



Oral History of Illinois Agriculture

- Catalog Number:** ISM_17_HerschbergerLor
- Interviewee:** **Lorene Herschberger**
- Interviewer:** Michael Maniscalco
- Interview Date:** February 5, 2008
- Interview Location:** Sullivan County
- Recording Format:** Digital Video (.avi; original HD .M2T requiring proprietary software available)
- Recording Length:** 68 minutes (plus 5 minute walk & talk that is not transcribed)
- Recording Engineer:** Robert Warren
- Repositories:** Oral History Archive, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois; Oral History Archive, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois
- Transcript Length:** 26 pages
- Transcriber:** Tape Transcription Center, The Skill Bureau, Boston, Massachusetts
- Editor:** Michael Maniscalco and Ashley Abruzzo
- Indexer:** James S. Oliver
- Abstract:** Mother of 13, Lorene Herschberger resides on an Amish farm with husband Oba where they breed Belgian horses and raise Holsteins. Along with her husband, Lorene recounts growing up in a family where her father was a preacher, living in Iowa when first married to Oba, and raising their large family. She produces fine quilts, following in the footsteps of her mother whose quilt is featured in *Illinois Amish Quilts* and is part of the Illinois State Museum's quilt collection.
- Keywords:** Amish; Amish Farm; Quilts; Quilting
- Citation:** Oral History Archives, Illinois State Museum and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield, Illinois
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Interview with Lorene Herschberger

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February 5, 2008

Interviewer: Mike Maniscalco

- Maniscalco: Today is February 5, 2008. We're at the home of Mrs. Herschberger in Sullivan County, Illinois, and this is for the Oral History of Illinois Agriculture project. How are you doing today, Mrs. Herschberger?
- Herschberger, L.: Okay.
- Maniscalco: Very good. This is really great that we're getting the opportunity to sit down here with you. If you could just, to start up, just give us how old you are and date of birth, and your birthplace.
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, my. I'm twenty-seven[fifty]—
- Maniscalco: Okay. (laughter)
- Herschberger, L.: And my birthday's August 17, 1950.
- Maniscalco: Where were you born?
- Herschberger, L.: In Tuscola.
- Maniscalco: Tuscola, Illinois?
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm.
- Maniscalco: Now, do you have immediate family around here, or...?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh yes. I have two sisters, and most of my other brothers and sisters live out of state. One lives in Florida, and Indiana, and Ohio, and...I think that's all. Some of them have passed on.
- Maniscalco: How many brothers and sisters did you have?
- Herschberger, L.: Well, there's nineteen altogether.
- Maniscalco: Wow. Wow. So I guess you had a lot of fun as a kid.
- Herschberger, L.: Well, I was second to the youngest, so I didn't find out a lot of the older ones. Because my dad married twice, so there was nine of us of my immediate brothers and sisters.
- Maniscalco: Oh, okay. Okay. Now, can you explain—you know, I understand that there's different sects of the Amish and different things like that. Can you explain some of the differences?
- Herschberger, O.: (laughs) She didn't want to get into that one.
- Herschberger, L.: I don't know how to explain it, so—
- Maniscalco: Okay. Well, can you tell us a little bit about your childhood, growing up?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, my goodness. (laughter) I don't know what to say, I mean where to start.
- Herschberger, O.: I don't either; I wasn't there. (laughter)

Maniscalco: What was the best time you had as a child—how's that?

Herschberger, L.: The best time?

Maniscalco: Yeah.

Herschberger, O.: You did a lot of fishing back there, remember, for salmon?

Herschberger, L.: Oh yeah, I know. We went fishing; we went skating. We had a lot of fun, but we also had to work—get up and milk cows, and—

Maniscalco: What was your one chore that you liked the most?

Herschberger, L.: I don't know; there's so many. (laughter) I don't really know. Babysitting, probably, for my nieces and nephews—but always at home.

Maniscalco: Was it a common thing for you to do?

Herschberger, L.: Oh, yeah. Go and help her, or they'd bring the children over. Yeah.

Maniscalco: Cool. How old were you when you started babysitting?

Herschberger, L.: Let's see, when did...? Probably fourteen.

Maniscalco: What about friends and stuff? Did you have a lot of friends growing up?

Herschberger, L.: Oh yeah. We had a lot of friends at school, the neighbors. If we'd get any time off or anything, we'd go to the neighbors and play church. (laughs)

Maniscalco: Play church? Can you explain it?

Herschberger, O.: Yeah, that's something girls did a lot. Having little dolls and playing church.

Herschberger, L.: Oh, yeah.

Herschberger, O.: And the grandkids do that a lot, too.

Herschberger, L.: And the boys, they'd get up and preach. (both laugh)

Maniscalco: How did it work? I mean, did you—

Herschberger, L.: It worked fine. We had a lot of fun.

Maniscalco: So did you set up like benches and everything?

Herschberger, L.: Chairs, probably, mostly. They might have had a bench or so, if they had one in the home. We'd do that. Yeah.

Maniscalco: Now, was it easy to get the boys to get up and preach, or...?

Herschberger, L.: Oh yeah. It was no problem at all. (all laugh)

Maniscalco: Oh, that's cool. So really, I mean, I know you went to church on Sundays, but also you—

Herschberger, O.: Her dad was a preacher for fifty-two years.

Maniscalco: Oh really?

Herschberger, O.: Yeah.

Maniscalco: So how was that, being the preacher's daughter?

Lorene Herschberger

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- Herschberger, L.: I didn't even think about it. I mean, he was a preacher before I was born, so it was—
- Herschberger, O.: A very good preacher—very knowledgeable.
- Herschberger, L.: —just always the way it was.
- Herschberger, O.: You're not a preacher by choice, I guess. You're ordained in by lot.
- Maniscalco: By lot. Can you explain how that—?
- Herschberger, O.: Oh, we got into a good one there.
- Herschberger, L.: You better just come over here and explain it, then.
- Herschberger, O.: You can explain it.
- Herschberger, L.: I'll say something wrong.
- Herschberger, O.: No.
- Maniscalco: We won't hold you to it. (laughter)
- Herschberger, O.: Well, simply at communion time, if there needs to be a vacancy filled—there's usually two ministers, one bishop, and a deacon. That fills the lot of one church. So we kind of like take a vote but it's not in numbers, it's if you have three votes. And no one knows anything about it. I mean, it's all done in secret to the ministers—and the ministers don't tell each other, they just write down. After three, they just make a mark. So there's no politics involved—and there's not. And then a piece of paper is put in a songbook. Let's say there's seven in the lot—five in the lot—doesn't matter, and there's five books. In one of those five books, there's a piece of paper—tells you the office and the calling of what they are doing today. You simply go up and take a [book]. It's that simple. Very, very emotional time. And it's always done at the very end of communion service, and there's usually a lot of people there. And that's how it's done. They're chosen by lot. Our son-in-law was just chosen deacon this spring. And that's the way it is. He was twenty-five years old—very young.
- Interviewer: Now, your father was a preacher. Do you remember him telling you stories about how he felt and the time when he was chosen?
- Herschberger, L.: Uh-uh, no.
- Herschberger, O.: That's something that's real personal. We don't talk about it, you know. Because it's kind of a funny thing—it's not a think like, "Hey, I became a preacher." It's a very humbling experience. Most of them really don't want it, because it completely changes your life. I mean, you were a farmer. Now, you're a farmer—or whatever you were—now you're a farmer plus a preacher, or whatever. Okay, you study hours and hours and hours. A lot of our preachers are very eloquent speakers—without notes. There are never notes taken. It's always whatever comes, comes, and it's usually very, very—very good speakers. Not all are, which makes it good, because that way we can say, "Just because you're a preacher doesn't make you a good speaker," or vice versa. So much for that. (interviewer laughs)
- Maniscalco: Well, thank you, Oba. So getting back—so I imagine you went to church every Sunday.
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm.

