

PREFACE

This manuscript is the product of tape recorded interviews conducted by Linda S. Jett for the Oral History Office during the Fall Semester of 1979. Mrs. Jett transcribed the tape and edited the transcript. Margaret Honey reviewed the transcript.

Margaret Honey was born in Newton, Illinois, on May 8, 1884. She attended school in Newton and upon graduation taught school in Newton. She married a farmer, John Honey, who later became a Christian minister. Margaret reveals some insights into the life of a minister's wife.

After her husband's death, Margaret lived by herself until she entered the Lincoln Nursing Home in Lincoln, Illinois. When Lewis Memorial Christian Nursing Home in Springfield, Illinois, was completed, Margaret transferred there where she now resides.

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 views expressed therein; these are for the reader to judge.

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Margaret E. Honey, October 1979, Springfield, Illinois.

Linda S. Jett, Interviewer.

Q. Mrs. Honey, when were you born?

A. I was born in 1884, May 8.

Q. And where . . .

A. In Newton, Illinois.

Q. And what was your mother's name?

A. My mother's name was Mary Jane Stuart before she was married.

Q. And your father's name?

A. My father's name was Perry Reisner.

Q. And how many children were there in the family?

A. There were seven children lived in the family. And my mother had seven children, and she was thirty-one years old when she died.

Q. What did she die of?

A. Typhoid fever.

Q. How did she catch typhoid fever?

A. Well, she caught it from my father, I guess, because he went out and took care of his father when he had it. And when he came back, why he took it. And then she took it from him. Of course, the youngest child wasn't two or three years old. And I don't know whether she was expecting another child or not because they had seven children already, and you could count on them having them about every two years.

Q. How did your father's father catch the typhoid fever, do you know?

A. Well, he went out and took care of his father that had it.

Q. Was this an epidemic?

A. Well, you know typhoid fever is very contagious, and that's how he got it, you see. And, of course, then they didn't know how to vaccinate for it.

Q. How did they take care of the people then?

A. Well, just like anybody else be sick people; they take care of them. And I don't know much about that. You see, I was just a child when that happened, and I didn't know how they took care of them. Only just like anybody else that was sick.

Q. How old were you?

A. Well, I was only eight years old when my mother died.

Q. What do you remember about your mother?

A. About my mother?

Q. Yes.

A. Oh, I remember about one time when we went to some place, to a meeting I went with her one evening. Of course, then they didn't have any electric lights or anything on the streets, no electric lights on the streets or anything. It got dark and when we came home--why I was so proud to be because I had a little hat that had a feather on it. I always enjoyed that so much, and so she took me. And, of course, I had curls then. My hair was in curls and I guess you can see that--I just combed it, washed it this morning and it's kind of bad. I had curls, and I had this little hat on, and she took me with her up to this meeting. I don't know what kind of a meeting it was. But when we came back, oh, it was so dark. I was afraid all the way because we couldn't hardly see to go, you know, because it was dark. And we passed a place where there's a lumberyard there, and we could hear somebody out in the lumber or something, and that scared us too. So that's the only time I remember anything that I ever did with my mother.

Q. Did your mother work outside of the house?

A. Oh, no. She [was] busy with the seven children, why she couldn't work anywhere outside the home.

Q. What did your father do?

A. Why he was a carpenter and a cabinet maker. He made a bookcase, and a chest of drawers, and then he made a secretary, what you called a secretary. It was a top part, you know, where you open out, and the places to put things in.

Q. Okay. Who took care of you after your mother died?

A. Why my father took care of us. My older sister was about fourteen, I guess, and she just went ahead. We all just turned to her. Whenever we'd want to do anything, why we'd have to ask her. Just like we'd ask our mother. And she was very, very wonderful girl, and she died when she was twenty-five.

Q. What did she die of?

A. She had water on her lungs. And I don't know what else. They thought she had T. B. but I don't think she did. But she had water on her lungs.

And I had that on me when I went down to the hospital. Well, I couldn't hardly breathe. I just felt like I couldn't hardly breathe, and so I went to the doctor. And he sent me right to the hospital right away. I had water on my lungs and water on my heart. And I think it must have been like she was. Of course, now they know how to treat it, you see. And so they took me down to the hospital and give me oxygen for about two weeks, and I was there and then I came home.

Q. Well, now, your older sister, did she marry?

A. No. No. She had a boyfriend but she never married. And when she got so she couldn't hardly do anything much, why she stayed with my aunt, Aunt Mary Eck. And this young man roomed there. When she passed away, why, her friends come in--she died at home--and her friends came in. And this boyfriend came over and held her hand until she died.

Q. Did she not marry because of the younger children?

A. No. No. She just hadn't got to a place where she wanted to get married.

Q. How did your father manage to take care of all of you?

A. Well, he just worked so hard and raised a garden and kept hogs and kept horses. And we had two big lots. One big lot and one was south--we had our barn. And down in there he raised some corn and things like that and everything he raised. And he had a nice garden, and he had bees and we got honey. He bought molasses by the barrel and salt. And we used to take our eggs out and put them in the salt barrel because they said they'd keep better in the salt barrel.

Q. Oh really?

A. Yes. And we had chickens, and so we had eggs there to use. And then we had a cow so we'd have plenty of milk. And we had a little orchard up north of the house, and it had apples and peaches on it. That's the way he took care of us.

Q. Did he sell the merchandise or was this just enough for the family to . . .

A. Just for the family. He was just raising it for the family.

Q. So then . . .

A. We butchered hogs and had plenty of meat, you see, that way.

Q. So not only was he a farmer sort of like, but he also built cabinets or . . .

A. Oh, yes.

Q. . . . houses?

A. He had a shop uptown where he worked when he had time. Why, he worked up there in his shop, and he built these things. And I know he built a bookcase. The bottom part of the bookcase was all different kinds of wood there in a diamond shape. And I didn't know what ever become of that. I thought my brother took it. He was my youngest brother, after my father died. We had to get rid of the stuff there. I thought my brother took it but I guess he must have sold it. Because one day I was in Newton, and I was in the feed store, and they had that desk there, the lower part of it. I took the top part and used it, put my books in. It just lifted off, you know, and I could use it. One day they had a sale uptown, and they sold an old lady's things. I bought a table there, a walnut table for three dollars. One of the leaves on that table just fit where they took that off of the top part there. It just fit on there and so I had that. Made me a nice bookcase. My daughter's got it down there now.

Q. Did you live in the country then, when you were children?

A. No. We lived in town. We lived in Newton.

Q. But you were able to have livestock in town?

A. Oh, yes. He had two big lots there, and we had one lot where we kept our cows and pigs and horses and all right in that right across the road from us. We were on one side of the road and they were on the other side. It was between the road and the railroad. Railroad went right close to it.

Q. How did you father get back and forth to work?

A. He walked. We didn't have any other way to go, only walk. Everybody walked then. Why I walked to school when I taught school. I taught there, and I walked back and forth at noon. I don't know, it was five or six blocks to dinner.

Q. Can you describe the house that you lived in as a child?

A. I described it, you know, when I told you that before. It had a front room, and then we had a parlor, what we called a parlor. We didn't use that very much. And it was just special occasions that we ever used the parlor. And of course, when I got big enough to have company, boyfriends, why I would entertain them in the parlor.

Q. Were you chaperoned?

A. Oh no, not always. (laughs)

Q. Did you have carpeting back then?

A. Have what?

Q. Carpeting? Rugs?

A. Well, I don't remember. Yes. We had our carpet, I think, on the floor in the parlor. But engrained carpet in there. And then, of course, in the dining room it was a rag carpet. You know, where they woved rag carpets. You've seen a rag carpet?

Q. Yes. Were the carpeting then different than the carpeting we have today?

A. Oh, yes. Different. Nothing like that then. They were smooth carpets. I don't think we ever had a rug on the floor, what you call a rug then. But I think it was just carpeted, what they called engrained carpet.

Q. And what did you have under the carpet?

A. Well, I don't remember what was under the rest of that room. I don't remember. But I know what they put in the dining room there where the rag carpet was. They put straw under it. But the others I don't think they put that under them.

Q. Why did they put straw under the carpeting?

A. Oh, well you see, we didn't have any pads, you know, to put under it then. There wasn't no pads but that was to make it kind of soft, you know, so the kids could lie down and take a nap or whatever they wanted to. It was nice walking on. I can remember so well walking on that new carpet when it had the new straw under it.

Q. How often did you change the straw?

A. Well, twice a year. In the spring we always cleaned up the house and changed, and then in the fall, why, we put new carpet, and we got ready for winter.

Q. You say your father had bees?

A. Yes.

Q. Were they in the orchard?

A. Well, they was between the orchard and the house, they had a place where the bees were. And he always took care of them. He put a mosquito bar thing over his head, and he always took care of them and took out the honey.

Q. What's a mosquito bar?

A. Don't you know what a mosquito bar is?

Q. No.

A. Well, it's a heavy veil, heavy veiling. Real loose screen, you know.

Q. Did everybody have bees if they had orchards?

A. No. I don't think anybody around there had bees but us. And of course, we had our orchard there. It had apple trees and they bloomed. And the peach trees. Apple and peach trees [are] what they had. And I remember one time they had one peach tree that had early peaches on it. And so I gathered up a basket, a little basket. I thought, "Well, I'd take that out and sell it." I was going to sell it for a quarter. And I had a hard time selling it too.

Q. Why was that?

A. They were nice pretty peaches. They was real pretty, but they were the early peaches.

Q. Didn't anybody want to buy from you?

A. I don't know. People didn't, of course. Everybody was pretty close then. They didn't buy anything they didn't have to.

Q. As children, what did you do for entertainment?

A. Oh, I don't know. We just played around in the yard, and I don't remember anything. We used to play, go out of an evening and the neighborhood children all get together and play different games and playing hide-and-seek, you know. You know what those are. And there's several other games but I couldn't remember what they were, what they called them now.

Q. Did you have dances?

A. No. I never was allowed to go to a dance. One time I did go when my father didn't allow me to go to dances. But one time there was a girl that I went with. They were having a dance where a man was married and they was having a dance for him. He was a cousin of my husband. But he was one of the black sheep of the family, you know. And they didn't have much to do with each other. So I went down there and I danced that evening. They had beer there, but I didn't drink any beer at all. I had a good time. But I told my dad I didn't go. And that was one time I lied to him. I was sorry I did it.

Q. Why didn't he allow you to go to dances?

A. Well, he didn't think that was right. He thought I would get into trouble if you did. Not very many people, very nice people ever went to the dances there.

Q. Were the boys allowed to go?

A. Well, I don't know. I don't remember anything about it whether they did or not.

Q. Did your father remarry?

A. No. He didn't remarry at all. He just kept us until we were all grown. And my brothers when they got older--why my aunt lived out in the

country and they were going out to California. And so one of my brothers went with them out to California. And he was out there in 1906 when they had the big--in San Francisco.

Q. The earthquake?

A. The earthquake. And so then he'd been working with my father, too. He worked with my father when he was a carpenter, you know. And he knew something about building things. And so he got a job and worked in that there, rebuilding San Francisco. And then he studied law afterwards. He was a lawyer out there. And when we were out there, why he took us all around and showed us his big room with all the books. Oh, they had the most books all around the room there. And he went down the crookedest street in California. It just went like this. (Shows a wavy line) And he was past 80 years old then.

Q. Did any of your other brothers learn how to build houses or make cabinets?

A. Well, no. I don't think they did. My brother that went out with my aunt, I forget her name now. Aunt Vic, Aunt Victoria, her name was Victoria Demming. He went out west with them and he worked out there. And I don't know just what he did, but he never did come back again after he went out there. But the other brother that was a lawyer, he came back and he went to New York so he could practice law in any state in the union.

Q. What became of your other brothers and sisters?

A. My youngest brother joined the Army. That is not my youngest but the one next to me. And he went up into Alaska and was up there for a while. And I don't know where because he brought back some little chunks of gold that he'd got and that's all I remember about him. And he married a woman. He came back and visited several times afterwards. But I don't know what, and then he went out to California and he died out in California.

Q. What about your sisters?

A. My younger sister? Well, she was at home there all the time and she got married. And she lived there with my father, she and her husband. And she had acute appendicitis and she died. And something set in there and her appendixes bursted. The doctor she called lived right next up close to them there, but he wasn't our regular doctor at all. And he didn't tell her that she had appendicitis. She suffered so terrible and then her appendix broke and they took her to the hospital. But she died right after she got down to the hospital. And I went down--I was living in West Liberty--and I got on the train and went down. See, they had to take them on a train, and I went down there. I was there when she died.

Q. How old was she?

A. She was just about twenty-five. Both of my sisters died when they was just about twenty-five.

Q. Did you have another sister?

A. One three years older than me and one three years younger. Well, yes, I had my younger sister, Em. That was the one that lived with my father after I was married. And she was the one that helped me when I was married. She had her girlfriends come in and they helped. They made homemade ice cream, and cake, and they served it there after the wedding, after the ceremony. And then about seven o'clock, why we went down to the country in the horse and buggy.

Q. When did you get married?

A. Oh, on the 21st of June. That was the longest day of the year.

Q. What year?

A. It was in June. Maybe I was twenty-two when I was married. (laughs) I remember what year it was. 1906.

Q. Where did you meet your husband?

A. He lived in Newton. He lived in the west end of town and I lived in the east end. And he graduated from high school the year that I went in high school. And I knew of him all the time but I never was very much acquainted with him until one day he and another boy asked a girl and I, Edna Bowers and I, to go down to St. Marie with them. And they had a surrey and we drove down to St. Marie about twelve miles down there and seemed like it--that was about the only thing you could do is to go to a little place like that. You couldn't get around anywhere else, you know, because you had to go with a horse and buggy whenever you went anywhere or else on the train. And so then I went with him that night. That was the first time I ever went with him. And then we dated several times.

Then he went out west with his brother. His brother was fourteen years older than him. And he wanted him to go out with him to hunt and fish. He had to hunt and fish, you know. So they spent two years out where White River is. I think it's way out in Colorado. Out close to White River because they started to go down White River one time. The rapids were so bad that they lost about everything they had. Almost lost their lives.

Then he came back home and his father sent him to a school, to business school down in Harriman, Tennessee. And when he went down there then he graduated from that and he learned to write so good. But my goodness, he got back later on, why he just wrote the same way. And he wrote me a letter when they was out in Colorado or wherever he was. I could hardly read it. He couldn't write very good. But he learned to write very good. He had really nice pen, but he didn't keep it up, you know. It was just like he learned when he was a child.

Q. Why did his father send him to school?

A. Well, he wanted him to have a business education so if he--no matter

what he did, why he'd have something to go on. But his father should have sent him to school right out of his high school, but he didn't do it.

Q. Why is that?

A. Well, the people didn't go to school very much. People didn't go to college very much at that time. It [was] just up to whether that person wanted to go. Not very many young people would care much about going to college then. Because they felt like they had a high school education that was all that was necessary.

