd you talking about?" I said, "When you and I are gone the kids will be saying, Now there's Jeff _____, now there was a character. And Donnie Whitver-----" (Laughs)

N: Ya, very true.

I: Sure.

N: Sure.

I: But-uh-there-I don't think, Cecil, there are so many, should we say, rugged individuals.

N: Probably not.

I: No.

N: We're to mich conformists.

I: Yeh, but-uh- yeh, you pretty near have to be. We've been brow-beaten into -us-walking the straight and narrow by the government and everybody else, you know.

N: Right, right, right. You're put in to a mold.

I: More so than it used to be or I think it is anyhow.

N: Well, maybe the young ones back it won't be that way. But you look back, like Bert Wallace, you know a lot of people enjoyed Bert.

I: Oh, he was quite a story teller.

N: Oh, yeh,-----I remember the time I was talking to him about Walnut growing, the houses coming in and Bert says, "No, house wise, yes, but" he said, "Back in certain, certain time, that house down there by the railroad, there was a family and they had 10 kids" and he said, "In the next house there was 8 kids. Now" he said, "Look up here In town. Now ther's about 5 widows in a row there. One widow in a house."

I: Well and he's not to far wrong on that,

N: No.

I: You go up and down the streets and see how many widows there are.

N: Right.

I: Harold Abraham, some years back, make a check of it in town here and a Hundred and some sidows he said he called up, living alone. But, uh, right there in your own neighbor hood, there are no large families. There's Ethyl, and Millie and Dorothy Mack. There's Maude and Grace, uh, there's Sarah and Grace up on the corner in the Fisher house.

N: Well you start at Millie's and Ethyl's and walk right on around.

I: Right. Pearl and Maxine and the Olsons are the only married couples in the whole block there, really.

N: Well, now, you take my brother-in-law, _____, you know, _____ was in a way, he was a individual.

I: Oh, I say. All those Walters are, Yeh.

N: But I'll never forget the time that he smoked the meat. You ever hear about that?

I: No, I never.

N: Well, he decided it'd be nice to butcher a hog. And, of course, we lived out there on the farm. Why sure we'll sell a hog to you so he came down and helped us butcher. He'd always take his end of it.

I: Oh, yes.

N: And he came in and cut the meat up and he said one day, "Could he use the smoke house. I said, "sure." So we had gone to Dixon and he didn't know it. He came out and he smoked the meat and he sit around all afternoon and figured the fire was about out and he was getting ready to go and, "Well maybe I better cover that up a little, sparks might fly." We just had a ½ barrel, you know, where we built the fire in, a smoldering fire. So we had some sheets of roofing there and so he just laid that around, kind of, the edge of it and went back to town. Well, was enough heat there that this melted and that tar caught on fire and burned the smoke house down and all his meat. (Laughs) He never did live that down, along while.

I: No, I never hear that story.

N: Ya.

I: _____ was a great one, I mean, I always liked _____ Walter.

N: Did you ever hear about the long-sleeved shirts?

I: NO.

N: Well, you know, _____, you know, what a joker he was.

I: Ya.

N: Well, _____ was up there one day and of course, _____ always wore short-sleeve shirts cause he was small. And _____ says, "Say _____ I want to sell you some shirts I got here. Three in a boz. They nice white shirts." And _____ looked at them and he seen they were long-sleeved. _____ said he wanted so much. I suppose the reason was because he couldn't sell them, they were long-sleeved. _____ I'll take them. Toke them home and , of course, My sister was a good seamstress. He toke them home and she cut them out of the shoulder and set them in, sewed them in. Right length. And so he put one one one day and he was up town. Of course, _____ couldn't stand it. he wanted to see what happened. He said, "Well, _____ how was the shirts?" _____ said, "They were perfect. You know, I've touble getting the right length sleeve and they were just right." He says. "I got one on now." Never did tell him....(Laughter)

I: Poor _____, I suppose he was all upset that he did _____ get wway from him.

N: That's right.

I: I can remember a story. I wasn't there when it happened but course _____ and Hazel lived for a while in the alice HÜppert house. Do you remember that?

N: No, I don't remember.

I: Well, _____ was still living with them, see? ANd-uh-uh-Lord, you grew up in the country too. You took the Saturday night bath in the zinc tub in front of the kitchen stove, right?

N: Right, right.

I: Well, Fay was taking his bath in fron of the kitchen stove one night. And - uh- bent over. He was standing a little to close to the stove and his ~~be~~ burnt hind end hit the front of that stove. (Laughter) Cliff said you could hear him not only all over the house but all over the neighborhood.

(Laughter)

But he was a real fine fellow. He was awful good to my Aunt Hazel.

N: Well, he was awful good to my mother.

I: Oh, I'm sure he was.

N: Yeh.

I: He always was very considerate of his own mother.

N: Yeh.

I: But he was the sort of person he had every thing planned out.

N: Oh, yeh.

I: I can remember Cliff went with Fay and Hazel one time on a trip to California. They were going everywhere for Hazel's health, you know. And Cliff says, "My God, we were with in 30 miles of" I can't remember if it was The Painted Desert or the PETRIFIED Forrest. One of those two. Do you suppose Fay would go out of his way that 30 miles to see it? No sir. It would disrupt his plans. (Laughter)

N: Well, you ought to see him pack his trunk when they go to Florida.

I: I see.

N: Everything in it's place.

I: I'll bet when he took it out and put it back, it went back in that same place.

N: Oh, yeh, yeh, yeh.

I: Bev is getting along all right, is she?

N: Yeh.

I: I'm glad to hear that. I thought she was looking a little -----well, I saw her when last fall she was home.

N: She was.

I: Just before she went back.

N: Yeh.

I: Do you get down to see her?

N: Oh, yes.

I: That's one of the nice things about retirement, You can pick up and go.

N: Yeh, right. Yeh.

I: Wife likes to travel?

N: Oh, ya, more than I do, I think. But I go along with her.

I: Well, I wouldn't fuss a bit.

N: Well, you know, she'll make plans _____ I'll say you make them.

