JAMES N. PRICE MEMOIR

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PREFACE

This manuscript is the product of tape recorded interviews conducted by Patrick Burris for the Oral History Office during the Fall Semester of 1976. Mr. Burris transcribed the tape and edited the transcript.

James Price was born in Bridgeport, Illinois, on June 26, 1911. As a child of seven he began helping his father and grandfather with the family dairy business. He attended Franklin School, a one room country school near his home. As a member of an agricultural family, he learned early, the art of plowing with horses, butchering hogs, and threshing with steam engines.

In 1932, after graduation from high school, he went to work for the Ohio (later Marathon) Oil Company as a roustabout, and participated in the oil "booms" of southeastern Illinois. His career in the oilfields spans the development of the industry in this area, from the early days of horse and manpower to the evolution of the advanced drilling techniques and methods of the present.

Mr. Price experienced the severity of pre-union working conditions and was involved in the organization and development of the Bridgeport local. In addition, he has remained a life-long farmer.

Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, narrator and editor sought to preserve the informal conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. Sangamon State University is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein; these are for the reader to judge.

James N. Price, October 17, 1976, Bridgeport, Illinois.
Patrick Burris, Interviewer.

A. I lived on the farm where my grandmother had always lived all of her life.

Q. Where was that at?

A. That's the old home place. Their farm was there where Charley Hobbs lives, and we lived there--that's when they run the dairy. In 1917, 1918 is when they had that awful big snow. The snow got four or five feet deep. That's when we was apeddling milk, ahauling milk into Bridgeport and peddling it at the stores and the houses. I went along with Dad and would help deliver the milk when I was seven years old. 1918 is when they had that awful big snow. That's when it was piled up clear over the fences. Had that snow, then it sleeted on top of it, and a lot of places you could ice skate for four miles, right across the fields, right over the fences and all.

Q. How old would you have been about then?

A. I was born in 1911, that would have made me seven years old.

Q. And your dad owned the dairy?

A. Yes, Dad owned the dairy then. And then I had Harry and Chuck, they was--like I would be where Jordy is now, then Raymond and Carl, see? There would have been that much difference, and that's the way the same thing was then.

Q. So you would have been five or six years . . .

A. Seven years. Born in 1911, this was 1918.

Q. Right, but I mean you were--how many years younger than your brothers were you?

A. Well, Chuck was seven years older than me and Harry was two years older than Chuck, and then Chloe was two years older than Harry. There was five children, and Lenabelle was the youngest. But in 1918 when that big snow was, it was so deep, and they had no way to clear the roads, only just all the people that lived along the road just get together. It took them two days to get the road cleared before we could get to Bridgeport, four miles and a half.

Q. So you couldn't take any milk?

A. That first day Dad took off that morning with the milk, he didn't get halfway. He was gone six hours and didn't get two mile, he got back home. The milk at that time was in quart glass bottles and just a little pasteboard cap went on top. The milk had froze, and as it froze it expanded, and it come up, right up through the top of the--pushed the cap off and it was that high above the bottle, see? The milk was all froze and had pushed up there.

Q. About three or four inches?

A. Yes. But anyway, the men was two days getting the road cleared to Bridgeport and then things got back to normal.

But where we went out in the country to school, we had two miles to walk to school. And the country school where we went was just a one-room school, one teacher, and they didn't teach every grade every year, see. If you started in on an odd year--like they'd teach the first grade and third maybe fifth and seventh and eighth along that-a-way, see. If you got started in the wrong year, you either had to be back a year or go ahead a year.

A. Lenabelle would have started the next year, see. I went a little in 1918 and then when they had this awful bad weather, course I didn't go. But then me and Lenabelle started the same year then, the next year, see. Then we went through grade school and high school together in the same year.

Q. You stayed together all through school?

A. Yes. There was Dean Simms and Beulah Vandament down there and Lenabelle and me. We all four went to the first grade together and then from there clear through the last day of high school, together, graduated the same time.

Q. And you weren't necessarily the same age? It was because you . . .

A. Yes, well, Dean and me and Beulah was--our birthdays was in the same year, see, but then Lenabelle's was about, would have been, oh, a little over a year behind, see. But she started then because if she hadn't of, she'd of waited another year, which would of put her by herself. And in the school, there was just, like I say, one teacher, and maybe there would be one or two, well, usually two grades they didn't teach that year. See, they'd alternate from one year to the next. You'd either have to--if somebody moved in the district and had a child in the fifth grade or sixth grade or so forth [which] they didn't teach, they had to go ahead or back to finish that year, and then start over again.

Q. How did the teacher operate in class? Were you separated or . . .

A. Well, no, just one big room and you all set there, and then up in front of the room, they had just long seats like they would have in church, see, and that one class would go up in front and that would be your class at that time and you would recite or have your lesson, see. Then you would go back to your seat and another class would go up. But for one

teacher to teach your reading and writing and arithmetic and history and biology all in the same day to all grades, see, you couldn't get through it.

Q. It would take a long time wouldn't it?

A. Yes, so they just had so many grades each year and that's the way the school was run, and we went to school seven months. That's all the grade we had, was seven months out of the year. By that time when you were seven or eight years old, why, you--we'd have to get up at four o'clock in the morning in order to get the work done. We milked all them cows by hand, see.

Q. I wanted to ask you, what was a typical day like?

A. We'd start at four o'clock in the morning. You had to get all your feeding done, and you milked those cows by hand. We kept from twelve to fifteen because you see, you had to have one hundred quarts of milk to take to town and your cows, would be dried up a little while some of them, different times, before they had a calf.

Q. So you had to have extra ones?

A. Then you had to have extra cows in order to maintain your level of one hundred quarts of milk a day. You'd milk them and then like I said yesterday, you'd have to, in the summertime especially--well in the wintertime even too, you'd have to pour that milk in that cooler and let the animal heat get out of it, cool it some before you could put it in your bottle and cap it, see. But in the summertime that took a little time because you had to put that milk in there and then pour your water around there. You had to go pump your water and carry it, and pour it in there, and let that cool a while, see. Then in the summertime we had to make two trips a day to town.

Q. Could you explain again how the cooler worked?

A. Well, it was just like this would be one part of your cooler, see. You'd pour your milk in here. Then this out here, if this had another jacket up here this high see, the same heighth as your milk, then you poured your water around here, see?

Q. So it's kind of like a double boiler?

A. Just like a double boiler, yes. You'd go to the well and pump buckets of water and carry and pour it in here and then that took the animal heat out of your milk enough that you could bottle it and then have to hurry to town with it, see.

But in 1919 Dad bought his first Model T Touring car, a brand new one. It cost $385. But before that, and then afterwards too, there would just be a short time of the year you could drive that to town and back. You had to drive that horse and buggy, what they called a buckboard. Now this thing didn't even have a top on it or anything, it was just like a buggy

only in the back it had a place built similar to a pick-up truck. Just a bed built on there, where you hauled your milk. You hooked two horses to it. But you had to go regardless of how cold or what was a-going on see. You had to go just the same.

Q. So when did you start working at the dairy?

A. Well, like I say, when I was seven years old, why, I'd go with Dad. In the wintertime, I made one trip, and helped when he got in town. He would put so much in each store, then you just drove up and down the street where your customers was, see, and one of us would take each side of the street and take the milk bottle out of the buggy and take it to the house and set it down. You'd set down a full one, pick up an empty. And then in the summertime, why, of course, you had to make two trips.

But then of course, as you got older, why you had a lot more work to do. You'd burn three stoves. It took two heating stoves to heat the house, and your cook stove, you burnt wood in all the time. I was the youngest, that was my job every evening, soon as I got home from school, was to carry in enough to run you through the night. You'd burn a lot of wood until bedtime, which, eight or eight-thirty, everybody would be in bed. Then you had to bank your stove so you'd have fire in the morning. Then your cookstove, you had to build a fire every morning because the fire-boxes was made different, see. There wasn't enough firebox in them to hold fire. Every morning you'd have to kindle a fire in it. That's the first thing, probably, Dad would do when he got up, would be start a fire in the cook stove and get a fire built and get it hot enough to cook on.

We'd have twelve to fifteen head of horses, and the cows and a bunch of hogs to take care of and you'd get up at four o'clock and you'd get all that done before you ever ate breadfast. You'd get your milk in that cooler concern see, and it set in there until after you ate breakfast and then you'd get out there and bottle your milk and get ready to go to town. But that went on till, well, I don't know. I don't remember exactly how long, you know, I can remember 1917 and 1918 real well on account of helping deliver milk and the big snow and that sleet and skating across the fields, but I don't remember how long before that they'd been selling milk. Probably from around 1906 and 1907 when the oil boom started here. A lot of people moved in and that's when a lot of people like the folks started hauling milk to town and, in the summertime, a lot of vegetables and whatever you raised, you could haul to town and sell part of it, you know.

Q. A lot of new people came to town?

A. A lot of people come to town . . .

Q. Because of the oilfields?

A. On account of the oilfield. There was all kind of shacks and tents and, the way they explained it, people living in everything, all over town see, anything they could stay in.

Well, it was the same thing in--of course this is going way on up then,

in 1937 and 1938, when they had that big boom in Salem. I was over there working in it. Leonard Gray and me was a-working together and we slept for two weeks, every night, in a man's brooder house! That's the only place we could get a bed to sleep in see, there was so many people coming in there and they wasn't prepared to take care of them. It would just be like if, well, a couple thousand people come into Bridgeport in, say, thirty days time. There wouldn't be enough restaurants for them to eat out of or enough rooms or anything see. Course now, you could go each way for thirty or forty miles and still drive to work, but then you couldn't.

Q. Even though you had the car then, was the horse still the main form of transportation?

A. Well, in 1919?

Q. Yes.

A. Oh yes, because you didn't have any roads, see. Maybe three or four months through the summertime you could drive your car, and then the rest of the time, the most of the time, it set in the shed, jacked-up, because you didn't have any anti-freeze and you had to have water in it.

We went ahead up that way [living at the home place and operating the dairy] up till 1921 when my mother died. After my mother died, Chloe and Harry, the oldest boy and oldest girl, they was both planning on getting married at that time, see, so they went ahead and got married and that's when Dad overhauled the old homestead where Grandma and Grandpa lived. At that time that was still just two rooms and mostly just the old log two rooms, and still had a fireplace in it. He had the carpenters go in there and they built two rooms on downstairs, and two rooms upstairs, and built a kitchen and backporch. Then, Dad and Chuck and Lenabelle and me, moved in with Grandpa and Grandma. And that made six of us. That made six of us. Well, then after that, Dad sold, or they did, Dad and Granddad, sold the dairy route to a man lived south of us by the name of Slemmins, only we kept the cows and we still done all that milking and we sold that man just whole milk see, in cans, until he got to where he got enough cows to bottle everything he needed to deliver. And then they got what you call a cream separator.

Q. Slemmins did?

A. No, we did, got a cream separator. That was an outfit where you had a bunch of machinery here, with a crank on it, and then in the top you had a great big bowl where you poured your milk, and your milk went down through that and you cranked this crank at a certain speed and your skim milk would come out one spout and your cream out the other. What they called a cream separator or milk separator, rather. Well then, we went ahead and milked all those cows and kept them for a long time, and done that along with the farming, but at the same time, why, Dad went to work for the Big 4 Oil Company. He went to work in the oil field.

Q. What year would that have been?

A. Well, 1921.

Q. Still in 1921.

A. Yes. For my mother died in February and then not long after that he went to work and we moved then, that same year, and . . .

Q. Your dads name was?

A. Leavitt. And he was the only child. He didn't have any brothers or sisters.

Q. Was he the first one in your family to work in the oil business?

A. Yes, yes, yes. He went to work then and he worked, I think it was thirty-three years, before he retired. But then Chuck and me was there, and Granddad, and we farmed.

Of course Chuck was seven years older than I was, and he was wanting a job and getting ready to go to work, see, which he did. He'd go north and shuck corn and when harvest started, he'd go out in Kansas, then through the harvest to North and South Dakota. Usually he'd leave home, oh, in the spring and then he'd go to Kansas, like I say, in the harvest and then North and South Dakota where, on account of the weather was different, harvest was different times, see. Then maybe even into Canada and Montana. Then he wouldn't get home until fall, see, and Granddad and me went ahead and farmed.

I started working everyday with a team and a plow when I was ten years old. There'd be a team and a fourteen inch walking plow and you'd plow two acres a day. Well now, in this old Bible like we was a looking at last night, its got so many tables and weights and measures, there's everything in there you can think of, and in there, it'll tell you that--a plowing with a fourteen inch plow that every time you plow an acre, you walk eight miles.

Q. You can find that out from the charts in the Bible?

A. Yes. In this dictionary thing, in that old Bible, it'll show you where it's been worked out. You go through a field, a field a certain length and so wide, of course, would be an acre, and you'd plow fourteen inches a through and fourteen back would be twenty-eight inches in a round. And then in so many rounds, whatever it takes to plow that acre, you would walk eight miles, see. So by plowing two acres a day, that's all you could plow, you would walk sixteen miles, see, a doing that. Of course we still always got up at four o'clock in the morning because you had to take care of your horses. You had to get them fed, and they always wanted them to eat and then stand a while and water them before you went out and went to work, see. We always went to the field at six o'clock, but you had to have all your other work done. You milked these cows, and always had a lot of chickens. Grandma always kept--she had chickens and ducks and geese and guineas and turkeys. You had to have all that stuff to eat because you couldn't go buy it. And we'd work from six till eleven-thirty. You'd bring your team of horses in at 11:30 and water them and put them in the barn and give them some hay, and let them eat hay for an hour, or a half

an hour. Then you'd go back out to the barn and give them their grain. The old-timers, like Granddad, they figured if you put your horses in the barn and give them the grain first, they'd eat it up so fast that it didn't do them so much good. You feed them hay for thirty minutes and they'd eat it, it would quiet down their appetite, see. Then you'd feed them the grain, and then at one o'clock we'd go back, take them out of the barn and water them and go back to work, and work till six. Then you'd come in, and go out in the pasture and bring in your cows and get them in--water them and get them in the barn, get them in their stall and you had to unharness your horses and take care of them and feed them and water them, hang up your harness and then start in and get your hogs fed and your chickens fed, and your cows milked, and you got all that done before you ever went in to eat supper which would be, usually run around seven-thirty, see.

Q. Made for quite a long day!

A. Yes. That's the way you worked through the summertime and then in the fall, of course, by keeping all those cows we had to put up so much hay. You had to work all the time, there was never no period of time, the year around back at that time, but what you had lots of work to do because when you was a putting out your crop, it took a good while, and you had so much hay you put up, too, and you cut your wheat, your oats with the binder, and then in the fall, of course, after you got your corn laid by, which would be around the fourth of July the way they figured it then, then you'd start in on your hay crop. Then by the time you got your hay all up it would be time for your threshing to start.

They'd have what they called a threshing ring then and everybody helped everybody else. You'd start--like we'd start a threshing at your house and everybody'd go help and you'd just take in the whole neighborhood, see. And by the time you got around to everybody and got all that done, it was time to start a plowing and getting ready to sow your wheat again in the fall, see, in September.

Q. At that time you used those big steam threshing machines, didn't you?

A. Yes, yes. At that time they used the steam threshers. Course, before the threshing machine got there, why, you had to hitch your team up to the wagon and go to town and get your wagon bed full of coal. Them old threshing machines, them fellas, they used coal on account of they have to haul--you had to have enough coal to do your threshing and they'd load coal on their steam engine then, so they could hold fire to go from one farmhouse to another see, they had to have coal along the road. And the reason they used coal instead of wood, was because wood made sparks, and you couldn't have them sparks flying around where you was a threshing, see.

Q. Be a lot more dangerous wouldn't it?

A. Yes. Now these old trains, I guess, the way the pictures is and the history, they used a lot of wood, and they claimed it set a lot of fires along the track--that's what done it see, was the sparks out of that wood.

But, by the time you got your threshing done, and got around the threshing ring, will then, like I say, it was time to start sowing wheat and course then you--we had to start school, the kids did in September, but when it was time to work your ground down and sow wheat, why, if you was big enough to work, it was all right, the school didn't care, your teacher--so forth, if you stayed to home and helped till that was done, see.

Q. They understood you had to do that.

A. Yes. Then you went back to school. Well then, around November, middle of November or the last, why you'd start your butchering then. And then you had all your corn to shuck by hand. You had to get that shucked, and scoop it out. Then you had your butchering.

And the same way, you done your butchering--or we did in that neighborhood, like you done your threshing. Everybody just helped each other, see. We'd kill seven, six and seven big hogs in one day.

Usually on butchering day you'd get up around three o'clock or three-thirty and you'd have your three or four of them 50 gallon kettles, old iron kettles, you know what they look like, there's two of them out there. And you'd have them set and your kindling under there, see, and your wood cut the day before and you'd start that fire. Then you had to pump and carry water and fill them kettles up with water to start with, see, for you had to have water to put in your--what they called the scalding barrel, which was just a . . . a fifty gallon wooden barrel. You had a platform made and then that barrel set at the end like this see, and you'd get your hot water in there. You'd shoot a hog, stick it, and let it bleed, drag it up there and lift it up on that platform, then you'd get up on that platform and move that hog like this, up and down in that water, see, till you got it where you could peel that hair off. That's what you called scalding them. You'd take that hair off, and then when you got him cleaned good, you'd hang him up, cut his head off and gut him and then clean him. Then while two of three was doing that, there'd be another two shoot another one and stick him and let him bleed and then get him up here and scald him. While they was doing that you'd go get another one, and then these would get that one scalded, hang him up, scrape him down, clean him good, gut him, wash out the inside and usually you'd try to have all six or seven, whatever you were butchering, all of them hung up by noon, see. Or before. Then you had to let that meat cool a while till it got firm enough so you could slice it, cut it up, see. Well then you'd start taking them down, you'd split them in two and then start cutting them up and carrying your joints and meat in your meathouse and lot's of times I've seen oh, when we got done there of an evening, then you had all your sausage to grind and you ground it by hand, and you'd have a tub full of sausage. You'd have a tub full of sausage.

Q. It took all six or seven to make a tub full?

A. Yes. You'd have a tub full of sausage, that's about what they usually figured on having. And they'd have six or seven lard cans full of lard. Which, them lard cans hold seven gallon, I believe it was.

Q. So each family usually butchered about that much?

A. Yes. Oh, the oldtimers--well now like grandpa and grandma--why, course there time went back away before this, see, when you absolutely couldn't go to town and buy no kind of meat, you had to have it. And they always said, well you figured one hog for each member of the family and one for company, see. (laughter) That's the way they figured what they had to butcher in order to run you through see.

Q. I never heard that before.

A. Yes, well, that's the way that Grandpa and Grandma always--that's the way they fattened their hogs.

END OF SIDE ONE

A. That would take your whole day, then late of an evening you'd start grinding the sausage. You'd have to strip your hogs, cut your joints out and trim them and cut up all the sausage so you could run it through a hand--just like these food choppers you have today. . . .

Q. A hand grinder?

A. Yes, only they was quite a bit bigger. But it would usually take, oh, two and a half to three hours to grind all your sausage when you got done.

And you had your meat house and you took all the rest of your meat and scattered it out in there, placed it around so one joint didn't touch the other one because you had to be sure all your animal heat was out before you started curing it. And then they would pack some of it down in salt and barrels and some of it they'd use a--most everyone had a different kind of a cure they mixed up with salt and pepper and a sugar and different kind of . . . peppers and stuff they'd put in it. Then later on, when we begin to get the Morton Sugar Cure, it made it a lot easier to cure. You'd just put that on, rub it on good on both sides and then let it drain for two or three days and rub it on again, and go through the same thing again and drain till your meat was good and dry. Then Grandma would make muslin sacks and put a joint, a shoulder or a side or a ham, in a sack, and then they'd hang it up in the meathouse.

Or, in the back of the meathouse, they had a little separate room in there fixed, where you could smoke part of your meat, see, and they had a metal plate in the bottom for wood. They'd get green hickory or, mostly green hickory, that would--you've seen it, oh, just had a--the embers would smoke, see, you couldn't have no flame, dry wood would just flame and burn, see. Your green wood, the embers would just lay there and smolder and smoke, that's what they'd use.

Q. So it was just literally full of smoke?

A. Yes. Then you shut that room up tight. Then all this sausage, oh,

of course we didn't have any way to keep it only, they would make all that up in patties and then they had to about two-thirds cook it, see. And Grandma had, oh, pans that was that big. (gestures) I expect they'd hold, well, probably thirty or forty sausage patties at one time, see. Your old cookstove, the top of it would be that big, see?

Q. About the size of a kitchen table?

A. Yes, and that would all be hot. She would set that on there in maybe a couple of big iron skillets and, like I say, they'd cook that about two-thirds of the way and then they'd take ten gallon stone jars and you'd lay down a bunch of sausage and then you'd cover that with lard and then you'd lay down another bunch of sausage and cover that till you got clear to the top, see.

Q. So you used the lard to kind of protect it?

A. Yes. Sealed it. And then when they used the sausage, why, of course, they'd take that lard out and use it, see? But that sealed it, and then Grandma would also make muslin sacks . . . oh, about as big around as that, or a little bigger, see. And she'd stuff that full of fresh sausage. Then she'd melt paraffin or wax and put on the outside of that sack and seal it, and hang it up. And it would keep for two or three months, just real good. Or, you could put that in them sacks and then smoke it if you like that smoke, see. You could smoke that just like you would any other meat, and it just give it a different flavor because you didn't go to town and buy beef and pork and different cuts and you didn't have any lunch meat and stuff of that nature. You ate that same meat all the time because there was no way to keep beef.