Q. Did you attend church as a child?

A. Attend church?

Q. Yes.

A. Oh, yes. My father would always get us ready every Sunday and he'd send us all to Sunday School and Church. But he would stay home and clean up the house. And, of course, you know, after he had had seven children in the house for a week and put them in school, why, it needed a lot of cleaning up. And so he'd just sweep it up and clean, and dust it all, and have it cleaned when we got back home. But he didn't go with us.

Q. What church did you go to?

A. We went to the Methodist Church then. And I never went to the Christian Church until I got to going with my husband. And then he was a member of the Christian Church. And I never was a member of the Methodist Church. I just went there all the time when I was a child, but I never went into the church. And then, when I went with my husband, why, I never heard a Christian preacher preach before. And I didn't know they preached the Bible like that. And so I was really interested in that. But after we were married then, I had my daughter--was just three weeks old when I was baptized. We had to go into Newton--now we lived down in the country then and we drove a surrey twelve miles into town to church. Then that night I was baptized. And my little girl was just three weeks old. And there was a preacher from Palmyra here the other day. And he had his baby with him and it was just three weeks old. And while he was here Margaret came in. And I said, "Margaret, do you know you were just that age of that baby when I was baptized?" (laughs)

Q. Was this in the summer?

A. It was in August.

Q. Where did they baptize you at?

A. In the baptistry in the church. They had a baptistry in the church. In the Newton Church.

Q. How was the church different then?

A. Well, I don't know that it's any different. What do you mean by different?

Q. Well, compared to the church today.

A. Well, it was just like any other church. It was in Newton. The railroad run right beside of the church. So many times when Mr. Honey, after he started preaching there, there would be a train come up and it was kind of a sloop there, you know. They'd just puff and puff and puff. And he'd have to stop preaching until the train got passed. (laughter)

Q. It was that loud.

A. Yes. It was just as close, about that road out here in front of this here, and that was close to the church. (less than a block)

Q. You say you went to school in Newton?

A. Oh, yes. I went to school, and I went to grade school, and I went to high school there, and I graduated there. And when I graduated, we played the Merchant of Venice. I was Portia in the Merchant of Venice.

Q. Was this a school play?

A. Well, it was one of Shakespeare's plays, you know. We just played the trial scene of the Merchant of Venice. There was twelve of us in there, classes. So Ed Gerhart was the Duke. He was the one, and I was Portia. Then Shylock was the one that asked for the pound of flesh. "Take thou thy pound of flesh." I can say part of it now. Harvy Bryan was Shylock.

Q. You have a good memory.

A. Oh, I recite a lot of poems here, now by memory. And I write poetry, too.

Q. How long did you attend school?

A. Well, I didn't graduate until I was, well let's see. I must have graduated when I was twenty. I was just barely twenty when I graduated.

Q. Did you go all year round?

A. Oh, no. We had summer vacation just like they have here. Just like they have now.

Q. When it snowed in the winter and got very bad, did that prevent you from going to school?

A. Oh, no. We always had to go to school no matter what happened. They always cleaned off the walks, you know, so you can go. And we always walked to school. That's the only way we could go. They never had cars then. Why, when I had my hand hurt, I walked clear down about four or five blocks to the doctor, after this happened here.

Q. How did that happen?

A. Well, dynamite cap exploded in my hand, took these three fingers off (thumb, index finger, and middle finger of left hand). I was just holding it, and I picked it with a hair pin. I didn't know what it was. And I saw something white down in there. I just took a wire hair pin out of there, and just stuck it in there, and it exploded.

Q. Was this during school?

A. I was in the sixth grade. And the children all rushed out and nobody knew what happened until they saw me. I was the only one hurt. I was holding it up like this, you know, and looking at it. And the doctor said if I hadn't been a distance, why the power would have probably killed me.

Q. How did you react?

A. Well, I was all right. My face looked like it had the measles, but it never left any scars or anything on my face.

Q. Did they take you to the doctor?

A. Oh, yes. A high school boy took me to the doctor. He walked me down there.

Q. What did they do for your hand?

A. They had to clean it all off and wrap it up, you know. Bandaged it. This here finger (ring finger) was just hanging there almost by its skin, and they saved it. I told them if they could just save that finger for me. They did. I don't know what I'd done with it then.

Then I fell. One day I was coming out of the kitchen door there in Rochester, and I fell. No, it wasn't when I was coming out of the door. I'd been to church and Delbert Taft always took me to church after Mr. Honey had passed away. We lived up north of the church quite a ways and so I always rode with him. So when he came back to bring me home, why I said--now there was a drive right along the north side of our house there. But the neighbor had a drive, and I said, "Just drive right in there," because it was kind of up a hill to drive up to my drive. And I said then, "I'll just get out and walk around to the kitchen door," because I didn't lock the kitchen door at all when I'd go away. I never locked it at all. And so I went to go up there, took hold of the door--and the screen was hard to pull. My hand slipped off of it, and I just fell backwards off there. And all that hurt me was this finger, and I had a big fur coat, and I had a fur hat too. And I happened to have it on that day, and that's the only time I wore it that winter. It was so heavy to wear. So I didn't wear it very much. I still have it.

Q. But it saved you . . .

A. Oh, yes. I don't believe if I had that on, I don't know what would have happened to me. But I just went right backwards and it was three

steps down on the concrete. I hit my head on the concrete. I think I just must have passed out when I started to get down. I just passed out I guess. And then when that hit me on the head, of course, I had this fur hat on and that saved my head. So I called the neighbor then after--well, I went in the house, and I looked around. I fixed me something to eat, and I ate my dinner. And so then I called the neighbor and asked her if she had an ice bag. And I said I hit my head and I'd like to put an ice bag on it. So she came over and she had some ice in a towel. And she said, "I didn't have any ice bag, but I brought this ice in a towel and I'll put that on your head. Then I'll go and fix you some dinner." And I said, "Don't fix me any dinner. I've already had my dinner." (laughs)

Q. But you were okay, then?

A. Yes. And then after I'd laid down and went to sleep a while, why then I was all right. It didn't hurt me too bad. But I could remember it now, that when I hit my head down on that concrete too. And that was when I was there in Rochester after Mr. Honey passed away.

Q. When you went to school, did you have a one-room schoolhouse?

A. No, no. We had up to the eighth grade. Each grade had a room. And I taught the fourth grade.

Q. And you had a high school?

A. Yes. The high school, it was up in the same building, up high. They had a high school up there. Of course, then not very many people. We only had twelve in our class. We had the biggest class they'd had for a long time.

Q. And you had twelve?

A. Yes.

Q. What kind of subjects did they teach you?

A. Oh, just regular subjects. Reading, writing and arithmetic. You had to take language and geology and algebra and things like that. And Latin. We studied Latin, too.

Q. When you were at home, did you have chores to do?

A. Chores to do? Well, I should say. When I was at home, I was about the head of the home then. And I had to do everything that was suppose to do. My father always hired the washing done. There was some people that lived down by the railroad, and they would wash my whole basket of clothes for a dollar. And so he had the washing done. And they bring it back, and we had to iron it. And of course, then you had to iron everything. You didn't have anything that you didn't have to iron. All your clothes, dresses and everything that you had, why you had to iron everything, the boy's shirts and so. We had those old fashioned irons, you know. You had to put them on the stove to heat them. And then we had to walk in from the kitchen where we put it on the stove, and then they had to walk in the dining room to do our ironing.

Q. Did you have a board to iron on?

A. Yes. I had a board but it was just a regular board. Put between a chair and table, chest there that we had built there under the window. See our kitchen was added on to the house after it was built and there was a window right in the window. They just left that window in there in the kitchen into the dining room so you could pass things in across there.

Q. Did they have machines to do the wash?

A. No, I don't think so. I think they just washed by hand, by board.

Q. With a scrub board?

A. Yes.

Q. Was this the only thing that your father had hired to do?

A. Yes, that's the only thing.

Q. And you say you became a teacher?

A. Yes.

Q. What qualifications did you have to have?

A. Well, I came right out of high school and taught school. I didn't have any extra education at all. I took an examination to see if I would pass to be a teacher and I passed. And so then I got this school up at Point Pleasant. I taught at Point Pleasant for two months and that was a summer school. They begin summer. After the school was out there, their school started in there and it ran for two months. And so I taught that.

Q. What grade did you teach?

A. Taught all grades. That was just a regular country school, you know. And you had to teach all grades.

Q. Was that a one-room schoolhouse?

A. One-room schoolhouse, yes.

Q. And that was for the summer?

A. Yes. That was summer school.

Q. Where did you live when you taught?

A. I lived with my cousin up there, up by Hidalgo.

Q. And where did you go after you taught at Point Pleasant?

A. Well, then after I came back, I went over to Indianapolis with my

sister. My older sister was sick. She thought she'd go over there and take some treatments. And she had that water on her lungs, and they tried to draw that water off. But they didn't do any good. When we came back then in March, why she died. We wasn't back very long until she died.

I got a job then to teach. I applied for a job at the post office. The postmaster lived right next door to us, and so he told me he thought I could get the job. And so I applied for the job but, then I got this job at teaching school and I didn't work at the post office here.

Q. And this was back in Newton?

A. Yes, that was in Newton.

Q. What grade did you teach then at that time?

A. I taught the fourth grade at Newton. That's all I taught. I just taught one year.

Q. Why is that?

A. Because I wanted to get married. And my husband gave me a ring at Christmas time so we decided that as soon as my school was out, I'd get married. And so that was one reason we had to wait until the 21st of June before we got married.

Q. Because that's when school was out?

A. Yes. School was out.

Q. Why didn't you go back and teach school?

A. Because they didn't allow married teachers to teach then. They didn't have married women to teach then.

Q. I see. How did you get back and forth to school?

A. I walked. I walked back. Let's see, one, two, it was about five or six blocks.

Q. And you say you walked home at noon . . .

A. Oh, yes. Walked home at noon and then walked back. When I graduated from high school, my father gave me a watch. And so then I was going to school one day and it was one of those you pinned on here (points to dress) and it hung on this there. And it come unpinned and fell down, but it never hurt the watch at all. One edge of it was kind of barred in, but it didn't hurt it at all.

I went to school one day. The train was across the road and I crawled under the train. An old man caught my hand just in time to pull me across as the train started up.

END OF SIDE ONE

Q. Did you have courting?

A. Well, I said I [was] with a number of different fellows during the time before I got married, before I selected the one that I wanted. (laughs) And oh, I don't know. We used to date. They used to take you out buggy riding and things like that, you know. And then when we--if anything's going on or going to church, sometimes they'd take you to church. I remember I went with a fellow by the name of Perry Whitson. He got too friendly and I didn't want to have anything to do with him anymore, so I wouldn't go with him anymore. You know how these boys are. (laughs)

Q. How are they?

A. Oh, Lord. They take advantage of you if they can.

Q. How did your husband court you?

A. Well, he just come to see me and he took me down to Lilly Pond. We were going down there and he said he'd show me how to shoot a revolver. He had a revolver. And so when shooting it, he was shooting at a tree or something, I don't remember what now. But I shot this revolver and it hit the tree. No, it hit a fence post, a board on a fence. Then it glanced back and hit a tree and come back and hit me right here. (points to chest) But it had lost its strength by that time. But it went clear around that way and come back.

Q. So you weren't hurt?

A. No, I wasn't hurt at all. He said, "We'll not shoot anymore." (laughs) And I know one time when we were coming home, we was out buggy riding and we was coming home. Of course, he always liked to hug you up, you know, a little bit. And another man come along, and he saw us in there. He said, "Oh, my." He didn't want anybody to see him. (laughs)

Q. Was he shy?

A. Yes, he was kind of backwards.

Q. How did you pick the man that you wanted to marry?

A. Well, I don't know. It just seemed like that when you find the man that's true, why that's the one you want. You know yourself.

Q. How did he propose to you?

A. Well, he just--we was just going together and he said, "Well, why don't we get married?" Well that's just about all he said. And so then I said, "Well, we have to wait until school's out. I couldn't get married before school's out." So we waited then until June before we got married.

Q. Where did you live when you got married?

A. Well, I went down after my wedding, and we drove down to West Liberty where there's a house there north of West Liberty where his father and

mother lived. And so we lived with them then. Because he was working in the orchard, you know. And his father had given him eighty acres of land, and it had a house on it. But there was a man living there. We had to wait until he could get off there, before he got another place to go, before we moved over there. And we had two children before we went over there. There was only fifteen months difference between my two older children. My children were all close together. I had them all at once. The quicker the storm--The harder the storm, the quicker the rest.

Q. I've never heard that. Did you have a honeymoon?

A. Have what?

Q. A honeymoon.

A. Well, we went up to Chicago. No, I didn't have any honeymoon. But it was later on we went there. He worked for the Ice and Cold Storage Company before we were married, and so he bought apples out in New York for the Cold Storage Company. And so then the next year after we were married, why they wanted him to come again and buy apples. And he had a little farm and had raised a little crop of corn or something. And he said, "Well, I think I'd better stay and take care of my farm." And so his father went in his place. And so they lost money on his--when his father went. But they made quite a bit when John was buying apples.

Q. So he was a good businessman?

A. Oh, yes. He was a good businessman. Of course, he'd had business education anyway. And I always been sorry afterwards because I always wanted to go to Niagara Falls because that was the route he went out, close to Niagara Falls where he bought apples. And I never got to go until after he died. Then I went to Canada with my two grandchildren and we came back by Niagara Falls.

Q. So you finally got there?

A. I finally saw them, yes. Yes, I wanted to go to Niagara Falls and I wanted to go to Hawaii. And I went to all those places before I got so I couldn't go at all.

Q. And now you finally moved over to the farm that his father gave you?

A. What?

Q. You finally moved to the farm?

A. Oh, yes. We finally moved over there and then we went into the dairy business. And his father bought him a cow, a Jersey cow from the Isle of Jersey. It came from the Isle of Jersey. And it was a beautiful cow. And so we had a dairy, we had mostly Jerseys and that's what he milked.

Q. Why did he buy a Jersey cow?

A. Because he liked them best. It was such a pretty cow. And it was a good, the Jerseys were a good breed of cows.

Q. How many cows did he have?

A. Oh, we had as much as twelve at a time that we milked.

Q. How did you milk your cows?

A. We milked them by hand. And he did most of the milking. Our oldest boy milked some. And I milked some but not very much. I didn't milk very much. We had a separator and we separated our milk and sold our cream. And that's the way we made our living.

Q. Where did you keep the milk?

A. Well, we always separated it when it first came in, you know. I don't remember. We didn't keep it more than one time of the day. Every time we had milk, why we had some fresh milk, you see. And we didn't have to keep it very long.

Q. You didn't have to store it then?

A. No. When I was younger and I told you about the place where we had water out there outside the house--kind of a trough along there with a lid over it. We kept our milk in there and he kept water running through there all the time. We could pump water and let it run through there, you know. Or have water in it so it kept the milk cool.