I won't have to worry about it then.

I: But, well, that's fine. IT's nice when you lose a first mate and have a second marriage so well.

N: right

I: They don't always.

N; No that's very true. Well, you see, my second wife really was my second cousin by marriage.

I: No, I didn't know that.

N: Yes.

I: Who was your----?

N: Well, she married my first cousin.

I: He was a first cousin of yours? I had to stop and think now there was a boy that liked horses.

N: Oh, Did he!

I: He never did go to power farming, did he?

N: yes, In a small way. Well he had a couple of tractors.

I: I see.

N: And, but-uh-

I: Used to be quite a sight to drive by that corner and see----
what did he have ~~on~~that?

N: Ten.

I: Ten horses.

N; But then it was ecological and feasible.

I: Well, that's the whole thing. You have to farm so much and, well, to
Make a go.

N: You see, he had that four horse hitch, he kept then til he died.

I: Good.

N: And, uh, he was—he went to these parades, you know, stuff like that.

I: He had beautiful horses there.

N: Yeh, and-uh-as soon as he passed away they sold the horses cause the
boy had no interest in the horses. Just been, well, they'd have just been
a bother.

I: Yeh.

I: Is there any traces of the old race horse or race track left?

N: No, you can't see it anymore but when they bought--when _____
bought this farm, that starting house there-uh-that judges stand was still
there.

I: Was still there.

N: Ya. And then you speaking about this bath tub-uh-central heat _____
bath room. Well,--uh--they had a refridgerater, that is a large one, a
walk-in. And built right in the house there.

I: Well, for heaven sakes.

N; And the compressor, oh, it was an enormous big compressor. I bet it
stood 5 or 6 feet high and they had a gasoline engine out in the --what
they call a block house, right next to there and that is how they got their
refridgeration and it was piped into the house.

I: By george, I don't think I ever saw an installation like that.

N: Yeah, it's still there.

I: Nice. Now _____ buy the place. Well, to be honest about it, when

Jule and Lyde lost it pretty much, didn't they?

N: Yeh, I think a fellow by the name Anderson owned it.

I: Oh, Did he?

N: Yeh.

I: Cause, I know, I have heard my mother say they moved to town and she didn't what they did have to live on.

N: Yeh.

I: And Miller was with them and Miller wasn't any help.

N: No.

I: The way he helped, was to spend it.

N: That's right. He did a good jog of that.

IL Yeh, that's for sure. I met those two girls once, I think. They were over here to Walnut.

N: Well, don't know if I ever did remember them. But there's a strange thing in life, Don, is the fact that Andy was a very devout church _____.

I: Oh, yes.

N: And then have this Art Miller there and how Art could pull the wool over the old gentlemen's eyes.

IL: Sure, sure.-----uh- one of the stories Mother, or the children told my Mother, was when old Andy came to this part of the country. I think it was 1846 when he came to Princeton. And he went up to enter this land. And they told him in Princeton, "Don't go up there, the Indians will get you for sure." See, well, the first thing he did, He and his son entered the 160 and has plowed a furrow all the way around it and planted black walnuts. Now-----

N: Well, you see, that's right. Of course, there's only a few of those left there in the yard and of course, when Melvin bought the farm, I don't know how many walnut trees _____ but it was called Walnut

Acres. He named it Walnut Acres, cause that was what he had on his truck.
Walnut Acre Farm.

I: But, you see, he went back East and spread the word about the land here and that's when the Whitvers came. They came in '51 with the Kimballs and _____ I don't remember who all but I think, there were 8 familys in the wagon train that cme through in '51 because they had heard from old Andy what a wonderfull opportunity it was.

N: I see.

I: And then the Henshels came a year or two later.

N: Oh.

I: From the same community in the state of Ohio, see.

N: Now which Hensel was that? Was that Rolle Henshel?

I: That was-uh-uh- yeh, Madison told me one tme that his folks came here from-----

N: Oh, Madison's folks.

I: Yeh, from New Philadelphia. But-uh- so that's how.....that's word of mouth advertising. (Laughs)

N: Well, just look what Rolle Henshel did for this.....

I: Oh, tremendous.

N: Now take this library.

I: This library.

N: _____ Did he leave a monument here?

I: This is it. And, you know, the sort of fellow he was, he was modest enough his mane is not _____ here at all.

N: Oh, yeh, he had that in the stipulation.

I: Stipulated in his will.

N: Yeh, oh, he was a wonderfull man.

I: Yeh. Sombody sold me here awhile ago that his neica died a year or so ago.

N: Oh? His brother Clair?

I: Yes.

N: I just barely remember Clair.

I: I suppose. I don't think I ever really knew him. See, he married a first cousin of my Dad's

N: That would be _____?

I: Bess Knight.

N: Right. Right.

I: Uncle tom's Whitvers raised her.

N: Yeh, yeh.

I: And Clair and Bess had one daughter.

N:: Speaking about that, I can just barely remember her and them. We lived out here where Polsons was.

I: Yeah.

N: And Uncle Edgar there and he married Aunt--Irma _____ and they came out one time and rode around, stood on the back of the binder and rode around.

I just---all of a sudden. I was just thinking, you think back so many times, the things when you were kids, you don't remember.....

I: No----- Why-uh- no little things like that, I suppose, like every other kid that age, you drove the horses and buggy with the water for the field hands.

N: Yes.

I: Weren't thrashing times wonderfull though-----?

N: Well, they sure were.

I: For everybody except the women that'd get the meals on.

N: Yeh, but that was competition.

I: Oh, heavens yes

N: They come home one night " what dink of pie you have today?"

I: Oh, yeh.

N: So we wouldn't have the same kind of pie the next day. And then you speaking about hauling water, and, you know, how sanitary we tried to be. Now you wouldn't think about drinking--we'd have paper cups now. We all drack ou of the same jug.

I: All the same jug or sometimes somebody would have a bucket with a dipper in it.

N: Right.

I: And-uh-you got it out of the well. I've drank water out of the crick down here as a kid and I wouldn't dream of doing it now.