People might be two or three families or four would kill one beef in the wintertime. They'd butcher a beef and then each family probably take a quarter. And you could pretty well keep that and then they would cold-pack beef. In a pressure cooker you would take a bunch of beef and cut it up in small pieces, like you could get in a quart can, see, and then they would cook that about two-thirds of the way done and put it in these cans and seal it, just like you was canning vegetables or anything, and keep it, and then you'd open it up and finish cooking it, and it was real good, it took so many cans and was such a big job, that you couldn't handle too much beef, you know, at one time. Like you nowdays, just take one to the slaughterhouse and they slaughter it and cut it up, and wrap it, and freeze it, why, it's all over in a little bit. But that's the reason people ate so much pork; because you could cure it, and keep it, and of course, we had chickens and guineas and turkeys and ducks and geese and every so often Grandma would dress one, something like that.

Of course, we ate a lot of old hen and noodles cause you had a lot of them, and through the summer months, why, you ate quite a bit of fried chicken because you had a lot of roosters to eat. Instead of eating that pork, it made a pretty good change when you started getting that new fried chicken.

And the wood cutting, you had to cut wood all summer. You had to have enough wood for your cookstove cut all the time, see, and then in the

wintertime, the wood cutting deal was--I'll tell you it was a big deal, because, like I say, you burned two heating stoves and your cookstove--you burned all three of them heavy, all day, and your heating stoves all night, you know. And it was a big job. Then, people cut up a lot of corn and made fodder shocks, you know.

Q. What's that exactly?

A. Well, you go through your corn field and cut corn and just set it in shocks every so often. You'd start through the field cutting corn with your right hand and let it fall in your left and carry it as far as you could. Then you'd set that down and make it a shock, see, and then you'd go ahead and do that again. They made it in shocks, what they called "Twelve hill square." You would go through two rows like that, see, carry those as far as you could, and set it down. That started your shock. Go back, cut up another row, set that there and go on through that away clear through your field. Then you cut a row and keep setting it up on that same shock each time, till you cut a strip twelve rows wide. Set that up and then tie a string around it. Then in the wintertime when you got the rest of your corn all shucked, you started hauling that fodder in, usually on a sled--hauling your shocks in and stacking it up around the barn or in the shed. Then on bad days when you couldn't get out and do nothing else, you get in that shed and shuck--it's called "shucking shock fodders."

Q. That's hard to say! (laughs)

A. You'd get your corn out and then you'd feed your fodder to the cows and horses in the barn, in the daytime when it was so bad they couldn't get out and eat. Course, when everybody thrashed and you had a great big straw pile, why, decent days, when cattle could get out and bothered too bad, they'd all stand around that straw pile and eat. But, you always had to get that shock fodder in and have your fodder to feed through the days when it was so bad the stock didn't get out. You put in your different kinds of hay for your cows and horses in the barn, in the loft to feed, but you fed that at night and then, for your horses, you had to figure you had enough left in the spring to feed them while you was putting out your crop, see.

And that's the way farming was back then, it was just a continous amount of work which averaged about the same thing all the time, the same amount of hours every day. There was hardly any time but what you had to, you had work to do. The year around you got up at four o'clock.

The farmers had to depend on their animals for their living and that's the reason they took such good care of them. Because the animals had to produce or the man couldn't live. Because if you didn't have some cream and eggs and butter, and that stuff to take to the poultry house and sell, you didn't have no income whatever, see. It took a lot of animals, so you had to raise a lot of feed--it took the feed to feed the animals--and then about all the income you had was what eggs and cream and poultry and stuff you would have to sell, see.

Now, through the summer months, you'd have to go to town twice a week, that's the way they'd do. You'd have a dug well for water, and that well

would have a platform built around it, probably a foot high, something like that, see. About four foot square, on top of the well, and your pump set on top of that. In this platform there would be a little trap-door on hinges, and you'd have, what they called a regular cream can. It was maybe a gallon or two-gallon can. You'd have three or four of them, with a real tight lid that fit on it, see, and a handle. And you'd tie a rope on that and let it down right to the top of the water, and tie your rope on that and let it down right to the top of the water, and tie your rope up to your platform or around the pump, and that well would keep that cool enough that it would keep that cream sweet we'll say from Sunday till Wednesday and from Wednesday till Saturday. That's about what you could figure. In the wintertime then, when it was cold you could save that cream for a week at a time, see. And then just take it to town once a week. All poultry houses bought cream and eggs and all kind of poultry--hides, and through the winter you'd kill rabbits and what you didn't eat you could sell in [the] poultry house. Lot of times you'd get a nickel a piece for them. (laughs)

Q. Was that in Bridgeport, the poultry house?

A. Yes, at one time there was, oh, at that time, there was always two poultry houses in Bridgeport and most of the time three and there would be two in Summer. And, my land,--all the people that hunted at night, foxes, coons and possums and mink and all that stuff--they [the poultry house] bought the hides, and if you butchered a cow or anything, or had a dead cow or a dead horse, which happened, why, before people buried it, why, they'd skin it and sell that hide, see. For they just had to do about anything they could do to get a little money, for it [was] kind of hard times, most of the time.

Q. What was the rest of Bridgeport like at the time? What were some of the other businesses?

A. Well, about the only businesses that was here--course they had three blacksmith shops, and there was a man had a harness shop, but at that time--course a little before that, why, there was a livery stable, horses for rent, and something of that kind. Now you know where Baldwins office is, right down here across from the high school? Well, right there, right on the south side of it is a big old house thats got the brick siding on it, it's red. Well, there's where a man lived, his name was Gillat, Russau Gillat, and there where their office is, he had a great big barn, and he had a harness shop in there, and he made harness, or would make you anything you wanted, you know, and had a few things to sell, and he would board horses--people, a lot of people at that time that lived in town, had a horse and buggy, see, and they'd have to have a place for their horse, and a lot of people kept a cow.

Q. And they could rent space there from him?

A. Yes. Now of course, later on, why, people didn't have horse and buggies in town, they had cars of course, everybody, but he still had that barn there and had some harness business. But he had a lot of stalls he didn't have no horses in. When I would be a teaming, oh, later, say from 1927 on,

if I was a working north of town I'd come in from the farm the first day and work and then of an evening, I'd stop there at his barn and unhitch the horses and put them in there and leave them overnight, see, and go home. Then the next morning, I'd come back. It'd save me about a nine mile trip down there and back with the team. For when I was teaming, I'd have to be up and have my team ready and hitched up to the wagon and ready to leave down there at five o'clock in order to get to where I was going by seven, see. Because about three miles an hour was as fast as the average team--that's about what they walked, so if you was a going very many miles, you had to have at least a couple hours start to get to where you was going, see.

Of course the people, most everybody, had a few calves and a few hogs to sell, but we only sold them once a year. People didn't feed hogs like they do now, they just, more or less, well, turned them loose out in the woods. The sows had pigs, they wasn't shut up and pushed, see, and it usually took about a year, see, to get them fed out. But you didn't have no way to haul them, only in a wagon bed with some sides on it, but I have helped, oh, several times, now the market . . . the livestock market was in Sumner. They didn't have much market in Bridgeport, the big market was in Sumner, because it was just an old farm town and Bridgeport had kind of turned into a oil town, a boom town, you know. But it was five and a half miles from where we lived into Sumner and we have drove hogs a couple or three different times, just walked them in, you know, and we drove cattle a lot of times, a lot of times. Because you had nothing to load them in--didn't have no trucks and sides and stock racks and all that stuff. You just--we'd just walk and drive them.

But in the spring, when you'd start farming then, like I said before, you always started in sowing your oats in February or March, and you was excused from school a few days, whatever it took to help sow oats.

My dad was working in the oilfield at this time. He was a pumper for the Big Four Oil and Gas Company, and they worked twelve hourse a day, seven days a week. They had no time, no day off. They worked twelve and off twelve hours. That's the way they worked. Lenabelle, my sister, and me, we was both a going to grade school, for which we walked two miles to school and two miles back. But another reason it took so much meat and so much stuff to eat--there was three dinner pails to fix every day, see. Every morning, well, five days a week, when all three of us was going, it was three dinner pails to fix, and then Dads' was seven days a week, and it just took a lot of groceries--you had to have a lot of animals in order to have stuff to eat all the time.

People put out a lot of garden and they had to take care of it. A lot of it you would do with one horse. We had a one-horse cultivator and what they called a double-shovel that you pulled with one horse, and you could do a lot of your garden work thataway.

Q. What was a double-shovel?

A. Well, it was a tool that was almost as wide--you planted your stuff in rows, see, and say you had a thirty inch row here of vegetables, whatever you had. This thing had two big shovels on it and one set here and

one over here. (on each side of a row)

Q. It was kind of like a cultivator?

A. Yes, and it had a handle on it. You could spread that out or close it in a little, see. You hitch one horse to it and go up and down your rows, help work your garden, but, you still had a lot of work to do besides that.

Then in the fall, the only way you had to save anything--we made mounds and buried it, see. You'd dig a hole about a foot deep, around pretty good size, and you'd fill that full of straw. We always buried potatoes and apples and cabbage, turnips and, oh, anything that would keep thataway. You start around, and lay that around in circles, then just build it up like an ice-cream cone turned upside down, see. You'd bring this up to a point, then you covered that with straw, then you started around that with your shovel and you'd dig dirt and cover that up till you got clear over the top of it. Then around the outside of that, you'd dig a little ditch and drain it, so the water would not soak in it so much, run off, see. Then when you got ready to start using out of that--like this was your mound here, you go out there and up like this a little piece you'd dig you a hole where you could get your arm in there.

Q. Out of the bottom?

A. Yes, and pull that stuff out. Yes.

It wasn't till, oh, probably, 1925 and 1926, along in that period when they started building most of their gravel roads in Bridgeport township, and after the farmers got their crop out in the spring, why then, different ones would go and help work on the road. You'd get a mile or two gravelled each summer, you know.

Q. You had to keep up your own roads did you?

A. No, you, oh, you got paid a little for it, but there was nobody to do that--you done it all with horses, see. And the people then, in that township done it, but they couldn't do the road work until they would get crops to the place where, well, like Granddad and me, working there together, one of us might go work on the road and the other one would stay to home and plow corn or whatever they was to do. It made a little extra money and that's the way they got the roads built up until a little later then that, and then they finally--a township would get a hold of a Cat [caterpiller tractor] to pull the old road grader with, and the trucks finally begin to get to hauling some gravel in, but back before that they hauled that gravel with wagons. Teams and wagons. You couldn't haul a very big load and you could only make, maybe two trips a day. You didn't get very far, see. You didn't get very far.

Q. Did you do any drying of fruits?

A. Fruits. Oh, Grandma dried a lot of fruits. Apples and peaches, and apricots, on the chicken house. It was a pretty long building and on

the south side of it, it had a porch concern with a tin roof. It wasn't too high, you could reach up there, see, and she'd lay down--well, like, old sheets that wasn't any good any more, lay that down there and spread her apples and peaches and apricots and all that stuff she wanted to dry. She'd take it out there a certain time of a morning, you know, after the dew was all gone and the frost, and leave it out there till afternoon sometime, then go gather it all in. Then take it back out there the next day, till it was dried enough, like she wanted it.

Q. How long did it usually take?

A. Well, I don't remember--it was quite a job, I don't remember the exact day, but then, it run into several days, it run into several days. It was kind of a slow process, but they got her done. Like a lot of the other work; canning, cold packing that beef, frying down all that sausage, and canning your stuff--they canned blackberries and peaches, and all that stuff, it took an awful lot of it.

You had to figure on enough to run you the year, you know, when you was canning it. Why, we always canned one hundred quarts of blackberries. You'd get up early in the morning, as soon as you got your work down and we'd hitch up a horse to an old buggy and take our buckets and drive down across the field, back in the woods, to a blackberry patch and you picked till you got all that stuff full and brought it to the house. It just took a lot of stuff to eat, and it took a lot of work to get it because you didn't go to town and buy it.

Now once in a while, on Saturday evening, oh, I'd get to go to town with Granddad, usually went in on Saturday evening, and you'd get oh, some coffee and sugar and stuff, and his tobacco, he had to have that. (laughter) But I'd go along once in a while and sometimes when we got ready to start home, be in the wagon or the buggy, of course, why he would get ten or fifteen cents worth of bologna or cheese, and some crackers, course they had crackers setting around in barrels. You bought crackers in the bulk. You'd just get a sackful, you know. Whatever you wanted. And going home, we'd eat some of that, and boy, I'll tell you, that was a big treat to get some of that lunch meat instead of eating that old fried down pork. (laughs)

But I've knowed Grandma to go for, well, I know that there was years that she only went to town about twice a year. She didn't care to go to town, it didn't make her any difference. She'd go, oh, probably around Christmas-time, she'd go to town, and once through the summer maybe.

Q. Her name was?

A. Emma, Emma. It was her property, her place, her folk's place. They homesteaded it, and had a deed for it made out on goatskin and signed by the President of the United States. Her parents had it, she was born and raised there, and lived there 95 years. The same place. And then after Grandpa was gone, and then Dad was retired--he had his heart attack--then of course, she was a getting--she was 95 years old, that's when we moved

them into town, up there in that little place. And then she lived almost another five years, see. For she was born in 1860 and lived till 1960. She was past 99, but wasn't quite 100 yet, 100 years old. She had seen quite a bit of change in that length of time, I'll tell you. (laughs)

Yes. But there was an awful lot of hard work, and that's the way you went along and done it, and it took an awful lot of time. Everything you had to do was by hand. You cut the trees down with a crosscut saw, and sawed them up, and then hauled them to the house too. Had a wood lot, and split them. And you had to have enough wood every Saturday. While I was out of school, we'd have to be sure and get up enough wood to run you all week, see, because, during the week, why, we was going to school and Granddad was there by himself, and Dad would either go to work at noon or get home at noon. And it didn't leave much time. (tape runs out)

END OF TAPE

A. My dad worked for the Big Four Oil and Gas Company. They worked twelve hours a day, seven days a week, and they had to work either from twelve noon till twelve midnight or twelve midnight to twelve noon. And the only way they changed towers is, once a month . . .

Q. What does that mean exactly?

A. Well, you worked from twelve till twelve, and they called it morning or evening shift, or tower. If you work at twelve noon till twelve midnight, that was the evening shift, or evening tower, from twelve midnight to twelve noon the next day was the morning tower, see? Well, if you worked from twelve noon to twelve midnight, there was never a time in there you could do anything of an evening, see. You couldn't even go to church on Sunday night or you couldn't go anyplace. Because you worked every night, see. So, once a month, they would change towers, and to do that they had to work an eighteen hour tower, where you would go out at twelve o'clock--you'd go out at twelve o'clock noon, and work till six o'clock the next morning, see. And the next man would come out at six o'clock, in the morning and work till midnight. Work all day until midnight that night, and then you come back, and that way you went from evening tower to the morning tower, see.

And Dad worked--one time he run eight years, twelve hours a day, seven days a week, and never missed a tower in that period of time. And that is a whole lot of the reason that we have some pretty strong labor unions today. It took some strong leadership and laws in order to stop that kind of working.

I was talking a while ago about the roads, building the roads in Bridgeport Township, that's where we lived. We helped build just about all the gravel roads. We walked two mile to school, my sister and me, and when we was in the eighth grade, why, Dad decided we could drive a horse and buggy part of the time. In the fall, when we started, in September and October, we drove a horse and buggy that year a while, and the roads was

good enough we could get to school and back. So, we went over to the school house and built a—just a small frame little building--put some tin on it, for the horse to stand in, in the day time. But after the ground begin to freeze, why, then the roads was so rough that you couldn't hardly drive, and then after it begin to thaw out, it got so muddy that it would get to where one horse couldn't even pull a buggy. I know the last time that I can remember that we drove a horse and buggy to school, was when it was so muddy, it was so hard to walk that you couldn't hardly make it, and we decided we'd drive a horse that day. And we got to school all right, and then the evening, coming home—course it had thawed and got muddier yet and we got about half way home and the tugs broke on the harness and the horse left, and went on home and left us setting there in the buggy! (laughter) We had to get out and walk home anyway, and then I had to take another horse and a different set of harness, and go back. I took a bigger horse, a work horse, and a heavier set of harness and went back and hitched on the buggy and pulled it out and got on the rest of the way home with it.

But it was up in the, oh, up in the—till 1926, along in there, when most everybody begin to have a Model T Ford or a car of some kind, and could begin to get around most of the year. I don't remember just what year we begin to get a little alcohol, and you'd learn to use alcohol in the radiator, but most people would just drain their radiator at night in the wintertime. Then, of a morning, if you got your car started you put a cardboard up in front of radiator, and after it got warmed up, pour some water in it and go where you was a going and drain your water out, then, and do the same thing over when you came home.

I know I started to high school in 1925, had a Model T Coupe, and I'd have to fill it up with water every morning and drive into town. Then when I got to high school, drain it, and then of an evening, when I got it started, and got my cardboard fixed I'd have to hunt up some water and fill up enough to get home on because at that time, there was very few filling stations. Probably only about two filling stations in Bridgeport, where I went to high school. They didn't have water setting out to put in it, anytime. They didn't have much service, you had to do it yourself. It was pretty tough getting into town and back and the tires that you got for your car then was—only last you about five or six months. About that length of time, why, you'd have to have a new set of tires, because most of the roads was so bad. Them old rock roads we had then was pretty hard on them old tires, and your tires wasn't in too good a shape, then, anyway.

Q. Were those inflated tires or solid tires?

A. No, they was inflated tires, they had air in them, but at that time, them Model T Fords that we had then, you didn't have a spare tire or spare wheel, you had your tire pump and your patching and if you had a flat tire, you jacked it up and took it off and patched your inner tube, put her back on, pumped your tire up with you tire pump, and went on. Didn't have a spare wheel or spare tire. You had to change them right there where you was at. You had to patch it and go on. And I have had, oh, casings that would get so bad by the end of the school year, that I put one casing inside of another one (laughter) to cover up the holes.

Q. I was hoping you'd tell me a little more about the working conditions, like when your father was working for the Big Four.

A. Well, all the--working conditions were about the same for the different oil companies. There was three companies here; the Big Four, and the Ohio and the Snowden at McSweeny. But the working conditions were about the same and the wages was about the same. At that time my father was working seven days a week, twelve hours a day. He was getting about seventy-seven dollars a month, for all those hours.

In 1926 after I was going to high school and had got me a Model T Coupe to drive, I had to get some extra work along every once in a while to help pay expenses. We had a lot of horses, good horses and wagons, and at that time they was using machines to work on wells with, and of course everything was done with horses and manpower. When they moved one of those machines, they moved it with horses and wagons, and it took twenty-seven wagon loads to move the machine from one location to another, or from one well to another one. Which, when they moved, might involve, oh, anywhere from one to four or five miles. But anyway, when they'd do that, they'd hire extra teams to help and I got to do some of that, and at that time we got five dollars for a ten hour day, for a man and his team. You was supposed to work ten hours--you'd put in usually, twelve or fifteen hours getting from your house to the job, and back home at night. And then when you got home, you still had to take care of your horses and hogs and do a lot of your other work. You was lucky if you got done by eight or nine o'clock at night, and then get up at three the next morning and start in again.

But it made an extra--oh, maybe, most of the time three or four days a month, I'd stay out of school and maybe get that much work. It helped out a whole lot. And then it got, oh, a little later on it got to where we got six dollars for ten hours work. All that was for the Ohio Oil Company, but the other companies all paid about the same thing. And your day was supposed to be from seven till five, but then if--whatever time it took you to get done--I have, oh, left the job, when we was a moving tools, maybe you'd leave the job at seven or eight o'clock at night. You had to stay till you got your wagon unloaded before you could go home, see. But then it didn't make any difference to the company, you just got paid for so many hours anyway.

Well then, they finally--the independent companies, finally got some small--Klee-trac tractors they called them at that time, put on their pulling units to pull with and that's when they first begin to do away with the horses, but the horses worked in the oilfield up until 1944 before they was finally all done away with, before the companies had got trucks and pulling units and--especially trucks big enough to move these machines with, and then they had to get tractors-Cat Tractors in order to help pull the trucks, to get through the wintertime. It was up in 1944, around that time, before the teams were all done away with. But they had went through this oilfield all that time.

I went to work for the Ohio Oil Company then, in 1932, as a roustabout and we worked nine hours a day for fifty-two cents an hour. We was supposed

to work nine hours and then, again, that was the same thing, depending on what you was doing. If your work was up, you got to go home. If something was tore up, had to be fixed, you had to stay. If there was a big leak or something, why, you just stayed and worked until it was done.

But Dad worked for the Big Four thrity-three years, until he had a heart attack and was forced to retire. They had no pension plan, no old age benefits, of any kind. He just worked till he was too old and had a heart attack. He couldn't work anymore. He finally got to draw a little Social Security, but that's the difference between the working man then and the way it's done now.

Q. You told me a story while the tape was turned off about, was it the president, of the Big Four? Comments he had about . . .

A. Yes, the--at that time main-man of the Big Four Oil Company--I've heard him make the remark several times, that he thought a dollar a day was enough for any working man, and he [the working man] didn't need any time off, he was just supposed to come out and work. He [the president] had a good job, and he didn't care about nobody else.