Q. Did you churn butter?

A. Oh, yes. I churned all the time. And one time I had a big barrel churned. I don't know whether you ever saw one or not.

Q. No.

A. Well, they were about this long and about this big around (24" x 12") and they just turned over and over and that's the way you churned your butter. And I had a lot of cream in there and one of the kids came along. I don't know, the lid came off and it all went out on the floor.

Q. So you lost . . .

A. All that cream, we lost all the cream. The worst job was cleaning it up. (laughs)

Q. Did you raise a garden then?

A. Oh, yes. We had a garden, nice garden. We always raised our vegetables. Because people couldn't get fresh vegetables when I was growing up. You couldn't go to the store and buy fresh vegetables at all.

Q. So you had to grow them?

A. You had to grow them if you got them.

Q. How did you store them?

A. Well, we couldn't store them very much. Unless we had a cave or something like that to put them in. You couldn't store them. You just had them during the growing season. You didn't have vegetables all year around like we have today.

Q. Did you have potatoes?

A. Potatoes. Oh, yes. He raised potatoes. He raised all our potatoes that we ate.

Q. Did you store your potatoes then?

A. Well, yes. He kept them in a bin up there, in the kitchen.

Q. Did you can?

A. Oh, yes. I always canned a lot of stuff. Yes. We always canned a lot of stuff. That's the only way you could have our stuff, keep it, you know, to can it. You never froze things then. You never. I had a fireless cooker, and I could heat these big irons and put them in the fireless cooker. Then I could put food in there, meat or anything I can keep in and just chicken or anything. It just baked, just cooked it fine. Just put it right in there on that iron, and that got enough heat in there to cook it.

Q. Can you describe your house?

A. My house?

Q. That you lived with your husband on the farm?

A. Oh, on the farm. Well, we just had, let's see, four rooms. There was just four rooms to start with. There was two bedrooms, and then I guess you call it a living room, and then dining room and kitchen was together. And then my father came down when my youngest son was born while they were down there. He came down there, and he and my youngest brother Fred built another room onto the house. It was kind of like an "L" like this, you know. They built a room in there, so I had a living room in there. Then I used this other for a dining room. When I had company I didn't use it very much because we had to eat in the kitchen most of the time.

Q. Did you have electricity at this time?

A. No, we didn't have any electricity. We never had any electricity. No, we never had any electricity when we were living on the farm at all.

Q. What kind of lights did you have then?

A. Well, just had lamps, just lamps.

Q. So you had a hand pump for water?

A. Well, we had a little--the cistern was right over here, and then they had it brought in and pumped water in the kitchen. And had, you know, what you have in front, where you pumped the water in.

Q. Like a sink?

A. Yes, sink.

Q. How did you take your Saturday night's baths?

A. Well, we always took a bath in the tub. Always got the tub of water and my children all three a bath in the same water.

Q. So you had to carry the water out when you were done?

A. Yes. Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

Q. Did you have indoor toilets or . . .

A. Oh, no, we never had any--after we left the farm, after I had charge of it, I had them put a toilet in the house there. Then it just cost so much to keep it going. I told them that if they lived there they had to keep it up. I wasn't going to pay for anything to fix up the house. And if they wanted to live in that, they could just keep it going.

Q. What kind of crops did you raise on the farm?

A. Well, just corn and oh, I don't know. Wheat, they had wheat then and, I don't think we raised very many beans then.

Q. What did you feed your cows?

A. Well, we fed them silage. We had a big silo up--we had a big round barn down on the farm. And we had a big silo up in the middle there. The men would come in and help them to cut the corn, you know, and put in. That'd make the silage. And I know my kids told us, me afterwards, I didn't know it at the time. If I had I'd been scared to death. Because after the silo'd get clear down, you know, would get about empty, they run across some boards across the top of the silage. If they'd fall down in there, why, it'd kill them right now. I never did know they did that. But one day we were talking about it when we was down there, and they was telling me how they used to do that. (laughs)

Q. That's the way they do though.

A. You know how kids are. They'll do things that you never think they'll do. But they didn't have anybody to play with. They played by themselves. They had a goat and she had a kid, this goat did. And so one day they hitched it up to a little wagon that they had. They just drove that little kid goat until it died.

Q. Oh.

A. It was too much for it. The old goat was all right but the kid wasn't.

Q. Did you milk the goat?

A. No, we didn't milk it. No.

Q. What good is a goat?

A. Well, just to play with, for the kids to play with. They had something to play with, you know. They used to ride the cows. We had a cow that we called Elsie. We had a young bull, and John always rode the bull, and Maynard would ride the cow. (laughs)

Q. How did you farm? Did you have machinery or did you have horses?

A. Oh, they had horses and machines. They had horses. All the farming was done with horses. One time our barns caught on fire, and it was right out west of the house. And I was there, Mr. Honey had gone to preach somewhere. He'd always go on Saturday evening and preached Saturday night and Sunday morning and Sunday night. And so he'd had gone to Bogota to preach. And while he was gone, why, I was--we all slept over in the east part of the house. Well, one night when the moon was shining real bright, why I looked out and saw somebody coming up the lane. And I couldn't imagine who it was. I was kind of scared, you know, being there by myself because we lived a half a mile from anybody. And so, I got up and walked in the dining room, and the barn was all on fire. And this man had seen it and he'd come down there. And he came in and he said, "Is there anything that I can do to help?" And I said, "Well, maybe you could get some machinery out of my machinery shed." But on the other side was a second barn down there. It had all the machinery in it. And he said it was all on fire too. So it's no use to even try it. And then the round barn caught on fire, but some men got up there with wet sacks and put it where it burned up on top, and put it out.

Q. Did you lose any animals?

A. No, everything was out in the field, but we lost all the harness and all the machinery that we had. They didn't have a halter to put on the horse. We had built a garage out in front of the house and it was away from the--our car was in there. But we had a new buggy and Mr. Honey--we'd just pulled it in that day, buggy in the shed just before he left. He went by horseback. That was it. He was on horseback. But I think at that time, why, he was going on the train somewhere to preach. And so we took him in the car and brought the car back and put it in the shed. But it was away from the barn, and the wind was in the south. And that over in front of the house. The house faced the south, but the wind was in the south and it blew that way, you see. Because it was out west of the house, the barn that burned.

Q. Did you rebuild your barns then?

A. Well, not until after we moved away. Then we rebuilt the barns for the man that lived on the farm. He farmed it.

Q. When you were on the farm, did you have hired hands?

A. Oh, yes. We always kept a hired hand.

Q. And where did he live?

A. Well, he didn't stay there at night. But I had to feed him all the time. But he lived just about a mile west of us.

Q. What kind of meals did you serve?

A. Well, I know Mr. Honey was a great hand for breakfast foods. He always liked shredded wheat. And he ate so much shredded wheat, and so he wasn't hard to cook for, you know. But the hired hands always like to have meat. He always liked to have something out, and if he didn't have it, why he'd growl about it. And so I just cooked regular meals. We had potatoes and gravy and so on like that.

Q. Did you help much with the outside work?

A. No, I didn't do very much. Only just help him out in the--milk the cows or something like that. I looked after the garden. I tended the garden. We raised our beans and all the things that we needed in the garden. Then I canned beans, of course.

Q. How did you buy food at that time?

A. Well, they had a store down at West Liberty and we always took our cream down to West Liberty. There was a place there where you could sell your cream. And they had a nice store there, but then, you know, that store burned down. And they had a nice restaurant and it burned down. And Mr. Honey, when he first started preaching, why there was a church right south of where his folks lived. They didn't have very much people that attended there at all. It was a Methodist-Protestant Church. That's what it was, Methodist-Protestant. And so his first sermon he preached, he preached in that Methodist-Protestant Church. But he preached the Bible and they didn't like it. So they told him he couldn't preach there anymore. So we rented a hall uptown then. There was a hall there had some business houses. We had this hall up there; we had our services there for a long time. And then it burned down one night. Some of the men that was in there, they said some of the men went in there to play cards, and our church burned down then. Burned up everything we had in there. And later on the store burned and then that restaurant burned. So there isn't anything left in West Liberty now. There's a post office. I think they've got a post office there. But it was a pretty thriving little town at that time when we was down there.

Q. Well, how often did you go to town to buy your food?

A. How often did we go? Well, when we lived on the farm, we could go to that little store there. They had everything. They just had everything there that you could buy. And it was only just about two or three miles from us.

Q. Would you go in a wagon?

A. Yes, we'd go in there. Yes, we go'd in there and go in the buggy or whatever you was going to do to--I know one time they had lots of apples

out there in the orchard and so the frost came. Freeze came, you know, and a lot of them--when he'd sell his apples, he'd sell them right on the tree, you know. And then they would pick them. And so there'd be lot of apples that was left there that was perfectly good, but they didn't want to take them and store them, you know. And so one time Mr. Honey got a load of them, picked up a load of the apples and went down to Olney and sold apples out. You know, like I could go around to places and sold apples out. We did most everything we could to make a little money. We didn't have much then.

Q. Did the First World War affect your life on the farm?

A. Well, no. But I know when he said that he would like to go to the war, but he couldn't because he had his family he had to look after. He couldn't go to the war. He used to be in the militia. And he was in the militia for years and years when he was young and growing up. You know what a militia is, don't you?

Q. Yes.

A. Well, that's what it was.

Q. Were they active?

A. Well, whenever they were called out. One time they were called out to go to Carterville, down in the southern part of the state where they were having trouble down there with the Negroes in the mining part. So they were called out then. They had to go down there and stay for a while. And that was when he was in high school. And so he had to go down there with a bunch of them and he came back. He had to make up all his work, school before he could graduate.

Q. Did he tell you about his experience with the militia in southern Illinois?

A. Well, he said one time that a man offered him a cigar. And he said, "I just thought well if I start smoking, I'll always be smoking and I'm not going to smoke." And so he wouldn't take it. (laughter) That's one thing I remember he told me.

Q. Did he talk any about the mines?

A. Well, no. He might have told me something but I don't remember what it was.

Q. He didn't tell you what the trouble was?

A. Well, it was where they were, something in the coal mines, you know. It was the Negroes that they were having trouble with. I don't know what the trouble was, I don't remember it now.

Q. What did the militia do?

A. Well, they were guarding somewhere down there. I don't know what they were guarding, but they were guarding something to keep them from getting

into trouble I guess. That's all I know.

Q. Was the militia ever called out again?

A. Not that I know of. I don't know if it was. I feel like I had a hair on my eye and I can't get it out.

Q. So when the First World War came, it just didn't change anything for you?

A. No, it didn't change anything for us, no.

Q. Did it change it for other people?

A. Well, I don't know. I just really don't know. You see I lived down in the country and I didn't know much. I didn't have any close neighbors, and you didn't get a paper every day, and you didn't know what's going on. And you didn't have a--well, I had a telephone, too. I had a telephone that I could call West Liberty and call his folks. Because one time my little girl, when my husband was working out on a woodpile, he was cutting some logs, some wood up. I was cleaning a garment and I had some cup with some gasoline in it. And my little girl was just big enough so she could reach up and pick it and drank it right now. And I thought she was going to die. I don't know how she ever got saved. You know those fumes just took her breath away. So I knew that he had given milk to the sheep with gasoline to kill the worms something like that. And I said, "Oh, if we could just get some milk down her." And I was just so upset I couldn't hardly get the milk, to get her to drink it. And so he said, "Have you got some castor oil. Just get some castor oil and we'll give her a dose of castor oil." We put this castor oil down her and she threw up and threw up the gasoline. You could just smell it when it did come up. And then she begin to get all right. But she just got limber. Just limber. I never will forget how she looked. And oh my. I don't know what I'd done if I didn't have my girl. She's so good to me. Now.

Q. When you had your children, did you have hospitals then or did you have them at home?

A. I just had then at home.

Q. Did you have help?

A. I was living with his mother and father, you know. We were living there when I had--my first two that I had. When my little girl was born, why the afterbirth grew fast. And we had a doctor from West Liberty. Well, he wasn't much of a doctor. But anyway, he came out. So I told him that the afterbirth hadn't come, you know. And I said, "It's just growing fast, I guess." So he just took it and jerked it out. It's a wonder that I didn't die. And so then later I had passed that big of place where the blood had curdled up into a ball and I passed that out. And then I was all right. That was a miracle. That was a miracle. Wasn't it?

Q. Sure was.

A. He just jerked that out. But when I had my next boy, I never had any trouble at all.

Q. Did doctors make housecalls?

A. Well, I guess they did. He made a housecall. He didn't do much else but make housecalls. He wasn't much of a doctor anyway.

Q. How long did you stay in bed once you had your children?

A. Oh, I got up when my little girl was--Grandma Honey made me stay in bed for nine days. And I didn't like it. And I got up and walked across the floor and got some things to change her with. She said, "Oh, my. You oughtn't to have done that at all." I said, "My goodness, why that didn't hurt me at all." But I don't remember how long I stayed in bed with my first boy. I don't know. But I remember that so well. Oh, I don't know why I'm telling all this to you for. (laughter)

Q. Why?

A. You don't enjoy this do you?

Q. Oh, yes, I do.

A. Well, I wrote a--I've got to take these glasses off and get my hair, that hair fixed out of there. Can you see it? (getting hair out of Mrs. Honey's eye) There. That's it. Yes, that's better.

Q. Did your husband vote?

A. Vote?

Q. Yes.

A. Oh sure. He always voted.

Q. Did you?

A. Oh, I did when they got so women could vote, you know. Women couldn't vote for a long time, you know. They hadn't always voted.

Q. Right.

A. Yes, I always voted. They had a Red Cross down there where we lived. The Red Cross would collect things, you know. And so I was elected treasurer of the Red Cross. So I kept track of my money every month. I would fix it all up and send it up to the paper to be published. After I got through with my job, I just destroyed the papers. I didn't keep them anymore. Because I'd sent them up there to the paper so I knew just what--they knew what it was because they always kept papers there. And so one day a man came down and he said he wanted my papers where I was treasurer of the Red Cross. And I said, "I don't have them." And I don't know why I ever destroyed them. But I said, "If you will go up to the press office, you'll find every one that I had every month where I sent in a report of what I took in and what I paid out." And so I guess he did because I never heard from him.

Q. Were you involved in other organizations?

A. Well, public organizations, no. I always went to the Women's Club but I never was an officer.

Q. Was your husband active in other organizations?

A. Well, when we lived down in the country, we had a debating society that we had down there. There was an old church down there. And we cleaned it all up and had church there. It was between West Liberty and where we lived. And so we used to have a debating society down there. So we used to go down there to the debates, and we'd debate on different things, you know. But as far as him holding an office in any organization, I don't know what he did.

Q. What were your roads like?

A. Oh, they were terrible. Sometimes they'd be just so bad, he'd have to take four horses to go over to West Liberty. Hitch four horses to the wagon before he could take them over to West Liberty to sell their cream. But later on, why they'd fixed the roads all up and put gravel on the roads. They've gravel roads down there now.