N: Sure, and well specially if it was _____, field _____.
That waster is crystal clear.

I: I've been told that the first year they lived on the home place out here, my great-grandmother hauled all the water that she used, from the erick up to the house, there.

N: Could be.

I: Must be a quarter of a mile.

N: Yeh. Now your grandmother-uh-which Whitver mover out there first?

I: Old John Whitver settled, entered the land in '51, see?

N: John, was Harry's Dad?

I: Harry's Dad, yeh. Harry, see, was next to the youngest of 15 children.

N: Yeh, 15?

I: 15. They raised 13.

N: What was your father's name?

I: Clarence----Bunny.

N: Bunny--yeh.

I: After he died, you'd be surprised the number of people, just like you asked about Coxey Wallace, "What was his name?" Lots of people would say, "Don, what was your fathers real name? All I ever knew him as was Bunny.

N: Yeh, Well, now was he a bother of Harry?

E: No, he was a son of Harry. The oldest son.

N: Oh!

I: See, he was the oldest, _____ was the second, Alma was the third, then Hazel, then Iva....

N: Then Iva. Then you're a first cousin of Iva's.

I: No, I'm a nephew of Iva's.

N: Oh, yeh.

I: She's by Dad's sister. There was Iva, then Armor(sp) , then Gertrude., then Cliff, was the baby. Cliffs the one who used to work for Bill _____ in the store. C ocky little fellow.

N: Yeh, yeh. I remember him.

I: Yeh.

N: Speak about Bill _____.

I: Now there was a character.

N: Right. (Coughs) Mike Langfor clerked there.

I: Yes.

N: There was an old fellow out North, his name was, can't think what his name was, but he was an Irishman, _____ came in one day. There's some cigars there. "How much are they?"

"Five for a quarter," and-uh-.

"Gimme one" _____ smoked a puff a little bit. "Give me a quarter's worth of them" Mike gave him four more cigars. "Why," he says, "I thought they were five for a quarter." (Laughs) "Well," Mike says, "What did you have in your mough?" "Well, I thouthgt you gimme that." (Laughs) "Well," Mike says, "this isn't any gimme store." (Laughter) You know how Mike was, Didn't -----?

I: Oh, golly, yeh. Yeh, you know he and Armor(SP) both worked there at the same time, for awhile.

N: Yeh, yeh.

I: Somewhere at home there's a picture of the two of them standing in the aisle. (Coughs) with their white (Coughs) excuse me, grocery apron on. Just kids. I don't suppose they're more than 16 years old then.

N: Well, I bet Bill _____ lost more money than you'd think _____ just in town.

I: Of course _____ grocers always did in those days. I think they expected to.

N: Well, I suppose, but then you know -----.

I: You trusted people, and-uh- nobody settled up. UH- I can remember my Dad. We traded mostly at Fred Burkes when we lived on the farm.

N: Yeh.

I: So he'd come in when he sold his crop, he'd come in and settle up a whole years groceries. I suppose, maybe it would run \$500 for a whole year.

N: Sure.

I: Now you can spend 500 in a month.

N: Yeh.

I: But, no, they expected to carry. I don't know why it should of been. But there wasn't any ready cash except once a year.

N: Well, that's very true and then

I: The only thing you'd have would be egg and butter money.

N: Yeh, and they traded butter for groceries a lots of times.

I: Oh, yes.

N: Do you remember the rainbow barrell?

I: No, rainbow barrell?

N: You never heard of the rainbow barrell?

I: No, unhuh.

N: Well, every grocery store had one. Cause there you didn't dare turn anybody down. You didn't buy by grade.

I: No.

N: Well, some of this butter would come in, in nice shape. That they could sell out. But here would come in some that was rancid, you know, some different colors and _____ and, well, they got the same price for it because you just didn't dare to offend anybody.

I: Yeh.

N: So it went in a barrell and the barrell was _____ and it made olle out of it.

I: Oh, I never knew that.

N: Yeh.

I: Of course, I started working for G-P, you know, my senior year in high school. Would have been the fall of '24/

N: Yeh.

I: And we bought butter. We bought a lot of stinking butter that went into such a place as that. I remember _____. Of course, Cora ORbis (SP), everybody in town wanted some of Cora ORBIS BUTTER, YOU know.

N: Yeh.

I: I can't remember whether Mrs. McMurrey ever bought any butter or not. But my first experience in candling eggs was a 12 dozen case that Mrs. McMurrey brought in and I took them back and I candled them and about half of them were rotten. And Ed Hamberly(SP) and I were, Carl Mellick was in there. "Oh, boy, are you going to catch it. She's a tough customer and she'll just give you hell from one end to another." Well, she came back and I said, "Mrs. McMurrey, I'm sorry but" I said, "uh-so many of those eggs they didn't candle out."

"Well," She says, " I'm not surprised. Bruce gathered them.' Bruce _____ that was her nephew, you know. "He's out there and he found ~~some~~ ^{some} nests under the corn crib, and" she says, "I'm not surprised." But she brought them in hoping maybe they'd pass. (Laughs) Then Aunt Marthy _____.

Do you remember Aunt Marthy?

N: No.

I: Lived down here on _____.

N: No.

I: Well, she was a relative of mine. She was my grandmother Whitver's aunt. And-uh- raided my grandmother. But-uh- she would bring in some of this butter, I've been told this now. This is just hearsay. But she would bring in a pat of butter and it'd be rancid and they _____ or however would say, "I'm sorry Mrs. _____ you can't, -uh- I can't use that." So the next week she'd-she'd bring in a little larger pat. The old would be inside but she'd put the new sweet butter on the outside. (Laughs)

N: Do you remember Carrie _____?

I: Oh, Lord. Practically grew up in her house.

N: Is that right. Oh, well, then

I: Yeh, because working for G-P and _____ whenever there was a family dinner _____

N: Oh, yeh.

I: _____ I got invited.

N: Oh, yeh.

I: Oh, yeh.