- Maniscalco: Now what about school? Can you...?
- Herschberger, L.: I went to the Shaw school—one-room country school—all my eight years, same school.
- Maniscalco: Was it all Amish people that went to this school?
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm. We had a non-Amish teacher at that time, but yes.
- Herschberger, O.: At that time, we didn't have parochial schools yet. We didn't have them. Had very good teachers, very good system. But it came not to be, so we had our own schools.
- Maniscalco: Interesting. So now your kids go to a school where? Or your grandkids, and probably some of your kids.
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm, at the—
- Herschberger, O.: All of our kids went to public school.
- Herschberger, L.: Well, they go up here now to our own school we build up here. And of course, I guess, how many of those schools do we have?
- Herschberger, O.: I don't know. Around twenty, probably.
- Herschberger, L.: Probably around twenty of them, yeah.
- Herschberger, O.: The reason we have one now, there was the school that we went to, it became too large. We do the schools same way we do with the church: it gets too large, we divide within the district. We don't go somewhere else; we divide. And it happened to us down here, and so we built the school out [down] here, and there's a student up there.
- Maniscalco: Now who gets to be the teachers, and how's that all decided?
- Herschberger, L.: The board. There's usually three on the board, and they usually go out and try to find a teacher. And that's usually older girls. There's—
- Herschberger, O.: Qualified girls—and boys. There's also boys.
- Herschberger, L.: There's a couple of men that do—
- Herschberger, O.: Married men. Hey, I'm answering these questions. You keep on going.
- Herschberger, L.: Get over here and answer them. (laughter) Our teacher is married, but they don't have any children, so she's—
- Herschberger, O.: Very good teacher.
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm, very good teacher.
- Maniscalco: What are the qualifications for her to be a teacher? I mean, what does the board look for?
- Herschberger, O.: Go ahead. They have to be upstanding members—you know that.
- Herschberger, L.: Well yeah, but they usually—
- Herschberger, O.: Outstanding member of the church, not troublemakers. Good citizens, you know, and be smart. That's actually not the biggest, most important qualification because we discovered a very easy-learning teacher is not necessarily the best teacher. Because if

- she's a little bit on the hard-learning side, she knows what it feels like to be a hard learner, so she has more patience.
- Maniscalco: So the reading, the writing, arithmetic, things like that, go on down at the school, but what sorts of things are you teaching your kids in the home here?
- Herschberger, O.: Whatever you can cram into them right at the end of the table. (laughter)
- Herschberger, L.: Just to be good children. I mean, be good adults when they grow up. Just the right and wrong, and—
- Maniscalco: Can you try to define a little bit of what a good adult would be, then, for them?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, I'm not good at this.
- Herschberger, O.: Don't look at me; he asked you.
- Herschberger, L.: What a good adult would be like—
- Herschberger, O.: Better take a girl. You can understand that better.
- Herschberger, L.: If she can take care of the home, learns how to cook, do the laundry, take care of children—just all of it together. You don't really choose one; I mean, it just all works together.
- Maniscalco: Now to look back at you and kind of your life and... Now, you grew up on a farm, correct?
- Herschberger, L.: Yes.
- Maniscalco: When did you meet Oba here? I mean, how did... (Oba laughs) I mean, can you tell us that story?
- Herschberger, O.: I don't mean laughing now.
- Herschberger, L.: Did you tell them how you met me?
- Herschberger, O.: Which story you going to say? (Lorene laughs) We meet same as you guys do. A lot of us meet different from what we did, because we really didn't know each other, and that was kind of uncommon for here, really, because most know each other. I knew of her—I knew of her parents, yeah, but I really didn't particularly know her. And I saw her in town one day, and that was it for me. (laughs) Just that's it.
- Herschberger, L.: Well, we actually met, though, at the weenie roast where we had—the young folks got together, and we had a weenie roast, and—
- Herschberger, O.: Every Wednesday night in the summertime.
- Herschberger, L.: —it's actually how we met. Yeah.
- Maniscalco: And what'd you think? He was some kind of crazy guy over on the other side? (Lorene laughs)
- Herschberger, O.: Should I go out?
- Herschberger, L.: I don't even really remember what I thought. (all laugh)
- Herschberger, O.: (inaudible). (all talking at once)

Herschberger, L.: Not the first—

Maniscalco: There's a lasting impression. (laughs)

Herschberger, L.: Not the first time.

Herschberger, O.: I'll tell you what really happened. I had to drag my neighbor girl to the weenie roast all the time because she didn't have a way to go. So I took her. Her brother and I was kind of clowns together. And (laughs) that night as we were sitting around the fire at the weenie roast—a lot of kids had left, and we was just goofing off. And that's a lot of the way we do things—goof off. I mean, talk, like kids do. And I said to Bill, I said, "I'll make you a deal." He said, "What's that?" I said, "You take my neighbor home, and I'll take your sister home." (laughs) He said, "That's a deal." (laughter) We kind of was eyeing each other anyway, so it worked out pretty good. That's the way we did it the first time. (laughs)

Maniscalco: Now, did Oba have to come and ask your father permission to—?

Herschberger, L.: No.

Herschberger, O.: Some do, some don't. But at that time, that was something that wasn't required at all. Today, there's some that would, maybe.

(pause in recording)

Maniscalco: So I think where we left off was you had met Oba, and now, where did you guys live then, after you had been married? Where did you live immediately?

Herschberger, L.: After we were married?

Maniscalco: Yeah.

Herschberger, L.: Well, to start with, we just lived with my folks. We just lived there until we rented a place just straight south of Arthur. We rented a place there.

Herschberger, O.: Close to my folks. (Object in background starts playing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas")

Herschberger, L.: And lived there for about a year.

Herschberger, O.: Then we started farming.

Maniscalco: So you didn't farm at that point?