Well, then during the Depression time, or after the Depression, when Roosevelt was elected, we started in on the first of some different working conditions. The first thing we had was a forty-four hour week and then we had a period of what they called the N.R.A. You worked four days one week and five the next, in order to make extra days for extra men to work, see. And they had to make it a law, they really had to go around and have people to enforce it, because the foremans of these companies, they just absolutely was against it, and the superintendents and so forth, they wouldn't put up with it. They had to absolutely threaten them to put them in jail or something, see, in order to make them enforce this law, to let a man have a few days off in order to take up some of the slack in the unemployment, because there was so many people that was off and had no work and no chance to work. In the oil field where I was a working at that time, you would work Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and then have Friday and Saturday and Sunday off. Then there would be another crew, work--would get in five days, see. Where otherwise, why there would be just so many men a working and they would work just whatever hours they decided they wanted to.

And the wintertime makes so much more work in the oil fields, with lines a freezing up, and they have to steam oil, and it's a hard job to take care of it and get it shipped, so they'd work you all kind of hours during the wintertime, in order to keep the whole oil business running, see. When the engines and powers and stuff went down during the night, why, a lot of your lines would be froze up the next morning and they'd have--come out at five o'clock in the evening, and then have them stay out all night in order to watch so many different jobs, to keep them a running, see, if they could. If they couldn't, if they went down and they couldn't keep them running, well, then they was supposed to get all these water lines and stuff drained before they would freeze up.

It wasn't up until about 1945 that we had any labor contracts around in

this vicinity, where we begin to get days off, and some vacation, and eight-hour day and a forty hour week, and such stuff as that and maybe a little raise. In 1945 when the . . . contract with the oil workers union was signed here at Bridgeport, the roustabouts and pumpers was drawing eighty cents an hour. And when I started in 1932 we got fifty-two cents an hour. That's all the increase we had got in that period of time. But then now, since 1945 when they had their first Oil Workers International Union and we got our first contract signed here in Bridgeport, now the men get $6.85 an hour, for the same work that we was doing in 1945 for eighty cents an hour. That's the difference there. (laughs)

The old Ohio machine shop was—when I first went to work it was the Ohio Oil Company instead of the Marathon, then, but they had a complete shop there, they made everything that was used to produce oil. Whole engines and powers and jacks and rod lines and rod line clamps, the whole thing was made right here at Bridgeport. At one time they had the most complete oil field machine shop in the whole United States. There was stuff made here and shipped everywhere, where there was an oil company. Those old gas engines and oil engines and powers, they had about three different kind of powers they made. They had a power that run with a worm gear and then they had a power that run off of a big belt—that run off of a big wheel. And then they had what they called a push and pull power.

They started out with their pattern man. He made a pattern for every piece of equipment that it took to—produce oil in the oil field. Then they put that in their molds and their foundry and they melted their own iron and poured it in the rough. Then, after it cooled off and the patterns was took off and the sand took away, these pieces was all moved from there to different buildings where they went to a different process. Each time, cleaning it and blasting it and smoothing it, until it got up to where the machine shop was, and that was to the final job before it went out into the oil field.

But even their drilling tools, and what they called the fishing tools, which was—they had all kinds and all types for—where you'd loose a string of tools in the hole and your wire line would break, see, or you'd loose a baler, or a sand pump. Or you'd run into different kind of formations that took different kinds of bits. Maybe you had iron to drill up and something like that, it took a different kind of bit, and they made everything right there. Anything you broke was took back in there. They done all their own repair work, and they had a great big machine shop and a great big blacksmith shop where they done all their sharpening and welding, straightening and stuff of that nature. They had a great big . . . three thousand pound steam hammer and it too one man—that's all one man done was—well, was help the two blacksmiths, and he was just an expert that run that steam hammer. That was just his job. He looked after the boilers and operated this steam hammer all the time. Then these older wells, all the old well, in this part of the country, was started with a 24 inch hole. They'd go down a short distance and then as they went on down, they'd keep reducing the hole till they'd be finished up with a six inch or seven inch hole. But they don't use any of that anymore, they finish up their holes in about four inch, five inch, and they run a complete string of four inch pipe is about as big as they use.

But back then they had to start their holes so big at the top because they had to reduce it as they went down and it never got less than--than we had bits that they called a 5-3/16 and 6-5/8 and 8-1/4 and 10 and 12 and so forth. But for each one they'd start out with a big hole and they'd just go so many feet and then they'd reduce that, but every time they did, you had to run a different string of pipe, see, where you was using the old style. So this machine shop also had great big machines that would cut this pipe off and they had big machines that would rethread it or they'd make new collars for it.

As the wells got older and a lot of them was abandoned, well then you'd go in there and move in a different kind of a machine and you'd start pulling this pipe out, see. And you'd get to the bottom of the hole and there'd be a lot of these old wells would have five strings of pipe in them, but they all come to the top of the hole.

Q. And they all tapered--got smaller as they went down?

A. No, it was the same--well, the hole got smaller, but your pipe was the same size. We'll say we finished up a well with a 6-5/8 hole. There would be a complete string of 6-5/8 would run from the top of your well to the bottom, see, inside this other pipe. Then it was hung on what they called a set of casing slamps. It set right on top of your first string, see. And that all hung there. Well, when you abandoned that well, or when the company would abandon it they had what they called pipe-pulling machines, and then you'd go in there and start pulling that pipe all aback out again, see. And it was pulled and unscrewed by hand.

They had what they called a "never-slip" and a casing pole. A "never-slip" was a piece of iron--heavy iron--and made with ridges on the inside, something like a file, see. And then it had a piece of wire line on it with a loop in the end. You'd put that "never-slip" up against your pipe, wrap your wire line around your pipe, and then there was a pole--had what they called a casing pole, and it was probably eight feet long, and you'd stick it through that loop and then you'd have three men on each side of your pipe, see, and you'd break that pipe. They all stood at different lengths apart, and you just handed that pole--kept it going around and around, see, just from one man to the other. But you stood where there was two men had a hold of the pole at the same time, see. Here and here and here and here and there and there. (gestures) And that's the way you unscrewed your pipe.

Q. Sounds like it works like a post-hole digger.

A. Yes, same thing, your handle was just like the top of a post hole digger only the men stood around here where two men would have a hold of each end of the pole at the same time, see.

Q. How many guys did it take to do that?

A. Well, it took six. Oh, you could do it with four. You just had to stretch farther, see what I mean, to make a complete revolution. But back then they had what they called casing crews which was six men. They was used to working together, see. When you was pulling this, your casing

crew would come out and just stay out there at the machine, see, and lay all that down, out in the field. Then after you got done, got it done and the hole plugged--which at that time they didn't take too much interest in plugging the hole. They'd just put about anything they could find in them. Big old logs and posts and wood and chunks of iron and then, oh, the top--possibly forty or fifty feet--why you'd mix cement and pour in there to the top of the ground.

Q. Was that just a safety measure?

A. Well, yes.

END OF SIDE ONE

A. Over a period of time--you still had some fluid in these wells, see, and if you wasn't a pumping it out all the time like you was when it was in operation, why, it just gradually, through the years, would fill up to where a lot of them--and a lot of them did run out on top of the ground, see.

Q. Got oil on the farm land?

A. Yes. They'd have to move a machine in and take out a lot of that stuff and then start their plug a way down deeper, see. Which, actually, according to the law--even to the law at that time--they was supposed to have done, but there was nobody out there to enforce it see, and they just plugged them the cheapest way they could.

But all this pipe, they pulled out of there, and would lay it out in the field, around the wells. They'd lay down a string, see, each different size pipe, is called a string, a string of pipe, you'd lay it down and then you'd put some pieces on top of that and then just roll another string on top of it, see, just kept a building it up. And after you'd get all that done and get the pipe-pulling machine down and moved out, then they'd hire teams and wagons, men, to come in there and they'd load all that pipe up and they'd haul it in to this machine shop and they'd unload it. And then they'd put it through the machine shop and they would--if the collars was bad on it, pitted, you know, and maybe some of the threads would get a little bad, they would make new collars to put on it. If the thread end was bad, they'd cut it off and just cut new threads on it.

What they called the yard men, working around outside, you know, they had it piled all over that place over there, oh, I don't know, I suppose there was possibly ten acres of it.

Q. Is that like it is down around the new Marathon building? Is it anything like that?

A. Pipeyards, see. Yes. It was just piled up--each different size was piled up in a separate pile, see. And they would be pretty particular about piling it up, because you had to protect them threads, see. If you

bumped them, got them bunged up, well, then you couldn't screw them back together. They'd keep them piled up out there and then they'd take some kind of oil and keep it painted and then as they needed it again, they'd haul it out and use it. And a lot of them independent companies got pipe off of them and used it.

But as time went on, they began to get rotaries. That's when they done away with all that pipe. Your rotary wells was drilled with water and mud pressure, see. You started your hole with the same size as you finished up with, because it was all done with water and mud pressure and as the drill went down through the earth, see, that mud, well, drilling mud they called it, it had some kind of fiber mixed with that mud . . .

Q. Did that keep it from caving in?

A. It's mixed in a great big pit and then pumped in there with a great big pump. The hole's drilled, and it plasters that hole until they can drill a complete well. Then when they get done, they just run one string of pipe. They run one string of pipe and then these companies like Halliburton and Dow Well, do what they call, "cementing a string" of pipe, which way back in the old days, when they run all this pipe they didn't have nothing like that, that's the reason they had to run so much. But they'll come out there now when you run your pipe and they hang it on the top of the hole. They still use their old casing clamps. They hang that string of pipe there. Then they'll hook up to that top joint and they'll pump water in there until it goes clear to the bottom of the hole and returns on the outside of the pipe. When that water does that, then they'll start their cement. And they'll pump that cement in that well until they force that water out of the inside of the pipe. It goes to the bottom and then comes up the outside and this cement will follow it, see. And when they get that down to where your cement comes up--the waters all gone and the cement comes up on the outsides of your pipe, then you know you've got a complete cement job from the bottom to the top on the outside of your pipe, see. And then they shut their machine down and let it set a while. You let that set there then, for 72 hours, and that cement sets and it holds that string of pipe. Then you can even take your casing clamps off see, where they was hung to start with. It's just two pieces of iron, great big long pieces, but in the center, see, it's made like this. See, there would be a half fit on this side and a half fit on this side. These end pieces come together and you just put a couple big bolts on each side and clamped them up tight underneath the collar.

Q. Just kind of suspends it in the middle of the hole.

A. Yes. Just holds it there, as your water goes down inside and comes clear back up outside. Well then when you get--well, they just call it the return, when it does that, then they start the cement and when they get the return on the cement, they know it's from the bottom clear to the top, see. And then after that sets 72 hours, well, they can go ahead and tear the rotary down and it moves out and then is when you move your spudders in. They usually leave around one hundred to one hundred-fifty feet of cement inside the pipe, see.

Q. When they move now, they just leave the pipe and everything in there?

A. They just leave it in there. And then when you move your spudder in, you've got to drill that cement out that's left inside. Which is not a big job. You can drill 80 or 90 feet of it in eight hours time. It don't amount to nothing, but then it eliminates all that . . . different strings of pipe, which amounted to a lot of hard work I'll tell you.

And now, they've got very strict laws about plugging a well. These old wells, that's been a sitting that hasn't produced for a number of years, if they decided to plug it, you've got to move in there and clean that well out, just like you was a going to produce it right down to the bottom. They have a stuff called "aqua-gel," which is oh, it's a kind of a heavy mud, is what it is, but it's not quite like cement. You've got to clean that well out clear to the bottom, then you pull your first string of pipe. That first string of pipe is the one that goes to the bottom, and in each formation you have so many feet of pay, which the record will show, may run anywhere from--in this old field, your sand, pay sand, would run anywhere from five to eighty feet.

Well, that's what they called the oil sand. There'd be that much formation, would be where your oil come from, see.

Q. How does it run, from top to bottom?

A. Well, you start in at the top, you get down--just like when they first drilled this old field, the first well they got was 950 feet and it was right here in town, so they called that the Bridgeport Sand. That was your first pay. And the next well they drilled was out here on the Buchanon, where Jimmy England lives now. Their first well was the Bridgeport, or what they called the Bridgeport, then they drilled out there and they got this other pay, at about 1200 feet, so they called it the Buchanon. Then they moved to different places and they got a Tracy and they got a Kirkwood, just the peoples name that owned the farm at that time.

Q. "Pay" means the first depth you hit oil, then?

A. Yes.

Q. Were those considered deep wells at that time?

A. Well, yes, yes, because in Ohio and Pennsylvania, and different places where they had oil before they struck oil here--most of the men that worked in this old field, that come from these other places, the way they explained it, there wells run around six hundred feet, six hundred and fifty.

These wells here, like I say, the first ones was at Bridgeport, which they got right here in town. They called that the Bridgeport pay. Then came the Buchanon and the Kirkwood and the upper Kirkwood and then below the Kirkwood a little piece they hit another pay, and they called it the upper and lower. Then on down below that a piece, around 1700 feet, they hit a pay on a Tracy farm. They called it the Tracy, and then on down about 1850 feet they hit what they called the McCloskey. And that's the way they named them then, but now they've renamed those sands too. Well, in this old field, they've still got the Bridgeport and the Buchanon and the Tracy

and the Kirkwood but the same pay that they hit in the boom at Noble and Salem, St. James and all those different places, they give them sands all different names. They call them, oh, St. Louis Lime, Salem Lime, Allvoss, and Divonon. Those names, how they got them, I don't know. But that's the way they got the Bridgeport and the Buchanon and the Kirkwood and the Tracy and the McCloskey here, they just named it--what's called the sand or the pay--from the name of the farm was where they--first struck that pay.

Now them deeper wells, at that time they called them deep wells, 1850 feet, you took care of and pulled it and worked on it with what we called then an "Iron-King" pulling machine, and done it with horses, see. And that took a lot of the old tubing. The joints only run twenty or twenty-one feet long, and it took a lot of them to reach 1850 feet. Where now you're standard size, standard length tubing is 33 feet. That's a joint now. But they called it a deep well because, well, it was at that time. Like I say, you run that in over an old machine that was just operated by hand, and then when you pulled it out, you pulled it out with horses. And that made lot of weight to handle with horses.

Q. That's how you told me you got started wouldn't it, was pulling some of those wells with a team?

A. Yes, well, the first teaming work I done was helping move machines, them old cleaning out machines, and when I first started teaming, after I went to work, then, roustabouting, and even then later on, when I started in doing some tool dressing, they was still using steam. Using the boiler and steam. And then it wasn't too long after that they was still firing the boiler with coal.

Then they made a burner, to put in there that you could fire your boiler on oil with, see. You'd have to throw your oil in by hand till you got up steam, and then you'd turn your oil on and turn a little bit of steam on and it made a blast--pressure, see what I mean? You put your steam with your oil as it went into the boiler. Your burner wasn't anything but just a piece of inch pipe hooked up to your oil tank, struck in your boiler door, and then you had maybe fifteen or twenty little holes in it, just less than the size of a match, see. And after you got up enough steam that you had a little pressure, then you could turn a little bit of steam in with your oil and it sprayed that out in the sides of your boiler, see, and boy, it made a hot fire.

We still had the old boiler when I started teaming. When I first started it was just a boiler, you had to put it on the wagon every time you moved. Then later on, why, they got big iron frames and iron wheels and they put these boilers on what they called a boiler wagon. It had a tongue in it, and then when you moved, you just hitched on to it. And in muddy weather why, there was lots of times it would take five and six teams, strung out in a string to move it--even more. Why, I've seen the time, the mud was so deep where, you know, you was just a dragging it, just making a great big ditch where you'd take it down across the field. You might have ten or twelve teams on there, strung out, see.

Q. Were those a lot bigger than, say, a thrashing machine?

A. Well, it was on the same principle--about the same size, yes. Only, your thrashing machine had a great big belt pulley up here, and your thrashing machine--had a great big platform on the back where you could carry enough coal to keep your fire going from one man's farm to the next, see. Where your boiler, you just pulled it into the location where you was going to drill a well, and it just set there. They hauled in the coal and just throwed it off in a pile, where you could just scoop it in.

They drilled some wells after I went to work with steam, where they worked twenty-four hours, see. And it would take one man and one team--a man and his team would haul coal every day to this machine, you know, to keep plenty there for them to use a twenty-four hour tower, continously.

Q. Must have ate up a lot of coal.

A. Yes, it took a lot--because your whole equipment was run with steam. Your generator that you had for your lights at night, it was run with steam, too. Your forge that you heated your bits with, everything was run off that steam. Course your drilling rig run continously, running your tools up and down. You pulled your tools, out, to run your baler and so forth, it took a lot of extra steam because you was pulling them tools so far, see. The old driller would always tell you when he was getting about ready to pull out so you could throw in a little extra coal and have a little extra steam. You usually carried about, oh, eighty pounds. You had a great big steam gauge set up on top of your boiler, you know, and you'd usually carry about eighty pounds till you'd get ready to start out of the hole and you'd usually aim to have about a hundred when you'd start out. But, by the time you'd get your tools out of the hole, it would pull that back down to eighty. And then, of course, they'd run the baler three or four times and go back in and start to work again, and your steam would level off again, see, but then you had to keep a fire at all times.

As far as the weathers concerned, the temperature didn't make any difference. When you was working, it just took so much steam to run your whole equipment, you know.

Q. I never realized that steam was so important.

A. Oh, everything was done by steam, and even this old machine shop. The whole thing was operated by steam, the railroad track came right in there and even after I went to roustabouting, they--course they, at that time, your lathes was hooked up with electricity, but then they still used the steam for heat and an enormous amount of steam for that foundry.

The foundry, it was just a great big old metal building and had such huge piles of just wet sand that you had to handle to make all those molds with. And it was just about like working in an old barn, you know. It took a lot of steam in there to have any heat at all. But every so often they would get a carload of coal. We worked out in the district, you know, like oh, where I worked out there, they called it Tank City. Then, there,

where Wes Saylor's toolhouse was and different farmbosses, when they'd get in a carload of coal, then each farmboss was supposed to send in a man and you got in that car and throwed her out by hand.

Q. A whole railroad car full?

A. Oh yes. Yes. They was plumb full. You'd start in and you'd just have to--they'd get chunk coal, and you'd throw it out by hand until you got you a hole big enough--clear down to the bottom of the car, where you could start scooping, see. And that's the way, that's the way we unloaded it. I helped unload several of them.

Q. I'll bet that took you a while didn't it?

A. Yes, but they didn't aim for you to take too long, they wanted you to get it done and get back out on your regular job.

Q. How many guys would usually work on unloading one of those?

A. Well, the farmbosses, they, some of them would send in men pretty regular, some of them didn't want to because it made them short, see. Now a lot of times, maybe they'd be four, maybe there would be five a while, they'd come and get somebody and take them away, maybe when you'd wind up there would only be two or three, you know.

And the same way with the iron that they melted in the foundry, to pour all these patterns for equipment. It was shipped in there by carloads and we went in and unloaded it the same way, just throwed her out. It had to be throwed out by hand. Then it was loaded on--they had a little--or just a small gauge--just the same thing as a railroad track. And they had cars like they have in mines, you know, you've seen pictures of them. And that railroad track run from this pile of iron around to what they called a cupelo. That's the outfit they used to melt it with. But that had to be took up. That iron then was loaded on platforms and hoisted up, oh, I imagine what would be one story high or something like that, see, and stored up there, and then it was throwed down in this--what they called the cupelo, or what they heated that iron with and then when it melted it would run out to the bottom. But all that was done by hand. They had a regular foundry crew, see. But when this extra work come in like that, they'd do the same like they did the coal, each farmboss was supposed to send a man in to help catch up on that extra work. And all their pipe come in the same way. It would come in on flat cars, see, and be bound on there with, metal strips that would go clear around and then it was riveted together to hold that pipe on there. But when you get in pipe, they always got in, oh, a number of carloads. Then you'd have to go in there and unload that.

But then later on then, they got trucks, and then they finally got smart enough to get trucks with a winch on them and then later on they put on what they called a set of jin-poles.

Q. What's that?

A. Well, they call them jin-poles. You'd set them up which would be, well, we'll say ten or twelve feet high. And you'd put your pulley on top of that and run your winch line over the top of that, see, and then down, and you could back up to one of those cars and put your winch line around five or six joints of pipe, and pick it up off that car and go around and back up and lay it down on your pipe skids, see. Where, like it was when we started, there'd be two men on each end of your pipe, and they'd just have to get a hold of it and lift it up there. Then we had skids laid from the car--side of the car-down to your pipe pile, you know, and you just laid her up there and turned her loose and let her roll. They'd be two men stand down there that stacked it and collared, as they called it. They'd put a collar here, and then the next joint they'd put that collar back behind this collar, see. And this one out here.

Q. Oh, I've seen it stacked up like that . . .

A. A man would stand there, one at each end of the pipe with a piece about three by three or two by two or something like that, they'd have one apiece, and as that pipe rolled down off of that car, they'd hold that wood against the joint laying on the skids, see, so it wouldn't bump--bump the pipe, it would bump that wood when you stopped your joint.

Q. Was that those big twenty-one foot pieces, or was this some other kind of pipe?

A. Well, the last pipe that I helped unload, they called it five inch casing. It was 33 feet long, just the same as your tubing, too. Just the same as your tubing. Them trucks would haul, well, that big International float, I think it took sixty or sixty-eight joints to top out a load.