Q. Well, what would happen if the roads were still bad? Were they ever graded or did they just stay like that?

A. Well, I don't remember what they did to them. They'd drag them after they got so they could drag them, you know, and fill up the holes that way. And that's about the only things I remember them doing at all.

Q. Well, how did you get around?

A. Well, I didn't get around. I stayed home. Sometimes I'd go to West Liberty and go up by train to Newton. If I wanted to do some shopping or any kind like that, why I'd go up on a train. But otherwise I'd never did anything.

Q. What would you shop for?

A. Oh, whatever we might need, clothes, you know. And material I could buy to sew. I did all my own sewing and I sewed all for my little girl, too. But she never, when they were growing up, she never thought about wearing overalls like the boys. Like they do now. You never know which they're doing. It's so much nicer to have it that way, I think, for children. But she never did anything like that.

Q. You always kept her in dresses?

A. Oh, yes, kept her in dresses, yes.

Q. Did you sew by hand or did you have a machine?

A. I had a machine. That was one of the first things my husband give me after I was married was a machine.

Q. Was this a wedding present?

A. Yes, well, I don't know whether you called it a wedding present. I think it cost twelve dollars. (laughter) The machine cost twelve dollars. We thought that was a big, nice machine. And I kept that machine until, I think I had it, until I moved to Palmyra. And I give it to my daughter then. And she was living on a farm then and when we lived in Palmyra, why, she was teaching school over at Newton. And so she came over there to Palmyra then, and she saw this nice farm that this, out there. And she remarked about it when she came in. "What a nice farm that was. Everything's kept so nice." And there was two bachelors that lived there. And so she married one of them. (laughter) And she lived on that farm all the time until I moved up here. Then she took my house. They built me a house. I sold my house in Rochester and then they built me this house in Palmyra. And it's a lovely place. It's a long built. It had eight rooms. But doesn't have any basement.

Q. So you had plenty of room?

A. Oh, yes. And her farm, she had so much down there. She had eleven rooms down there. And the man that lives on the farm, why, she just left her stuff that she had in her living room down there. Some that I had and some that she had. She put it and furnished his living room for him, the man that lives on the farm now. They rented their farm when they moved to town.

Q. You said she taught school at Newton. Did she teach at the same place that you did?

A. No. They built a new high school. They built a new high school and when she taught, she went to school at Eureka College. She graduated from Eureka. When she got home at that time teachers were plentiful. And she didn't get a school to teach. That's what she studied, you know, to be a teacher.

And so she worked at the A P Store for a while. And she's got a whole lot of Indian pennies. Got Indians' heads on them. And she'd saved them there in the store when they buy them in, why, she exchanged them and saved the pennies. And then she got a chance to get a country school. So she'd never taught in a country school. But she had gone to a country school when she was growing up. She couldn't do long division. And she had to come and ask her father to help her to study long division. And so one time, she was driving an old Ford we had out there. It was a Ford that didn't have any top to it. Just a car, you know. The roads were not very good then. They kind of had ruts in them. And she got in a rut in the road, and went to get out, why, she went over the fence. But it didn't hurt her, but it kind of banged up the Ford.

Q. Did she get to drive again then?

A. Well, it was so that she could drive it after it came out of the ditch. Got it in the ditch, you see. And then after that, why the principal of the high school moved next door to us. And we got to be good friends with him. When she went to apply for school--she took physical education and English.

That's what she taught. And so he got her a job there. And so she taught there until she came over to Palmyra.

Q. When she was a child, how did she get back and forth to school?

A. They walked. They walked a mile and a half.

Q. How far?

A. Mile and a half. They had to walk to school.

Q. What did they do for their lunch?

A. They took their lunch with them. And our oldest boy started to school a year before she did. And he wouldn't eat his lunch at school. He was so backwards and so bashful. And so when he'd come back home, he'd sit down on the road, sit right up and eat his lunch. But they walked to school. And then they, each one got a bicycle. And then they rode to school. Then after Maynard got big enough to go to school, they all three rode to school on their bicycles.

Q. Were their bicycles then like they are now?

A. Oh, yes. See that was in 1920. Well, along in 1918 or 1920 or somewhere along there.

Q. Was this a country school they went to?

A. Oh, yes. It was a country school. And they never had very good teachers there. Margaret said when she got through high school, she said, "When I went to college, I just felt like I didn't know anything." But she got through all right and graduated at Eureka College where Ronald Reagan went to school.

Q. Did the kids have chores, on the farm?

A. Oh, yes. They had to carry in the coal, and little things that they had to do. Yes, they did have chores all the time. They had to do whatever we told them to do.

Q. Did they have socials?

A. They never had much before they moved to Newton. They never had much after that. Well, after we moved up there, why then, of course, they was in the church there and the young people had socials. They had socials all the time. One time when we were living in Newton, why, Mr. Honey just preached there half time. Then he had to go out to another place to preach half time. And so he went out and he was holding a meeting out there where he preached. And when he came back, Margaret had the measles, and Maynard had broke his arm cranking the car, and John had hurt his leg playing football. When he got home, the doctor was coming out of the house, and he wanted to know what happened there. He saw that we had to have the doctor because Margaret had the measles at that time. Somebody had had the measles at school and all the kids that hadn't had them took them about the same time.

Q. I'll be darn.

A. You know measles are awful easy to spread.

Q. What kind of illnesses did the kids have?

A. Have what?

Q. What kind of illness did they have?

A. Well, they had whooping cough, and they had the measles, of course. And they had, where they had those little scars, sores on their face . . .

Q. Chickenpox?

A. . . . chickenpox. And outside of that, that's about all they had.

Q. Did you have a doctor each time they had one of these diseases?

A. No, we never had a doctor.

Q. You just took care of them yourself?

A. Yes, just took care of them ourselves. We never had the doctor very much when we was growing up. Wasn't any time that we ever needed a doctor much.

Q. You had to be the doctor.

A. I never was sick much. I never was sick and my husband was never sick in all the time that we lived together for fifty-six years. Why, we never, either one, was ever in bed sick that we had to be waited on much. One time I got a place on my leg that it come out about a red spot like that. It looked so awful and so I went to the doctor. And he told me I had to stay on the bed and up my feet for three days and put hot rags on that. And so I did and I never did have any more after that. It just disappeared and I never had any more at all.

Q. So you had to be your doctor then?

A. Oh, yes. We did.

Q. Is this something that was passed on to you that you knew how to take care of the children?

A. No, I just had to do it myself. No. I never had to take care of anybody because at home, there was never anybody sick at home that I ever remember taking care of them at all.

Q. So you just learned it as you did it?

A. Yes. I don't know. I guess the Lord just put it in your head. I don't know how else.

END OF TAPE

Q. Okay, Mrs. Honey, how did you celebrate Christmas?

A. Well, we always had Christmas but we never had a Christmas tree. On Christmas morning, why, we'd always come downstairs. We had our chairs all set and our names on it. And everybody had a chair and their name on it. Sometimes we'd have an orange and some candy or a handkerchief or something like that. Or a little book. And that's all we ever got for Christmas. That's the only way we ever celebrated Christmas. We never made anymore--have a Christmas dinner or anything like that.

Q. Was it a religious holiday for you?

A. Well, I suppose it was but I never paid any attention as far as that's concerned.

Q. It was just another day with a few presents?

A. Well, yes. It was Christmas and of course, Santa Claus. You'd expect Santa Claus to come, and we'd always talk about Santa Claus. And the only thing we got for Christmas was just what we got on our chair, what our father put on our chair. And it was just maybe some candy or an orange. We always liked an orange because we never did have an orange, only on Christmas.

Q. Was that special?

A. That was a special, yes. Of course, at that time, they didn't have fruit like they have in the stores now.

Q. Did you celebrate Easter?

A. Well, we always colored eggs, had eggs colored for Easter. And that's all I remember about Easter. We just had colored eggs. We never had any Easter hunt or anything of the kind. And we never went to church for Easter.

Q. What about birthdays?

A. You never knew when your birthday come. Maybe when your birthday--they say, "Well, happy birthday today." That's all there is to it. They never paid any attention to your birthday.

Q. You didn't get any presents?

A. No, never presents on birthdays.

Q. And no cake?

A. No, no cake at all. No, I don't remember of ever having a birthday cake when I was growing up.

Q. When you got married, did these things change?

A. Well, my husband never paid any attention to my birthdays or my wedding anniversaries or any special days at all. He never did give me anything for it.

Q. Was there a reason for that?

A. Oh, I guess that he thought it wasn't necessary. I guess he never had it when he was growing up and so he didn't think it was necessary. And when people talk about remembering their birthdays and their wedding anniversaries, why he never remembered mine.

Q. Did you remember?

A. Yes, of course. I remembered it, yes. But then that's all I could do but just remember it.

Q. Did the Depression affect your life?

A. No, I can't say that it did. I didn't know much about the Depression.

Q. You still had the farm then, didn't you?

A. Oh, yes. I still had the farm.

Q. But you didn't lose it?

A. No. No, I didn't lose it.

Q. Was food hard to get during that time?

A. Well, I don't know. I don't remember. Of course, I know during the World War II, we had to be so saving of sugar and different things, you know. Sugar and this one coffee. And it was pretty hard to get.

Q. So did you have to substitute sugar, something for sugar?

A. Well, I don't know. I don't remember. I just don't remember.

Q. Did you use a lot of sugar?

A. No, not too much. My father died with diabetes, and he couldn't use much sugar. So the rest of us didn't get much sugar either.

Q. Were there other changes during the Second World War that you noticed?

A. Well, so many people went out and worked and got jobs then. People that never had worked before outside the home. When they had the Second World War, why they would work out at the ammunition plants and different places where they could get a job. That's all I remember about that.

Q. Why was there more people working?

A. Well, because they had to have somebody to do so many different things. You know at that time when they were getting ready because they were preparing for more war, you know, they had to have somebody to do that. And a lot of the women could do a lot of that work, you know.

Q. Did you work outside . . .

A. Oh, no. I didn't work out. I never did work outside the home. Only just when I taught school. That was all I did.

Q. Okay. How did your husband first get interested in becoming a minister?

A. Well, he went up to Gary, Indiana, to a convention. When he got there and heard the preachers preach up there, why he come back and he said he was going to study the Bible and be a preacher and tell people what the Bible said.

Q. Why did he go to this convention?

A. Well, I guess it was one of our church conventions. And he just kind of wanted to go. And so I stayed home and did the work while he went.

Q. Had he been active in the church?

A. Well, we never had any church there where we lived. We had a Bible school at Bethel, the little Bethel Church that they cleaned up. Nobody had services there for a long time. So we cleaned it up and we had Bible school there. He always went ahead with that. He was always real interested in the church and he had such a good memory. He could remember so many things that the preacher had preached, you know. And he knew what they should preach.

Q. Where did he get his schooling?

A. He went to Cincinnati Bible Seminary and Phillips Bible Institute. Phillips Bible Institute. He took correspondence work.

Q. But he actually went to Cincinnati?

A. He never went there. He took correspondence work because he was busy on the farm then and he was milking cows. And so he practiced on his cows preaching.

Q. Did they give more milk?

A. Well, I don't know whether they did or not. I expect they did. (laughs)

Q. So he would work on the farm during the daytime and study of an evening?

A. Yes. Well, yes, that's right. He studied what time he had. You see, you milk in the morning, and then you have time, and then you milk in the evening. And of course, lots of times he had other work to do around the farm. But he never did farming at that time. He had a hired hand that did most all the farming. And he did the milking, you see.

Q. How long did it take him to become a minister?

A. Well, I think he worked at it for about a couple of years before he started to preach. And then he preached his first sermon in the Methodist-

Protestant Church down close to West Liberty. It was in West Liberty.

Q. How long was he there?

A. Well, we lived out away from that, you know. He was just only about two or three miles out. His father had bought a house there and it's right across from the church. And the church was a big, oh, just an ordinary old-fashioned church building, you know. One-room church.

Q. How long did he preach there?

A. Well, he only preached, I don't think he preached more than one sermon. I don't remember him preaching any more than that. He might have preached two sermons. But anyway, they didn't like his preaching because he preached the Bible. It was contrary to what they believed because they didn't believe in immersion and he preached immersion.

Q. Is that the biggest difference between the Methodist and the Christian Churches?

A. Well, I don't think it is because the Methodist Church don't take the Bible for what they teach. They don't get--I went to a class one time in Rochester and they announced that they were going to have a Bible class, and I--that was after Mr. Honey passed away. And I thought, "Well, I'll go to that class and see what the Methodist really believe." Why never knew anything about the Bible when I got through. They didn't teach the Bible. They had a lot of names there, different people that would talk, you know, and different things. But they never preached and taught the Bible at all. It was suppose to be a Bible class but it wasn't a Bible class.

Q. When Mr. Honey came home from the convention and told you he was going to become a minister, what was your reaction?

A. Well, I told him if he wanted to teach the Bible, why I'd help him all I could. And of course, I didn't have time to do much reading or anything of the kind. I had work to do, looking after the home and all, keeping things half way decent around the place. And I worked in my garden all the time during the summer. I did most of the work in the garden.

Q. What were your children's reactions?

A. Well, they didn't know any difference. Didn't make any difference to them. Because they were small. I think they hadn't been in school too long then.

And we had such poor teachers then. You didn't have a very big school, you know. And had poor teachers. And I knew when my daughter said when she went to high school, why she said, "I wondered if I'd ever learned anything in the grade school." Because, you know, it was a one-room school and they had to teach--you didn't have much time for any different ones in the classes. I tried to get them, to let me send them over to

West Liberty because West Liberty had a pretty good school. There was a good teacher over there that I wanted them to go to. But they wouldn't let us go over there. We had to stay in our own district.

Q. How did they get back and forth to school?

A. They walked. A mile and a half to school. And then finally the children each got a bicycle and they used to ride their bicycles to school.

Q. How did Mr. Honey's parents feel about him being a minister?

A. Well, they were very glad to have him preach. His father said that because John was a preacher, she would never have anything. So when he made his will, he made my three children equal heirs with his three sons.

Q. Was that just because he was a minister that he did that?

A. Yes, I think so. Because as I said, "A preacher never gets very much money preaching in a small church," you know. So he knew then.

Q. What are some of the beliefs of the Christian Church?

A. Some of the beliefs of the Christian Church?

Q. Yes.

A. Well, they believe in immersion, they believe in God, they believe--well, in the first part of Acts, it tells all about all the conversions recorded in the Bible. Everyone of them mentions baptism, but a lot of them don't. And they were buried with Christ in baptism. They were born into the Christian Church, and they ask them first what they should do to become a Christian. Why, you had faith, repentance. You had to have faith in Christ. Then you had to repent of your sins. Then you have to be--confess him before men. Then you have to be buried with your Savior in baptism. And you repent and be baptized everyone of you for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. And that was the thing that was to guide them all along life's pathway.