Herschberger, L.: We moved on down— [south on a farm we rented.]

Herschberger, O.: Remember I'd said I'd carpentered for four years.

Maniscalco: That's right. Okay. So then you moved from Illinois to Iowa at one point?

Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm.

Herschberger, O.: After we were married for how many years? Ten years. We married in '68, moved in '78, moved back in '88.

Maniscalco: So you went to Iowa. And how did you feel about Iowa?

Herschberger, L.: Oh, I liked it there.

- Maniscalco: Did you?
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm. I didn't like the roads, but I liked the people, and I liked it there. Yeah.
- Maniscalco: Now, was there another Amish community there that you were able to—
- Herschberger, O.: Oh yeah.
- Herschberger, L.: Yes, there was another community there. That's why we moved there. Yeah.
- Maniscalco: Had you already known some people that had moved there prior to you?
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm, Oba's brother and sister. No, Andy hadn't lived there yet.
- Herschberger, O.: There were seven of us living in the area—seven of my brothers and sisters.
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah, at one time.
- Maniscalco: Wow, okay. Now, you farmed out there. Now, did you have a garden out there?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh yes, big garden.
- Maniscalco: What sorts of things did you grow in your garden there?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, anything.
- Herschberger, O.: At that time, our gardens were huge, because all the kids were at home then.
- Herschberger, L.: Oh yeah. We had a big strawberry patch, and we sold strawberries. But anything from sweet corn, tomatoes, potatoes, and—
- Herschberger, O.: That one year, how many bushels of potatoes did we have? Twenty-six bushels?
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm, I think so. Twenty-six bushels of potatoes. Oh, just carrots and radishes and lettuce and kohlrabis, and just all kinds.
- Maniscalco: Now, when you picked them all and everything, what sorts of things did you make out of them?
- Herschberger, L.: You mean when I brought them in from the garden, what did I make? Oh—
- Herschberger, O.: I'm going to leave you be for a little bit.
- Herschberger, L.: —well, the potatoes, you know, like fry them, or mashed potatoes. Or the sweet corn, of course, we'd freeze it—cut it off and freeze that. And tomatoes, we'd make either tomato juice or salsa or ketchup or... I don't know if there's anything else. And then like the other vegetables, like the carrots and the kohlrabis, and some of those, we'd make—the lettuce—make a lettuce salad. Stuff like that.
- Maniscalco: And did you do any canning?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, yes. Canned all the tomatoes—[made lots of] all that ketchup and all that [salsa and pizza sauce] stuff. And the sweet corn, sometimes I'd can it, but usually I'd freeze it. And potatoes, sometimes I'd can the real small ones, if they were hard to peel, so sometimes I canned those. But carrots, yes, I canned carrots.
- Maniscalco: And then did you learn those things from your mother or your sisters, or...?
- Herschberger, L.: Yep, I learned it all from my mom.

- Maniscalco: From your mom. Cool. Now what about other types of livestock and things like goats and...?
- Herschberger, L.: You mean if we had any?
- Maniscalco: Yeah, did you have any at that time?
- Herschberger, L.: No. His mom and dad gave us a goat to milk first when we got married. That's the only time we had a goat. Usually just had cows.
- Maniscalco: Now, you didn't take care of the goat, the men—?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, yes, I'd—[take care of her]
- Maniscalco: Oh, you did?
- Herschberger, L.: Sometimes I'd milk her, yeah.
- Maniscalco: Yeah?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh yeah.
- Maniscalco: Okay. And how was that?
- Herschberger, L.: We liked it.
- Maniscalco: Good. So we talked about your garden. Can you tell me a little bit about like your home? What your homes, on average—I mean, I know you're living now in Illinois again, back from Iowa, but what are some of the similarities between all the homes that you've lived in? Some of the things that are constants that you keep there to make sure that it's your home?
- Herschberger, L.: You mean the difference from one—like in Iowa and here? The difference, how we—?
- Maniscalco: The similarities between them?
- Herschberger, L.: As far as the kitchen, we would have had the cookstove. But they didn't have gas; we had kerosene stoves. And I couldn't take the smell, so we didn't use the kerosene very often. And of course, the refrigerator would have been kerosene. As far as the rest of the things, it was just like what I have here. I mean, they're all pretty much the same. The furniture and everything else was pretty much the same. We didn't have the gas lights like this. We had one that you could hang up instead of the piped in. As far as anything else, it's about the same as we have here.
- Maniscalco: Now you kind of have two homes here. You have a home over there and a home over here. Now, you and Oba stay here. Now who's staying in the other house in the other side?
- Herschberger, L.: Our son Paul and his family. We did live over there. We moved over here in the first of September. And I guess we call this the grandpa house. (interviewer laughs) Because we moved from the big house to the smaller house, which was very hard to do, because you had accumulated a lot of stuff, especially with thirteen children. So you had to get rid of some of it, or do something. So I had a lot of sorting to do. So I guess now we live in a grandpa house.
- Maniscalco: (laughs) Now do you make a majority of the clothes for your kids and...?

- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm. We buy some of the shirts, but as far as everything else—except the underclothes, we buy—but as far as the dresses and the men’s pants and stuff, yeah. Usually make all those.
- Maniscalco: Now I can see your dress is put together with a straight pin, correct?
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm.
- Maniscalco: How—I’m just curious. Do you stick yourself every once and a while?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh yes. (both laugh) Oh yes, sometimes you do. But you get really used to it, to where it doesn’t happen very often. But it does sometimes.
- Maniscalco: Now, we were at the interpretive center today, and I noticed that she said they’re now using buttons? Or what...? Or snaps?
- Herschberger, L.: Just the girls that have the dress open in the back. That’s before they wear the one that’s open in the front. They’re usually maybe ten before they wear the dress like this. They usually have the dress where it’s closed in the back. And that’s easier—that’s a lot easier for them. And then they usually wear this after that. There’s some of them that might have snaps, but very, very, very few. There’s not many of them.
- Maniscalco: Well, it must be quite the task to clothe all these children that you have running around.
- Herschberger, L.: It was at one time, I’ll tell you. Yeah, it was. (laughs)
- Maniscalco: So how do you sit down and decide what to make for who, and...?
- Herschberger, L.: Well, as they grow, you hand them down to the next one. But usually the oldest one...[gets new clothes]. But then we always try to let the other ones, too—get new clothes. But I don’t know. As they grow, you just know how much they need or what they need at the time. And then sometimes, we’d have workdays when the women come in and help each other sew, take care of that. That helps a lot.
- Maniscalco: I bet. How many women will you usually...?
- Herschberger, L.: Well, with our family, there’s five married, so there’d be five coming, and then there’s always children involved, and have a big day.
- Maniscalco: A big day. (both laugh) Is there food involved?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh yeah.
- Maniscalco: What do you...?
- Herschberger, L.: We have a list where I think it’s vegetable and paper plate is one, and then it’s something hot, and dessert, and break—usually for the afternoon break. And we always have this on a piece of paper and have all our names up here and down here, so you can go across and see what you’re supposed to bring for that day. So then all the food comes—so like if I have it here, all the food would come in; I wouldn’t have to do anything. So it makes it easier.
- Maniscalco: I’m sure, I’m sure. Now, you wouldn’t have to make any food, but I’m sure you would have preparations to do around here for that?
- Herschberger, L.: For us?