END OF TAPE

A. This old pipe they laid out on the ground that we hauled in with the team, course, they called it 7 inch, 8 inch--8 1/4, but the 8 inch pipe like they would get in new, we'd haul forty-six or forty-eight joints on those on those trucks, but the first teaming I done, you would haul that in and it was only twenty feet long--when we hauled that in with teams on a wagon, we'd haul seven joints.

Q. Instead of forty-eight.

A. Yes (laughs) haul seven joints. Your bolsters on your wagon would hold four joints. You'd put on four joints, put on three on top and that was a load for a team. You hauled seven joints. And then lots and lots of times it would take two or three teams then, to . . .

Q. To move seven joints?

A. Yes, to get it pulled out on the road, you know, where one team could take it.

Q. Because of the mud?

A. Yes, because it was so muddy. Oh, a lot of times, going across the field before you'd get into the well, the mud would get so deep, a lot of it you'd just have to roll off and then just hitch on to and then drag a couple joints in at a time.

But after they got this equipment and then they got to making that pipe in 33 foot joints, course, they done away with the teams and began handling it with trucks and winches and tractors, where they just run one string in a well. Most of that was five inch or four inch, but some times they'd get in a few carloads of seven inch and they'd run it in a well where they wanted to produce two or three pays out of the same hole, see. They'd have to have more room inside the pipe, for they'd run a string of two inch a lot of times, and a string of inch inside to produce out of different pays, see.

Q. I'm not sure what that means, "produce out of different pays."

A. Well, that's when they pump it from the bottom up to the top. They go out here and drill a well—they didn't keep that up too long, it didn't prove too successful--but, now after they started their waterflood, re-pressure, they could run water in two different pays in the same hole very easy. And they done a lot of that. They made that work, made that work real good.

These old wells, when they first started, they'd just drill down to one pay. That's all they knew, you know.

Q. They wouldn't continue on beyond it?

A. No, they'd just set the pipe there and produce it there. But now when they go out here to drill a well, they drill down to their Buchanon, or to their Bridgeport, their first pay, and they set a joint of what they call "Securaloy" pipe in that oil sand. Then they go right on and drill on down and they hit another pay. They can set another joint, they do the same thing there, and then they get ready to produce that well and they want to produce it out of two pays . . .

Q. At the same time?

A. Yes. You produce it out of two pays and they have two ways they can do it. See, this stream of pipe they run in there is cemented. And this Securaloy pipe, they can completely eat up that joint with caustic soda.

You've got to keep a very accurate record and measurement see, when they run that pipe. That Securaloy joint has to be set in this pay sand. A joint or two joints, whatever the depth of your pay sand is. And then when you get all done and you want to produce that well out of two pays, you go right below your joint--your first joint of Securaloy pipe, or your last joint rather. You set one at your top pay and one at your bottom pay. You go down to that bottom one and just below that, the . . .

oh, this tool company at Olney, I can't think of their name, but any they make what they call a "retrievable plug" and you run that down there with your cable tools and set that right in the pipe, and it seals it off so nothing can go by it, see. Then Halliburton will come out and they have this, what they call caustic soda, which is just like liquid fire, worse than that, and they mix that. They have a truck and they mix that and they put it inside of what they call balers, or containers, and they run that down there and they dump it right in that joint of Securaloy pipe. They run enough to fill it full, see, and in so many hours, that caustic soda will completely eat that joint of pipe up. It will eat it up. And then, you go in there with you--these Slumberjay or Birdwell, it's a different type of service company is what it is, and they run what they call a perforating gun down there and they'll shoot that cement full of holes, see, where your pipe was cemented, and that lets your pay in. You go in there and break you plug loose, then, with your cable tools and come on up the hole and do the same thing over again on your next pay. And that caustic soda, it's just so hot that it just, it just actually--that's what it does, it eats that joint of pipe up. It just dissolves it, that's all, it don't even--you can't even see it when you--course it sets in there, it's either five or six hours, seems to me like it was six hours you let that set, and then you could bale it out. We'd bale it out with our own tools we used on the rig, see.

Q. You mean you'd bring the liquid back up?

A. We'd bring it back up to the top and then dump it out in a hole. But even after six hours, it was supposed to have spent itself, see, it wouldn't eat no more, but you'd handle that baler with a pair of rubber gloves and still, after six hours, you'd take a hold of that baler to hold to--you dumped it in a barrel and this barrel had a piece of two inch in bottom and run way out there in a hole and if you held on to that baler very long without turning loose, it would just seal your glove to it, it was still that hot. You can imagine about how hot it was when they first run it in there, see.

Q. You say the baler was just--what was it, just kind of a bucket or something, or what?

A. It was a metal tube. It's a tube, fits inside of your casing, and in the bottom they have what they call a dart. It works on a taper, see. When it hangs down, it seals it off. You run that down to the bottom of your hole, set that down and when you set it down, it pushes that dart inside your baler, see, then that lets the fluid run out.

But when they'd run that caustic in the hole, Halliburton would bring their own balers which was . . .

Q. Were they specially treated or something?

A. Yes, they was--they had something inside of them. And they'd hang them in the hole. They brought their own caustic with them, water and everything, and they mixed it. They had a thing on the truck just like a great big cement mixer and they'd mix it and they'd dump it right out--right in them balers and drop it right down to the bottom of the hole, dump it and pull their balers out and just as soon as they got them out of

the hole, they was standing there with hoses and had them hooked up to fresh water and pumps and they'd wash them till they cooled them off, see.

But our old, regular balers that we used wasn't nearly as heavy, they wouldn't have stood it. And even after it had been in there six hours, when you pull them out, like I say, if you fooled around and held on to it too long, it'd just seal your glove right fast to it, it was still that hot.

Q. Bad stuff.

A. Yes. We had to wear rain suits and rain hats, leather all over, you know, and they had different things they kept there at the doghouse, or on the job for, if you got any of it on you, it'd really burn, you know.

And they done a lot of them thataway, we done a lot of wells thataway, and it proved, it proved real successful for a long time. The only drawback to it was, there wasn't much repair or much work you could do working on them if they ever went bad, see. If your pay sand, the pores in it, would plug up, the only thing you could do would be have a service company go in there and re-shoot it and frack it.

Q. What's that mean?

A. Well, Halliburton and Dowell either one has a process, they have what they call a frack sand, and it's a--it's a little bitty sharp grain, made kind of like the tip of an arrow, and they have so much of that and so much oil, and they mix it all together. You go right down below this pay like we was talking about when we run the caustic, and you'd set that same plug to hold your pressure so it wouldn't nothing go by it . . .

Q. Nothing go down to the next pay?

A. Right, and their trucks work on the same principal as them big cement trucks that run that cement, they pumped it from the top of the hole clear down to the bottom and then back up to the top, see. They'd mix that sand and oil together and then they'd pump it in this well, through those perforations, out into your pay with such pressure that they forced that sand out in there. And the reason they used that three-cornered--what they called the frack sand--that was supposed to lodge in your pay and then hold it open, see. Wouldn't let it collapse again. And it worked, real successful. They done a lot of it, increased the production on a lot of wells, but every so often, in order to keep it in good shape, they've got to go back in and do the same thing.

Q. Do they still use the soda and the frack method a lot.

A. Yes, they still use it, only--course now, it's been sixteen years, see, since I've been on tools, and that's what we was doing then. Now, what I've talked to the men, you know, in the last two or three years, they're just running regular pipe and then just shooting it full of holes. They're doing more perforating. Instead of running that joint of Securaloy pipe and eating it up, they're just running regular pipe and, oh, I don't

remember what they said, but then--they shoot a great number of holes in it.

Their perforating guns just operate with electricity. And they have, maybe--we'll say it's 12 foot long and every so many inches, three inches or four inches or five or six,--whatever the engineers decide on, there will be so many holes in a certain depth, see. A service company will come in and those bullets—they are just like a regular bullet, course they're a way bigger than you'd shoot in a gun, regular hunting gun, but they're made on the same principle, shaped the same, and they have a real sharp pointed jacket on them. And then that guns got, like I say, a hole in it every so many inches here. It's twelve feet long, and every so many inches there would be a hole where they could put a bullet in, see. They'd load it and they run it down the hole, to the depth of where this pay is, and they can operate it, then, right out the back of the truck. They can shoot the whole thing at one time or they can shoot one bullet at a time. And after all of them has gone off, they pull her back out. And, it's been pretty successful--oh, we have went in then, after they've gone, and baled and cleaned a well up where we have baled some of them bullets out, where they didn't get where they was supposed to, but then, they always shoot enough holes in there to let in the pay, see.

Q. How far back does that method go, I mean, is that something relatively new?

A. Well, yes, we went from here to the Salem boom in 1938, 1939. Now in Texas and Oklahoma, where this Halliburton originated, they was cementing wells. Then when this boom was in Salem, it was really a big boom, the only one I ever seen, that's the first cementing rotaries that was moved in here and the first cement work that was done. And then, of course, it was here to stay then, and it was used on the wells that was drilled over thisaway, afterwards.

And then I don't know exactly, but, oh, it was several years after that--it was in the forties . . . before I ever seen any of those perforating machines around here, and then they wasn't very accurate, they was kind of crude. But they improved on them all the time you know. At first, to start with, you would have to have your machine at the well to hold the pulley up there to run their line through, for them to come out and operate and they had to have a generator and a motor and a lot of stuff on their trucks, where now, that's all built in, runs off a battery, see, just like you'd like you'd plug in your electricity here in the house or anyplace. They've got a, oh, you've seen them on the road, I imagine, where it says "Danger, electric" or something, I forget just what it is, but it's a great big enclosed body on them, you know, and in the back there's two great big doors and all their equipments in there . . .

Q. It's just a portable generator?

A. Yes. They have their spools with all their wire line on it and their guns and everything and then gauges and stuff, measuring lines that shows you just exactly where that gun is--at what depth--and how many feet and they can shoot one bullet at the top and one in the middle and one in

the bottom, one here and one there, just by different buttons in the back of that thing.

But now in Texas and Oklahoma, course, they had big booms, you know, more than they did here, and that's where them companies moved from, then. They moved in here and then it was in 1950, 1951, when they started this repressure--water drilling wells, and then the idea of producing out of two different pays, of flooding two different pays in the same hole--or even three. That's when these perforating companies and cement companies and all them moved into this old field. When they drilled these new wells then, they drilled them all with rotaries and one string of pipe . . .

Q. Instead of several.

A. Yes, and that's when Halliburton and Dowell and all these perforating companies all moved in to this territory, because that's where the work was going on.

Q. Halliburton's still around, aren't they?

A. Yes, Halliburton and Dowell and these perforating companies. I seen a perforating truck go by here today. Because, Marathon, of course, they're still a drilling input wells for this--they're still water flooding. They drill one producer here, (gestures) and then they drill four water wells around it. They're still doing a lot of drilling and flooding. I just see about two of the main perforating outfits is left here, I think. Birdwell and Slumberjay is about the only two you see. They'll do that for a long time, I suppose, and then they'll come up with something else, I reckon.

For a long time, everything was done with glycerine, see. All that shooting. At one time before we started, the company did, before they started using these perforating guns and fracking, when you completed your well, got it drilled down there, then the next thing they'd do is call a shooter--what they called a shooter--from Du Pont. He'd come out with a pick-up load of glycerine and they'd shoot a hole in the bottom with glycerine, see. You'd set your pipe on top of your--what you call your pay instead of setting your pipe through it. They'd set the pipe on top of it and you drill on down, oh, so many feet, and then they'd set that glycerine down there and then set it off, see. They'd have a great big reservoir, they'd pump out of that.

Q. Has that got anything to do with that explosion they had just down the road a piece--what they call glycerine creek--has that got anything to do with that?

A. Yes, it's just down there by Jack Dunlap's, that bridge down there. Course to start with they hauled [glycerine] in a wagon with teams, and they didn't have a very good way to take care of it and that man hit that bridge rough, you know, the wagon come up and went on the bridge, hit her too hard and two cans hit together and went off, and blowed up the whole load.

Q. Did that happen before your time, or, when did that happen?

A. Well, course it happened before I was old enough to be a working, but I can remember when I heard my parents talk about it. For the fact that I think, oh, the biggest part of that man they ever found, I think, was maybe, one finger, or something like that. And then here at Crossroads School, see, it's been a good while ago but then, it's not been that long, that kids at noon--running around out there--you know, where Crossroads is out here?

Q. Yes. Down by Art Shuff's.

A. Yes, used to be back of it, course it's all cleared out and there's houses in there now, but there used to be a creek run down through there and a kind of a dumping yard, and the kids got out in there and they was a looking for a can to play shiny with. And they picked up a can and took it up there in the yard and knocked it around a while and finally it exploded, and they found out afterward, it was an old glycerine can that had been thrown away.

Q. It was empty but it had that much residue in it?

A. Yes, it had that much in it. It killed, oh, a number of children, a whole number of--I forget exactly now, but it killed a lot of them.

Q. When was that about, just kind of in general?

A. That was in the late twenties, in the late twenties. Some shooter or somebody had just throwed a can away and there had been glycerine in it. It might have been all poured out but, course, it wouldn't have took a half a teaspoonful, see?

Now, right out here on the Klan Farm, back there in the wood, that little brick concrete building, well, that's what they call--or did then--they called that a magazine. That's where the people that made glycerine, they'd haul it in there and unload it. And then the man that done the shooting of wells, if you wanted a 50 quart shot or a 100 quart shot, or a 150 or whatever you wanted, he'd go out there before he come out to the well and put that in his truck, see. But by then your pick-up trucks, they had a special bed made on the back of them and--that glycerine, it was real heavy, it's heavier than water, but it was put into two-gallon cans. And they'd take this pick-up bed and it was made with individual holes that would just hold one of them cans, see, and that hole was lined with, oh, stuff that looked like sheep-wool. And then there'd be just rows of them cans just setting in there, in a special covered bed that was made especially on the back of a pick-up, and it was real safe. I never did hear of a driver hitting a hole or something enough to set off a load within a pick-up, cause them cans was packed--set right down inside of a, oh, that stuff was that thick around them. But, where they had to be so careful, was when you lifted it out of there and carried it up to the well where you was going to pour it in your container to let in down into the hole. You didn't want to stub your toe and fall down or something!

Q. Really! (laughter)

A. Those pick-up trucks had a little winch in the back of them that was run with hydraulics, oil, you know, and had levers there to operate it, and measuring line. If you wanted they had ten-foot containers which was, oh, made right down here. You remember Bedford, run this tin shop?

Q. Right down across from Abel's?

A. No, right across from the Christian Church. Bedford Tin Shop. Well, it was just--oh, made like stove pipes, see, about that big around. Some was that big, some bigger, but they was made in ten-foot lengths and each one of them, according to the size, whether it was two, three, or four inch, would hold so many quarts. Say you wanted 100 quarts, they would each one of them have a little bale in it. They'd hang one of them in the hole. And they'd pour it full. Then they'd hook another one on that, pick it up, take the bar out, you had that hanging on a bar, and pick it up. Then you'd let that other one down and stick a bar through your bale, then you'd fill it, see. And do the same thing on down.

Q. You'd have a whole chain of them?

A. You'd have a whole chain of them, till you had enough of them strung out to hold your 100 quarts or seventy-five, or whatever it was.

On the end of this measuring line they had a special hook that hooked in your last one that you filled, see, and it was a great big brass hook and it hooked like this, and inside of it it had two other hooks. And you hooked that up on one of these notches--course your other two hooks there was for safety first in case anything did slip, it still had two chances to catch it, see, you wouldn't drop it in the hole. Then the shooter would run that down to the bottom of the hole until all these cans set down, see, and then that hook was made so that when he set that down and let a little slack in his line, than he'd give it a jerk, like that, hook it up tight, then when the weight of that hook pulled it back, it'd come unhooked. Then he'd pull his line out.

And he had what they called a time bomb. And he could set that for well, any amount of hours, it didn't make any difference. If you wanted to go off—which the company did--we'd run that in the afternoon and he'd set that so it would go off at seven or seven-thirty or eight o'clock the next morning, see. He'd set it and hook that on his line and run it down there and set it right on top of that glycerine. And then he'd unhook from it and pull out. Then you put in . . . oh, usually, about fifteen to twenty feet of pea gravel. You'd pour it in the top of your well, in the casing, and it'd go down and set right on top--just seal the top of it, see. And you'd put—well, you'd put it on there until you'd bring your gravel up in your pipe, possibly, five foot, see. And then this Halliburton, this same Halliburton outfit, would come out with what you called Calli-Seal, and the same type of balers. They had a great big thing like a concrete mixer and they'd mix that Calli-Seal. The reason they used Calli-Seal was because it set up just as hard as cement in just 90 minutes. Just 90 minutes. Instead of having to let cement set for eight or ten hours or so long, this stuff would set in 90 minutes. You'd dump enough of that

Calli-Seal on top of that gravel to fill up inside of your pipe, probably seventy-five or eighty feet. After it got set, then, 90 minutes later, you'd run water in there to fill from there to the top of the hole, so you'd be sure and have plenty of weight, and seal that shot in the bottom. And pea and Calli-Seal protected the pipe too.

The next morning, at the time that bomb was supposed to go off, the shooter would come out and he'd go out away from that well about, well, probably six, seven hundred feet, and he had an instrument he set down on the ground that was made in a box and had a bunch of guages on it and he had a long rod he'd stick in the ground, then he'd hook wires to that. A sound device was what it was, see, and when that bomb would go off, you'd see them gauges move.

Q. I wondered if you could feel it, or anything?

A. Well, there was times that you could feel a movement on the ground, but you couldn't hear anything, on account of the way you had it sealed off, see. Now, if you was just kind of experimenting, and you just wanted a, oh, we'll say a 10 or 12 quart shot, or just one of them cans full, they'd run it down to the bottom of the hole. They had a different kind of line and a different kind of a hook for this, a different kind of a deal. Then, you wouldn't unhook from it. Before you put your line on your can with your glycerine in it, they had a thing that was--you've seen a window weight? Window weights, out of a window that holds your window, a piece of iron about that high and about that big around? Had a hole clear through the middle?

Q. Oh, yes. I've seen them.

A. They'd run that line through there, and you'd stand there and hold that at the top of the hole till it got that glycerine on the bottom. They called it a squib shot. When you got that glycerine set down on the bottom then he'd hold his line tight and you'd turn that piece of iron loose and it would follow that line down there, see, till it hit that glycerine and set it off. Just for a light shot that would work, it wouldn't hurt anything, it just give you an idea, you know, whether you was going to open your pay enough to make--make enough to pay to produce. If it looked like it was--course when you first drilled it you had a good idea--you put in a big shot, but if you didn't, you'd run that, what they called a squib shot. And then you just dropped that iron on there and put her off, you'd get a boom thataway, you could tell when that went off. (laughter)

But then after they started in on this water-flood and decided to produce two and three pays out of the same well, why then they finally just quit using glycerine and just perforated and fracked all together, see. There was about four different glycerine companies here. There was one in Lawrenceville, Du Pont, there was two in Mt. Carmel, and one in Salem. The companies used to, you know, divide up the work, they'd call different ones--oh, at one time there they had thirteen cleaning out machines running. And they'd be shooting, maybe, three or four wells the same day. They'd had the different shooters out, but I don't think there's a one left now, they don't shoot a well now at all, everything is done with perforating

guns and . . . fracking and acid and so forth. Even if you got a string of pipe in the hole and you're trying to pull it and it's hung up, you can't get it loose, they've got a sound device on these perforating trucks, now, they can run down there and it thumps inside that pipe see, and you get to where that pipe is fast—you get a different sound, a different vibration. They got—it's run on a meter. You got your exact footage. Pull that out, and they got another outfit, it works on the same principle as electric, but it works just like a burning torch and they run that down that hole and they've got their exact measurement, see, and they turn that thing on and then turn it around and it will burn that pipe off. That that's hung up you can leave in the hole and what's on top, you can pull it out. Just absolutely cuts her apart, right down there in the hole. Just like burning it off with a torch on top of the ground.

Now, a long time ago when they worked on cable tools, they had a thing that would cut it off. It was a tool that fit just inside the pipe. It had knives in it like you was going to take a cutter and cut off a piece of two-inch—you seen that. It had knives fixed inside of it. And you run that down there and set it where your pipe was fast, and then you had an outfit that you put on your tubing that had a—mandrill on the end of it, it was called. You run that down there and that run down inside of this—it was tapered, see, and it run down inside this tool and crowded them knives right against that pipe. Then you started turning your tool. Then you turned that tubing and let it down a little bit, you could tell by how hard your tubing was turning, how much your knives was cutting, see, and you'd keep letting that down until you'd push them knives far enough that they'd cut through that casing, see. Then you'd have to pull your tubing out and go in and take your tools and go in and pick that cutter out of there. Then you started and pulled your casing.

Q. You turned that thing by hand, you mean?

A. Yes, you'd have to turn your tubing. You put your tubing tongs on and just keep a turning, see.

Q. Must have been sharp knives to cut that stuff.

A. Yes . . . yes, well, it was just on the same principle as your—just your cut-offs, where you'd lay a joint of tubing down here, I've got a set of them hanging down there at the barn, I can show you. It's got three knives in it. One sets out of here (gestures) and two down below, see, in the curve. You put it on there, turn your handle till you get your knives all set on there, and then turn it around your pipe, keep screwing it down, keep your knives cutting. And this was the same principle, only it was a way down in this hole, we'll say, fifteen or sixteen feet. And just worked on a taper, a mandrill went down inside of it, and those knives was spring-loaded, what they call spring-loaded. When you pulled your mandrill up they come back up inside this tool, they didn't touch your pipe. You let this down, it forced them knives out, and you just turn your tubing up at the top of the hole, see, turn your tubing around.