N: Well, what I was thinking about Carrie. She'd leave cookies and maybe a pie in--for ~~Betty~~ ^{Betty} Langford, in the mailbox.

I: Yes, if you would, he figured on stopping in and having a cup of coffee and something to eat.

N: Oh, yeh.

I: Oh, and what a cook she was.

I: Now speaking about Bobby and mailmen, as I told you, Bobby _____
Dave. You could set your clock by him. Bobby there could be 2 hours
diference by the time he'd make the round. and remember he had to make
that 4 miles square around there and it was bad in the wintertime. You
know, muddy roads and he would put his horses in the barn there and take my
saddle horse and to that 4 miles around. He would break his neck to -----

I: _____get there on time.

N: Yeh.

I: Well, everybody had a world of respect for _____but everybody liked
Bobby.

N: Oh, yes _____definitely-----Oh, we had a party for him. A surprisae
party. One time and that was good. Amelia, she knew, and-uh-of course
he might milk his cows at 5:00 or he might milk them at 8:00. It didn't
make any diferenc. Bobby was never in a hurry.

I: No.

N: Well, she kind a had it planned and he was out there milking and we came,
you know, and she was talking to hime and he was telling what happened
that day, you know, elaborating on and somebody coughed or something and
he looked up and there we were all standing in the barn.

(Laughter)

I: Oh, for goodness sake. You really surprised him, then?

N: Oh, yeh.

I: Had lots of parties when you was a kid. I mean, people partied more,
gathered at neighbor's houses for doings.

N: Oh, I remember when we lost the school out there, it was consolidated.
Why, we lost something.

I: Oh, yes.

N: Of course, you always do with progress. You lose something.

I: That's right. You're bound to.

N: But that was the meeting place for the neighborhood. PTA meetings, you know. You remember Rena Christensen?

I: Oh, yes.

N: I'll never forget one Christmas party we had there. It was diferent. It was marvelous. You know she was Danish. She put the Christmas tree in the middle of thr room and she had chairs for the _____ around the outside and the kids set on the floor. And she never announced anything. One of them would jump up and go yp to the Christmas tree and recite a poem or then maybe three or four of them would get up and sing a song and then they'd all sing with out any prompting or anything. She was a whiz.

End of side 1.

SIDE TWO:

I: Let's stop this just a minute and see if I-uh-----
That's right he came over here with very little -----John Gardes,
you speak of. He had very little English, didn't he?

N: Yes.

I: Now there's a fine family.

N: Oh, yes.'

I: John's and Rineharts both are fine families.

N:And the----he added to this country.

I: You betcha life they did. And they came here 0 they had, I imagine, I don't thinl, no luxery at home because they live through those after the war years. What they ---- they come from a family with considerable means.

N: Yes.

I: Then to come over here with nothing.

N: Right.

I: Nothing left to them. Pitching in and work like the devil. I don't suppose either one of them had ever done farm work.

N: No.

I: And I don't care-uh-who it is, farming, farmwork isn't eazy.

N: Well, when they came over here-----

I: Now did both of them live with _____ son when they first came over?

N: Where?

I: Did they work for _____? Both of them were at _____,

I think.

N: I think so-yeh. (Coughs)

N: When they came over to this country and I don't remember I ever heard Rhinehart say when-how they happened to come oever to this part of America.

Did You?

N: No-uh- I don't know whether John and _____ came over first or not.

See they-John _____, they knew each other over there.

I: I see.

N: Now John came over here to _____ this country, uh, i remember one thing. We had a brotherhood metting and -----

I: Yes.

N: And it was kind of open discussion and talking about what was happening see, and I can remember Clarence _____ saying, "WELL, what ever they have in the old country we'll eventually have here." We have. You look back. _____, this and that and the other. And so _____ this discussion and I said, " Well, maybe John here can tell you somthing about what we're have thats like they had in the old country.

I: Right.

N: In politics and what have you and John made this statement. He said, "I didn't come to this country to mess into politics, _____ Politics I came over to contribute and make a living." So I asked him afterwards then. We got to visiting and he was telling me then how a few different things they had there and had transpired here after he came here

I: Yes, did that mean the creeping socialism and that _____?

N: Yes.

I: Little by little they took away our rights.

N: Right.

I: There's another man that made a success of things.

N: Yes _____ Well that whole family contributed to this country.

I: Right.....go back a 100 years and where did the Heaton's come from?

N: I don't know-----they're just like Topsy, they grew.

I: No, You've heard your folks talk about-----

N: Well, they came from Pennsylvania. They were English.

I: English people. Yeh, well, it would be an English name. But they come here to make a better life for themselves.

N: Freedom.

I: Freedom and the Whitvers came from the German part of Switzerland.

Somebody was talking (coughs) awhile back about these kids in the recent war, you know, slipping away to Canada and that and I said, "No, it's not right" but I said, "maybe some of us don't have a lot of room to talk, because I've been told the story that the old man. Now this would be my great-great-grandfather....."

N: Yeh?

I: Brought his children to America, gave up considerable acrimony because he didn't want his sons to serve in the services.

N: Well, that's right.

I: See, in Switzerland, they came here,—they came to America in 1830 or 32. But even in these days they had conscription. You served, I think it was 2 years in the army.

N: Ya, mandatory. You knew that was before you.

I: The old man didn't want his boys to doing that so he brought them to America and he gave, as I say, a considerable inheritance to do it. But so, I mean, they all had different reasons.

N: Well, yes. I—uh—I've got mixed feelings about the ones that went to Canada. I can't condemn or I can't condone.

I: I don't know enough about it but what I do, under the same circumstances I don't think I would have done it but I'm not saying I wouldn't have.

N: We just don't know.

I: I'm not saying for sure that I wouldn't-----

N: I hate to condemn.

I: No and frankly maybe I'm a little wishy-washy. I mean maybe my convictions aren't as strong as some of theirs seem to have been but-uh----

N: Well, we've got out-----

I: Of course, I've got a, I think maybe I'm like you, I've got a strong streak of patriotism in me. Right or wrong it's my country. I'm going to do what I can to further the best interest of it.