Q. And this is where the difference in the other churches . . .

A. They don't any of them, don't follow that plan at all. And everything that they do, they're suppose to be able to back it up with the Bible, show where the Bible teaches that. Why, can't any of the rest of these do that. I don't see how they can the way they practice. They don't preach the Bible. They preach about everything else but the Bible. I never heard the Bible--I went to the Methodist Church until I was--well, I must have been twenty years old anyway. And I never learned but one verse all the time that I was there in Bible school or anything.

Q. What was that verse?

A. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

Q. And that's the only one they taught you?

A. That's the only verse that I learned in all the time I went to the Methodist Church.

Q. Can you remember Mr. Honey's first wedding?

A. No, I don't remember his first wedding at all. But he had a number of weddings that they come to the house and was married there. He married my daughter and he married her husband's brother, both of her husband's brothers. He married both of them. And one of them must been almost sixty years old when he was married. And he married Ann. She'd been a nurse. And so they decided to get married. And so they came over to our house. It was one of the hottest days you ever saw. And then you didn't have air conditioning in your car, but they were going to take a drive to New York or Washington or somewhere like that. And I thought, "Well, poor people. You sure will suffer before you get there." Because you know how hot it would be without air conditioning in your car.

Q. What was his favorite wedding?

A. Well, I don't know whether he ever had any favorite weddings. I don't know if he ever did. It might have been when he married his daughter, probably. And this fellow that he'd married, he's always been so good to Margaret. And they've been married now for over forty-five years. And I said if I lived to be a hundred, they'll be married fifty years.

Q. That would be nice. Was he paid for performing a wedding?

A. Once in a while. Maybe they'd give him a dollar. Sometimes they'd give him five dollars, but very seldom he ever got any more than that.

Q. Did they ever give you food for payment?

A. No. They never did.

Q. Do you remember the funerals that he performed?

A. Well, he had a lot of funerals, but I don't remember anything special about any of them.

Q. Do you know how much he made as a preacher?

A. No, I never did know how much he made. I just really don't know. He never did tell me. Maybe he thought I'd spend it if he did. (laughs)

Q. So did he pay the bills then?

A. Oh, yes. All the bills that was paid, he paid them. And we were going to build us a--after we moved to Rochester, why, we just lived there two years in that rented house. And we decided we'd liked it there, it was close to Springfield. And so we'd either build a house there or buy one. And we looked around. We couldn't find anything that

we liked. There was a man that had built a house and he'd just lived in it one year. And we had passed that a number of times. We thought it was a nice place. We never thought about him selling it. So he came down and said he wanted to sell it because he was going to build some more houses. He had been a repairman at the State House. And he had got a lot of furniture, old furniture at the State House. You know, they got rid of so they'd get modern stuff. And he had a lot of that stuff. He had the garage just full of things like that. So he built, then two houses down farther on the street then. He moved into another place over there so he just lived there one year. And then the next year, he and his wife had trouble and they separated. And I think later he died.

Q. When Mr. Honey was first preaching, did you accompany him?

A. I never went when he went away to preach for half time. I never did go with him.

Q. Why was that?

A. Because I had to stay home and look after my children. We didn't want to drag them along, you know. And so, people like--it was bad enough to feed the preacher let alone feed his whole family. And so, I would stay home. I would stay back and take care of the children. And sometimes it was a problem.

Q. How often did he go?

A. Every other Sunday.

Q. Did he just go on Sundays?

A. Yes, just on Sundays. I know one time, I told you about that he held a meeting down there. When he came back why, Margaret had the measles, and Maynard had broke his arm cranking the car, and John hurt his leg in football. So the doctor was just coming out of the house then. He couldn't imagine what had happened. So he found out.

Q. How soon was it before he became a full time minister?

A. Before what?

Q. Before he became a full time minister?

A. Well, after the church so that it was grew up and gaining more members, you know, then they felt like they could keep a full time minister.

Q. Where was his first full time . . .

A. At Newton.

Q. At Newton. And how long did he preach there?

A. He preached ten years there.

Q. What year did he start preaching?

A. What year did he start preaching? Oh, I don't know. It must have been probably (pause) 1915 or 1916, something like that. Because we moved to Newton in 1921 and the children were ready for high school then. But he started preaching before long, because he'd go out to the country churches and preach.

Q. How did he travel?

A. Well, he went on horseback. That's when he went over there because the roads were so bad then it was pretty hard even to drive over there. And so, he just went and rode horseback.

Q. And then you stayed at home?

A. I stayed at home and did the work. And I didn't like it. So I told him one time when he came back. I said, "Now I'm not going to do this all the time." I said, "You go away every weekend and I have to do everything here." I said, "We'll just have to make some changes." And so I said, "We don't want to have any divorce or anything like that." Because I couldn't take care of myself and the three children. And so he said, "Well, no." Says, "I'll see if I can find a place to preach where we can live where we preach." Newton was out of a preacher so that's the reason he got in there.

Q. And this was a Christian Church?

A. Yes. And we were both born and raised in Newton. Everybody knew him, they knew him from a child and knew he was a pretty good fellow. His father was mayor of Newton. And he also had a dry goods store, he sold goods. Often times he'd have his Bible hid and somebody come in and get to talking religion, why he'd take his Bible and preach to him.

Q. This was your husband's father?

A. That's his father.

Q. Was he a preacher?

A. No, he wasn't a preacher but he preached a lot anyway. Because he never became what you called a preacher and hold a job anywhere.

Q. Would you say he influenced your husband to become a minister then?

A. Well, yes. He could have Christian training. He grew up, and his father was very active there in Newton. And I think that has a lot of influence. The way a child is raised makes a difference, you know.

Q. What church was he raised in?

A. Oh, the Christian Church.

Q. Was this a difficult change for you to come from the country and to go into the city?

A. Well, I'd always lived in town. I'd always lived in town, and I never lived in the country until after I was married. So it wasn't much of a change. I was just glad to get back to town where I could be close to--we were just a block from the square. In Newton they had a court-house and a park around it. It's like Springfield used to have but we just lived a block from that. And the church was right back there, and the church was right along side the railroad track. The railroad track run as close as this out here (about one block).

Q. Was it a hard adjustment for you to go to the country then when you were first married?

A. Well, if I hadn't loved my husband and wanted to be with him, why it probably would. But otherwise it wasn't. Because I didn't know any better. I'd never been very much anywhere at all. I'd never had been--I guess one time I went to Mattoon to visit a friend. But I had never been out of Newton and after Jasper County until I went to Greenup. I went to Mattoon and I went to Greenup and that's the only place I ever went.

Q. What did you do in the evenings while your husband was studying?

A. Putting my children to bed and that's about the only thing I did. Because I always went to bed early myself. Most of the time when he come in, why he would study after he got through milking but I would go to bed. Because I was tired.

Q. Did you ever get to talk to him much?

A. Not very much. Never did get to talk to him. Even after we were married. When he started preaching, why I never did, because he was always studying. And I'd have things that I want to talk to him about. And he said, "No, I can't talk now because I'm studying." And so we never did talk very much together.

Q. Did he ever preach any sermons to you to practice on you?

A. No. He never did. No.

Q. How did you keep busy then?

A. Well, I had my housework to do and I looked after my garden when I was there. And I used to read to the children. They'd come in after school. After they had their supper, why I'd read stories to them. I've been sorry that I didn't read more Bible stories to them, so they might have been more anxious to follow in their father's footsteps. But I didn't. I didn't know enough then I guess to do that. I think that any mother is foolish if she don't read the Bible stories to her children. Because they'll remember if they read them when they're small.

Q. Did you ever do anything to make extra money?

A. No. I never did do anything to make extra money. I hooked a rug and sold it for twenty-five dollars. That's about the only thing that I had ever [done] to make extra money. Then I sold one for three dollars at a sale, I had it put up in a sale. It only brought three dollars and it was worth a whole lot more than that, but that's all I got for it.

Q. When did you hook rugs?

A. Oh, I hooked when I lived in Rochester, I started hooking there in Rochester. And there's a lady who hooked rugs and I thought, "Well, I had to have something that I could do." I had to keep busy, you know. And so I found out that I could do that. And I had a crippled hand, you know. This hand would be underneath there and nobody would see it and I could work this a-way. I worked this a-way with my hand. So that's one reason why I wanted to hook rugs.

Q. Is there any certain kind of material you use to hook rugs?

A. Yes, I always use wool. I had to have wool and old coats, old wool coats. And you know, it was pretty hard to get wool now.

Q. Why did you need wool?

A. Because it wouldn't fade. The sun will fade cotton any time, but it won't fade wool. That's the reason the colors are so much prettier there.

Q. Why did your husband leave Newton?

A. Well, we had been there for ten years and they were ready to have a change. A friend of his called him and said they didn't have any preacher in Palmyra. We went over there, and he preached, and they decided they wanted him to come back. And so we went back, and we moved over there then.

Q. Was there a lot of changes made in the Newton church? Had it grown?

A. Oh, yes. It'd grown. Yes, it'd grown. And they didn't have any trouble getting a preacher full time.

Q. Was the church at Palmyra then a full time church?

A. No. It wasn't a full time church. We preached at Palmyra for about a couple of years, I think. And half time at Modesto, and it was just about three miles north of Palmyra. And preached at Palmyra and Modesto. And then after the church began to grow, why they had him full time for a couple of years. We always worked at it, make the church grow. We worked at it the best we could.

Q. And were you always successful?

A. It was a pretty hard job too.

Q. Were you always successful?

A. Well, we always had additions but not as many as we should have had. Because it was pretty hard to get the church people to work themselves. If they'd worked themselves to help out, why we could have got along lots better. But there was a preacher there that had been there years and years and he was in the school. And he was a principal of the school there and he preached for the church. That's the reason he would preach on Sunday at the church. And then he'd teach school all the rest of the time. So the church went down quite a bit. So then they finally told him he couldn't hold two jobs. He couldn't hold the church, so he give up the church then. And that's the reason that they called us and told him that there was a vacancy there in Palmyra.

Q. Where did he go from Palmyra?

A. Well, he went to Shaw's Point and Pleasant Hill.

Q. And these were both part-time jobs?

A. Those are just part-time jobs, yes. Once a month.

Q. What did he do the other Sundays of the month then?

A. Well, he went around looking for a church to have a full time preaching. He went to Edwardsville. He went up several different places to preach.

Q. Did he always preach at a Christian Church?

A. Oh, yes. He never preached at any--only time he ever preached at the other church was at a Methodist Church there. One time when we were--I don't remember where we were--but there was a church that didn't have any preacher and they hadn't have services there for a long time. And it was a Methodist Church. But the people in the community, the members of the Christian Church, cleaned it up so we could have services there. And when we went to preach there, why the president of the Methodist Church or whatever he was, came in and said, "You have no business preaching in a Methodist Church." Wouldn't let him preach there after they'd cleaned it up and got it ready to preach. They wouldn't let him preach there at all.

And there was a girl in Newton, Maude Hubbard, in Newton. She was quite a singer and she would go out with him lots of time to help in the service. And everybody liked to hear Maude sing. She was a single girl; she never did get married. She was such a help for us there when we were at Newton. She and her sister lived there at Newton. Her sister helped. She taught the Sunday School class and Maude always sang in the choir. She always was very active in the church, too.

Q. Were you active?

A. Oh, yes, I did everything there was to do. I had helped with the socials, I quilted, and I did most everything there was to do. Whatever I had to do, I did it. We lived right next to the church then. The parsonage was right next to the church.

Q. What grade did you teach?

A. Oh, I usually taught young people. And I've taught all sizes. Young children and up and the old people too. I've taught all ages.

Q. Which is your favorite level?

A. Well, I don't know. I believe I'd rather teach high school kids. I'd rather teach them.

Q. Why is that?

A. Well, they're more alert and they seem to know what you're talking about. And they pay more attention to you than some of those older people because they are not set in their ways, you know. And they think they know it all anyway.

Q. What kind of socials did you have for the kids?

A. Oh, we'd have socials in the church and they played games, different kinds of games. I don't remember just what they were now. It was different kinds they could play. And then we'd have some refreshments of some kind.

Q. Did you ever have dancing?

A. Oh, no. We never had any dancing. My father and my husband either one would ever consider dancing. Now my husband was a good dancer though. But in high school, some of them in that class older than me danced. But our class never danced.

Q. Why is dancing frowned on by the church?

A. Well, down there at West Liberty they had a group that met every so often and danced. And the first thing you know, why one man run off with another man's wife and things like that that they get just too familiar.

Q. Did the church approve of cards?

A. No. They didn't approve of cards. My father would never let us have a playing deck of cards in the house. He never wanted us to play cards. He said, "A deck of cards is the devil's trademark." They'd gamble, why they'd gamble with cards. And he didn't want anyone to learn to gamble. I know my husband was a good card player when he started in. But he taught another boy to play cards and first thing you know he was gambling and writing checks on his father. He was a countryboy that had come in. And he said, "Well, if that's the way it is, I'll never play another deck of cards." And so he never did play anymore. He never played any after he was a preacher. Why he thought it was terrible if anyone played cards. Because at that time, why whenever they played cards, they'd usually gamble.

Q. Was there anything else that wasn't allowed?

A. Oh, I don't know. That was the principal thing. The dancing and card playing was the two things you'd consider not appropriate for church. (pause) He usually tried to live what he preached. He didn't, it wasn't just preaching. His life was as clean a life as anybody could ever want.

Q. He was a good example.

A. Yes.

Q. As the minister's wife did you have problems?

A. No, Mr. Honey was a friendly man. He was friendly with everybody. But nobody ever made--Maude Hubbard went with us a lot of times and nobody ever said anything about her because she knew where she belonged.

END OF SIDE ONE

Q. Okay. Where did you perform your baptisms?

A. Well, we had a baptistry in the church. They had a baptistry in the church in Newton. But in Palmyra, why they--wait a minute, let me get it straightened out here. No, at Rochester when the church burned, why they went over to the high school until they built their basement, you know. And after we went back there and preached for two years, he sort of retired. When they came and asked him to come back and preach for a little while and preached for two years, whenever anybody come in the church they wanted to be baptized, we'd take them into Springfield to Westside. They were baptized at Westside [Christian Church].

Q. Did all of your churches have baptistries?

A. Well, all the Christian Churches have baptistries. I suppose the Baptist Church because they baptize them, but they don't baptize them for the remissions of sins. They just baptize them in the church. You have to be baptized before you can get into the church but you don't have to be baptized according to the Bible for remission of sins.

Q. I see.

A. And I can't really see how Billy Graham can get up and talk and be a Baptist and tell people what to do. You never heard him say that they have to be baptized for remission of sins. You never hear him say that. But that's what the Bible says.

Q. Okay. From Pleasant Hill where did you go?

A. We went to Edinburg.

Q. Why did you go?

A. Well, because we wanted a place where we could live and preach. They had a parsonage there at Edinburg and they didn't have any preacher so we went there because we could have a place to live. You see, Shaw's Point and Pleasant Hill, they didn't have any parsonage. You just went there to preach on Sunday and that was the end of it. When they built their new church, I don't know whether they had a parsonage or not. But they usually get a preacher from Lincoln Christian College.