END OF SIDE ONE

A. Well, down there in the thicket, over there at Wes's, there is still--the only one I know of that's setting out in the field like it was used, there is a gas engine, an old thirty horse gas engine setting down there.

Q. You mean natural gas?

Q. Yes. Well, like they used in the--yes, like they used in the field--you know, running in there. Setting on the block, like they set it, and I just thought--you've never seen one of them, have you?

Q. No. What do they use it for, just like a gasoline enigne?

A. Well, it was used for--that's what they run the power for, to run the well.

Q. Oh, they just took it off the natural gas of the well?

A. Yes, where you're running your well--your engine--just like this little unit down here. Your engine ran off the gas that run off the well, see.

Q. Instead of gasoline.

A. Yes, they didn't use gasoline. I just thought maybe you'd like to see the engine, I forgot it today.

Q. Yes. Is it bigger . . .

A. Yes, it's big! I could show you.

Q. One thing I was going to ask you, you told me that when Roosevelt got elected, that was the start of some different kind of conditions, like the N.R.A. I just wondered what you thought of Roosevelt and what kind of an effect he had?

A. Well, it was just a whole reorganization of the whole thing, see. That's where all this--actually where all this give-a-way stuff started. And its never stopped, it's just snowballed ever since. The first thing he started was what they called the W.P.A., which was--no age limit of anything, everybody that was out of work--oh, let's see, you only got--I never did work on it but then there was hundreds of people that did. The majority of them that lived in town that didn't have a thing, see. Oh, I don't think they got but fifteen, twenty cents an hour, maybe something like that, you know. Just something to buy some groceries with.

Q. What did you think of him personally, though? Did that make him real popular?

A. Oh, land yes! He was elected every year till he died, see.

Q. Because you hear now, a lot of people if you mention Roosevelt, they really like him or they really hated him, you know.

A. Well, of course, like I say, that was the start of all this give-a-way stuff. The W.P.A. . . . and the N.R.A., course the N.R.A. wasn't a give-a-way that was the way you worked to cut down your hours in order to, maybe, put a few more men to work, see. But he had the W.P.S. and the C.C.C. camps, I believe they called them.

Q. Oh, I've heard of those conservation. . . .

A. Yes, and what was it, seemed to me like there was something else. But then it just went from that to different farm programs and . . . oh, even up till I was married. At that age, see, twenty years old, and long after that, if a person was down and out and didn't have anything, absolutely nothing, why he went to the supervisor and he [the supervisor] give them an order. They could go to the store and get a pair of shoes or something to wear or a few groceries, see. And then that has went on until its growed into the relief and that stuff now, see.

Q. So that was kind of the beginning of welfare?

A. (laughs) She really got out of proportion. And nobody's ever stopped it.

Q. What year did you get married?

A. 1930

Q. 1930. How did you meet Grandma?

A. In high school.

Q. Her dad and your dad, were they working together?

A. Oh no, he worked for the Ohio, Dad worked for the Big Four. That was when Hoover was defeated in the Depression.

Q. You told me one time that it seemed like people that lived in the country didn't have it quite as tough as people that lived in the city.

A. Well, it was the fact that you could go out and cut you some wood. You could keep warm. You could put out a little garden and you could have a few hens, which about everybody did, and a cow and stuff like that. You had something to eat. If you lived in town, just in a house and lot, why, there was absolutely nothing for you to do. People didn't have a dime. Different towns and counties would have what they called soup lines. You'd just line up and wääk through a building . . .

Q. Did they have those here in town?

A. No, I don't think they ever had one here in Bridgeport. They had them in Lawrenceville. Well, they might of had them here, I don't remember exactly. But you'd get a bowl of soup and maybe a slice of bread or something like that. But in the cities, my land . . . the lines would be lined up for blocks and blocks. That's all in the world they had, you know. Yes. Well, just to give you an idea, I know I've told you before,

but hamburger was sold for three pounds for a quarter.

Q. What would the price have been normally?

A. Oh, well, probably twenty-five or thirty cents a pound.

Q. For one pound?

A. Yes. Yes.

Q. How do you think Depression compares with inflation?

A. Well, there is no comparison. The Depression, there was nothing. Now there are people who get a years unemployment. They can draw 56 weeks isn't it?

Q. Something like that, yes.

A. And then they get an extension and they get food stamps and they get so much, they get to where everything else runs out, I suppose they just—relief just keeps them, don't they? Far as I know.

Q. Boy, you got me!

A. They just go and get so much groceries. I don't hear of anybody starving.

Q. Don't see them do you. (laughter)

A. But that's the difference between the Depression then and the inflation now. People gets out of a job right now, they don't worry too much, I don't think, right then, it's just—like a piece in the paper. Well, just last week—the International Shoe Company is moving out of Flora, shutting down. They put something like three hundred-fifty out of work. Well, when it's all phased out and they move. But it went ahead and said that Flora and the people wouldn't feel any big impact or any trouble right now because all them people would draw about a years unemployment. And then is when it will hit, see.

Q. You mentioned one time how things changed about 1945 when the union started. I'd like to know how that all came about. How did that get started in Bridgeport? How were you involved in it?

A. Well, now somebody, I don't remember just who, but somebody had to contact the International representative, see. And they come in this part of the country and they went to work on the refinery over here in Lawrenceville and on all the production, see. Somebody—course when it begin to first start around, why a lot of people, well—everybody, was scared. And it had to kind of be done in secret, you know, your meetings and kind of get organized and get a majority signed up, learn something about it, everybody was green.

Q. When did that start?

A. Well, it started in 1943, see, and it takes a long time. We finally had our election and had our first contract in 1944. Yes. Up till that time, you had no benefits whatever. You didn't even have a vacation or a day off or nothing. They could just call up--well, you was supposed to have Sunday off, the roustabouts that is. Now the pumpers worked every-day.

Q. Could you explain the difference in jobs? Some people don't know the difference, like, in a roustabout and pumper, I don't think.

A. Well, they probably don't.

Q. What was the basic job?

A. Well, a man called a pumper, at that time, just like Raymond and Pudge, they lived out here west of the overhead bridge, lived back in the field where the company had furnished a house. Most all pumping jobs, there was a shack on there. And the pumper and his family lived there, and the company would take five dollars a month out of your check for your rent. And you had your pumping job, which, your power and all your wells would be right there on that farm where your house was.

Q. So you could take care of them.

A. And you was expected to keep that running twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Q. So those guys never got any time off?

A. No. That was before you got a union, see. Yes.

Q. What was the roustabouts, what did they do?

A. It was just like that picture in there--course some of those guys was pumpers, too. That's the entire district. But, just like I was. I'd go out here at Tank City of a morning and if they run--I've told you about these Iron Kings that pulled the wells, with a team, they'd have two or three of them in each district. It took two men on one of them. They was called well-pullers. That's what you done every day, same thing over and over. And then the roustabouts was the men that--if a pumper had an engine down and he couldn't get it started, why then he'd come to the tool-house and tell the farm boss he had some trouble that he couldn't do himself, so the farm boss would send a man or two back to his job with him, to see what was the matter with his engine and repair it and get it running again. That was roustabouts. Them old powers would blow up, you'd have to work on them, and your lead lines, your lines that run from your well to your tanks, see, well, they'd get a leak in them and that was the roustabout work. The roustabouts, they done a little bit of every-thing. They done a little bit of everything. That was all for the same money, see, nobody got any different wages.

Q. All jobs were the same wage.

A. Till after we got the union, then they got a classification, see.

Q. So you had to kind of keep underground while you were getting it started?

A. Course the farm bosses didn't want it, you know, company didn't want it.

Q. Did they harass people? Did they ever find out about it, before it started?

A. Oh yes, and the people in town that didn't work for the company, the merchants, was all concerned about it, you know, because the company would say, they'd put out all kind of propaganda--if the boys signed up with the union they'd shut this old field down and pull out everything and leave. Well, that worried the merchants, see, and everybody in town, and the old people, they could just see Bridgeport a ghost town. But the old field was making too much, there wasn't nobody, I don't think, really thought that there was any danger of them doing that, but at the same time, there was a lot of them that, you know--you'd have a fear that they would just start canning and laying off, you know. But we finally got brave enough to have some meetings and talk to merchants and people, to have meetings and invite everybody, see.

Q. You invited townspeople, so they'd understand?

A. Yes. Try to get it explained so they would understand what the reason was and why . . .

Q. Kind of educate them?

A. . . . and educate them. And Lawrenceville went in before Bridgeport did and that helped. That helped us. Yes.

A. About 1943, like I said a while ago, somebody had to contact the International for them to send a representative in here. And they started having meetings with different men that was more prominent, you know, there's a difference in your labor force. There are men that have more influence and well, know how to talk and explain things better than a lot of other men. So they got them together and explained what the set-up was and how it would have to operate, and then they would--different nights in the week, you'd have different meetings in different districts, get everybody out they could, see, someplace, and explain to them. And at the same time, these men that was started, why, they had there application forms from the International, and of course, you had to have a majority signed up before you could call for an election, because there wouldn't be any use to go ahead and arrange for an election and go through all that and battle the company unless you had a pretty good idea that you was going to make it--for it took a good deal of time to convince enough of them to get enough of them signed up . . .

Q. I wondered if a lot of the people you was working with, if they would be so scared that they wouldn't even want to do it themselves, did that happen?

A. Oh yes, yes (laughs) there was a lot of them, and really, there are men working yet--still got the union, still in effect, and there are men working yet that don't belong.

Q. Oh really!

A. Yes, they don't believe in it. Now, they take all the benefits, but they don't want to pay no dues.

Q. I figured it was a closed shop.

A. No, we never--the company, that's one thing they never would--we never could get negotiated. It's just--now in the factories, refineries, you can do it, but see, the trouble with the production, trying to negotiate a closed shop, you're district would cover so many mile square, see, you had so much territory, you couldn't enforce it.

Q. Yes, it's not like a little factory . . .

A. Where everybody's in a building, see. You just had oh, you had too much territory. They could have men working. In the same way, if you called a strike, see, there never was one here, and they figured we couldn't enforce it because there wouldn't be no way to set up a picket line. Men lived out in the country and worked out there, on that particular job.

Q. I see what you mean.

A. Yes, see, the only lever we had was that the production and the pipeline was signed up together, see. Well, the pipeline, if it would have ever come to a time when we would have had to strike, only thing could have happened, the pipeline would refuse to run the oil, see. That was the only way that it could have actually been enforced, because you couldn't put enough men out to keep the men from working. Like, they'd just go in and shut a refinery down, you know, you couldn't go out there and shut everything down because there wasn't even enough men to do that.

And we had to educate the people in town, the citizens and the merchants. They was all pretty scared to start with, but we finally got our meetings scheduled where we had them right down here at the park. And we'd invite everybody, see, and had a lot of good turnouts. But the company officials was--they'd drive around and watch, then the next day or two you'd hear a lot of propaganda, what they was going to do, you know, but we just kept it up till finally we had enough signed up and got strong enough that we could petition the Ohio Oil Company for an election, see. And after we did and got it signed up like it had to be, well, then they had to grant us, according to law, they had to grant us our election. And then, after we had the election--it carried a pretty good majority I forget just exactly but it was way over our 50 per cent of 51 per cent which you would have to have, see. It went a way over that.

And then the International representative--there was two of them, that was really good. Now, later on, down through the years, we had representatives here that just didn't amount to much, you know, there is a lot of

difference in those men just like the men working in the field. But, to start with the whole contract had to be wrote and . . .

Q. From scratch?

A. Yes, the whole contract, which governed the different kinds of work and types of work; the teamsters and the roustabouts and the pumpers and the drillers and the tool dressers. Then where the biggest job was, was over here to the old machine shop, see. You had blacksmiths and helpers and yardmen and men that run all different kind of lathes, from little bitty ones to lathes up to almost as big as this kitchen, see. And these guys that worked in the foundry, they had a different type of a job, had to have a different classification, and they tried to work out a different pay scale.

The way that the union usually does that, in a refinery or a factory where you're starting a new contract, your wages and classifications and different jobs, would be in contrast with a neighboring refinery, see. It would give you a base to go on, where, when they come in to this old production field here, there was no--the Ohio Oil Company owned 99 per cent of the whole acreage and there was a few of the independent outfits scattered all around through here, but they didn't amount to anything. There was no comparison with somebody else to go by, it just had to be a new--it was a new thing all the way through. They finally got the first contract wrote up to where the majority of the members agreed on it, and then you had to notify the company and request negotiation meetings, see. Then you had to start in and go through that contract. Everything had to be agreed on. Course a lot of it had to be changed, but anyway, finally we got our first contract and we had rented an old building down there in town to meet in see, for our meeting hall.

At first we met just out in the woods or someplace, where there was a place where you could drive in and get together, and then we got to meeting down in the park. There was several buildings in town empty, but the owner wouldn't let us meet in them, see, he was scared. But, finally one man agreed to rent us this building and we got some benchs put in there to set on, and then, course we had to start in and elect a president and a vice-president and a recording secretary and trustees and your guard, guide and everything that went with it, and everything had to be set up. We just negotiated a years contract at a time, and during that year, there would be several members of the local here would contact--well, I went with them, different ones, would go to Princeton and over in Indiana and talk to coal miners that had been in the union for a number of years, see, and give you ideas of what you could ask for and what you could get and what you couldn't get, and, course, we had to work out our own classifications and wage-scale between a driller and a tooldresser and the well-pullers and the rod-wrenchers and all like that.

Now before I was telling you about firing these old boilers on the machines where they drill wells, and cleaning-out machines. You were supposed to have that ready to go to work at seven o'clock, see. Well, the tooldresser had to go out there an hour before that time in order to have his boilers fired up and have steam up, see, so you could acutally

start your machine running at seven o'clock. Well, he never got nothing out of that. The company just--that was what they called a company policy, see. It was just what they done for years and it was pretty hard to make them change something like that.

Q. They had got away with it that long, yes . . .

A. Yes, and then everybody went to work at the same time. You went out there at seven o'clock and throwed your fire in your boiler and, of course, got it fired up as soon as you could and started.

But then it wasn't too long after this that they started motorizing these machines. They done away with the boilers and put big Waukeshaw motors, all kind of different motors on the machines.

Q. Was that the gas ones?

A. Yes, that was--well, they run on gasoline. They was just regular gasoline motors. And then later, in later years, well, that wouldn't have been up till around 1950, they done away with their old machines, what they called the National machines and the Oil Stars, and then they begin to buy new spudders. Bucyrus and spudders of that nature.

Q. What's a spudder exactly?

A. Where your whole machine was built in one unit.

Q. Your whole well?

A. Everything you worked with was built in one unit, see. And mounted where you could pull it around. Where the old type machines, like I've told you about, took twenty-three or four or five wagon-loads to move them from one location to another, now all that stuff was built inside this spudder, it all worked in that one unit, see.

Q. I see what you mean.

A. Yes, to do the whole well with. And all you had to do--when you moved that, you moved that all together. That eliminated, well, 99 per cent of your moving, course, that is another thing that eliminated their teams and all that stuff, see, because when they come out with these complete units, why then it took trucks and winches and they began to--different contractors--began to come in here with bulldozers. Like, you remember Red Mullins?

Q. Sure.

A. Now he was one of the first ones that ever worked a contract, a bulldozer, out here for the Ohio Oil Company. Well, you see, that hasn't been so long ago, it was in--well in, started in probably, the early fifties, in 1950. And that's when they went ahead then, and done away with all the teams, and then they bought what they called these Cooper pulling units. You see them running around here--Raymond drove one at one time,

to pull the wells with. That's when they eliminated that.

Well, then when they done that, all those men that owned their teams, a teamster, was--they had him listed as an independent contractor, see, he wasn't an employee of the Ohio Oil Company, and when they eliminated the teams, then we had to negotiate another separate contract for them, to get them made an employee and give them a right to have a roustabout job, see. Otherwise, they would have just simply have been out of a job and a lot of them had teamed for the Ohio Oil Comapny for twenty, twenty-five years, see. They finally agreed, we negotiated a separate contract for them, which gave them seniority back to where we first signed the contract back in 1944, see. Which give all of them the same amount of seniority, but it give them an opportunity to go to work as roustabouts and it give them all, six or seven years seniority, see, and it give them a chance. They was placed in different districts and then went to work, and then as different jobs was posted, they had the privilege of bidding on them just the same as anybody else. Of course, it all went by your seniority but then there was a lot of them, starting in 1950 when this repressure started--they first started that with air, and then finally switched to water--there was a good many men hired during that time. Then this give them old teamsters enough seniority that they had a chance to, each one of them, stayed till he was old enough to retire, which a lot of them, well, the majority of them was old men when they done away with the teams, like I say, most of them had been a working quite a number of years. But it give them a chance to go ahead and work until they was retirement age, and they got some pension, see, some pension and some social security.

During this time when they first started their water or air pressure and then switched to their water-flood, they had been enough men hired that the old teamsters got to stay and when they started all this new work then, why they had a lot more job classifications that had to be negotiated, for they had a lot of different type work that was involved in this pressure business that wasn't ordinarily involved with just producing oil in this old field. And it was all new to everybody here, nobody knew anything about it. They would ship in their engineers and geologists to get all this started and going, and they bought rotaries, which made a separate group of men and separate, or different kind of work. And then as they drilled these input wells, there had to be so much water-line laid. They went up north of Applegate, you know where I mean there, went up there along the river and drilled those water wells that produce so much water, you know. And then that waters piped, and it still is, from clear up there the other side of Applegate, clear down here.

Then as they got this, they'd drill one oil well here, then they'd drill four inputs around that. Each one of them input wells was hooked up with a water meter. They wanted them to have so much, so much water go through each one. Every well had a water meter on it just like your meter here where you pay your water bill. Well, after they got that started, there had to be a man go out there everyday and go around to everyone of them meters and read them and keep a check on them, see. They had a pressure test and a vacuum test and read your meter. Well, that made another classification and another job and it went on, you know, as that progressed, and then they built big pressure plants and filter plants.

Now when they first started out with those, they had big pressure pumps that forced that water--that water come from them water wells down here through lines, then these big pumps would pick that water up and force it down in these injection wells, see.

Q. Did the water just blow the oil out?

A. The water was forced in these injection wells and the principle was to move that oil underneath, see?

Q. To move it under the main well?

A. To move it--just move it in the ground, see? What they figured to start with, was that in this old field, the gas was exhausted. You can drill a well, and get some oil. There might be an enormous amount of oil down there, but, if there is no gas pressure, you can't pump that out of there.

Q. I didn't understand that.

A. No, there has got to be something to move it, see. That gas pressure down underneath is what moves that oil. If you exhaust that gas pressure or if--I worked in fields where there was no gas pressure, and you've got to have something to move that oil. It'll pump for a while and then it'll just quit, because, just like we talked about last night, they drilled that well and then they went in there with that glycerine and shot it and made what they called a reservoir, which was just a great big hole, and the oil would drain in there and fill up and you pumped out of that hole, see?

Q. Yes, I see what you mean.

A. And then, gradually, that would just quit running in there. There is some pressure, what they call a bottom-hole pressure, there is some pressure there, and then after a period of time that is all gone. Now all this water was for--there is a lot of different kinds of recovery, repressure, there are places in Texas where they use fire. The whole underneath of the earth is on fire and it makes that oil hot and there is enough steam into it that it forces it around places. And down where Harry was, my brother, they used butane. They pump that butane in there, and force it, then they reclaim a lot of that butane and circulate it, put it down in there again, see. But the whole idea of repressure is just moving that oil, that's the idea. They go in on a certain amount of acreage and they go out here and they drill an oil well then they go around here with four water wells, then over here the same way and over here and they do that till they get enough water in the ground--it takes, usually--they'll pump water in here for six months before you get enough pressure down there to make that oil move, to where you'll get any recovery, any increase, in your production, see.

Q. Six months.

A. Yes. Most of the wells it took six months. But now, like, well right

up here on the Robbins, is one lease that had always been a pretty good lease and it was a making, this old production—course it got away down—but then it was a making, we'll say, 100 barrels a week. And when it got to the peak of the recovery period, after they got all these injection wells drilled, and pumped that water in there after a period of time, it started coming up, your production, and it got up to 1500 barrels a week. It got up there and it stayed there for a long time, then, gradually it goes back the other way, for you finally get to where they've put so much water in there, you'll begin to pump more water than you do oil, see.

But to start with, they, instead of these 35 and 40 horse gas engines and oil engines like you run these powers with for years and years, they used 75 horse, on these big pumps they set to pick this water up with, and then force it down in the ground. They run from six hundred to eight hundred pound of pressure, in most places. Now there was places where the formation was more open, it didn't take so much pressure.

Then that took more negotiating. Different classification of jobs, see.

Q. Created a lot of new different ones, didn't it?

A. Yes, and then we come on down to where they begin to do away then, with these old gas engines and oil engines and in the meantime, they had decided they would completely do away with this old machine shop.

END OF TAPE

A. Course, they couldn't change it all at one time, it took a number of years, but they had a lot of this stuff made and stored down there, that it took for engines and jacks and rod lines and all that stuff. They started in then, electrifying everything.