N: Right. But then, Don, I don't know what's happened. About the patriotism. It makes you wonder. Now World War I I was _____ now I went with a group from Princeton. I enlisted and why, American Red Cross gave us this and gave us that and then we had a _____ and there was a bunch of us _____ and we were going to save the democracy. We were going over, the Kaiser, you know, just the other night _____ they had some of his music.

I: Oh, George _____, yes.

N: Yeh, and all big _____, see and then World War Two I was going to save

the world from democracy and-uh= so it makes you wonder.

I: Well, I don't know, course theres been so much here in recent months and very recent years of hypocragy. It's been showing up in officiaal circles. It makes you a little dubious about it.....

N: Yeah.

I: Well, you wonder who you believe. But essentially the country is still alright.

N: Yeh, well,.....

I: Cecil, the country is people like you and me.

N: Right. Thats what makes a country. But, I think one of the things is that years back we didn't have the news media to know everything and we have to take the news media and sort it out ourself.

I: Well, theres an awful lot of slanting of the news. But this television business, you've got your favorite news caster on the television.

N: Oh, yes.

I: And I don't care who they are, they are going to read what they think is best for us to know.

N: Yeh-----well, now I don't know. I'll question that---Whats best for us to know or what they want us to know.

I: What they think is best for us to know.

N: Well what they'd like to have---

I: that's right. Hopefully, you'll beleive it.

N: Yes.

I: Sombody told me on time, says, " Do you take TIME magazine?" and I said "Yes." "Well, you know damn well, that they slant the news." And I said "I know they do but they slant it the way I want it slanted." (Laughter)
So-uh- no I think I've grown up to be sort of a conservative and -uh- I'm a lot more liberal than my granfather aor my great-grandfather.

N: Well, that's true, because you have the new media. They only had one thing, it was this. People used to fight over politics.

I: You'd get some real knock-downs and drag-outs with that.

N: Oh, yes.

I: People don't much anymore.

N: No-no.

I: Very seldom. Instead of _____ it out with fists, they sue.

(Laughter)

N: NO but that was the same thing, you know, Don, with religion. Now when I was a kid, you know. Well, the Red Oak church didn't recognize the Baptist church here. The Baptist how they're a Christian church. Why, they'd change back and forth later on. I: Now the Red Oak is a Methodist combined and I can't see but what it's probably all for the good.

N: Yeh, the way should be, because there was too many. Some would make it and some wouldn't.

I: Some few years ago, well, it was the year that George and Florence _____ were on that trip to Mexico. I think they were with _____ and _____ Frederick and-uh- we had built a new house for an Amish family down by West of Tampico. The people's name was Blossard(sp). Joe Blossard and Mrs. Blossard's mother, can't think now of her name, but she passed away and old Joe called and let George know about it. And _____ said, "What'll we do?" I said, "We'll go to the funeral." So we went to the funeral down there at that Amish church, you know, just, --on 172. just North of _____ and a lovely service as far as that's concerned. It got awful emotional but the women on one side of the church, of course, the men on the other side of the church. Of course most of the men were bearded and people like Glennie(?) and me, a few of even of the Amish relatives that had married outside of the church, they sat in a separate area. They had a choir which I had never

known before. A lovely choir.

N: Do they have musical instruments?

I: No, nothing. They sang completely acappela but beautiful servis. And Glennie said something about it being strange and I said, "No it isn't a bit strange to me, because I have seen early day services enough to know what I must have been like a hundred years ago." And I said, "I bet you the services at Red Oak 50 years ago wasn't a whole lot diferent then this." Because I can remember Old Henry _____ and pictures of him and that-uh- I mean the beards, you know.

N: Yeh.

I: ANd-uh- I don't know, I don't suppose the women and the men were ever segregated in the Lutheran church, I don't know. Maybe they were in the early days.

N: They segregated.

I: They did.

N: The men sat on side and the women sat on the other.

I: That's exactly-----

N: When I moved up there, see-----

Yeh, yeh, but the church was plain. Most of the churches were plain in those days.

N: Oh, yeh.

I: I've heard the story. Of course this is just a story but my great grandmother said to my grandmother Whitver one day, "Carrie, I haven't seen you in church latly." And my grandmother said, "I don't have a hat that's fit to wear.

N: Yeh.'

I: The old lady says, " You have your sunbonnet." You don't need to get dressed up to go to church. You go to church not to show up, you go to

church to worship and pay homage to the Lord.

(Laughter)

N: Right.

I: And-uh-card playing was taboo.

N: Oh, yes.

I: In the early days in the Methodist church here, you didn't put on little skits, not even little playlets at Christmas time.

N: No, no.

I: No, sir.

N: Well, now you take that card playing. I think that's where they got mixed up-uh-you would play cards and have fun the same as you can anything else.

I: Sure.

N: But sheckers, they played checkers.

I: Yeh.

N: But-uh-it went back to the old gamble, see?

I: That's right.

N: There was a stigma there, see?

I: You came to church to pray and to worship.

N: Yeah.

I: There was nothing to divert your attention what-so-ever. There shouldn't be-----but another thing I can remember. You can remember just as well, is the number of services there were and the Wednesday night prayer meeting.

N: Right.

I: The only prayer meeting I know now is down here at by Dorothy Macks(sp). The Nazerene Church.

N: Well, I'll never forget, I remember when they had them out there. Well, the preacher, well, he got discouraged. Maybe 5, 6, 7, 8, see?

I: Oldtimers.

N: Yeh, Well, then there was one man there, I won't mention his name. He _____ that fact and complained to the preacher and he was to go to Sterling to prayer meeting. He wanted me to go along. "No," I said, "I tel you" I said, " we were the reason we don't have them here because we didn't go and I can't see the idea of me going over there with you. I'd enjoy your company but I won't because I was one of them, might say that put the taboo on here cause I didn't go.

I: You didn't go. He wanted you to.

N: Yeh.

I: Now of course nobody has time to go, I suppose.