Maniscalco: Yeah.

Herschberger, L.: Oh yeah.

Maniscalco: What sorts of things would you do?

Herschberger, L.: Pardon?

Maniscalco: What sorts of things would you have to do to get prepared here for all these people to come?

Herschberger, L.: Oh, you mean when they come in to help?

Maniscalco: Yeah.

Herschberger, L.: Oh, usually you cut your material—you know, whatever you're going to sew. You always try to have all that cut up, and a lot of them bring sewing machines along, so sometimes you have as many as four or five sewing machines going. And they're usually—we have the treadle, but we can use the electric. We just use an inverter with the battery. That's easier to take along. So that's usually...yeah.

Maniscalco: Now I'm sure there's different topics that you talk about while you're doing that.

Herschberger, L.: (laughs) All kinds.

Maniscalco: Can you fill us in on some of them? Just a couple?

Herschberger, L.: Maybe just what they were doing, or something that happened in school with the grandkids, or something they're planning on doing the next week, or just all kinds.

Maniscalco: Now I'm sure this is a great event, and kind of relaxing, and a great time to get together. What other things do you do for recreation around here? You have—

Herschberger, L.: You mean like fun stuff? Is that what—?

Maniscalco: Yeah, yeah.

Herschberger, L.: Oh, we get together a lot and play Snitch. You play it with rook cards, and there can be as many as ten playing. We just learned that, just the last couple of months, so we do that a lot when we get together. That's a lot of fun.

Maniscalco: That's cool. What other things? Anything else?

Herschberger, L.: Summertime, we play volleyball. And our family really likes to play softball.

Maniscalco: Oh, really?

Herschberger, L.: Oh, yes. At one time, we had this field out here in the summertime. I think it was Friday evenings. The neighbors, men or boys, whatever, we'd all get together and go out there and play ball?

Maniscalco: Now is it men and women, or...?

Herschberger, L.: Well, women don't do as much? I did help because I liked it. I enjoyed it. Some of them just don't enjoy it as much. So there wasn't a lot of women that help. But yeah.

Maniscalco: That's pretty fun. Now, in terms of some of the rest of the—I mean, you have this huge, beautiful farm around you.

Herschberger, L.: Thank you.

Maniscalco: Do you ever have to get out and help with the cows or the horses?

Herschberger, L.: I used to. When we had the cows, I used to. But being as Paul's do that now, I hardly ever. Sometimes when they would leave, and you want to go on a vacation or something, then we would do the chores. But that doesn't happen very often. And I help him with his horse business, which will start in a month or so. But that's usually what I do outside. Yeah.

Maniscalco: Now, what about—I know there's certain crops that Oba raises, and like corn and different types of hay, alfalfa, things like that. Do you help with any of that stuff, or—?

Herschberger, L.: I help put up hay sometimes.

Maniscalco: Do you?

Herschberger, L.: I don't near as much as I used to, but yeah, I do sometimes.

Maniscalco: Now, do you like it or not?

Herschberger, L.: Usually if I help, I get to drive the team, (interviewer laughs) so that's fun.

Maniscalco: That's fun?

Herschberger, L.: Yeah.

Maniscalco: That's cool. Can you tell us kind of how it is? For somebody who'd never drove a team of horses like that, could you kind of explain it?

Herschberger, L.: It's kind of hard to start with, because there's usually four beside each other, and you have to keep them straight enough where the baler gets on the row and stays on there, and kind of keep them steady enough. The horses probably know just as much or more about it than I do. (interviewer laughs) That's the main part, I guess. But it's fun.

Maniscalco: It sounds like it'd be a lot of fun. So here, you don't have any goats or chickens...?

Herschberger, L.: Uh-uh, not right now. We did have chickens, but we don't right now.

Herschberger, O.: I got to go chore. You got any questions with me? You done with me?

Maniscalco: We could finish up here in a couple of minutes, or come back later.

Warren: We'll probably be finished here in a little while. Can we take the video camera in for the milking?

Herschberger, O.: Yeah, he's (inaudible) be out there sometime, now. Just right around there and (inaudible).

Warren: All right. Okay.

Maniscalco: Now, what about when you go to town. How is it for you when you go into town and things around here?

Herschberger, L.: You mean how do we go, or...?

Maniscalco: No, I mean how do you find the people in town?

Herschberger, L.: Oh, nice. They're nice to us. Yeah, there's no problem at all, usually.

Lorene Herschberger

ISM_16_HerschbergerLor

- Herschberger, O.: As long as we spend money. (interviewer laughs)
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah. I think they like it when we come up there. (laughs)
- Maniscalco: Do you ever sell some of the things from your garden or some of the canned things, or...?
- Herschberger, L.: I don't usually. We did do that at one time, but I don't anymore. And as far as taking it to town and selling it, no, we don't usually. Actually, sometimes we give it away, or somebody in the family needs it. We don't usually take it to town.
- Maniscalco: When you did sell it, what did you sell?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, beets and tomatoes and pickles and carrots and sweet corn, lettuce—you know, pretty well all of it. Went to a farmers market. That actually happened in Bloomfield. Usually went to a farmer's market.
- Maniscalco: So how were you received in comparison to some of the other people at the farmers market? Did they—?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, it was nice. It was good. Everybody was happy there.
- Maniscalco: You mentioned before that you might have to take over on some chores when your son goes on vacation. What kinds of vacations do you go on?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, that just really depends. They went down to Branson, Missouri one time. And let's see, where did they go the last time? I can't even remember. We had went to Wisconsin Dells. Just some things like that, just for a little something different, fun.
- Maniscalco: It must be difficult to go on a vacation and get away from here.
- Herschberger, L.: Yes, it is. Especially, you have to convince the husband to go. (both laugh) He thinks he has to stay here with the chores.
- Maniscalco: (laughs) So you went to Wisconsin Dells?
- Herschberger, L.: Yes.
- Maniscalco: Cool. How long did you go for?
- Herschberger, L.: How long we were gone?
- Maniscalco: Yeah.
- Herschberger, L.: I think it was almost a week. But it wasn't just there. We had gone up to see my sister, too, in Glen Flora, Wisconsin. And so we were gone pretty close to a week, I think.
- Maniscalco: That's a nice little vacation. The other thing—and I've noticed it a couple times. Now, you guys speak two different languages, correct?
- Herschberger, L.: And I can do the other a lot better than I can do the English. (laughs)
- Maniscalco: Really?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, you bet. (laughs)
- Maniscalco: Well, are you more comfortable using your other language, then?
- Herschberger, L.: I guess I just grew up with that, so it just comes a lot easier.