They'd have maybe three complete crews wiring through the field, you know, setting poles and running lines and hooking up electricity, and then they started doing away with these gas engines, oil engines, and so forth. They'd just do away with them, and in their place, they would set a great big electric motor, see, and hook it up where it would go ahead and run this power and run the wells, for a period of time. Then as they could get to it, they would completely do away with the whole power, the whole thing, the rod lines and the old pumping jacks and everything, and then they began to set these pumping units with an electric motor on them. Then as this recovery increased they made so much more production, that they had to set bigger pumping units in order to take care of that production.

Them old powers and them pumping jacks like they had then, wasn't built and made to handle that kind of--you couldn't run them fast enough, see, there was a limit to how fast you could run them because you had a rod line running here on top of the ground--you know what I mean, you seen

them, that goes out here to this old pumping jack that goes up and down this a way. Well, you can only run that back and forth so fast, see, if you run it too fast, it would go out and come back before your well could drop and come up, see. When that well would get half-way down it would grab it and jerk it back up again. It'd just tear up stuff all the time, but, now you set these pumping units in a conctete base and they just set there. You can just run them up and down any speed you want to, see. Oh, for a number of years, that made for an enomous amount of work, trucking and hauling all them old powers and rod lines. Course, they had to be parted and picked up.

Q. Just transformed the whole thing, didn't it?

A. Yes. Course every pumping job still had a boiler. You had to steam your oil in the winter time. Then along with this electric changeover and everything, they'd put in electric heaters, see. You'd run your oil--they had a big metal tank, and built right in this tank would be a bunch of coils, that was heated with electricity, and your oil run in there and was heated to a certain degree and went from there over into your stock tank. Then the gauger would turn it on and run it through the pipeline.

Q. Just so it would flow better?

A. Yes, and take the water out of it in the wintertime. Water won't settle out of oil in real cold weather. Cold water and cold oil, it won't separate that good.

And that's where, during the period from, we'll say from 1950 till 1970 there was a--it made a lot of work here because everything was completely changed. All the pumping jobs was all old wooden tanks, and all them was took out and new metal steel tanks was set. It was a whole new hook-up, to the whole thing, you know. The older roustabouts, working here every day, they had done the same thing over and over for years. They just had to learn--it was all new, it was just like starting in again. The whole hook-up, your connection work and your tanks and your flow lines and your receivers and electric heaters and everything was--a man just had to start in and re-learn.

But after we had the contract, then, if a man didn't want to, he had the privilege--course there had to be a job posted on the board for you to bid on--but if you didn't like your job, you didn't have to stay. You had to stay till the opportunity come along of something you could bid on, but you could change jobs. Where, for years and years you couldn't do it.

Now 1938 they discovered oil--that's when that Noble and Salem boom started, see. Which was one of the biggest booms in Illinois. One of the biggest. The Ohio had quite a bit of acreage over there and the men here working on tools or cleaning out tools well, they [the company] would just come out where you was working and said, "Tomorrow morning at seven o'clock, or tomorrow evening at four o'clock or five o'clock, you be at Salem ready to go out there on a complete different machine and go to work," see. And you either went, or you quit, which nobody

quit. You didn't like it, but you went. You had to get over there, you had to find you a place to board and a place to room.

Q. Did you stay over there all week?

A. Yes, yes. So they had a superintendent here that was--he just didn't care for a man at all. He was a big shot and he was boss and boy, he was going to let you know he was boss, so when the machines went over there and went to work, they run the machines twenty-four hours, see. And at that time, well, here in this old field, you worked a ten-hour day. Whatever time, you know, if something broke and they wanted you back out, you had to go out when ever they called you.

But we went over there and went to work, and Salems seventy-seven miles from here, and at that time, that was quite a little distance.

Q. Still is!

A. You didn't have the kind of cars to drive you do now.

Q. How long it take you to get over there?

A. Well, it took it seems to me like three or four hours, anyway. And there was times in the wintertime it took a lot longer than that.

Q. I'll bet.

A. But anyway, this old boy that was boss . . .

Q. What was his name, remember?

A. Reglin. John Reglin.

Q. Oh!

A. He had so much trouble with Raymond, you know.

Q. That's not the Reglin's that still live out by the new school is it, Margaret Reglin?

A. Yes, well, Margaret Reglin was Margaret Middaugh. She married this old man's son. That's where that connection come in. And then that's where Dayton Middaugh, her brother, got his start. He was just a farmer. And then the marriage deal and her husband's father was superintendent, see. And then--course the history of the Ohio Oil Company had always been thataway. The boss, he just put anybody to work--any of his relation, he wanted to, see.

Q. Were most of the bosses local guys or did they come in from somewhere else?

A. They was men that had worked here, under another boss for years and then, over here in this district, there would be a boss they'd get so old he couldn't work, or retire or something, why, the boss that--straw

boss--farm foreman, that had the most pull with your superintendent, just like this old Reglin, he would--well, each farm boss usually had a man that he was trying to push into the farm foremans job, see. Whichever one of them had the most persuasion or gifts or something, why, his man got the job. (laughter)

But when we went over there and went to work on that rig, that old man made us work six hours a day, seven days a week. He put four crews on each machine, and we'd work six hours. You'd work six hours and was off eighteen. This was the, oh, I forget, it--his idea was you didn't want a man out there working that would stop. He figured you would go out there and work six hours, you didn't have to stop and eat or rest or anything, see, he wanted six hours work.

Q. So he took out your lunch hour to make it.

A. He took out your lunch hour. You was supposed to go out there and just work six hours. So he put on four crews on each machine. And thataway, the driller that I was working with, we went to work at midnight and worked till six in the morning. That was seven days a week. And once a week, why, you'd have to come home after you got your check--bring your check home, but you had to have different clothes and stuff. Now we'd go out at midnight and work till six in the morning, then we would leave the job and drive to Bridgeport, which was seventy-seven miles, and we had to be back in Salem that night at midnight to go to work.

Q. It would take almost your whole eighteen hours, wouldn't it, just to make the trip?

A. You wouldn't be home very long. We had to be back there. There was a man by the name of Small. I was a tooldresser and he was a tooldresser, but he come out at six in the morning and worked till twelve noon. Now his wife was a woman that come from, well, about Louisville, Kentucky, around in there, and they got word, we'll say in the afternoon sometime that her mother had died. And they wanted to go to Louisville just the day of the funeral, see. There was no such a thing as getting off and going and spending a couple of days. They just wanted to go the day of the funeral. So he come down to where we was boarding and rooming and he said, "Now if you'll go out at twelve midnight and work till twelve noon the next day--for him, see--they'd go to Louisville to their funeral, and then the next night he'd go out for me at twelve and work till twelve the next day. "Why," I said, "Sure, it suits me, I don't care, anyway so you can get to go." So he went and seen the toolpusher and he [the tool pusher] said, "Well, we'll have to call Mr. Reglin and see what he says." And he [Reglin] said, "No you can't go, there can't no man go out there and work twelve hours without stopping to eat and rest and, he said, "We don't pay nobody for eating and resting." He said, "You'll be there your six hours or you can quit." And then they wondered why you wanted to organize and have a union, that's just one of the things that happened. (laughs)

Q. You told me about something that seems pretty amazing now, I think it was called the "sliding scale." It sounded like the reverse of over-time.

A. That's just exactly what it was. Now we worked here, in that Salem

pool until the day before Thanksgiving in 1939. That night we had finished up every well there was to tail in. Well, we was--all the toolmen--which was, would have been eight of us--no, eight on a machine, sixteen, that's the way it was. Anyway, they had told us to report to the toolhouse the next morning at seven o'clock. Well, we all felt like they would tell us to come back to Bridgeport, give us Thanksgiving off, see. We went out to the toolhouse next morning at seven o'clock and this old man Reglin, he was there. Come from Bridgeport over there and he was there, seven o'clock. And he just split us up all over the dad-blamed country. Some of them went out to St. Louis, some of them went to (interruption) different places. Anyway, we went to a place called St. James. They split up everybody and they went in different directions, in two's and fours, and there was four of us they sent from Salem to a little town they called the St. James Pool. That was by St. Elmo.

Q. Up around Effingham?

A. Yes. Now this was Thanksgiving day, and we had orders to be up there and ready to go to work at four o'clock that evening. That was our Thanksgiving present.

Q. And you were in Salem at the time.

A. Well, they call it the Salem Field, the Salem Boom. We was south of Salem, oh, about five mile. That's where the field actually was.

Q. So you would have had to go to Bridgeport seventy-seven miles, then Effingham . . .

A. No--yes, but we didn't even get to come home because we had to get up there, we had to find us a place to stay and--you had to go out in the country, you had to find your machine where you was supposed to go to work. Because you had to be there at that time, see.

Q. Did they have rooms lined up for you or anything?

A. Oh no. No. It was just a very small place, oh, probably less than three hundred population. So we finally found a man and his wife, had one little boy, and they had a two story house and they had a bedroom upstairs. We finally rented that where we had a place to sleep. This town didn't even have a restaurant in it.

Q. What'd you do, did that lady cook for you?

A. No, you just had to--they had a tavern and in that tavern, he [the owner] made some beef sandwiches and, well, that's all he did make. He had beef sandwiches and of course, you could go to the grocery store and buy lunch meat and cheese and crackers and pies and cakes and stuff of that nature.

But then after we was there--now this same day we was supposed to be out on this job at four o'clock in the evening, which we was, and the crew that was supposed to be there at midnight, see, they never did show up.

So, we had to stay.

Q. The whole crew didn't make it?

A. No, nobody ever showed up. And nobody ever showed up till seven o'clock the next morning, see. We went out there at four o'clock in the evening and worked through till seven o'clock the next morning. And then after we went up there, we was under a different boss, and he was worse than the one we had at Salem. (laughter)

It was about six or seven mile off the paved road back into the field, and just an old dirt road. This was in a part of the country where the people was--I mean it was poor. It was poor. They still had rail fences and stuff like that, see. Buildings was old and run down. It was just a part of the country where the land was poor and these people was in pretty hard circumstances.

We finally got acquainted with a Lutheran German family. He was a farmer. A man and his wife, and their children was raised and gone. They had a great big old farm house. Oh, had nine or ten rooms in it. And his wife--they was in pretty good health and his wife said she'd cook supper for us, you know, when we got off of work at four o'clock in the evening. They lived out on the highway and as we'd come home from work, going into our room, we'd stop there and eat supper. But, that's all she would do, and we sure appreciated that. I think it cost us, oh, probably thirty-five or forty cents a piece. And you just eat family style. She'd just cook a great big meal and set it on the table.

Well, as we went ahead and worked, getting these wells tailed in, why there'd be more men come in and they finally--I think they had four or five rooms, upstairs, I forget which, they finally furnished all of them and rented all of them. The men just stayed there and boarded. She hired a couple women around there to help her. We still stopped and ate supper, but we kept our room in that little town. And then they finally put us a little gas hot-plate up there in our room so we'd be able to make us some coffee and fry--took a skillet and stuff from home and, course, when we went, we'd take a good deal of stuff with us, but it lacked a good deal of being like staying at home, I'll tell you. And it was a cold bad winter. Boy, it was a dandy.

Q. Did they have good heat in there?

A. It never did get over 65 upstairs where we stayed, and I'll tell you there was a lot of times that was pretty doggone chilly. They didn't furnish too much heat. But, as we went on and more men--as we got the wells tailed in, and they was pretty good wells, then what they called the power gang, the foreman and the men that built this complete power, see, why, they moved in and went to work. Then they had a gang that run these rod-lines and there was quite a few men worked up there for a good while. And in this period of time is when they got the bright idea of putting us on that sliding scale.

Q. Oh, I thought maybe that had always been around.

A. No, that's when--they didn't have enough tooldressers and drillers qualified to work in order to have enough crews. They was working--well, we finally got to working twelve hours. We'd go out at six in the morning and work till six in the evening. The other crew would come out at six in the evening and work till six in the morning.

Q. You did that seven days a week?

A. Yes, we was a getting I think ninety cents an hour, for your straight time, see. The crew that was working against us lived in, oh, what is that town out by St. Louis? Anyway, I can't think, but they was driving a long way. And there would be times that they wouldn't get there. And you'd just have to stay and go on and work. Or you might have a job where both crews would have to stay. And you'd double over. You had work that took four men. And that's when they got the bright idea of the sliding scale. I don't know where it come from or who figured it out, but then there wasn't nothing you could do about it. And there was times that we worked so many hours that we would get down to where we actually was making twenty-nine cents an hour. And the longer you worked, the less you made. That's the way it worked.

We worked in there, then, till, I believe we came back to Bridgeport in the Spring of 1941. We had all the wells drilled and tailed in and all that work done. And the power gang, those men all came back. They was all from in Bridgeport, see, they sent them from here over there. They sent about enough men over there--there was a lot of them had stayed in some little old house trailers and there was several of them bought these little old quonset huts. Now, we'll get the same thing and use it for a hog house, you know. That's all it was, and they'd just set them up and live in them.

Q. You were over there what, two or three years?

A. Well, we went on Thanksgiving day in 1939 and it was about in the Spring of 1941 when we came back to Bridgeport, got to come back and stay.

But there was enough of those men, see, that had been over there and went through all this, that when they got a chance to join the union and sign up, there was a lot of them signed up pretty quick. It helped a whole lot to get started.

Q. Did that sliding scale go on till the union contract came about?

A. It did over there in that work, because, they didn't want to pay no wages and they wouldn't pay no wages, and they wouldn't give you no time off. Before, there was some bosses that, after you worked so many hours overtime, then they'd want you to take so much time off where you wouldn't work, you wouldn't get nothing for it, see. Then after they put us on that sliding scale, then they just loved to work you otherwise. They just loved to work you overtime.

Well, we finally got that all finished. We moved back to Bridgeport and when we moved back here, they had been doubling up on this old field

while we was gone, and we all had to go to different toolhouses and different places. We couldn't go back to where we worked when we went over there. I went down south of Lawrenceville, what they call down there on the Vandermark Hill. I went down there to that toolhouse, and just worked a short time as a roustabout and then they put me back on tools in this old field.

But there was one thing that happened up there. Now, most of them wells was about six miles off the pavement, and it was just an old mud road there wasn't even any gravel, it was just an old mud road. And part of it was different kind of dirt. There was part of it you could drive a piece, maybe find a place to park your car and walk the rest of the way. Course they had bulldozers in there and there was a dozen different companies had leases, moving rigs in and out, and you never knew what you was going to run into.

You might start out of there some night at midnight, trying to get home, and you'd get hung up and couldn't get out. You might run on to a Cat hung up right on the road with a rig, you couldn't get by it, you just had to wait.

I had a Dodge two-door and the doors was real large. When you opened one of them it just looked like you opened the whole side out of the car, you know. We had drove morning in pretty good shape. But during the day, they had moved a rig in, somebody had, through this part of the road, then took her out through the field someplace there. But they had dug a hole in the road, oh, deep as this table. And we was a coming along, coming in that night, doing pretty good, and just drove right square off in that mudhole, you know, and there you was. Well, I finally pushed the door out in the mud far enough that I could squeeze out, and fooled around there a while, and I could hear a Cat running, so finally it come out of the field and come down the road. Course, them Cats was new things and most of them guys a driving them didn't know nothing, but anyway, I asked him if he'd pull me backwards out of there. We got hooked on and I said, "Now, don't you move till I get in that car," I said, "and see if I can get that door shut for it's sticking out there in that mud." Why, there was that much of that door out in that old soft mud, you know. And about the time I got half-way in there, why, he took off with me, and just folded that door up like an accordian. (laughter) He pulled me out of the mudhole alright!

Men working in jobs like they got today, they have no idea what you know, what you went through with in a case of that kind.

Now we'd get up of a morning and we'd have to fix our own pails and get out there on the job, see. When you was working from six in the morning till six in the evening, why, we had to drive, it was about three or four mile of the pavement out there, and then six mile off the pavement and, by grab, they expected for you to be there too. They didn't accept very many excuses. You had to be there and have that machine running. And a lot of times, now, we wouldn't be running very long till that old superintendent, he'd come a driving out there to see if you was running, too. Carlyle, that's what I was trying to think of a while ago. That's where the boss lived and these two men that worked against us lived in Carlyle and they drove back and forth all the time, see. Well, they'd run into

an ice storm, slick or too much snow or something, and they couldn't get up there until the roads was clear. And we had to get out there and keep that thing running until they got there, that's all. Wouldn't make any difference to them bosses if you stayed twenty-four hours and than another twenty-four hours. And they didn't go get you nothing to eat, either.

About the middle of this old field where we went to work, there was an old man and woman who had an old country store, and I mean it was an old country store, when we first went up there and went to work. It had two or three ice-boxes, they didn't have any electricity out there, see--where he kept a little lunch meat and a few bottles of pop. But that store was filled with old horse collars and harness and old wooden barrels of stuff and coal oil lamps and lanterns. Just all of that old stuff like that, that you could think of, they had it there in that store and it had been hanging there for years and years. That was in 1940, see. We went up there on Thanksgiving day in 1939. They owned some ground there and got a couple of pretty good wells. In the late part of 1940, then they done away with that old store, this old man and woman, they quit running it.

There was one farm family, a man and his wife, and they had a son that was, well, he was thirty-two years old and wasn't married, had never been away from home, and they got three or four pretty nice wells where they was getting at that time, oh, five or six hundred dollars a month. And none of them had seen that much in a lifetime. So this boy, he decided he'd fix up the old house a little. The father and mother was a getting old, and he got some carpenters and got it repaired and he put in a bathroom. And then his dad the old man--their name was Swarm . . .

Q. S-W-A-R-M?

A. That's right. He come down there to the doghouse, you know, to visit with us and we'd get to kidding him about it, having so much money and how he was getting so fancy, you know, had a inside toilet and all that stuff. Boy, now that old man never did use that. (laughter) No, he wouldn't use it.

Down there at Salem, those were enormous wells down there. My land, them farmers got, oh, for that time, got an enormous amount of money. And when you'd finish up a well, the farmer would usually come down and he'd bring you something. Maybe he'd give you $10 or he'd buy you a new hat or a new pants and shirt or something, you know. You'd get a well tailed in and your machine ready to move and so forth and them old farmers up there, well, this one in particular, this old man Swarm, he come down there. The man I was working with, old Leonard Gray, he looked forward to them gifts pretty much, you know. So he seen along just before dark, here come the old man down across the field, and he had two big paper sacks. Boy, now I'll tell you, old Leonard he was all whooped up, now he said, "That old man, he's really going to give us something." So the old man come down there. . . . He had one sack full of apples and the other full of popcorn. (laughter) That's all we ever got too, I'll tell you. (laughter) The apples was apples they'd raised. But that was sure a different part of the world up there in that part of the world, for, like I said, it was still old rail fences. It was in wintertime, and like I say--a doghouse,

you know what I mean. A little building on wheels. Just a little one-room building on wheels where you changed clothes and ate. You had a stove in there but they wouldn't get us nothing to burn, see. So I'd get out there of a night or a day, whenever you was a working, and get rails off of them men's fence and chop them up into stove wood, that's all . . .

Q. You mean picket fence?

A. No, rail fence.

Q. Oh, split rail, like Abe Lincoln style.

A. Yes, that's right. That's why I say it was really just a different class of people and a lot of different conditions, now.

Now those people, they was just poor, that's all. They was poor. They didn't have nothing to do nothing with. They was all farmers, but that land was awful poor up there, they didn't have any crops. Oh, some corn that hadn't been shucked by that time. You could tell that it was, you know, awful poor. A lot of it wasn't over three or four feet high and a nubbin on her about that long. It was just a poor country. And like I say, this old man and woman that had this store, why, they might have some pork and beans or something in a can but not much of anything else and that old store was full of old washing machines, where the handle went back and forth like this, and horse collars and harness and stuff of that nature that even then, a lot of them men up there working had never seen much of that stuff, you know.

Q. Sounds like the Beverly Hillbillies.

A. Well that's just exactly--I've thought about it afterwards and it was on that order, see. But those families that got this oil, that was so poor-- and we talked about it a lot of times and watched them that ever really splurged and spent a lot of money foolishly, like the majority of the landowners done in pools where they got . . .

There at Salem there was a man by the name of Young, and he had quite a bit of acreage and the ground there was awful poor too. Where most of that field was in Salem, there was a lot of that country in orchard. A lot of it in orchard. A lot of it was in pear orchard. I never seen, before or since how, a lot of people have a pear tree or two, you know, but they had just pear orchards. This old man Young had one, I expect there was ten acres of it.

Q. Just pears?

A. Just pear trees, and they had the biggest crop that year, oh my, I never seen the like of pears. Great big yellow nice pears, you know.

Q. I love good pears.

A. Yes, and they never gathered them. They begin to get this money, why good night, them pears fell of them trees on the ground till they

was that deep. We would go over there and gather them to eat. It was in November, and it was cold and they was cold and good, and just as ripe, just as soft and mellow, my land, the pears--and this old man Young, he had, I believe three boys, and they just went wild. They just had a fit. And I forget the man's name--the father, anyway I heard--while we was up at St. James, in a years time, this man completely lost his mind and went crazy, worrying over the amount of money that he had and the way these boys was spending it, see. He completely went crazy, died in the insane asylum.

Now, they had deep wells there that made an enormous amount of oil there, but then, oil wasn't very much a barrel. But then their checks was large for that time. And especially for people that had never seen any money in their lifetime.