N: Well, too, It was old custom and it--uh--some of the people didn't go because they wanted to, now I ~~shouldn't say~~ that maybe, but then, it got to be a habit.

I: That's right.

N: It got to be a habit, see. They went through formality just like go back on the religion. You remember the KU KLUX Klan?

I: Oh heavens, yes.

N: Now there's men here today in this town that probably belonged to the KKK and they'd hate have you know it.

I: Tight.

N: _____psycholog y. I remember they had a big meeting out there in a field out there near Ohio. Burnt a cross. They came in with their robes on, you know, and they had that yellow jacket paper. Well, it was propaganda.

I: That's right.....uh-you know my mother used to collect old clothing for the war mothers. They used to bring it to our house. Our livingroom was a warehouse in those days.

N: Yeh?

I: They'd bring in boxes full. She found a robe one time. I think it was in a pile of sheets. She opened it up and it was like a nightgown. She said "I'll just bet you anything this was a Klan robe.

N: Yeh.

I: I didn't have the hood with it.

N: Of course, they had that--then they had the hood they put over the top of it, see.

I: Then _____ asked me, oh, it was a year ago, there was an item in the paper like the 25 year ago or 50 years agws. About the meeting of the Klan. He said, "why did they have a Klan in this part of the country? You don't have any blackes here." I said, "No". Of course, Denny's a Catholic, a real strong Catholic. I said, "Denny, it was against the Catholics and the Jews and we didn't have very many Jews." And in those days there weren't very many Catholic.

N: No.

I: Boy, there are now. I mean, there's another church that proliferated.

N: Ya.

I: To be honest about it all the churches have grown. We lost the Baptist church but the Methodist and the Christian church has grown. The Catholic church has grown tremendously. We've got a strong Lutheran church here now. And this man with the Nazarene church, he doan't dp very well but he's got a few faithful.

N: I can't figure him out.

I: No.

N: He's a nice fellow.

I: A dickens of a nice fellow.

N: I like him, but then-uh-----

I: You'd have to be dedicated to stick with the darn thing.

N: Yeh, I said to him one day, "Isn't it defeating?" Well, ya"

I: But he keeps atrying.

N: Yeh---it-uh- but then, well, that's their business.

I: But I thin it's encouraging in the times we live in, to know that churches are prospering and in this community at least-----they must be prospering the ladies don't put on big turkey suppers anymore.

N: No--got to much work.

I: Well, they don't need the mængy.

N: No,----well, really,

I: They need the money.

N: But the socialbilitiy, part of it,---actually now in these church suppers and things, outside of socialbility if they would take the money they put into that and gave it----

I: Well, when those started, Cecil, you put on a big chicken cupper, a fried chicken supper, for instance, they always figured it din't cost them anything cause they had the chickens out in the lost and they had all this stuff there. They rendered their own lard, they made their pie, they had the fruit to make it out of. They grew their own vegatables and such. Just take a few cans of stuff and it didn't cost us anything.

N: Well; now, you take like----they have them yett THat is they have salads or _____ sandwiches like the Lutheran shurch up, well, all of them, Red Oak that uh-uh- they come from all over. Socialbility, see? Why not socialbility?

I: I think it's a wonderful thin. I mis that last winter, you know, the Christian church, discontinued there soup and sandwich days on Tuesday. Not only did you get a good lunch there but you, as you say, you had a chanch to visit with people you don't see very often.

N: That's right and realize different things. I know. I know when I mentioned this or not but then like-uh-well, Dan the Catholic priest there before this one. _____ name was Dan.

I: Oh?

N: Well, I'm kind of--I don't go much for formality see and up at the Rotary, at the Rotary at least you're suppose to call everybody by their first name. Well, I got to call him Dan, you know, and maybe I'll forget out on the street and I always like to visit with him. He was very educated man.

I: Oh, I understood that. I never met him.

N: And he was a dedicated man. Well, I went up there to a dinner one day, and there wasn't many there. Lunch you know. Men there were going to leave there. About the only one. He says "why Cecil, come over sit down" I sit down, we got to visiting. "Say" he says, "there's something I wanted to-- always what say to you." "Well" I said, "Go ahead." "Well," he says "you know you call me Dan" he said. "I like to be called by my title, Father." "Well," I said that won't bother me any, only" I said, "you know how I've been raised a protestant. I came _____ I usually should recognize you I would recognize the Reverend" "That's fine, that's fine" See.

I: Sure.

N: Well, it was alright and I appreciated it but he came right up and told me.

I: Well, I mean, give him credit for that. He was honest with you and----

N: Yeh, yeh, yeh.

I: You were honest with him.

N: Yeah.

I: And made a happy compromise.

N: Yes.

I: No, he was a real fine fellow. I think he was a little more strick then a lot of them was.

N: Yeh -but he was alright and then the one there before that. I don't remember what his name -----

I: Oh, I should remember that because-----

N: Malloy.

I: Malloy.

N: Yeh.

I: There was a fine _____. I liked him very much.

N: Oh, was he ever!

I: When my brogther John died-uh-he was buried, I think, the fifth of December and a couple of nights after the funeral somebody rang the front door bell and here was Father Malloy, come to extend his condolences.

N: Yeh.

I: Which I thought was wonderful. He never knew John, He didn't know me to well, but he stopped and visited 15 minutes or so and I appreciated that very much.

N: Ya. I've been up there and visited with him and he's a wonderfull man to visit with. Very talented, very educational, very _____ put it that way too.

I: Mary Jane Brewers knew him in Mendota. You know Mary Jane, Wesley's wife?

N: Yeh.

I: They used to live down there-uh- where Mrs. Parsons lives now.

N: Yeh. You said Mary Jane. Well, I know here but who was she?

I: She was Mary Jane Guesline(sp) from Mendota.

N: Oh, yeh.

I: But she knew Father Malloy when he was just a little boy.

N: Oh.

I: First grade in school, see. I think she was a year or two older. Oh, she said he was the prettiest little thing. Such a good looking little boy. She said all the girls wanted to hug him.