Q. How long were you at Edinburg?

A. We was four years, we was there.

Q. And from Edinburg, where did you go?

A. Well, South Fork wanted us to come there to preach. And so Mr. Honey said he couldn't very well preach for just a half time--they just wanted half time, you know. So if Rochester would take him the rest of the time, why, he'd preach for them. We had hard time getting into Rochester because there was such a few there to decide things. And these few was women that was really interested. Men weren't interested at all. They weren't interested in the church. They were just members of the church. They were all on the church board. After he preached three sermons, why then they told him he could go ahead and preach there.

Q. What year was this?

A. Oh, that must have been about 1939, something like that. Because when I organized the class, the girls when they made my quilt there, they said I was teacher there from 1939 to 1978. Or that's when they made the quilt, last Christmas.

Q. And what class did you teach?

A. I taught the young married people's class. They're all older now.

Q. Did you have both men and women?

A. No, just women. It was the Friendship Circle Class.

Q. Did they divide the Sunday School classes then?

A. Well, they did. They had a man's class. There was not any older women that went there much. So that most of the older women taught Sunday School. Mrs. Taft, Delbert's mother, she taught the children's class. And Mrs. Van Fossen was one of the other older women. And Mrs. Eggleston. Mrs. Eggleston taught the men's class.

Q. How long did Mr. Honey preach at both South Fork and Rochester?

A. Well, he taught about eight years at first. And then he went back and taught, preached two years at Rochester. But about eight years all together for South Fork. I think we was down at South Fork about six years and then he preached up at Rochester full time.

Q. South Fork is a country church. And Rochester is more of a city or small town church. Can you describe the difference between the two churches?

A. Most of the people that belonged down at South Fork at that time, why, they were people that had just grown up around and their children come in and they were. But when Henderson preached down there so long, why, he didn't get out and work much. But he was a professor up at Lincoln and they felt that was so wonderful that they had a professor at Lincoln to be their preacher. They didn't build up very much. But then this preacher that came here, why he's quite a worker. And I guess they're doing real well down there.

Q. Who is this?

A. I think his name is Scott.

Q. Mark Scott?

A. Yes. But he's a good preacher too because he's come up. We have here a preaching every Thursday night. And they usually have people from different churches that come in and preach. And so he came, he and I think, the man that played the piano. Let's see. Elwin Johnson. He came in with him. And maybe two or three others. And he held service here on Thursday night. At 6:30 we have a little service there. Every Thursday evening somebody comes in and does it. Last time that we had it, the preacher that preaches here all the time, he had a picture that showed the life of the Apostle Paul and then he had singing besides that.

Q. Was there more visitors at the Rochester Church?

A. Well, we had visitors. But not very often. I remember the time that Lyman Campbell, do you remember Lyman Campbell?

Q. No.

A. That's Josephine's husband. Well, Lyman Campbell and Mr. Taft. I think he was one of them that was baptized. And there was four or five men that came forward one Sunday morning. And Mr. Honey baptized all of them. But I can't remember the names of the others. (pause) Gilson Taft. Gilson is the one. That's Delbert's father.

Q. Did you have a lot of people that were baptized?

A. Well, everybody that come in the church Mr. Honey baptized them if they hadn't already been baptized. They could have been immersed some where else, you know, or belonged somewhere else and put their membership there. I know Hugh, do you know Hugh Campbell?

Q. Yes.

A. He baptized Hugh Campbell.

Q. Did you go calling with your husband?

A. Oh, yes. I always went calling with him. He never went without me. People never had anything to say against him because he never would go calling without me. I never did say much but I went with him. He always did the talking. But I went with him.

Q. You mentioned something about the Rochester Church burning.

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell me what happened?

A. Well, Mr. Eggleston was the janitor at that time and his wife did the cleaning of the church, too. She always fixed the communion service. Well, that Sunday morning--the Sunday night before we had put a tin across the top of the pipeless furnace. And so it wouldn't be so hot in there, it got so hot. He got it fired up and he had a bin that he put cobs in. He had a big bin of cobs, and he just kept firing up and fired it to keep the heat upstairs. And he didn't take that tin off there. He wasn't over there that night when they put it on. So I guess he didn't know it was on there. And so it just burned out up there. Burned out up the chimney, up in the attic. And that's where it caught fire. And if they'd kept their hose, put their hose up there with the water in it, if they'd kept it up there and put it on that fire, they could have put it out before it burned out. But they didn't do it. I guess it was the Lord's plan that it should burn. I don't know.

Q. Was there people at the church?

A. It was just before the Sunday School, and we always went early and nobody was in the church at all. But they come just as soon as they found the church on fire. People begin to come in, you know. And they got out a lot of the furniture, the seats. They got a lot of the seats out. They were screwed down in the floor, but they'd break them out and they'd take them out. And they got the piano out and the neighbor there kept the piano until they got so they could use it again. And when they got a basement, why they had the piano put in. I know a number of the chairs that they had we took up there and put in our attic. And communion table. But after they got so they wanted to use them why we gave them back to them.

Q. So nobody was hurt?

A. Nobody was hurt, no. Nobody was hurt.

Q. When was this?

A. Well, it was the 9th of February. But I couldn't tell you. I couldn't tell you what year it was. See, I didn't remember any of those dates.

Q. How do you remember that it was the 9th of February?

A. Because it was my husband's birthday. But I don't remember how old he was at the time.

Q. So this was in the wintertime?

A. Yes, in February, yes. The worst month of the year, coldest month of the year. The water froze so they couldn't do much good anyway.

Q. And the church burned to the ground then?

A. Yes, it burned down. And the bell fell down. And the chimney stayed up there. The chimney wasn't very big. It was only about this wide (18") square, you know. Later on they got something, tractor and they pulled that chimney down so it wasn't standing all by itself, you know.

Q. So where did you have services then?

A. Well, they went up to the schoolhouse. They had their services in the schoolhouse at the high school. And had it until--then he resigned after they went there. He didn't preach there very long. He resigned. And they got another preacher. And he told them that he couldn't build a church. He didn't know much about. They began to talk about building a new church. And so he said, "I just don't want to be responsible for building a church." So then he went over to Buffalo and preached over there.

Q. How long was he over at Buffalo?

A. Well, several years. But I couldn't tell you how long.

Q. And this was full time?

A. I don't remember if he preached only once a month or what. But he preached around the different places. Wherever he could get a place to preach, he preached. Then he preached out at Berlin. He preached out there full time. Every Sunday he would go out there. But I don't remember how long he preached out there. I know we had a forty-fifth wedding anniversary. Did I tell you about that?

Q. No.

A. We had a forty-fifth wedding anniversary when we were out at Berlin. The ladies knew that it was our--and every Thursday in the month, I believe it was the first Thursday of the month, they would have a potluck dinner. They always had a potluck dinner every Thursday of the month. That is in the evening, you know. It was a potluck supper you could call it. And so they had found out it was our wedding anniversary, that was the day we'd be married forty-five years. They surprised us. So they gave me a plastic tree with . . . (lunch was served) They gave me a plastic tree with forty-five silver dollars hanging on it. They had it fixed so they could hang on that little plastic tree. Forty-five silver dollars. And I wished I'd save them. The other day someone told

me you could get twelve dollars for one silver dollar. Now, have you ever seen the new dollars?

Q. Yes.

A. They don't look like the old ones.

Q. No, they sure don't.

A. I've got one right here, a big dollar and a new dollar, too. I've got a silver dollar too.

Q. And you had forty-five of them?

A. I had forty-five of them and so Mr. Honey said, "Now that's yours. You can do whatever you want to do with it." So I took it home and put it on my--I had a fireplace with a mantle on it. I put it upon the mantle. And I said, "Well, I won't leave it there all night. I'll take it into my bedroom." So I took it into my bedroom at night. I was afraid someone would come in and get it. So I spent a number of them. And whenever I'd go in and spend a silver dollar, why there'd be somebody who'd say, "Oh, I want to get that." So they latched on to it. I wish I'd had kept them. But I did keep a number of them. I kept the one that said 1900. That's when Mr. Honey graduated from high school. And one 1904, and one 1884, and one 1882. I kept all of those, and I've got them down there now. And then my son's boy, he gave me a silver dollar here. 1884. (pause)

Q. That's nice.

A. There's a new dollar. See this is sterling silver, but I don't think this is. When we went over to Europe, why we have to change your money, you know. We have different kinds of money. My grandson sent me that. I don't know what. I suppose it's a keyring or something like that. But I just keep it in my pocketbook.

Q. Where were you living when you went to Buffalo and Berlin?

A. Well, we were living right where we lived, our home. We bought a place there. After we lived there at Rochester for two years then we decided to build a place, we bought a place to build. And we were going to build west of the high school but that was during the Second World War and you couldn't get water up there, or couldn't get the pipes and things to put the water up there. So this man came along, and the house was just been built a year and he wanted to sell. So we bought it.

Q. So where did you go after you left Berlin?

A. Well, we lived at Rochester all the time. We just drove back and forth to Berlin.

Q. But did you have another church after Berlin?

A. No. When he preached at Berlin, why he preached there full time.

Q. And then he retired?

A. Well, yes. He retired. And they come up and asked him to preach at Rochester for two years. So he preached there for two years and then he said, "Now,"--then after he got through preaching there, why he--the neighbor give him some big logs and things to cut up to put in his fireplace. We had a fireplace in the basement and one upstairs. And he pulled those logs over there and ruptured himself. And he had a rupture. He had to wear a brace all the time. And that kind of handicapped him. He didn't--but he worked in his garden. And one time he worked in the garden and he planted cantaloupes. He had the nicest cantaloupes there. And one night the boys got in and just tore up the patch. They just took all the good ones that was in there. They went up to the restaurant and had a party and all of them had cantaloupes.

Q. Did he know who . . .

A. He found out who some of them were and he talked with them. He said, "To think that you would come in there after I'd worked all summer trying to have some cantaloupes. I'd been glad to give you some if you had wanted it, if you just asked me. I'd been glad to give you some. And then to have you come in and do that." And they were ashamed of themselves after they did it. But he never did anything about it, any more than that.

Q. Was it kids from the church?

A. No. It was just the kids around town.

Q. Did you belong to any organizations?

A. Well, I belonged to the Women's Club there in Rochester all the time. And I belonged to the Home Bureau. That's about the only public organizations I belonged to. I belonged to the Women's Club and they consider me a member now. They send me their programs and all and I should write to them and tell them that I'll resign from there. They wouldn't have to send them to me because--but if I should go over there any time why I'd be perfectly welcome to come to their meetings.

Q. What did you do in the Women's Club?

A. Oh, they had programs, you know, that they would always have every month. They met once a month, you see. They had a nice program every month. I was secretary for a while, but otherwise I never held any offices.

Q. What's the Women's Home Bureau?

A. In home extension I learned to make so many things, made hats, made over fur coats, hooked rugs, and lots of other things. It's a home extension in Sangamon County. Sangamon County had never had a home bureau. I had belonged to the home bureau down at Edinburg and that was from Christian County. And when I moved to Rochester, well, then when they organized it in Sangamon County, I was one of the charter members.

I was there when they organized. I give the invocation when we had our meeting to organize. When it was twenty-five years, why they asked me to come back and give the invocation, and I told them--well, it was a special day. It was twenty-five years so I spoke a couple of poems that I had. And so there was one woman that was singing. She dedicated her song to me because she thought the poems were so nice.

Q. That was nice of her.

A. I could recite those poems now.

Q. Oh, you can.

A. Oh, yes, I recite poems here now.

Q. You can recite the very ones you said that day?

A. Yes, I did. I recite poems here any time. When they had their vacation bible school at Chatham, why they asked us to come down there. So Linda Beeman, that's one of the girls that works here, why she took me down there. We went down there, and I recited poems to both groups that they had there. And when they had the camp out at Lake Springfield, the Christian Camp out there, Mardell Taft took me down there and I recited some poems to them. That was their missionary. And when they collected the money, why they turned it over to the Lewis Memorial Christian Home here.

Q. How long have you been writing poetry?

A. Well, five or six years. My daughter took that little poem, she's going to type it and then you can have it typed.

Q. Is it easy for you to write poetry?

A. Well, you have to think about what you're saying. You have to think about what you're doing because you have to make it rhyme, you know. To be poetry, it has to be rhyme. And I used to go on these trips with this group, Presley Tours. The Presley Tours and I wrote a poem every time about the trip, and I sent it down to them and they had it recorded. So they have it down there now. All the poems that I wrote. From each trips that I made I wrote them a poem and sent it to them.

Q. Have they acknowledged these poems?

A. Well, yes. They told me they were keeping a book that they kept about the trips that they made, you know. And they saved the poems for me.

Q. Have you enjoyed your years as a minister's wife?

A. Oh, yes. I never had any trouble. Yes, I enjoyed it very much.

Q. Have you had any regrets?

A. Well, when you think about those things you could have done, maybe it would have been a help. Just any special regrets I haven't.

Q. Did you do much traveling with your husband?

A. No. He never traveled very much. The only trip we ever took was one time we took our children after they were in high school and we went down in the southern part of the state. And we camped all the time on our trip, we camped out all the time. And sometimes it was pretty rainy. And one time I remember we got some straw from a man and laid our comforters down on that. That's the way we slept out with--just on the comforter or on the ground. And we stayed down at the jail down in southern Illinois, you know. Oh, what's the name of it? Why can't I think of that? But anyway we had the big long steps that you had to go down to the lower part, and this was kind of built up on a high hill. And we went up there and they had a room where they had all the people out that was, the worst people, you know. They'd herding them around to get them exercise. Chester. I remembered.

Q. Okay. Was Mr. Honey proud of his accomplishments?

A. Well, I don't know. I guess he was. He did his best, that's all he could do.

Q. He didn't talk about it?

A. No, he didn't. He was never a man to talk about what he did. He just did his best. But I don't think they ever treated him just as nice as they should. Because he did so much there for Rochester. And some of those men were kind of jealous of him, I guess. But they didn't treat him very good in his last days. He went to the hospital. And he didn't have much to do there after he retired the last time. He didn't do very much. You know when a man sits around and don't do anything, why he soon gets so he can't do anything. But he was a good man. And he was a good preacher. So many people have come in here since I've been here that they've said they knew Mr. Honey and heard him preach. And they always thought he was a good preacher. He preached at Riverton and preached at several other places, too. But not regular just once in a while he'd preached there for them.

Q. Did he have a youth minister?

A. No No. He did all the work. But I helped him. I was his youth minister. (laughs)

Q. The people just weren't active in the church?

A. Well, they just wasn't enough of them, and they hadn't had much training, and they were all doing something else. I think I've told you about all I know now.