Lorene Herschberger

ISM_16_HerschbergerLor

- Maniscalco: Wow, that's pretty cool. Now all your children speak, as well?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, yes.
- Herschberger, O.: Everybody does.
- Maniscalco: Everybody does. Now is it a requirement for school and things like that, or how does it—?
- Herschberger, L.: Actually, they do the English in school. They have the German lessons. And our school did the German in recesses because they were using the English so much more, kind of getting away from us. So they started doing the German at recesses sometimes, and that helped.
- Maniscalco: So there's always kind of a balance struggle between the German and English?
- Herschberger, L.: A little bit, yeah.
- Herschberger, O.: There's a (inaudible). When they're young, they want to speak English because they think it's the big-shot thing to do. Some do. Not down here in this area. There's areas where the cabinet shops are real—a lot of cabinet shops, a lot of interaction with other people—salesmen, and you know. And Mom and Dad speak too much English because they're around those people. And they've got one or two non-Amish people, so they speak English so they understand. First thing you know, everybody's speaking English. And to me, that's a big no-no, because we lose our culture if we lose our language. But they still all understand, it's just some would rather—a few would rather speak English.
- Maniscalco: So now when you're in your home, you guys speak strictly German with your kids?
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm.
- Herschberger, O.: It's actually not German; it's a dialect.
- Maniscalco: A dialect of...?
- Herschberger, O.: German and English.
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah, it's mixed a little.
- Herschberger, O.: We call it Pennsylvania Dutch.
- Maniscalco: Pennsylvania Dutch. Okay.
- Herschberger, O.: Swiss... All garbled up. (laughter) We understand it.
- Maniscalco: That's all that counts, huh? As long as you understand it. Well, very neat. Last couple of questions. How do you feel about the future of the Amish, in terms of agriculture, and especially Amish women?
- Herschberger, L.: Hm.
- Herschberger, O.: Don't look at me.
- Herschberger, L.: (laughs) How do I feel about the agriculture? I'm not sure...
- Herschberger, O.: You know what we're always talking about, how it's hard to put it into words.
- Herschberger, L.: Huh?

- Herschberger, O.: You know what we often talk about, but I know it's hard for you to put it in words, just the same way that I feel about it.
- Herschberger, L.: As far as, you mean, we're losing—
- Herschberger, O.: Agriculture.
- Herschberger, L.: —the farms? Yeah. It's sad. It's sad, yeah.
- Herschberger, O.: We're not really losing, like losing, but it's bit by bit.
- Herschberger, L.: There's not very many farms anymore. The women are more—how do I say it—they kind of live a different life than what I grew up with because it's a woodworking shop's wife. I mean, she doesn't live on the farm anymore. And a lot of them miss it, too. They would rather be on the farm and have their children grow up on a farm. So it doesn't look so good, really, as far as the future.
- Maniscalco: So what are some of the big complaints you hear from women who have to live in towns because their husband is working in woodworking shops.
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, they're gone all day. They're gone all day.
- Herschberger, O.: No Amish people live in town. Zero.
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah. No, they don't live in town. But they're gone all day. And it's just see them in the morning, and sometimes, especially in the wintertime, sometimes they leave before the children get up, and sometimes—depends on what they're doing. Usually it's not as late in the evening. But yeah, it's hard for them to be alone all day with the children.
- Maniscalco: And finally, this kind of piggybacks on the last question, but where do you see the future of the Amish?
- Herschberger, L.: Where do I see the future of the Amish?
- Maniscalco: Yeah.
- Herschberger, L.: I don't know how to answer that one.
- Herschberger, O.: You keep looking at me! (Lorene laughs) Probably kind of (inaudible).
- Herschberger, L.: It's hard. If... Yeah, it'll stay same. I don't know how to say it.
- Herschberger, O.: We just lose out a little bit on our culture, is the main thing. It shouldn't have anything to do with our belief, but we still lose out on our culture.
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah, I think the churches will stay, and our Amish belief will stay. We might—how do I say it? Agh, I don't know. (Oba laughs) I'm not good at this at all.
- Maniscalco: You can say it German if that's easier for you—or in your dialect.
- Herschberger, O.: Tell me, and I'll say it.
- Maniscalco: Go ahead.
- Herschberger, L.: Huh?
- Herschberger, O.: Tell me what you think, and I'll translate it.
- Herschberger, L.: (talks in the dialect)

- Herschberger, O.: Yeah, you're right. What she sees is yeah, there's some things that will be allowed as time goes on that maybe isn't today, because of the structure of things—you know, not like (inaudible) computer, probably—
- Herschberger, L.: Because of the woodworking shops, the more—
- Herschberger, O.: We have phones. Nearly everyone has a phone out in the shed, but it used not to. There's things like that that have changed. And she sees—that's what she says, is. We'll see—we call it *grift*, but whatever you want to call it. And that's not necessarily good. We've got to bend a little to make things work. That what she's (inaudible)..
- Maniscalco: (laughs) Well, very interesting. Did I miss anything?
- Herschberger, L.: I don't think so. (laughter)
- Maniscalco: No, you just want to get the microphone off and run. (laughter) Well, I can hear one thing that I just missed, and I just heard it, is your birds. Can you tell us a little bit about your birds and what you do?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh my. Did he give you the *Connection* with the birds in it? He didn't give you that one, with my story in it?
- Maniscalco: No. No, he didn't give us that one. He gave us the other one.
- Herschberger, L.: I did write a little article in there. It's how I got started. My sister used to raise them when I was still a little girl, and I always thought that was something I'd wanted to do. So I got my first canary, and I didn't take care of it right, because I didn't know you're supposed to put sand in there, that they need that to digest their food. And it died. (bird sounds) So I did get me another pair, and actually, that first year I had those, I had two pair, I think. I raised more from those than I did from these this last year because—
- Herschberger, O.: And there was canaries all over the place.
- Herschberger, L.: —it's too much going on. I couldn't keep them in one place. And so hopefully this next year, it'll go better. But that one year, I raised quite a few. I made good money on them.
- Maniscalco: Did you?
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah.
- Maniscalco: Good. Where'd—?
- Herschberger, L.: The one male, I bought—I had to pay 100 dollars for him. But he was good, and he paid himself off. Yeah.
- Maniscalco: He made his living.
- Herschberger, O.: It's a hobby.
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah, it's kind of like a hobby, but there's also money there if it works—I mean, if they reproduce. Yeah.
- Maniscalco: Very interesting. And finally, finally, finally... This is going to be a document that is going to last forever and ever and ever. And maybe one day down the road, somebody may talk to one of your kids or grandkids and say, "Hey, I heard your great-great-grandma or somebody (Lorene laughs) on this recording, and you should really hear

this.” Is there something you’d like to leave them in here? Is there something that you’d like left in this?