(Laughter)

N: Yeh.

I: Well, I met him when, there were, of course, working on that rectory. Why, I met his family, his sister, his father, and-uh- a real fine family.

N: Yeh, good friends _____

I: Well, it helps a lot.

N: Oh, you-----

I: Kind of smooths the rough spots in the-----

N: Well, that's what you get out of life.

I: Sure.

N: I know, When I first started to work for _____ now we went to a machinery dealers convention at Peoria. They had a fellow there by the name of Jim _____ give a talk. You was sitting on the edge of your chair listening to him.

I: Some of the boys can do that to you.

N: And when I- what I marveled at though., after his talk. Well the subject of his talk was recognize people, share with people, sympathize with people. It didn't make any difference, of course, he was talking to the salesman.

I: Sure.

N: BUt it didn't make no difference _____

I: Didn't make any difference no

N: So after I __afterwards I went up and congratulated him and I knew it was something you could use if you remembered. I asked him if he had a outline.

for his speech. "No," he said, he didn't, and he said, "What's your name?" "What's your address?" and I gave it to him just out of formality which you do and just pass it off, see? And oh, about a month later I got that outline and it was from a hotel. He had been in a hotel in New York City.

I: Yeh.

N: But a man that big, you know.....

I: He kept you in mind-----.

N: He practiced what he preached, see?

I: Well, good for him. It's wonderful. You still help ~~out~~ down there now and then?

N: Oh, yeh.

I: That's good. Good for you. It's wonderfully good for them.

N: Yeh. Well, I was down there only last week and what's good--now there again people are in business. How they'll recognize somebody like me. Small.

I: Oh, yes.

M: And I had the office there. Well, like as big as this here. All desk, you know, _____ . Call my name, you know and -----

I: No, it makes a fellow feel good and of course, it's not a gift with some one like that. They cultivate it. They -----

N: Well, they must.

I: A lot of it is natural but they--the bigger they are the more common they are, in most instances.

N: Some times.

I: Yeh, In most instances, Cecil. You go into these big places and they're usually cordial. They're probably too busy to spend much time with you but they've always got time to wave and ask you how you are. How's the family and I think that in most instances they're really sincere about it.

N: Then what I feel too, like _____ fellows there that you ought to

recognize that they're busy.

I: Oh, yes.

N: Now I know our branch manager. Well, you go along in front of his office, he'll hollar at you, see. Well, you stop in there but don't stay there very long.

I: Right.

N: Cause you know he's busy. If he starts looking at his watch or picks up his pencil or something like that, you know you had better go cause he can't do that to everybody. He wouldn't get nothing done.

I: He'd never get his work done.

N: And, yeh.

I: So, well, any little tidbits from when you were in school? Have you told me all the nasty little things that you did to the _____?

N: I never did anything nasty-----.

I: Oh, God!

N: That they caught me at.

I: I don't think you ever showed me your halo.

(Laughter)

I: That they caught you at. That's right.

N: Well, I'll say this, I've enjoyed life.

I: Well, that's what I-- I'm sure you have.

N: Speaking about enjoying life. I've got a _____ I used to like to stop over at Sublette. _____ and there was an old gentlemen there. HE was probably 30 years older then I was at that time. Well, he was 80, what he was. I knew he farmed but they run a hardware store there and they sold tractors. His boys did and he was around there. And there was a rubber-tired tractor setting there on the floor and I said, "Mr. _____ don't you wish you was 40 years younger and driving that

around the field instead of that old walking plow you followed around the field?" and he looked at me and he said, "No sir, no sir, I don't." He said, "I've lived this old life the best I knew how. Some of it better, some of sweeter. I don't care about doing it over again." And what could I say?

I: I'd say he stated it pretty well.

N: Yeh.

I: Yeh-if we all could come to 80 years of age and say that honestly this would be a pretty fine world to live in.

N: Right.

I: Yes sir---- but it;s been interesting to talk to you.

N: Well it's been a pleasure to vist with you. Don.

I: You given us a few good stories. Aouple I - several I dâdn't know before. But it's nice to know--cause I often wondered where you had grown up.

Whether you were born and raised out there on the farm, I mean, I knew that was the Heaton home place but I didn't knew that it had been for years and years. Your folks bought that from-----

N: Luke _____

I: Oh, from old luke, huh?

N: Yeh.

I: I see--there was a charakter, too.

N: Yeh--always liked him, though.

I: Oh, yes, wonderfull man. Wonderfull.

N: I tell you a thing about buying ~~that farm~~. My Dad paid \$109 an acre for that, at that time that would be, oh you figure, 1905.

I: Yeh.

N: And _____, a neightbor there, and he thought it was a terrible price. Just like to see the back of that man's neck when we paid \$109 an

acre for that farm.

I: Look at the prices now.

N: Yeh, it's unbeleivable.

I: I asked Aunt Mary White one time. Now--you don't remember here; Mrs Ely White?

N: No.

I: Oh.

N: What relation was that to _____?

I: Well, she was a sister-in-law. Ely was a gull brother or a half brother but anyhow Wly and Mary Jane White were the parents of Dora Perkins, _____ you remember Mrs. _____ but anyhow she was the oldest. She was about 7 years old when they came to Illinois, see, from the state of Ohio and of course, the old man entered the 160 here at one dollar and twenty-five cents and acre and I said, "With land so cheap why didn't he get more?" She looked at me and said, "In those days a dollar and a quarter was a lot of money."

N: Yeh---well, you know, that place that Done lives on there?

I: Yes.

N: That abstract--there's not very many on it.

I: No.

N: That is in exchange. The first was a family, a colonel in the army or a major and then my wife's grandfathere bought that--no, great-grandfather-- And then there's grandfather, then her father, then Don is on there now. He should have applied for centennial.

I: Yes, he would be entitled to it, I think.

N: Yeh.

I: Now that's through the _____ side of the family?

N: Right.

I: Yeh. They've been around in this part of the country a good many years.

N: Yeh.

I: Oh, yes.