Q. Okay, what did you do after your husband passed away?

A. Well, I took care of the place around there. And I would get out of a morning and would trim bushes. I didn't mow the yard. I had a little boy come, and he'd come and mowed the yard and kept it all nice. These people that had rented part of the garden, I let them have part of the garden for mowing the yard. So I just worked around the place there and tried to keep things in shape. I was the only one to do it so that's what I did. Then, of course, when I got through I just come in and look at television. My children had gotten me a television, a colored television so I could look at that. Just about the time that Johnny Carson went to work. (interruption)

Q. You were telling me about how your children had gotten you a T. V.

A. Yes. Well, when Mr. Honey passed away I didn't have any T. V. They said that if I had a T. V. that'd take up a lot of my time. And so they got it. I said, "If you get me one, get me a colored one." Because I wanted one that I could see color on. And so they did. They got me a T. V. And that was just about the time that Johnny Carson come on. But I think he'd had been on about a year before that. But just about his time. And so when he had that show the other night, I don't know whether you saw him with . . .

Q. Yes.

A. Although he's gone through a lot of things that he did when he was first on. That's the first time I've seen him for . . . (interruption)

Q. Okay. Did you have any more you wanted to say about Johnny Carson?

A. Well, I had seen him the other night for the first time. His hair was just as white as could be. And I was surprised because last time I saw him I hadn't seen him since--I don't believe I've seen him since I lived in Palmyra. That's been four or five years ago. But my, he's changed so much since then. The last three years.

Q. You had never had a T. V. before?

A. No. We never had any T. V. Mr. Honey said that he would get T. V., but he said his eyes--he couldn't look at it if he got it. I said, "If you can't look at it, I don't want it for myself." I don't want to be selfish. I wouldn't have it either. And he never saw a T. V. And I thought afterwards, there's so many things that he could have seen when he was not working that would have helped him.

He liked to blow his horn. You see Maynard used to play in the band. And he had a cornet and Mr. Honey played that so much. And so one time Maynard was home there so John said, "Here's his cornet. This is Maynard's and you'd better take it. Maybe your boy would like to blow it." Well, that was the worst thing they could have ever done to him, because he played that so much when he didn't have anything else to do, you know. And he had a lot of music about him. But I didn't have any music about me. So he took it. And when I was down to Florida and I saw that cornet sitting up there. It was all tarnish, you know. I thought, "Oh, why

didn't they leave that for him?" But he said it was theirs. And they just took it. And I never stopped him at all. I thought, "If that's the way he wants to do, why don't interfere."

Q. Did he listen to the radio a lot?

A. Yes, he listened to the radio a lot, yes. Oh, yes. All of his spare time he listened to the radio. Because he could hear good. That's the worst thing I have. It's hard for me to hear. And I sent my glasses, I broke the ones that had the hearing aids on them. And I could hear you now real well when you sit close there, but get off and I couldn't hear what they're saying. But I told them, Rollin, when he was in here, I said, "I've enjoyed this more since I got this here, (referring to T. V. remote control) so I could turn it on where I want to without getting up and going over there and turning it on. I've enjoyed it more than a lot of pictures that I've seen." Course I turned it on to see the Pope. And if you didn't see the Pope, why that's too bad. (laughs)

Q. What did you think of that?

A. Oh, I thought that they were worshipping him more than they was worshipping God. Don't you think so? Some of them would say, "That's Poppa. That's Poppa." Instead of Father, you know. Why they'd say, "Well, that's Poppa." Calling him Poppa. I said--well, they just worshipped him. But Margaret said there's a lot of the Catholics that didn't like the way they did because he was so against abortion and also divorce. He was very much against that. And you know there's too much of that in this country now. And people didn't like it. A lot of the Catholics didn't like it.

Q. What did Mr. Honey think of divorce?

A. Well, I never hear him say. I never did hear him discuss that at all, what he thought about it.

Q. Where all have you traveled?

A. Where have I traveled?

Q. Yes.

A. Everywhere I could go. Oh, I've told you I went to--I went down to the Home Bureau one time and just stayed overnight at a place down in Mississippi. Let's see where they were having their, oh, you know what they have down there, don't you?

Q. New Orleans?

A. No, at Mississippi. Mississippi where they had Minnie Pearl. Where they sing wild songs, you know. And play and make so much noise. I thought you'd surely know what that was.

Q. No.

A. Well, anyway I went to Smoky Mountains and I went with the lady from Rochester. Let's see, her name was, oh, I've got that written down here so I can remember her name. (looking for name) Mrs. Edith Greenwalt. Edith Greenwalt. I went to Smoky Mountains with her and after that I never went anywhere but what my children went with me. Some of my folks went with me.

Q. Where else have you traveled?

A. I went to Europe, the Holy Land, waded in the Dead Sea, rode a camel to the Pyramids, saw the Mount of Transfiguration, went in the Sea of Galilee, visited England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Israel. We stayed at thirty different hotels and lived out of a suitcase. Well, I went to Mexico. And my daughter and her husband went with me there. I then went to Canada. And my two granddaughters went with me there. And I went to California. And my granddaughter went with me out there. Jeanie. Jeanie was the one. Jeanie Giller. And then I went to Hawaii, and I went with some folks from Rochester. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pfeiffer. Althea and Bill Pfeiffer.

Q. And you went to Hawaii with them?

A. Yes. I went to Hawaii with them. I remember one time when we were there in Hawaii, why it was on Christmas. Along in the last of December. We were over there at Christmastime. And they decorate and have Christmas trees just like we do here, but it was just nice and warm, you know. I know that one time we went down and ate our lunch. We had to pay for our middle meal, if we made a thing at noon we had to pay for that. But the rest of our meals was all furnished by this Presley Tour. We went into a place where they had all kinds of things. All the stores were opened. You know, it was on a Sunday. Christmas was on a Sunday that year. So the stores were all open there. Just go in and buy things. So I thought, "Well, I'll go in and get some stuff to take to my grandchildren." So I was looking around in there and the rest of the crowd went down behind-- and I didn't know where they went. I thought they went outside. And when I got through, I went outside and I was by myself then. And, let's see, Helen, let's see what was her last name. Prather. This lady that I was suppose to be with, she was with them, too. And so when I went outside why I waited for them, and looked for them, and I couldn't see them anywhere. So I just walked on down the street. There was a place where you could sit down on a stone seat where they wait to cross the street. I waited and waited. Then, I crossed the street and went back to the hotel and sat down in the patio.

END OF TAPE

A. I got to talking to a lady from New York and she was working in Hawaii so I got to talking to her and I was sitting there talking to her and they came in there. And they just give me heck because I didn't wait for them. But I didn't know where they were. They were in the back part of the store and I didn't even know that they were in the back

part of the store. And I never thought about them being back there. I didn't see anything of them. And they just give me--so this lady knew how they--and said, "What on earth did you do?" Why said, "We was going to get the police after you. We thought somebody got after you. Or somebody had taken you, kidnapped you." And I said, "Why, the idea." I said, "You might have known I'd come back to the hotel. I looked, and looked, and looked for you folks and I didn't know where you were." And I said, "I'm sorry that I did that." And so this lady was with me, she said, "Now I'm going to have a big Christmas dinner tonight and I'm going to take you to dinner." So she took me to dinner and paid for my dinner. And oh, we had a wonderful dinner.

Q. You met a lot of people on your travels?

A. Oh, yes. We always met people on the travels, yes. I know there was a couple, they were always talking to and they had been there before. And they knew so much about everything. And they talked so much about it. When we got to Los Angeles, why Lawrence Welk was there. And they were having their show, they were having a dance. She said, "I'm going to go in there now and I'm going to dance with Lawrence Welk." And she did. But they had to pay to get in there, but we could look on the outside and look in but we didn't go in at all.

Q. Have you been to Europe?

A. I've been to Europe. I was over there for six weeks to the Holy Land. And I've been to California and I've been to Florida. I spent two months in Florida with my son. One year I went in January and later on I went again in February. And one time I went in a car, rode with my granddaughter. She was going home. She was working up at Lincoln in the home there, where you keep crazy people, you know. But anyway she was working up there. She was a field woman. She would go out and investigate the families where these people had come from and have to keep track of that. Oftentimes she would stop there in Rochester and visit me. She was going to Florida then to visit her folks for Christmas. So she wanted me to go. And I went with her. But I didn't know that anybody else was going with her. We stopped at Linda's, that's my granddaughter that lives just south of Springfield. I went over there and she picked me up there. She had a boyfriend with her, and I didn't know she was going to take this boyfriend. But anyway, this boyfriend went with her. And she was engaged to him. She had a ring and she was engaged to him. And she was showing her ring around. And so I didn't think very much of him, and her folks didn't think very much of him. And they had it arranged for him to go and sleep at a certain place because they would be kind of crowded. They didn't have too much room. And so he wouldn't go over there. And so he came back and slept on the davenport in the house there. They had a long seat, it was a long seat. And that's what he slept on. Well, when we went back, why we didn't only just stop enough to eat, and when we had to go to the toilet or something like that. We just came right back in a hurry. And I think we started back--oh, it didn't take any time to come home. And so then later she fell out with this fellow. And I was so glad she did because I didn't think very much of him. She was a Catholic and he was a Catholic. And so I guess that's the reason she went with him. But

anyway she went over to the University of Illinois with a friend of hers, and she met a fellow over there, and she fell in love with him. And he isn't a Catholic at all, but he's a good fellow and he's a nice fellow. Oh, she couldn't have got anybody any better than him. And her father thinks so much of him, too.

Q. Well, in all your travels, which spot have you enjoyed the most?

A. Well, I enjoyed going down to Mexico. We went in the big hotel down there. And then we went on to Acapulco. And I went swimming down there in Acapulco. I think I enjoyed that more than any of the rest of them. I enjoyed the trip to Smoky Mountains too. We had a hot dinner brought out by the lady where we were staying. That's when we went up on the hill, and we were suppose to stay there for the lights. They were suppose to come on at a certain time of the night, the lights come on there. And we were suppose to stay there until the lights come on, but we got tired of waiting so we came back to the bus. And stayed in the bus then until--they said the lights came on. If we just waited a little while longer, we would have seen it. I liked that very much.

Q. Now, have you kept your farm through all these years?

A. Yes, we kept our farm for all these years, yes. And only been three different men that lived on the farm. The first one I told you about when the house blowed up and killed them both. The one that lived north of us. And then his brother was the one that's on the farm now. And he's been there for sixteen years. He's been there for sixteen years. Well, he's been there for more than that I expect. I expect he's been there for twenty years. Because he was there before Mr. Honey passed away. And I've never, of course--Rollin, Margaret's husband, looks after it and everything. They're going down there about the last of the month sometime. They're going down to Newton to see how everything's going along. But I have a farm down there and I paid the taxes on it. And that man doesn't have to do a thing. He just farms it. And then he gets half the crop. So he has a pretty good proposition. He's not too good a farmer. They have oil down there too.

Q. When did they discover oil?

A. (coughs) About 1935. 1935. I'll have to quit talking I guess. (coughs) That's what makes my mouth water so.

Q. Do you want to stop for today, then?

A. Well, I guess we'll have to. (tape turned off)

Q. You say 1935 was when they discovered oil on your land?

A. Well, I imagine. That was when they did it.

Q. Were you there when they discovered oil?

A. Oh, no. We were living in Edinburg.

Q. Do you have more than one oil well?

A. Oh, yes. We had more than one. But we have only one that produces very much. Now Margaret said the last one that we got, the last money she got, was enough to pay for one month here. It's gone up so much since everything else has gone up, you know. The oil's gone up too. Well, I asked her today for sure, so I would be sure of that. And she said it was \$890 a month. That it was seven hundred and then they raised in July and I have eight hundred and ninety dollars. Ninety dollars I pay for this room. And the rest of the people in this second part here pay seven hundred dollars.

Q. And so you're able to stay here in the nursing home because of the money you get from the oil well?

A. Yes, well, I couldn't stay here if I didn't have the oil from the oil well. I wouldn't have enough to pay me to do that. But I have other interests. I have other interests. I've got bonds, and bank stocks, and other stuff that I get money from. But it's not as regular as it is from the oil.

Q. You say your husband was a very thrifty man.

A. Oh, he was.

Q. Did he invest for his future?

A. No, only in bonds. He bought a lot of H bonds and E bonds. And those E bonds were bonds that you just left them in there. You didn't get returns from them all the time. And then, of course, when you cashed them in, why then you'd get the returns. But H bonds, why they pay you so much a month for them. So I get that. But I have some bank stock in the People's Newton Bank, too.

Q. After your husband died, where did you live?

A. Right there where I always lived.

Q. In Rochester?

A. Yes, I lived there for ten years by myself.

Q. Then, where did you go?

A. Then, I went to Palmyra. I sold my house there in Rochester. My son-in-law built me a house on a lot that they owned. They owned a lot there. And it had kind of a low place in it. I don't know how many loads of dirt he hauled from the farm where he lived out on the farm then. And hauled it and filled that all in there. He filled it all in and made a nice yard.

Q. And were you able to stay there by yourself?

A. I stayed there for five years by myself. And then I got this water

on my lungs. And on my heart. I couldn't hardly get my breath. The doctor sent me to Carlinville and give me oxygen so I got so I could breathe. It was during that awful cold weather that I went home. You remember in February when we had such awful cold weather and it was snow. The snow was high as the cars on each side when they made the road through. I know when they came down and got me, they brought me a big comfort so I wrapped me up before I went home. And then I got a woman to stay with me for a couple of weeks, but she wanted to do everything. She didn't want me to do anything. So we didn't get along very good. Margaret came up and I told her what happened. So she said, "We'll just take her right home. Right now." And so she just took her home right just before dinner. And she lived in a housing unit, you know. They have a housing unit. Well, she lived in one of them. I often wondered if she ever got any dinner. (laughter)

Q. So then where did you go after that?

A. Well, I went to Lincoln. After that she called up. Well, she asked me what I was going to do. And I said, "Well, I want to go to Lincoln." And so that's the only way I knew to go because to get anybody to come and stay with you it was pretty hard to do it. And we paid her fifty dollars a week. And she then went every noon, we'd go up to the place where the senior citizens and ate and paid for her dinner up there. But we didn't go up there. They'd bring it to us. And it wasn't satisfactory. And I said I'd go to Lincoln. She called up then. It was on a Sunday evening. And they said they wouldn't know until the next morning whether there'd be a room for me or not. So they called up the next morning and they said there was a bed for me. I went up and there was just one room there, one bed there they wasn't using. But they're not near as big as this place. They're not only more than half as big as this place.

Q. How long was you there?

A. Eight months. I stayed there eight months.

Q. Did you enjoy it?

A. Yes, I didn't mind it. I have one roommate that I didn't get along with very well with. But I had three different, four different roommates, and three of them I got along with very well with. I know there was one little girl that was my roommate. She's out now and she's living with her sister. And she's comes in and sees me every once in a while. I always thought a lot of her.