Herschberger, L.: Oh, my, I don’t know.

Herschberger, O.: You answer that.

Herschberger, L.: I don’t know. I guess I would just encourage them to be good and look to the Lord, and [go to church] just look for that light and just stay there, and not to forget [to read] the Bible.[You have questions—find the answer in the Bible—If we can all keep on the right track we hope to all meet in Heaven one great day!]

Maniscalco: Well, thank you very much. It was very nice to sit here with you—

Herschberger, L.: You’re welcome.

Maniscalco: —and you did an excellent job.

Herschberger, L.: I don’t think so. (laughter)

Maniscalco: Oh, you did an excellent job.

Herschberger, O.: She’s not as long-winded as I am; we know that.

Maniscalco: Well, you’re just to the point, right? You just know it, and that’s it. (laughter)

(end of interview 1)

Maniscalco: It’s May 29, 2008, and it’s just about three o’clock, and we’re sitting in Lorene Herschberger’s home—the second time we get to visit with her. How are you doing, Lorene?

Herschberger, L.: I’m doing okay.

Maniscalco: Good, good. You know, last time when we were talking with you, we completely forgot to ask you about one of your other large hobbies, which is quilting. And I was wondering if we could talk a little bit about kind of your quilting and—

Herschberger, L.: Yes, I can try.

Maniscalco: Well, you’ll be better than all of us here, so... (both laugh) When we were talking last time, you mentioned that you get together in sewing circles, kind of, and you make clothing. Is it the same with the quilts?

Herschberger, L.: Oh, yes. It’s more so with... Well, with our children, it’s more sewing for the family, but with the quilting, it’s more just friends, maybe, getting together, or neighbors getting together to do quiltings.

Maniscalco: So what do you do to arrange kind of a—is it called a quilting circle?

Herschberger, L.: No, not really. I was at a quilting yesterday, and the reason for the quilt was they’re going to have a benefit for my nephew. So my sister put a quilt together, and she’s going to put it on the benefit. So she just put in our little magazine, or little paper [the Echo] we have for the Amish, the two days—yesterday and today—and then whoever can come quilt is welcome. So that’s what we were doing yesterday.

Maniscalco: For a quilt like this for this benefit, who determines the styles and how it’s going to look?

- Herschberger, L.: They just do however each one wants to. There's nobody that tells somebody how, just however somebody wants to.
- Maniscalco: So are there certain divisions of work when you get together and work on a quilt as a group?
- Herschberger, L.: Not really. Usually, like yesterday, she had it all ready. She had it all in frame; everything was all ready to sit down and quilt. And we almost finished. Well, we still had like one row of blocks in the middle, but near we had it done.
- Maniscalco: Okay. So then you're doing the actual quilting, then; you're not doing the sewing together of blocks?
- Herschberger, L.: No, we're just doing the quilting, like yesterday. She had everything sewed together, and everything was done before.
- Maniscalco: Oh, I see. Do you get together and sew the blocks together too, then, sometimes?
- Herschberger, L.: Not very often. They usually have the top all ready to put in there.
- Maniscalco: Okay, so that's kind of usually decided, then, and then it just goes from there. Now, in terms of the quilting that you do in the top—putting the top and the bottom together, am I correct?
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm.
- Maniscalco: Do you choose patterns, designs? Do certain things mean things?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, yes. It'd be a lot easier to show you. But like for the border—I mean, they put on a border around it, then they mark it off with, they have—usually they have a—I call it a stencil, or something where they can trace it—and we always mark it off. That's usually done before you put it in frame. It's a lot easier. But the other, as far as the blocks, usually they just go around the blocks. Sometimes it's not all of them. Sometimes it's just certain ones or just however the design is.
- Maniscalco: Well we can—as you said, we can look at some of yours in a little bit, and you can explain what we're looking at a little better to all of us.
- Herschberger, L.: Sure.
- Maniscalco: Now, we also brought this book, the *Illinois Amish Quilts* book. I have a couple pages marked off here. Like this one, there's some different Hershberger quilts in here, and I don't know if you know any of them or... Fifty-nine.
- Herschberger, L.: (reads to self) I don't recall right now which one that is. Elizabeth Kauffmann Hershberger...
- Maniscalco: What about the quilt? Do you...?
- Herschberger, L.: It's just very different.
- Maniscalco: Really? (laughs)
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm. It's really different.
- Maniscalco: Is there something like through all quilts that you're going to see that you could look at it and say, "That's an Amish quilt," or...?

- Herschberger, L.: I saw a few, maybe, but a lot of them are... Well, see, today's style is probably different. They've changed a lot. Because when we were married, I did quilts some, and even those that I did then are kind of out of style. They've got a lot of new ones now, a new kind.
- Maniscalco: What was the style then?
- Herschberger, L.: Huh?
- Maniscalco: What was the style then, when you were first married?
- Herschberger, L.: The first one I did was a double wedding ring. And it's been a long time since I've heard someone talk about a double wedding ring. I don't know why, but they've got a lot of new ones that are just absolutely beautiful. And I don't know, I guess something new comes along, and everybody wants to try it. (laughs)
- Maniscalco: Well, what are the new styles, I guess, then?
- Herschberger, L.: Weaver's fever. That's the one I put together. It's called a weaver's fever. And some of them are Log Cabin. Lonestar. Just X-diamond terra. I also have one of those. See, I'm just starting to get into it, but I don't know all of them yet, but there's quite a few.
- Maniscalco: All the new ones?
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah.
- Maniscalco: Okay. If we look at page—what is it—seventy-two, this is again that Elizabeth Kauffmann Hershberger. You don't know her.
- Herschberger, L.: No, I don't. Okay, the Hershberger's spelled different, so it probably isn't one of ours.
- Maniscalco: Oh, really?
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah, we've got a C. H-e-r-s-c-h.
- Maniscalco: That's right.
- Herschberger, L.: And that's a different Hershberger, probably.
- Maniscalco: Oh, interesting. Do people confuse that in your community a lot, too?
- Herschberger, L.: Not here, but often when I see the Herschberger, I always think, "Hm, wonder who that is?" Then you look at it, and it's—
- Maniscalco: You've got to look for the C. (laughs)
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah. It's a little different, so.
- Maniscalco: That's cool. I didn't know that. Okay. We're on page ninety-nine, and this is a Bontrager. I don't know if you know that one.
- Herschberger, L.: Polly Otto Bontrager. I think that might have been... Okay, she was in—
- Warren: She was born in 1898 and passed away in 1970.
- Herschberger, L.: Oba could probably have told you that. His dad has a sister Polly. Now, if this is her, I'm not sure. I mean, it could be, but I'm not sure.
- Maniscalco: How about the quilt? Anything you—?