But now these people up there at St. James, St. Elmo, they just didn't do that. As time went on and they began to realize that this money would be there every month. To start with, this was hard for them to understand. They got a little money now, but that would probably be the end of it, there wouldn't be no more. But after about a years time, they begin to fix their homes and get them a car and stuff of that nature. I was back up there a couple different times after I'd come back here to work. Made some pretty good friends up there, went up and visited once in a while, well, I think twice was all, and they had made them, just comfortable homes, you know.

END OF SIDE ONE

The following discussion took place after a tour of the narrators old childhood community.

A. Everybody would help each other. If anyone was sick, bedfast especially, why the women would go, some woman, would probably go and stay during the day. They'd take turn abouts, and help out, and the men then, somebody, would go and set up at night. Cause you didn't pick somebody up and rush them to the hospital.

You'd go to this neighbor and help butcher or go over to the other one and they'd come to your house. You worked around thataway and the whole neighborhood, you know, in that particular two-mile square and thrash, and if a man had a sick horse, he might come over and borrow a horse and a set of harness, you know, in order to keep his work going. You usually had a extra one. But, go on over west, well on the west side of where Franklin School was, and another two or three mile west, where them people lived and it was--they done everything different, most everything, than what we did in the community where we lived, see. And like you say, your history up there around Springfield would be, lot of it, far as the farmings concerned, a lot of it would be practically the same, the work, but then you have different people and they have different ways of doing the same work.

We would work--you work a team, two horses, or you work three horses or you worked four horses. Or you'd work five or six horses, see, in the neighborhood there where we lived. And over three miles west or south, why, you'd see some of those people once in a while, when you'd go into another neighborhood to a sale or something, see, and that's about the only time you did go. But their hitches, the way they'd hitch up there horses, and the way they'd work them and their harness and stuff, there was always a difference in it you know.

And there'd be different communities where there would just be three or four families that would associate with each other. The rest of the two or three mile square wouldn't have nothing to do with them. See, where in the community in that particular neighborhood--that's like I was telling you today about how everybody called Grandma and Grandpa "Uncle Charley and Aunt Em." In the whole territory around there we would help thrash and butcher and help back and forth--cut wood. And in the spring if it was time to put out a crop, if a man was sick or behind or something, you'd go help him out a little bit. Where other communities, like I say, there'd be maybe three or four families go together and work, the rest of the neighborhood they didn't pay no attention to.

It's just a different--I talk about, well, like Dean Simms. They lived on west of Franklin. He went to Franklin but they lived in another township, another--just a different community you know. And the way we'd hitch our horses and worked wasn't like the way he'll tell about it. If you were going to work two horses or two teams, you had a double-tree, what you called a double-tree, and a single tree on each end of it then, for each horse. And you had two lines, a line for each horse.

Well, if you was going to work three horses you had a longer double-tree and then over here on this end, this long double-tree, what they called a three-horse hitch, you had a double-tree in the end of that, where you had your two horses hitched. Then over on this end, you just had one single-tree, see. But you'd still just have the two lines and drive the two horses. The third horse, you hitched him up out here and used what you called then, a jockey stick. The two horses you drive, then you hitch your third one up out here. And you had a stick, for whatever distance you worked your horses apart, see. You had a ring and snap, just a small pole is what it was, wooden pole. You had a small snap in each end of that pole. You'd snap one end into your third horses bridle and--like you had your line where you guide them to turn them right and left, see. You'd snap one end in his bit, put the other end on the other horses haim and so he had to walk even with your other horse. He couldn't get out one way, or in. You still just drove two horses, see?

And if you was going to work a four horse team, your two horses you drove, you put in the middle. You have your long four horse hitch double-tree and in each end of that, you'd have a double-tree with two single trees on it. You put the team you drove in your middle on your two middle single trees. Then you had a horse--each horse on the outside you just hitched them up and hooked this jockey stick on them, see. And wherever you drove your horse, they had to go. There wasn't no way they could do anything else because you had their bit fastened to the other horses haim, see?

Q. What was the haim?

A. Well, you put a collar on, the haim was part of your--the harness that fit around the collar and you buckled it up tight. Then your tugs fit in your haim and went back here where you hooked on to your single-tree. Granddad had one riding plow that had two plows on it. Where you would work five or six horses. And thataway then, when you done that, you worked five horses on there, you had your three horse hitch, right next to your plow. Then out here in front of these three horses, you run a chain from your plow between your first team here out in front, see, and you'd hitch another team out in front. But thataway, you had to drive four horses, you had four lines, two lines on each horse. You was driving five horses, but you had to drive four of them, just had one on a jockey stick.

But in the different communities people had different ways you could hitch them up. People had different size horses. Granddad always kept--we had bigger horses than just the ordinary, most of the ordinary farmers had. He was a lover of horses, and he like a little bigger horse.

Q. What breed of horse did you have?

A. Well, mostly, mostly Belgian and then, oh, mixed breed of, just horses. In the late twenties they got to shipping quite a number of western horses in. A man would go-stock-buyer like they used to have--at Sumner there was a man by the name of Brian. He'd go out in the west where they'd round these horses up in large bunches and buy them for little or nothing and ship them into, oh, a place like Sumner. He had a regular stockyard anyway, you know, where he'd unload them. Then you'd go in there and pick you out some of them and buy them. Then you had to break them. But they was, they was range animals. Had run out where they hadn't had any care, you know. They had to hunt there own feed and shifted for theirself, and they was tough. They wasn't as big as the most of the horses that was here, but in hot weather--they could do more work. They was just a tougher breed.

Q. Not as husky though?

A. No, they wasn't as big, but if you could get one broke where you could work it, and work it right--now, Dad went up there and bought three, one time and there was two of them that broke out real good, and the other one, you'd have to break it every time you hitched it up. It just--well, they was wild and there was some of them you just never tamed. They had a wild streak in them that, you know, they just never got over it. But when you got them harnessed and hitched up, they just naturally could stand more work and more hot weather than the horses we had here. And the only thing that I could know, or the reason why was, because they had just run wild, just like a wild pack of dogs or something, that go out here and shift for themselves and live, where an animal that--any animal that had been took care of real good, if you turned it loose, it wouldn't be long till it would starve to death or die. They was a lot of good ones and there was a lot that you never could do nothing with. They was just broncos, that's what they was, they was just broncos.

But we just happened that time, Dad got those three, then another time, he got two. He got two grays and they was a little bit bigger. It was just, you know, made a nice looking team. And Harry, my oldest brother--they was shipped into Sumner on just old cattle cars, you know, and he got on a horse that we had there at home and rode into Sumner and they put ropes on them and he tied them to his saddle horn and brought them home. Lead them with the horse he was a riding.

Q. How much would one of them cost you?

A. Oh, from ten to thirty dollars. It would depend on how wild and the size they was, you know. Course I never did know for sure, but I imagine this old boy bought them maybe for, oh, fifty cents or one dollar a piece down there where they rounded them up. Whole bunches of them, I imagine, they'd just round them up and just run them in these cattle cars. Course they kept it up till, well, they just exhausted it.

Q. Just ran out.

A. Yes, the whole thing. They shipped a lot of them into this part or the country. But that's all they was fit for. Oh, sometime you would get one broke out to where you could make a riding horse out of it. If you did, it made a real good riding horse, it made a real good riding horse because they was tough and they could do a lot of running.

Q. I guess they'd be a better riding horse than the big Belgians.

A. Oh, yes. Course they wasn't any good--oh, you could get on one and walk it around, but as far as getting out and running, they couldn't stand that.

And a lot of our horses here was used in the oilfield. But there was a lot of them westerns, shipped in here for a period of time. People finally got tired of breaking them and . . .

Q. I bet that was a lot of work to break one.

A. Yes, it was a lot of work, but then everybody then would have at least two mares, you'd have a colt every year, and you'd have a couple of colts to break and get started to work. Which ordinarily wasn't too much trouble. Your horses here, they just wasn't that wild. And then that's just human nature. Different farmers, different men that had worked horses all their life and broke colts and worked them, they wouldn't admit that they had got a hold of one that they couldn't break and work, you know. (laughs) You know how that would be.

You'd go up to Sumner on Saturday afternoon. There'd be a bunch standing around talking, or at church on Sunday. That's when they got together and done their visiting, you know. Talk about the different ones they got and how they broke out and how they was working. Well, you wouldn't get somebody to say he'd got ahold of one he couldn't break. (laughs)

That went on till, like I say, till they kind of exhausted them. But they got a lot of them in the country and a lot of them was bred to native horses here and you got a bigger animal, but you still would get an animal that was a little tougher and could get a lot more work done in hot weather than the horse, you know that you breed in here. And of course, it was a few years after that, that tractors began to come in and horses was all done away with. I don't know just what would have happened if they would have been shipped in here, well say, twenty years before they was. There was a lot of them that was tough and done a lot of work.

Q. When did you start getting those kind?

A. Well, that was in the twenties, that was in the twenties. Because in the earlier twenties, long about 1923 or so, Harry went to work for the Big Four out there where Dad worked too. And then in 1924 he got married and in 1925 he left here and went to Texas.

Q. He's been down there that long?

A. Yes. He left here, him and Cleo, in 1925, the same year I started to high school. They left here and went to Texas, and he never did come back here to live after that, they stayed down there . . .

Q. What drew him down there to Texas?

A. He had a brother-in-law. The man that married--his name was Dennison, he married Cleo's sister. And he had worked in the oil field here. He was a driller. And he had worked and had some money and he got some backing. He went down in Texas in a place called Cisco. It's a way down in a pretty rough part, or was at that time. And after he got down there, he went to work on tools and they was a drilling down in there and he finally got him a string of tools of his own, see, and he--or his sister did, course she was a wanting some of her people down there too, she wrote and told Cleo that if they would come down there, her husband would give Harry a job. He was out here at the Big Four, he was making, oh, I suppose seventy dollars a month, sixty-five or seventy, somewhere like that. And if he come down there and went to work for his brother-in-law, why he'd make just about twice that much. Working on tools, see. That sounded pretty big, so he quit here. He had just bought a brand new Model T Touring car. He hadn't had it too long when they left here and went down there. He worked for his brother-in-law, then, on tools and they just moved all over Texas. They was out the majority of the time. There are pictures here someplace, if I could find them.

They had a big tent. They had a platform, just wood platform for a floor and that was boarded up from, say, that high, then just a tent over that. Well, they'd go out on these plains and drill these wells. Them men put down those platforms and those sides on them, put your tent up and that's where they lived. They just lived there while they started that well, till they finished it. And he kept that up till 1932. And he got a chance then, to go to work for the Humble Oil Comapny.

At that time, for the Humble Pipeline, they had what they call, camp. What they called a camp, where the company owned--like it was here in a pumper house, in a shack, you lived on the job. They had, out on the edge of a town, they'd have five acres or ten acres and they'd just build that full of shacks, and that where their men lived. So Cleo and Harry, they'd been down there that long, and I think that's the first time, you know, they'd moved in a regular house and had a home. He went to work for the Humble Pipeline and he worked for them from 1932 till 1960 when he had his heart attack and died.

Q. He started there the same time you . . .

A. Same time I started with the Ohio, yes. In 1932. I went down there when he died in 1960, went down there when he died, and I'd just been home two weeks when I had my accident, and that was the last of my work for the oil company. But we both went to work in 1932 and we both quit in 1960.

Q. So they were kind of ahead of us up here on union and stuff?

A. Oh yes. They had the union down there, well, I think his thrift-plan started in 1933. Now they had the thrift-plan, but you had to have a year or more, a certain amount of seniority before you'd get to start your thrift-plan, see.

Now here, where ours was started in 1953 I guess it was, when we negotiated the first plan, you had to have ten years seniority to get six per cent and it went on down to two per cent I think. Then you had to have twenty years seniority before you could get the full ten per cent. But of course, now, I think that's changed. Just like the annuity plan and everything. It was a start, but it was pretty crude when you first organized it and negotiated it. Then as the years went along, course it got better all the time, where everybody could take out six per cent and you didn't have to have so many years of seniority. Ten per cent was all they would allow you, and for every dollar you put in, they put fifty cents with it and if you would leave that there for five years and not touch it, why then, if you wanted to draw it out, you could draw out what you put in, plus what they put in. Or you could just go ahead and just let it build up, clear up till you retired or quit or whatever happened.

Well now, Jess Angle. There was an example of it. He, Jess, probably had twenty-seven or twenty-eight years seniority.

Q. Was he retired?

A. Yes, he was retired. He was the one that got killed in that hunting accident. Well, Patsy was just telling me the other day that his wife told her, she had received his . . . plan, money see, what he had put in plus what they had put with it. She got a check for $30,000. She got a check for $30,000. That's just one example that I know of. So it really amounted to something after--the same way with your pension plan and your vacation and everything, as you come on down through the years.

Now to start with, we got a weeks vacation a year. Paid vacation.

Then the next contract we got two weeks and as it come on down through the years, now, a man, everyman with twenty-five years seniority, gets five weeks. Paid vacation. You get . . . five weeks paid vacation. You get twenty-nine weeks sick leave a year. You get twenty-nine weeks full pay.

Q. Does that build up if you don't use it?

A. No. There is no build up to it. It's not like the government plan, you know. You don't have accumulated days.

Q. It's still a heck of a deal.

A. Why yes. Now I got hurt the 13th day of December, in 1960. They just retired me. But I got full pay until the first of August in 1961, see. Then I was put on the pension. But I had that much sick-leave coming. From the 13th of December in 1960 till the last day of July in 1961. We had come along that far in negotiations with new contracts and new benefits. And now I think, course I've lost contact with what they've done--especially with what they've negotiated in the last five years, but I think a man now, with fifteen years, gets four weeks vacation and a man with twenty years gets five weeks, instead of twenty-five years. I don't know if they've ever changed the sick time or not. The sick time was a pretty good deal.

Now the Texaco over here. They had so much full time and so much half-time. But the men here decided they'd rather have more full time and have all full time. The last I had contact with it or knowed anything about it they was still getting their twenty-nine weeks. I don't think that's been changed. But the number of years you had to work to get your four and five weeks, why your number of years of seniority in order to get that, has been cut back all the time, you know.

All the time you're negotiating, you're trying to make improvements in your benefits you're going to get. Well, that's really about all you're going to come out with, after you've worked quite a number of years, is what benefits you get on your side. Your pension and your social security and your insurance, vacation, savings plan and so forth. If you could get the majority of the men to realize it, it amounts to a lot more than a few cents raise on your wages all the time, you know.

Q. All of those benefits, like the thrift-plan and stuff like that, that was put in at the insistence of the union, wasn't it. It wasn't anything that . . .

A. Well, any company that I ever heard tell of or worked for, they don't volunteer to give you nothing. Now then, the Ohio Oil Company, they even went as far as to tell you so. They'd tell you, and I've heard the big shots say it a many a time, "The Ohio Oil Company is not a going to give you nothing." Course now it's different, there is unions all over the country. Practically any place you'd work. But when we organized you know, the majority of the people, they couldn't understand why you wanted to--well, they called it "working hardships," on a company that was going to raise your wages, and expect the company to help pay them benefits and

and stuff or give you two weeks vacation pay. Boy, I'll tell you, that was an unheard of thing. They was just sure the Ohio Oil Company was going to go broke, you know, in a years time. They just couldn't do that.

But as the years went by, you got more benefits and every report the company sent out, every quarter, they was making more money. They didn't none of them go broke.

But now I do think--course I belong to the union--the working man has got to have a protection. You've got to have a protection. You've got to have seniority rights. You've got to have some kind of a right to demand a living wage and working conditions. But I think, through the years, some of the unions has got a little too stong, in places. I think they've got a little too strong. Where, when we was first organizing and starting, if you could get 60 per cent of your members, 60 per cent of the men working signed up, why, you had a pretty good percentage. Where, now, most of these places, they got 100 per cent you know. And there is a lot of times that the things they demand is, it's getting to where the unions, they're just a getting pretty strong, see. They're a getting pretty strong.

But in the last negotiations, now, with Ford Motor Company, the wage question was the first question that was settled. Then it comes on down to the benefits, which I've always argued that's what it should be, was your benefits for your retirement time. And this last negotiations, that's more what they're a doing now. They didn't have any trouble agreeing on a percentage raise, what they was going to get, but what their benefits was going to amount to. Now, most of them are negotiating a three year contract. With cost of living clause in there as what governs their raise.

Well, they give a three year contract with, oh, say a seven cent raise this year and a six or seven or a nickel raise next year, plus the cost of living. Plus your cost of living raise, which is based on every six months.

But the big question now, or most of their trouble in negotiating the benefits. The working man is demanding and that's one place that--I think, that the unions is a getting a little bit unreasonable, about the amount of holidays and vacation. Now there is some of these places, unions in these big cities, and steelmills and factories and place of that kind, where their vacation and sick leave and holidays take in half of the year, see.

Q. When I was living in Lafayette, the Alcoa Aluminum Company, every fourth or fifth year, they'd get like 90 day vacation.

A. Yes, you see, now like the--well, now even here with the Marathon Oil Company, you'd get five weeks vacation and you get eight or nine paid holidays, and twenty-nine weeks sick leave. That would take up quite a little bit of the year.

And then they're demanding more time off with full pay. That's one of the things, seems to me, that they're getting a little unreasonable about.

You had to work hard and too many hours, but now, a lot of these places are getting to where they don't want to work any hours, or very few hours, which, I like to work a little bit for what I get. (laughs)

But I think, as time goes on, I think now that the wages will be governed a whole lot by the cost of living. But the benefits are--there's going to have to be a kind of leveling off place to them, somewhere, too. You've got to work a little bit for what you get, yes. (laughs)

END OF TAPE

A. That was taken, probably 1920, 1921 before my mother died, because she always had a lot of flowers, and see all that vine and stuff that's growed up there? She done all that, so that was taken, probably in 1920 or 1921. For she passed away in 1922.

Q. Who is that with you?

A. Lenabelle. That's Dad and Lenabelle and me. Yes, that's probably about the time that was taken.

This was probably, oh, taken about in the same time, in the early twenties, because--I can tell by the size of Dad. That's when he was . . .

Q. He looks pretty stout there.

A. Yes. And by the way Brack and Herbert and them dressed, and Clyde Young there. Clyde was older you know, and he's still, oh, not too old there. Yes, and you can tell Chloe. I don't imagine Chloe and Brack had been--let's see, Chloe and Brack was married right after my mother passed away. So they was married in 1923. 1923 or 1924. So that's probably taken along about that time.

Q. Didn't you tell me one time, Brack helped you wire your house and was real good with radios and stuff?

A. Yes. He was a mechanic, but he was also--he understood electricity and the wiring of cars, and when the R.E.A., rural electrification went through, he wired the old house down there which was--it had to be done according to their specifications, but nothing like it is now, you know, you just run a main wire up through the attic and the old upstairs and put in some boxes and receptacles. Dropped a wire down and had a light bulb in it, mostly was all you had, you know.

Q. But you had to do it yourself, they didn't come around and do it?

A. No, they didn't come around and do it. You had to do it or get somebody to do it. There wasn't very many in the country that could do that.

Q. I'll bet not.

A. Cause it was all new. Course they'd had electricity in town and water supply and bathrooms and stuff in the main part of town, sewers. But then even, oh, in--up in the 1940's and even in that house we moved Dad and Grandma into. It didn't have a bathroom in it until after they moved in there. Had to put one in and I dug the ditch and put in the sewer. Well, you know where the house was?

Q. Yes, that was in town.

A. It was in town, but that whole part of Bridgeport and even the westside and the eastside, and there where Pudge and Raymond lives, when Wes and Ida bought that place. They moved in there in 1934, 1935 and lived there till probably 1936, 1937 before we laid that sewer and put a bathroom in there. There was no bathroom in that house. There was no bathroom in the house. We put it in long after they moved in there. I dug the ditch and put it in.

Even way up into the 1940's, we was still pulling wells with horses around there. There was a lot of wells on them town lots, in town. Even there on Washington Street and them there. And when we was still pulling them with horses and the old Iron King, why the alleys was all lined with outside toilets, you know.

West of Washington Street where we had the store and lived, there wasn't very many inside toilets in that part of the town, even up until 1943 or 1944, up in there. Yes, there wasn't too many in there.

This picture, that's had to be back in the early twenties too. You can tell by what you can see of that old car. And the womens dresses. You can see how they was made. And that picket fence there, that was made and put up there when my mother was still alive. Then, course, in later years it was took down, but you can see, that's a good picture of the house. And here's the smokehouse. You can see part of it, or the meathouse it was called, where you kept all your meat. Then in the back of that was the room where they done the smoking. Then this was out here is one of the chicken houses. You can see part of it out there. This is facing south, then north was where the new barn--the big barn that's out there yet, that's where it went.

Now the picture of the old log barn, it's facing south. That's the south part of it. This is the stockwell. But it set east of the house, oh, not too far, out there in the barn lot. On the north side of the house was the kitchen and you come out east of the house, out of the kitchen and come right out towards that old barn, see. That's the way it would be a setting. Then the other barn, where we kept the horses, I don't think there's any picture here of it at all, but it set back north here, see. The horses would come down here and drink and they'd go back past this barn, out here to the other one.

Q. And this was the dairy barn?

A. This was the old cow barn, yes. This was the old cow barn.

Q. You had quite a few out buildings there, smokehouse . . .

A. Yes, and there was two chickenhouses. There was a big one here, and then west of the house there was a big chickenhouse there. Oh yes, there was two big chickenhouses because Grandma kept a lot of chickens and then she'd raise a few turkeys and a few ducks and a few geese and there was guinea's running around there.