Q. And then you moved down here to Lewis Memorial Christian Nursing Home?

A. They asked all the women up there if there was anybody that wanted to go to Springfield when they finished their home there. And so I told them I wanted to go to Springfield because it would be closer to my daughter. And so's there's another lady down here, Mrs. Bessie Fouch, was a good friend of mine. I had got acquainted with her up at Lincoln. And so she was coming down here. We were going to come

down at the same time. Well, she came down on Thursday. And I was supposed to come then too. But Rochester was having a birthday party up there. They'd come in, you know, the birthday. They had cakes and served ice creams and cake and then they have a program. Well, I wanted to see their program, you know. And I wanted to be there. So I did. The next day I came down. My daughter and her daughter came and moved me down here. And so I was the second one here. And I said, "Well, I would like to have a single room if I could get it." So he said, "This is one room you can have. And there's one down there. And it has a shower in it." But I said, "I think this would be the handiest to the dining room and it'd be much nicer." So I took this room then. And they don't have very many single rooms here. Down there they have one for Miss Lewis. See Miss Lewis is the one that give them the land so I don't suppose she has to pay anything.

Q. How long have you been here?

A. Well, the last of September, why two years.

Q. Have you enjoyed it here?

A. Oh, I enjoyed it, yes, very much. I painted. When I worked in the ceramic group and I painted a jardiniere. It was so pretty and I put on so many different colors. And I worked in that for six weeks. An hour when we had our ceramic class. We always have our ceramic class on Monday. So I worked in that for six weeks. Well, instead of them showing it to me afterwards and asking me if I wanted to buy it after I had painted it, they brought it out one day when I was playing dominoes with an old lady down there. She's a lady that's 97, or she'll be 97 the thirteenth of this month. And so we was playing dominoes and just brought it out there. And I said, "Oh, how beautiful after it was fired." You know and all. And you know when you put the colors on, you never know how they're going to look after they're fired. Well, I went in the next morning early to buy it and I said, "Where is the ceramic that I made?" And she said, "Oh, we sold it." I said, "Sold it!" I said, "What did you get for it?" She said, "Six dollars and a half." I said, "Oh, I'd been glad to pay that for it." Then Mrs. Stuart came in here when I was lying down. She said, "Oh, I hated it so bad. I didn't get to see that. I know how much work you put on it and all." And I said, "How much did they tell you they sold it for?" She said, "They said they sold it for eight dollars." And so there it was. Mixed up. I tell you that it just got me down. It just got me down!

Then the little girl, this preacher's wife, she's Pat. I don't know what his last name is but anyway, her name is Pat and she came in here and asked me to have devotions. I had told her I would take the devotions. We have it every other day, three times a week. And the lady comes out, Gladys Sharples, comes out and plays the organ and then we have devotions. And so she come in and wanted to know if I was still going to have devotions. I guess she thought I felt so bad I wasn't going to have them. And I said, "Pat, I told you I'd have them and I will. I've got them all ready now, and I'll have them there."

Q. Have you made other things here?

A. Oh, yes. I've painted a lot here. But I never had anything that I was going to buy. Margaret has a flower that I had for twenty-five years and it has never been repotted. It's a foliage plant. It's a big round like this and has white streaks in the leaves. White streaks, you know, in the leaves. And so an old lady give me that. Well, she was 92 years old when she gave it to me. And that was a number of years while we was living in Rochester. And it was in a little basket, kind of--you know, how a basket would be. And that pot was down in that. Well, I was making this jardiniere for her to put that pot down in there. Because that basket's just about wore out. It's just about rotted out you know. The bottom of it and all. And so I didn't get to give it to her. And then I worried about that so much.

And then one evening when I was coming in from supper, I sat down there in the T. V. room. I was reading some papers and some books, and I never felt bad at all. I felt just fine. And I got up and I started here and I took a pain in my side here till I thought I'd die. And I came in here, and the nurses was in here. And they worked on me and they took my blood pressure. They thought it was my heart. And oh, I suffered terrible. Nobody knows how much I've suffered. And I said, "Call the doctor. Call my doctor and tell him that I've got something the matter with me." So they called him and he told them to give me a shot of some kind. I guess he knew. And it was acute indigestion. He said it was acute indigestion. It just felt like they had something tied around here (chest) and I couldn't get my breath in my lungs, you know, and all. And it's right under this left breast. That's the reason they thought it was my heart. Nobody knows how much I suffered for that. But after he give me that shot and they give me something to drink too, I got to feeling better so I laid down. And I never go to bed before ten o'clock. But that was just about 7:30. No, it wasn't that late, I don't think. They put me to bed. The nurses came in and undressed me and put me to bed. And I'll tell you nobody knows how much I suffered at that there. But the next morning--I slept from about midnight and then I didn't sleep too much after that. I couldn't lay on my right side at all. It just hurt me so bad when I laid on my right side. But I could lay on my left side. It just seemed like when I pressed it against the bed, why it didn't hurt quite so bad. So then the next day, I got up and it was still sore. But never hurt me like it did. So I've been getting better. So last night it hurt me some when I was laying on my right side. And I turned over and then after that it never hurt me at all. One thing about it I never knew what it was, that I had the matter with me until the doctor said that it was acute indigestion was what it was. (interruption)

Q. Have you always been healthy?

A. Yes, I've always been healthy. I never did have to go to the doctor much. My daughter always said that you ought to have an examination every year but we never did. We never did that at all. For years and years and years we went passed and never had anything. We never called the doctor. One time I fell in the basement and broke my arm. Of course, I had to go to the doctor then. Mr. Honey took me in. We had a place in the basement there in Rochester. It was kind of low like this (taps on table) and I had a broom. I was trying to get some cobwebs

around you know where they were gathering in the basement. And I fell and hit my arm right on the broom handle. And just broke my arm. So he took me right in to the doctor. It was my right hand too and it was pretty hard to use my left hand. Because I always used my right hand for everything.

Q. Since you've come into the nursing home, have you missed doing things for yourself?

A. Well, yes. Of course, I see recipes that I'd like to try, and things like that, you know, that I couldn't do in here. But here you don't have to do anything, only eat and sleep. You don't have to do anything. They have things for you to do if you want to do them. But you don't have to do it if you don't want to. They encourage you all they can to get you to do these things. And I have always taken part in about everything there was to do. But since this all happened I just kind of lay low now. I think the more active you were the more you're apt to get in trouble. (laughs)

Q. Do you pretty much take care of yourself here in your room?

A. I never have had a nurse to do a thing for me until they came in here and undressed me the other night when I had that sick spell. Nobody ever--I had one time once before. I have pernicious anemia. I have my legs at night sometimes will get so they burn like fire. I have to get up and wash them with cold water or something like that. And so one time I had a spell, but that was about one o'clock at night. And so the nurses worked on me. They called the doctor then and he told them to give me a shot. He knew I had pernicious anemia. (pause) But I've always been healthy. I've had all kinds of diseases, children's diseases and all that. I did that when I was growing up.

Q. Now I know you have a good memory. What do you attribute that to at your age?

A. Well, just saying things over and over again. Lots of times when I can't sleep at night, I'll just say the poems that I said or scriptures that I want to learn or anything that I want to learn I do that when I go to sleep at night. I do that even now whenever something goes to worrying me, why then I'll start saying some scripture that I know. And that keeps you from worrying you see. I know there is a girl here and she has spells with coughing. She just coughs till she nearly dies. And I said to her one day, I said, "Now if you just think about what you're doing, you just get a verse or scripture, and you just say that over and over and you'll forget about your coughing." And I notice that she is not near as bad as she used to be. And I suppose that she tried it. I never asked her afterward if she tried it or not. I said it's one thing it wouldn't hurt you if it didn't do you any good. But I said if you get your mind off your self and get to thinking about something that you have to think about, why it helps you. And I think that's the reason that I have a good memory because I just memorized and said things over and over and over. I even do now when I wake up at night. I get to worrying about something, you know. Well, then I'll just start saying some scripture

and I know I have to remember to say that because I remember that, you know. And it helps me. I think that's where I've got my good memory.

Q. You walk with a cane. How do you get around so well?

A. Well, I just make myself go. Sometimes I cannot do it again, but I'm going to do and just might and determination more than anything else.

Q. Do you take exercises?

A. You see, I fell in the garden one day. That's the reason I could walk as good as anybody and I used to load up the trimming the bushes and things like that. I had a little wagon and I loaded it up and take it out in the garden and burn it. And I was doing that real well every morning. And we had this big crop of apples. So I went out there one day I reached over to pick up a apple and I just fell backwards. And if I had gone to a chiropractor I think--it's kind of a slip in my back there. Because I notice now that when I straighten my legs out real straight like that, why I could feel it in my back. And that caused me so I couldn't walk too good. I walk kind of with my knees kind of bent. I don't walk with my legs straight out like I should. But this last year I've tried to straighten them out. Tried to get my legs straight but it's pretty hard. But that's the reason I walk with my walker when I feel like I can't use my cane.

Q. You've lived a pretty simple life then really, haven't you?

A. Oh, yes. I've lived a simple life. I haven't anything that I'm ashamed of.

Q. Is there anything you wished you might have done that you have not gotten to do?

A. Well, I wished I could have had more education. I've wished that, that I could have had more education that I had. And I wished that Mr. Honey when we moved to Rochester that he'd taken a course at Lincoln. It would have helped him a lot. But we didn't have money enough to do things that we wanted to do. So we just had to live the best way we could. Takes money to do those things, you know.

Q. What are your goals for the future?

A. Well, I don't know anything only just make the best to do while you're here because I expect to live here. This is my room. I expect to live here until I die. I hope they don't put me out. I told Margaret that I was afraid--take so many of them that wanted a single room, you know. And I was afraid maybe they would. She said that they told her--of course, that was a new administration we've got now. So I don't know what they do. The old administration said, "No, we'd never take your room away from you." But I don't know what they'd do now. And if they take my room away from me I don't know what I would do. Because this is my home. And that's mine. And this is mine. And that chair's mine. So that's the only things I've got here that belong to me. But this is my home. This is all the home I have. I don't want to live with my children.

My daughter has had so much trouble with her eyes I'm afraid she's going to go blind. And that's one thing she wanted to come up today. She was going to the doctor to see about her eyes. And I had some dresses when I bought that we went down last week and got these dresses and they were too long. She said she'd take them home and hem them up. And I said, "Now your eyes are going to bother you, don't you do it." And then she found that she couldn't do it, so she brought them up here today. The ladies that were working here, they hemmed them up for her. And that's the reason the lady brought them in here a while ago.

Q. Well, you certainly get along good and around good and you don't look like you're 95.

A. Well, I exercise. I exercise of a morning. And I do a lot of exercise before I get out of bed of a morning. And then we have exercises at the table. They have certain exercises. You go up this way and this way and that way. And lift your leg and lift your shoulders, your head and all. They have that at the table every morning. The lady that has charge.

Q. And you think this helps?

A. Oh, yes. Any exercise you take. It doesn't make any difference what it is. Any exercise you take, it helps you. You can't just sit around and feel all right all the time. You can't do it.

Q. What are your hobbies, Mrs. Honey?

A. Well, my hobby was making hooked rugs, was my hobby. That's the only hobby I had. There's so many things that I couldn't do. I couldn't knit, I couldn't crochet. That's the thing I could do. That was my hobby, the thing that I could do. And do good.

Q. Do you have a hobby here?

A. Well, my hobby is writing poems. Writing poems here that's really about the only hobby I have here.

Q. And you enjoy doing that?

A. Because I've written that book full of poems since I've been here, oh, about different things, you know. About love and wrote about my window, and I wrote about the nurses and I wrote about the home here and different things that I wrote. That's my hobby, that's my hobby here.

Q. You enjoy that?

A. Yes, I enjoy it, yes. And it's something that you have to think. You can't just sit down and write a poem without thinking at all. You have to think a little bit about it. But I can just sit down and write one when I get to thinking about something. I know of one time here why they had a--I don't know whether I told you--cake decorating class. I went in to--they had that this afternoon, I think they had cake decorating

down there. No, I think they had ceramics here this afternoon, but I wasn't going anyway. Because the lady just passed a while ago and I know she had been down at ceramics. I went to this cake decorating place, and I was trying to help somebody that just couldn't do it very good. And I was trying to show her how to do it. And of course, I've got a good voice and I talk too loud. The lady then that had charge, she said, "What are you doing there? Don't help her, let her do it herself." I said, "I was just trying to help her, to show her how to do this. That's all I was trying to do." And she come around there and she give me my cane. She said, "You go to your room." I said, "I'm not going." And I didn't go. I didn't go to my room. But I give her to understand that I wasn't doing anything that I was ashamed of. I was trying to help and this little girl begin to cry. And I said, "Look there now what you've done. You're the one that caused her to cry." She knew I was trying to help her. And then when this started in here with this ceramic business, why I was so mad when I went in there and she had sold that thing. I was just so mad I couldn't do. I just came in here in the T. V. room and I was standing there and I had my cane. And the preacher come in there and he said, "You go to your room." He said, "Come on and go to your room now." And I said, "I'm not going to my room." And I said, "You go down and tend to your own business." And he said, "Well, this is my business." And I said, "I can't help if it is. I'm not going." I just took my cane and give him a smack on his leg. And he said, "Now, you hit me with your cane." I said, "I didn't hit you. You stood right in front of me and I was trying to get you out of the way. And I was trying to get over to the seat to sit down." And finally I sat down in that seat. And then I went back in there. And the director, the new director--I knew him real well from Lincoln--he came and I was talking to him. I said, "Tim, I didn't mean to do anything wrong, but I was so mad when he told me to go into my room I won't go." And he said, "Oh, well, come on. I'll take you into your room." So I came into the room with him. And he sat here and talked a little bit. But he's really nice. The new director is really nice.

Q. Your very independent, aren't you?

A. Well, yes. (laughs) You have to be to live, don't you?

Q. You're very fortunate though.

A. Why?

Q. To be able to have a good memory and to move around and still do the things that you want to do.

A. Well, yes. I think I'm a lucky woman. I really do. I try to be nice to everybody. I've got a lot of friends here. I know I have. I try to be nice to people. But you know I guess I'm too impatient and things have to just happen right away to me. It's like I was playing with this lady that plays dominoes. She don't know anything but dominoes. That's all she knows. She'll go in and play by herself. And I felt sorry for her and I played with her quite a while. I'd just go in and when she was playing by herself I'd play with her. She didn't like for anybody to

come and interfere. Well, there's another lady that I didn't like to play with because she keeps her hands going this way (pounds on table) or she'd have a dominoe and she'd go this way and just made me so nervous I couldn't hardly stand it. And so she came up one day and was going to play with us. She just moved her chair right up and was going to play with us. And I started to get up and so the lady, the director there that has charge of the games that we have and all, she says, "Mrs. Honey, you just leave her alone." She says, "Let her play. If you can't play, all three can't play together, we'll just take the dominoes away from you." Well I wasn't keeping her from playing. I just started to get up. I wasn't going to play with her if she sat there. She didn't have any business saying anything like that. And she's the one that she sold that for eight dollars and she didn't do anything of the kind.

Q. Is there anything . . .

A. That's one reason my daughter wanted me to have a single room. (laughter) You can see why, don't you?

END OF TAPE