- Herschberger, L.: Nine-patch, mm-hmm. Usually we put it together different, but then, yes, a nine-patch is something that's—this one is used more just to use up your scraps, because it's got the little squares, and you can just do all different kinds.
- Maniscalco: Are there some common colors that you kind of always have as scraps, or...?
- Herschberger, L.: A lot of them, it's blue. Blue or more of a dark color, maybe. But anymore, they have more lighter colors, too, but a lot of times, it's more of a dark color—the blue, green, grays, you know.
- Maniscalco: Let's see what else there is. This is page 115, and it's a—this is a Herschberger, but then that's a Herschberger without a C, so—
- Herschberger, L.: But was that in... Okay, you don't know where she was from? This Susanna Herschberger?
- Maniscalco: I don't know. Does it say?
- Herschberger, L.: But see where it says—
- Maniscalco: It says in the Arthur Amish community over here, but—
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, okay. Yeah, if that's the one I think it is, I know who she is.
- Maniscalco: Oh really?
- Herschberger, L.: Maybe. I'm not sure about the date here. Would that have been in 1922? Was that when—?
- Warren: That's when she was born, I think.
- Maniscalco: That would have been when she was born.
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah, that would probably be possible. Yeah. I just saw her today.
- Maniscalco: Oh really? (laughs)
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah, if it's who I think it is.
- Maniscalco: And does she do a lot of quilts, then?
- Herschberger, L.: Probably not anymore. She might have at one time. But that's kind of a nice... That's a little different.
- Maniscalco: Anything you notice about the quilt, or anything that your expert eyes could tell us? (laughs)
- Herschberger, L.: No, not really about these.
- Maniscalco: Does it have a name or anything?
- Herschberger, L.: This one does—star of Bethlehem block quilt. This one does, yeah.
- Maniscalco: Let's see what else we've got. Now we're looking at page 116, and this is Polly Otto Bontrager again.
- Herschberger, L.: I'm not sure. See, that could be his dad's sister, but I'm not sure.
- Maniscalco: And what about the quilt design? I mean, this is...?

- Herschberger, L.: That looks a lonestar. It's put together more like the red, white, and blue, which we wouldn't do that as much as the other colors. But—
- Maniscalco: So it's kind of a different one because the colors are a little brighter, would you say?
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.
- Maniscalco: How about the little stars? Do they usually do the little ones, or...?
- Herschberger, L.: We usually have a plain block in there—just a white block, or a light color, but we don't usually put in the little... That must be appliquéd. Yeah, machine sewing.
- Maniscalco: Do the quilts differ community to community?
- Herschberger, L.: Some. Not a lot, but some. They probably have different designs or something different, you know.
- Maniscalco: Are there some things in this community that, you know, a quilt has to have this here?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, no. No, no, there's no rhyme or reason or anything; it's just whatever somebody wants to put together.
- Maniscalco: Let's see what else we got. Page 120. I don't know why I marked this one off. I may have been off.
- Herschberger, L.: See, this is a kind, broken star, a lot of our people put together, it's just put together different.
- Maniscalco: What's different about it?
- Herschberger, L.: Because we might do the star in more—see, like if we take blue, we'd put it in shades of blue. It looks like they put it all in the same dark color. We might put shades of blue, or if we take a maroon color, we might put a lighter—mix some lighter shades in with it. And usually these would be white. A lot of times, the blocks would be white. But that's a popular kind.
- Maniscalco: That's a popular design?
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm.
- Maniscalco: How about size? Is there a certain size that you—?
- Herschberger, L.: Anymore, a lot of them want the queen size—queen or king size.
- Maniscalco: Oh really?
- Herschberger, L.: Yep, they sell a lot better. More people have big beds, or they're higher, so they need a larger quilt to go down the sides on each side. But yeah.
- Maniscalco: So you said you were doing this one quilt for a benefit, but do people do other quilts for sale around here?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, yes. I got myself in kind of a pickle, I guess. When we had our school sale—I mean, auction for our school, to pay for our building—I had a quilt there, one of my weaver's fever. And friends from St. Louis were here. We told them about the auction; they wanted to come. And she bought my quilt. And she also bought the X-diamond terra. There was another quilt there. So she bought that one. They had another couple with them, and then after the sale, she asked me if I could make her some quilts. So I

said, “Well, sure, I’ll try,” because I had really wanted to get into quilts. I’m just kind of starting. And so she said, well, she’d like to have five, for all her children for Christmas presents. I was just like, “How in the world am I ever going to do five before Christmas?” (laughter) But I said, “Okay, I’ll try it.” I decided I’d just have to ask my sister to help me, and the neighbor lady is also doing one for me. She’s just quilting. I do the rest of them, except the one diamond terra, I had another lady piece the top for me. So with that one, it’s almost done except the binding. And I’ve almost got one pieced together again. So I’ve still got a few more to go before I’m done.

And then after that, we had some friends here from Tennessee—some horse people we know—and I was working on these quilts, and she wondered what I’m doing. And I showed her. And then she said, “Well, do you have another one?” I said, “Well, yes, actually, I do have one here put together and everything.” She wants to see it, so I showed it to her. And she said, “Can you finish that one for me?” I said, “Well yeah, I probably can.” So she said, well, she wants that one. So I had six quilts for one year.

Maniscalco: Oh my gosh.

Herschberger, L.: I just couldn’t believe it. So I got myself in quilting real quick. (laughter) So that’s what I’m trying to do, besides even some sewing for the family. So I’m pretty busy right now.

Maniscalco: So is Oba pretty excited about?

Herschberger, L.: I think so. I think he kind of likes it when I do this.

Maniscalco: How about the rest of the community? They’re kind of getting behind you and helping you out with the little parts here and there?

Herschberger, L.: Yeah, because my neighbor up the road, she said she would quilt some for me. Of course, I pay them so much a yard for the thread that they use. Well, a lot of people do that here. So that’s helping. Yeah.

Maniscalco: So you pay these other women by the yard of thread that they do?

Herschberger, L.: Yeah.

Maniscalco: You don’t pay them hourly or anything other than that?

Herschberger, L.: No, it’s just by how many yards. Sixty cents a yard.

Maniscalco: Wow. Well that’s pretty neat. That’s pretty neat. And then, if you don’t mind me asking, how much do you get for a quilt?

Herschberger, L.: The one we sold up there at the school, mine sold for 700 dollars.

Maniscalco: Wow.

Herschberger, L.: And I thought I could do it cheaper than that, just by making the quilt and everything that’s involved. So I could probably do it for between five and six hundred, maybe. Yeah.

Maniscalco: That’s a lot of work.

Herschberger, L.: Yeah, it is. It is a lot of work.