Q. Those are strange looking animals. Guineas.

A. Yes. (laughs) We had the different fowls, to have the different kind of meat to eat. And every so often she'd dress a big old goose and cook it.

Q. That picture there looks like maybe, everybody just came home from church.

A. Well, it probably is. Now usually, there was Aunt Becky and Uncle John, they always come to Mt. Zion and they in their later years, they lived in St. Francisville, but they still came to Mt. Zion to church. And they'd always come here for dinner on Sunday. And Chloe and Brack, after they was married, they'd come out there for dinner on Sunday, and course Herbert and Ivy, if they went anyplace, why, they'd be out there. And Granddads two brothers, John and Bert, through the summer months—course you didn't go much through the wintertime, but in the summer months, there'd be several Sundays, they'd be there too. Yes, they were probably just coming home from church because everybody went to church on Sunday all right.

And there is another picture here, another picture, I don't know if we got it here or not, a picture of Grandma and Grandpa. Grandma, she's got a basket in her hand. Which is the basket she always fixed the communion for the church in. Yes, she always did that. You'd see her every Sunday, she'd fix that. This table in here in the front room, that's the communion table out of Mt. Zion Church.

Q. I never knew that.

A. Yes. It set right up against the pulpit and it was square on one side, see.

Q. You mean the one that big Bible is setting on?

A. Yes. That's the old communion table. Yes, Grandma done that as long as I can remember, until finally, there was nobody left to go to church. She done that every Sunday. Well, now west of the houses, where that chicken house was, then on west of it was a big grape arbor. It was a big grape arbor. And she always fixed that grape juice.

Q. Oh, she made it herself.

A. Oh yes. She always fixed that grape juice to have and baked her bread every Saturday, regardless of what was going on or how she felt or anything. She done that, as long as we went to Mt. Zion. We'll look through them pictures again, I think I still got that basket here, someplace. I think so. But she had it every Sunday. That was a have-to case. Yes.

Q. Took it real serious.

A. Yes, yes I'll say she did. And she taught. She taught a class in that church for, oh, I suppose . . . I don't know how many years, more than fifty years, anyway. She taught every Sunday. She taught the class that was—would be eighth grade or high school age. Then Flossie was telling me the other day she's been going down here to the Methodist church.

Q. Who has?

A. Flossie. She's been going down there to Sunday School and he has his prayer meeting on Wednesday nights. Her and Wes been a going, and they like that man awful well and she was telling me the other day that tonight he's going to start a series of classes and talks on "The True Meaning of Christmas." Well, Grandma done the same thing down there for years and years, she done the same thing down there for years.

Now we had big Thanksgivings, big Thanksgiving. Everybody come and had lots to eat and a big time, but then, now, for Christmas, she would start talking of the true meaning of Christmas, through Christmas, see, and that's the way she liked Christmas she didn't care for gifts and decorations and all that stuff that they done.

Now my mother, and Dad—course Dad he was great to have a big Christmas. He wanted to get something for everybody. And my mother, she was thataway and then Chloe was thataway. My land, Chloe, she just wanted to do everything at Christmas. But now, Grandma liked Christmas, but she didn't feel like doing all that was the true Christmas, see.

Course Dad, he understood, and Chloe too. They was both good Bible students and they knew what she was a preaching and talking about, but they still like to have something. Gifts and a dinner.

Course the house, the old house. They'd string crepe paper and make spirals out of it, and they'd have a dozen of them big red bells and you'd have colored popcorn hung around and just stuff—candles—just stuff you'd make to put on the tree. And Grandma, she didn't object to it, but she talked more about the true meaning of Christmas than about going to town and buying presents. (laughs)

Q. You was telling me the other day what a scholar she was.

A. Oh yes. My land yes. They talk about Byron Lewis, all he knew, you know. And he did. There's no question about it. That old house of his, you know where his . . .

Q. Is he still living?

A. No. But he hadn't been dead very long either.

Q. That's what I thought.

A. He come up there at Grandma's and put in, why half a day or a day at a time talking to her. She give him a lot of that history that he passed

on to these universities and books and so forth. She furnished a lot of that, just a lot of it. Not only Byron but, oh my land, there was people that had you know, left here and come back thirty or forty years after that that wanted to know about things that had happened in that time, wanted to run down some of their family history, you know, back fifty, sixty, seventy years ago. Why she remembered people, remembered their names and where they lived, when they died, where they was buried, just such stuff as that.

Q. She'd been there the whole time.

A. Yes. She spent her whole 99 years within four miles of Bridgeport. Within four mile of Bridgeport. And of course Dad, he had a wonderful memory, too. From the time he was old enough to remember, he knew the same people. He remembered where they lived and when they died and so forth. But there was a lot of people that moved away that come back hunting such kind of information.

Well, after her hip give away, then she was in bed, and then got where she could walk again, and so forth and do her work. But Fahnestock doctored her. He went there to see her. And he'd go there, oh, once every two weeks or so. That's the way he said he relaxed. He'd just go there, just go in, set down, take his coat off and just, you know, just start talking. And Roy Rucker did too. Roy'd go and talk to her.

But now Granddad, he was, well, he had a harder time in his younger age. His father died when he [Granddad] was young, and back at that time, the oldest son was more or less--in a case of that kind, he took over, see. And he had younger sisters and brothers that had to be took care of, and his mother.

Q. So he must have been born about the same time as Grandma?

A. He was two years older. She was born in 1860 and he was born in 1858. There was just that much difference between them.

Now Granddad was just the type of a person that, well, he had worked hard and had to save in order to help take care of his brothers and sisters till they got up, and until he was married and gone, see. And he never got over that. He never got over that working and saving.

Now Grandma's father--her mother died young--and her father lived to be pretty old, well, we seen his tombstone. Marshall Stivers, you know. But he was the type of a man--now, she said, that was the only trouble that Granddad and her father ever had. He was an invalid for years.

Q. Her father was?

A. Yes. And Grandma took care of him, and she said that was the only trouble that Granddad and her father ever had, the only words they ever had. Now he [her father] like to read. He wanted to read every book that he could get a hold of. He never stopped reading and studying, and if they'd get a little money saved up--and at that time the way Grandma

told it, book salesmen would come through the country.

Q. Come to your door?

A. Yes. They'd come to the door and--well, even when I was small. I can remember when your McNess man and Raleigh, the man would come to your house in a buggy and, of course, if he come around noon, you unhitched his horse and watered it and fed it and he'd come in and eat his dinner. Well anyway, if a book salesman would happen to come along, which only happened about once a year, they would, through the summer months, they would make rounds in the country, you know, why, he'd buy a book or two, and Granddad he just didn't see no use in spending that money thataway you know, it come too hard. But he just never—that's the reason I say, I think Dad's memory his ability to remember and learn like he did, it come from the Stivers side all right. There is no question about it. Course Granddad, he read the paper and went to school what he could, but he believed you better get out and work instead of setting around reading after you got old enough to work. (laughs) That was the difference.

Now Granddad had one sister that married a man in Olney by the name of Hart. You heard me talk of Charles Hart. You remember when you went over there to college I told him to . . .

Q. To take care of me.

A. Yes. Well, that's the connection. She married a man by the name of Hart and they lived in Olney. Now he was a smart man in his way. Now he didn't believe--and he didn't either, he didn't go out and work 10 to 12 hours a day on the farm or in the factory or for somebody else. He could make a living without that. Now Granddad (laughs) he didn't like him and he called him lazy and all, because he didn't do that. But the man had the ability to see ahead. I've went to Olney with Grandpa and Grandma in a horse and buggy, back that far, see. Then afterwards, when I got big enough that I could drive, I took them over there in the Model T. But, even at that time, that man was grafting two kind of apples in the same tree and peach and apples in the same tree and grapevines and stuff like that. He could do that.

Well, at that time, there was a good many wealthy people in Olney. The Webers, the shoe factory. There was always some business in Olney. Now he'd take his lawnmower in the summertime, his wheel barrow and his rake and he took care of these peoples yards. And he made garden for them and he'd graft fruit trees for them and work on their grape arbors and all that kind of stuff. Actually, in a days time, why he'd make a couple dollars or so. At the end of the week, why, he'd have more money that Granddad would working on the farm, the way he was a working all the time. He was making some cash all the time, see.

He had a boy and a girl. And of course, the boy--Charles Hart's father--that was his son. Then he had a girl that married a man by the name of Birner. That's the way we're relation to William "Bill" Birner, see, there in Olney. They're ancestors of Granddad's sister.

Now he was just the finest old man that you ever seen in your life. He could make a good living thataway, see. It was just the difference between the two men. Why Granddad wouldn't no more of took a lawnmower and a wheelbarrow and went down a street to somebody's house and worked, see? He'd get out in the field and drive horses and work thataway. Where, that old man there in Olney, he seen where he could make a good living that way. That's what he done. And he done it as long as he was able to work. Oh, he had a little shop, course, then we just had push mowers, and he'd sharpen peoples lawnmowers and knives and shears and scissors. He was just that kind of a man. But he had the ability, he made a good living, and wasn't out, you know, like we was a doing (laughs) working 10 to 12 hours a day in the dust and the dirt, putting up hay and all that stuff. But, in Grandpa's estimation, he was a lazy no-good. (laughs) Because that was the way Granddad was raised and taught and the way he had to do and, of course, that's the way we done as long as we was at home and working. Even up the last spring he lived, he [Granddad] put out a crop.

Q. He was in his eighties wasn't he?

A. 86. He worked at it. Now I lost it somewhere, but I'm going to write to the Prairie Farmer and see if I can get one. In the spring that he was putting out his crop, Prairie Farmer [magazine] come down there and took his picture. He was plowing right down there along the lane. He was 86 and he had one horse 24 and one 26. He was a farming! And they come down there and took his picture and it was in the Prairie Farmer and told about what he was doing and how old he was and how long he'd farmed. But I lost it someplace, but I see people writes into Prairie Farmer for information in different papers, you know.

Q. I'm sure you could get it.

A. I think I can. If I can get it, why, I'm going to send and get me one.

Q. That would be a nice one to have.

A. Yes. Keep that.

Q. Had a horse 26 . . .

A. One 24 and one 26 and he was 86. But, like I say, he wouldn't quit and set down. Then he got, along later in the spring, I helped finish the crop. I'd go down of an evening after work and on Saturday.

But I went down there one evening, went right from work. I didn't come home. We had moved in town then, but I was still working down there, helping with the farm and the crops. So I just went from work right down there. I went into the house and Grandma said, "I'm worried about," she always called him, "Charley." And he was a walking with a cane and he just couldn't hardly get around at all. But west of the house where the woods was, was the hog pens and individual hog houses where the sows had pigs, and he knew it was time for a sow to have pigs, and he took his cane and he'd got down there to the woods. The sow had had pigs in the hog house. It was low, see, and just a door for the sow to go in and out, you know what I mean.

Q. I seen those low roofed hog houses.

A. Yes. Well he'd got down there and looked in there and he seen the pigs and he wanted to count them and he crawled in the hog house, and while he was in there the sow came back! When I got down there the only thing that saved him from the sow eating him up, he had his cane. And she'd stick her head in there and he'd whop her on the nose and she'd get back. But when I got down there, she wouldn't let him out of the hog house and he wouldn't let her in, of course. (laughter) And that's the way he was. So I got a club and drove her off and he crawled out and I got him back up to the house, but that was his last trip. But that was just what was going on. He'd got down--and he knowed better than to do that--but he just wanted to get in there and count them pigs, you know.

Q. Those sows get pretty ornery.

A. We didn't keep them up and take care of them and handle them like we do now. They was a whole lot more on the wild side. They wasn't the breed of hogs like you have today, you know. Especially when they had pigs. Now, it didn't pay you to fool around in there without something in your hand.

Q. But he kept her warded off.

A. He had his cane. And when she'd start in the hog house, he'd whack her over the nose, you know. That's what you do--the way you stop an old sow or any hog. She'd back up and stand about so long and then she'd try it again, you see. But she wouldn't get back far enough for him to get out. But I got him out of there then and he got back up to the house, but he didn't try that no more either.

But that's just the difference in the . . . well, the way they seen things or the way they was raised. Like I say about this old Mr. Hart. He could see a future in fruit, vegetables, and grafting these different fruits on the same vine or the same tree. Which, it was a long time after that, of course, when they come up with dwarf fruit trees, and they've got two or three different kind of apples growing on the same tree. Well, he had that back in 1919 and the early 1920's. That old man was doing that then, right there in Olney. He had the ability to do that, he knew how to do it, just fooling around and found out how to do it. And that's just the difference between, oh you know, the way they looked at the future, or the ability they had. I've heard Dad tell about, Grandma's father was the same way.

Q. He was like C. W.?

A. No, he was more like Hart. He was different though, in that he read everything he could and learned and he predicted different things that would happen in the future by what he read, and what the Bible said. And Dad said he could well remember he would talk about--course, he didn't call it airplanes, but they would be a time come when people would be traveling around in the air. And of course, at that time, electricity and different things that he talked about, a lot of people then thought he was crazy, you know. But it all did come true.

But if you know where to find it in the Bible--like this big old Bible I've got in here with references and dictionary and all that stuff, it'll tell you in there, too. It don't say it in them certain words, but then it's to that effect.

Q. Yes, I've seen tracts before, where it had certain prophecy and shows you what page you can look it up, regarding airplanes . . .

A. Flight, and such stuff. It's in there and that man read it and he had the ability to read it and understand it and of course, Grandma, she inherited it and Dad did too. Yes, it was just a difference in the people. Like it is now, course they got so much different electrical stuff to go by, scientist do and so forth. But then, that was just what he read and interpreted and took from different scripture readings out of the Bible, you know.

Q. Didn't you tell me one time Leavitt took you to a faith healer, here in town that cured your foot?

A. That was an old man he lived way out in the country, he lived in a log house. Yes, his name was Earnst, Abe Earnst. Him and his wife lived in a log house out in the country, even had a dirt floor, had a dirt floor and a fireplace. One room and a lean-to kitchen.

That was in the early twenties and I had aryisyplus in my foot. And it went on for a week, and it didn't get any better, just got worse. The doctors here in Bridgeport just wasn't doing it any good. Course, the folks knew about this man, but they--at the same time, they didn't believe in that stuff, see. But anyway I hadn't had any rest or any sleep for so long and Dad hadn't either. He'd been up every night with me and working in the daytime, till everybody was wore out. So he loaded me in the old Model T and took me over there one night, about, oh, I guess it was nine, ten o'clock. And set me down in a chair, and that old man just set down on the ground, on the floor you know, in front of me, and he just started working his hand over that foot and talking you know, and of course, I don't remember how long it was, it wasn't very long, but Dad said pretty soon he noticed I was asleep, see. And picked me up and put me in the car and took me home. Then, I forget how many hours, it was quite a while though. They began to kind of get worried, I slept so long, see. And that was the end of the pain, and from then on it got well.

Q. You just woke up and it was over?

A. It got well. Yes, that actually happened. Yes, it acutally happened, the old man man could really do that, but at the same time, of course, Grandma and Dad and them, they didn't believe in that faith-healing. Course, we didn't make a practice of--never did go back there again--oh, I went back and visited him, yes. The old man was an old time fiddler, and I'd go over there and listen to him fiddle.

His wife was named Phoebe. She'd put an old iron pot on the fireplace and pop some corn you know, parch it or pop it, something like that. But that's actual truth. That actually happened. I never did know when Dad took me home or anything . . .

Q. You were just out.

A. . . . I didn't know nothing for well, I guess it was all the rest of that night and all the next day and the next night.

q. You were asleep all that time.

A. Yes. Just exhausted. Yes. But it acutally happened. The old man could actually do it too!

Q. Did people go to him a lot?

A. Well, no. Now, you see, the people in that community went to the Mr. Zion Church and they didn't believe in that and he didn't say anything about it, that he could do it or couldn't do it or bragged about it or asked people to come. The old man didn't do that. But if you went there and wanted him to, why, he would. He sure did.

But they was originally from Kentucky. Course they had lived here a number of years, but when they was younger they had come here from Kentucky, and they was real old Kentuckians and hadn't changed. Now you know where Bill Heaths house is?

Q. I'm not sure if I do.

A. Well, as we come . . . Well, you know where Earl and Marge lived? If you went on down south and then to the first road that turns left. Come east up there on the hill?

A. Yes, I know what you're talking about now.

Q. Well right there. Well, that house wasn't there then. Just on east of there, about where that old house sets there now, course that's not the one, that old house was moved in there. But right about in there is where that old log house set at that time.

Q. You'll have to show me that one of these days.

A. All right. Right in there is where the old log house set. That's where they lived. He'd work a day or two now for different farmer's. He didn't do any farming. He hunted, trapped and in the summertime he'd come and help you put up hay or shock wheat, help thrash and stuff like that. That's the only work--and they'd have a big garden and bury stuff and put it away for winter.

But, they never had a car. He had a horse and buggy. But most of the time if they wanted to go someplace, they just walked. All summer long, and actually in bad weather, him and her both went barefooted, yes, they went barefooted. You'd see them going someplace in the summertime down the road, why they were both barefooted. And they both chewed tobacco. Course he raised his tobacco, you know, put it up, dried it, and twisted it and made him twists out of it.

END OF SIDE ONE

Q. You told me one time you felt like you had lived in two worlds. Would you explain exactly what you meant by that.

A. I think what we was talking about then was the change in the farming and the oilfield work. Both of them, see. The work and the working conditions. The farming work especially. Now they, you know, talk about what a drastic change there could be in the future with different kinds of energy and power, but to me, it seems like our big change, what made a difference in the agriculture work, has been in the last thirty years.

We seen that picture of that old tractor setting at the gas pump? Which, that had to be in, well, 1942 or 1943. And in this part of the country that was all the kind of tractors there was and there wasn't much improvement on them for a good while. You pulled two twelve inch plows with it, or two fourteens, that's all you plowed, and that was, oh, at probably two miles an hour. Them old tractors that's all they'd travel. Then, when we begin to take the lugs off and put on rubber tires, you could move a little faster, especially going from one field to another, where you was a moving on the road. Up to now, where the majority of the tractors everybody uses now, nobody uses a tractor much under five plows and from that up to eight. Them old tractors, most of them was listed at 25, 26 horsepower and now there 175, 180 and so forth, and that's--and the type of work they do.

Your picking, shelling, farming so many acres, and the kind of planters. Course then we done all of our planting with just the two-row planter with horses. The first four-row planters that I ever seen used in this country was people just took two two-rows put them together with a frame. And now, why I see a lot of people got 8 and 12 row planters and I see in the new Prairie Farmer there is even 24 row planters.

People talks about the big change that may be in the future but I always felt like we've lived through, I think, a big change too. And I don't think there'll be that drastic a change in the next--don't see how there could be, you know, stuff get much bigger in the proportion of time and the way it has in the last thirty years, I guess, or something like that. We've gone from two plows to twelve, eight, lot of peoples using seven, eight, twelve. And they're using discs that's all the way from eighteen to twenty foot wide. The first disc we ever had, to pull with our horses was six foot wide. And it's went from six to twenty-four (laughs) and such stuff as that.

And it's the same way working in the oil field. The same rigs that we moved, like I say, it took 25 wagonloads with horses, not it's all combined in one unit. You do the same work with an outfit that one truck will move, in probably three or four hours, where before, it took like I say, there was 25 wagonloads and it took three days, if you was just moving a short distance. To take the machine down and move it and set it up again, it would take three or four days at the least. Where now, they have the spudders hooked up where you just back in a truck and hitch on to them and drive off, or a Cat. And when you get it moved to the next location

and set, why, that's all there is to it. You're ready to go to work, see. You can raise and lower the mast and--it's all built together, where these other old machines, when you took them down and moved them, they had to be all took apart. Move so much on wagon and then all put back together again. That's what took all the time. Even your mast had to be took apart. It was old wooden mast, bolted together in the middle. Now they telescope, see. When you laid it down it reached clear across the field you know. You had to take it apart and put one part on top of the other in order for the teams to get it on the wagon and haul it.

So it seems to me like--I feel like, I've lived through both times, the early farming and the farming now, and course I seen how they worked in the oil field before I ever started but I been connected with it since 1925, 1926, and theres been a lot of changes took place since then. And of course, probably there'll be some more.

In the last 20 years, this repressure in the different oil fields and recovery, rather, that's been going on has made an enormous change in what went on in the oil field. The way you produce it, compared to what you used to. The repressure and the electricity, that's what made the big change.

Q. You told me an interesting story once about Grandma. You said that you went to Spring Mill[1] to see some of the old stuff, like the mill, and you said that she told you that she'd seen enough of the old things?

A. I thought it would be just the thing, you know, after I got back and was telling her about it and what I had seen. I said, "Now first Sunday we can, I want to take you over there," you know. She said, "No, you're not a taking me over there," she said, "I've seen all that old stuff and used it that I ever want," she said, "I'll just stay here." (laughs) She had lived with that stuff quite a number of years, you know.

Q. Do you ever feel that way about the old days, I mean things are so mechanized now, do you ever kind of miss the old way of doing things?

A. Oh yes. Course I don't think I'd want to do it every day, but then I think I'd like to just take a pair of horses and a walking plow and go out and, you know, and work at it a little while. (laughs) Yes, but then course, I wouldn't want to go out there like we did, six in the morning, stay till six in the evening six days a week, course, nobody else does now, but I'd like to go back down there in them old fields with the horses and the plow, you know, just go a few rounds, maybe! (laughs)

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[1]A sort of "living museum," much like Clayville, located in Indiana.