N: Of course theres a lot of them around Tiskilwas too.

I: Oh, yes.

N: I think that was the first -----.

I: A didtant branch of the family. And you're not closely related anymore

I don't suppose.

N: No.

I: Although, you know Florence Whitver is.

N: Yes.

I: She's first cousin to some of those people down there and of course I don't know if she'd be second or thãrd cousin. She'd have benn about a second or third cousin of _____, wouldn't she?

N: Yeh, second cousin.

I: Yes--and I mean, your kids have got good forebearers on her mother's side of the family.

N: Yeh.

I: There was a fine old couple she _____.

N: Yes, especially Grandma.

I: Oh, wasn't she a sweet old lady, though?

N: Couldn't beat her.

I: No.

N: Aunt Carrie.

I: And Mrs. _____-----maybe shouldn't tell tales out of school but poor Julia, she was a little on the bitter side. (Laughs)

N: I'll never forget ---Uncle John, you know, she'd,--Jule would stir

up something and have a family gathering for some reason or other and John'd say "Jule, now Jule"-called her Jule- "JUle now Jule" (Laughs) Well, Aunt Carrie was -----

I: Oh, Yeh-----she never has it very eazy life of it either.

N: No, no.

I: I don't know- she lost her first husband and a child. (Coughs)

N: The railroad,

I: Yeh.

N: My grandma _____. She was a _____. She was marvelous.

I: Yes. I just remember but she was a real sweet old lady.

N: Yeh, she was. But he was a little more of a complainer.

I: Was he?

N: Oh, yeh.

I: Of course, he hadn't gotten so old when I knew him that ----

N: Well, now he was more of a complainer--and--se they're related to the Popes, too.

I: How-how- what was the relationship there? Do you remember?

N: NO, Through the _____ some way. See, Grandma _____ was a _____.

I: I see, George _____ was related somehow or another the _____.

N: Yes.

I: Did one of the _____ women marry a _____.

N: Oh, yeh. Mrs. _____ was a Pope.

I: Was she?

N: Old _____ first wife was a Pope.

I: Yes, she was a Pope. She was a sister of Sam Pope.

N: Yeh, Sam and Bill.

I: Henry _____'s wife was a Pope.

N: Yeh.

I: Barbara Pope. I seen that. It's in one of those histoy books up there.

N: I see- yeh.

I: But you take you get a community like that, I mean, I don't know who was the first settler and that but I mean Henry _____ was a big land owner and he;d bring, some of these other people would here of him and know of him and come back and bring another family or to from the old country.-----

N: Yeh.

I: And real close knit--(Coughs)--you still have communities like that. Not so much around here but they tell me you get up into Wisconsin.

N: Very true.

I: And they still speak German and _____

N: Well, when we first moved up there. Every other Sunday was German services.

I: Were they?

N: They had to quit because they were losing the young people.

I: I went to church one time- and worked, you know, in Chicago for three years this was about '32, I guess, that I lived on the South side. On 63rd and Halsted. Out in that area. Then it still was white. But I went to a Lutheran church Sundays there and I can't say what but there were two services like at 8:00 and one at 10:00. One of them was English and one of them was German.

N: Right. Yeh--yeh.

I: So there was still a large community out there. Now of course all that area is Black. ----- But my mother's sister, my Aunt Mary, married a German. His Name was Gleason. His father was a stone mason. That had come

to this country from Germany and he settæed in Hinsdale. Well, my uncle Fred and his brogher Henry, I think were born in the old country and there were about 5 or 6 other children. I think there were 8 children altogether born in this country. The youngest was Lillian. They always spoke German in the home.

N: Yeh?

I: The old lady never learned, like Grandpa Roth, you remember Grandma and Grandpa Roth? Elizabeth _____'s parents?

N: I don't think so.

I: Well, anyhow, they spoke German in the home. Lillian started to school she had enough English, I mean, from her brothers and sisters, she could speak English. She started to school. She would come home, her mother would talk to her in German, Lillian wouldn't answer. Just like she couldn't understand it. The old lady had to learn to speak English so she could talk to the baby.

(Laughter)

N: Well, now you know Harold Eicheleman(sp)

I: Oh, yes.

N: Harold and--didn't know a word of English, I don't think until he came to school.

I: For heavens sake.

N: My wife didn't know any--didn't know English until she started school Swedish, see? Her father come from Sweden.

I: Well you can't blame them for sticking with the language they know best.

N: But it;s good they didn't, cause they have both.

I: Now, I often thought it was wonderfull the way at that---that Tom Christiansens taught their childrej both languages. Now my sister Martha, you know. Her parents were Finnish and the mother, she understands English

but she doesn't speak it.

N: Oh?

I: She lived in the home there with them. Martha is really the only one that can talk to her and Martha never bothered to teach her children the Finnish language.

N: Oh.

I: They know songs and words but not enough to carry on a conversation.

N: Yeh.

I: It was kind of to bad.

N: So English now is getting pretty well a universal language.

I: Oh, yes. This little girl that you had here in Rotary on the exchange. I told here,--I asked her how long she had studied English and she said she had it for two years in school. I thought it was marvelous the command she had of the English language. I could have studied Spanish for 20 years and not been as proficient.

N: Well, maybe the English language is a little easier to learn.

E: Well, I don't know, I think it's difficult.

N: You know you get over in Germany, we was in Germany four-five years ago. AND well, they could speak quite a bit of English.

I: Oh, yes.

N: Most of them.

I: But it's required. I think 2 years is required in so many of the schools now. You get into Germany, and Holland, and Belgium, Spain. She said two years was required. So she had, I mean, you could use Unusual words, she knew what they were. The trouble with English is you can take one word, The word great, for instance, stop and think how many meanings there could be to that.

N: Yeh.

I: So-you-well, Cecil, it's been good visiting with you.

N: It's been my pleasure, Don.

I: We're coming to the end of our tape here and I, wáll,do it again.

YOU think of a new anecdote or tow, we'll get together again.

N: What de you play that back on?

Beverly Mann
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