Maniscalco: Well, cool. Let's look at the last one here. And this is Elizabeth Ann Miller Bontrager on page 137. (pause)

Herschberger, L.: Boy, I just about said, "That's my mom." I would have spelled her name different. Lizzie Ann. She was Miller, and she married my dad. But 1910... Where did you get the dates? Oh yeah, you didn't do this.

Maniscalco: (laughs) You can't blame me for that part.

Herschberger, L.: Nineteen eighty-four. That would have been right. See, when is John's birthday? In July. July '84, isn't it?

Warren: Yes.

Herschberger, L.: That would have been my mom! Isn't that something? But she did a lot of flower gardens or flower baskets, so this is different. I wonder if the person that did this is the same that did the quilt here.

Maniscalco: Maybe it was a couple people that worked on it somehow?

Herschberger, L.: It might have been, and it might have been her years ago, you know, before I—because I was one of the youngest ones. So it might have been from years ago where I didn't know that she would have done one like this. But this is similar—well, these are blocks. I was going to say it's similar to the flower basket. It could be. I'll bet that's who it is.

Warren: It's pretty, isn't it?

Herschberger, L.: Yes, it is. I'm just amazed. (laughter)

Warren: Well, all of these quilts are in the Illinois State Museum collection.

Herschberger, L.: This one would be there? I wonder if it would have a name on it or something. But evidently, they would have matched the—

Warren: The quilter is identified as Elizabeth Ann—is it Miller?—Bontrager, born 1910 and passed away in 1984.

Herschberger, L.: I could look that up and see for sure what her date... I know Dad was in 1902. I'm just about sure it is. (interviewer laughs) I just about can't believe that.

Maniscalco: Well, that's cool.

Herschberger, L.: Yeah, it is! Daughter of M. and B. Miller. Yeah, that's who it is! It just about makes me cry. (laughter) Why, it sure is.

Warren: We need to invite you to the state museum to come look at our quilt collection. (laughs)

Herschberger, L.: Yeah, that would be nice.

Warren: It's right in the building where we work.

Maniscalco: Yep. Yeah, they have all these stored in nice boxes, and you could take look at it.

Herschberger, L.: Is that right?

Maniscalco: That would be pretty neat, actually.

Herschberger, L.: That is just really something. But I wonder how they ever got a hold of that quilt. I probably couldn't buy it, could I? (laughter)

- Warren: It belongs to the state now. A lot of the quilts were purchased by the museum. Donors would contribute money to help pay for quilts. I think that's how most of them came into the museum.
- Herschberger, L.: Well, I'll be. Wait'll I show Oba that. (interviewer laughs)
- Warren: You have an open invitation to come visit.
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah, that would be really interesting. I probably could get my sister to come along—probably a couple of them.
- Warren: In fact, we'd be happy to come down and pick you up.
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, that'd be quite a distance, though, for—
- Warren: It's not far.
- Maniscalco: It's an hour and a half ride, maybe a little more. Not too bad.
- Herschberger, L.: But I really am curious where it was. How did they get it, you know, and where—
- Warren: Yeah, who actually had it. We would have all those records.
- Herschberger, L.: Is that right? That would be very interesting.
- Warren: And some of that might be written in the text here.
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm, after I get a chance to read it. Yeah, that's my dad. "Elizabeth Ann married widower Chris Bontrager." (reads to self) Isn't that something.
- Maniscalco: Well, I guess we saved the best for last, huh? (laughter)
- Herschberger, L.: I guess. Ah, I just can't believe that. That is really something.
- Maniscalco: And this is kind of similar to the patterns that you remember her making, but not really?
- Herschberger, L.: No, I really don't remember that one. But it looks—the design, I'm not surprised about, because her flower baskets and flower gardens had more of some lighter and darker colors, so the colors are what she probably usually used.
- Maniscalco: Well, very neat. Very neat.
- Herschberger, L.: Yes, it is. (laughs)
- Maniscalco: How about the different parts of a quilt? Can you kind of explain? I mean, I know there's a top, a bottom, there's some kind of batting in the middle—
- Herschberger, L.: Mm-hmm. I'm not sure how you mean. The bottom, we use a lining, and it's just a plain piece of material—dickered cotton, usually. And then on top of that, we put the batting—we call it a batting—it's a cotton batting we put in the middle, and then we put our pieced quilt on top of that. Then we always have to pin it so everything's straight and kind of tight, so everything stays in place when you're sewing. And that's really all there is to it, as far as putting a quilt in frame. Yeah.
- Maniscalco: Now, do you save kind of scraps from when you're making clothes, or how do you—?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, yes. There's a lot of scraps. And actually, you can use that for anything, but sometimes you don't have enough of that color, so you might have to buy some, you

- know, to finish out, if you want it all the same. But yeah, a lot of people use their own scraps to make things.
- Maniscalco: And where are you getting the fabric when you do have to buy it? Do you have a particular place that you like, don't like?
- Herschberger, L.: I try to get a lot of it at Wal-Mart. It's cheaper. (laughs) But we do have three fabric stores up close to Arthur that we buy some. But they're more expensive.
- Maniscalco: Where do you have to go to go to Wal-Mart?
- Herschberger, L.: Mattoon. It's not all that far. But yeah. Sometimes Decatur, but not very often. We usually go to Mattoon.
- Maniscalco: So do you try to squeeze that trip in along with the other one so that you're doing a bunch of things at the same time?
- Herschberger, L.: Oh yeah. We usually go grocery shopping. If we do—always check out the fabric, (interviewer laughs) and if they have something on sale or there's something you like, you get it and think, "I'll use that later on for something else." But yeah.
- Maniscalco: Now, does everybody in your family have a quilt for themselves on the bed, or how is that?
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah. Oh, yeah. Well, that's kind of... A lot of times, we don't want to use our quilts for everyday. We kind of save them for church Sunday or something.
- Herschberger, O.: I hope you guys are done pretty soon. You got to help me. We got to ship to Washington State.
- Herschberger, L.: I don't know. We don't like to wash them as often, so we don't use them as often. I guess on the farm, it might be a little more dirty, so we might be apter to get it dirty, so we don't use them as much, maybe. But yeah.
- Maniscalco: Well, can we take a look at some of your quilts real quick, and we'll get out of your way so— (laughs)
- Herschberger, L.: Sure. Well, I don't want to rush you off. Sure.
- Maniscalco: We can probably—
- Herschberger, L.: You want me to take this off?
- Warren: Well, maybe Mike could carry it.
- Maniscalco: Yeah, I'll carry this, and then—
- Warren: And keep track of it all. Would you mind if I brought a camera in to take pictures of the quilts?
- Herschberger, L.: No, you can take pictures—of the quilts. (laughs)
- Maniscalco: I'm come around this side, since we're connected. (both laugh) Well, I'm glad we found one in there for you.
- Herschberger, L.: I just can't believe that. I just cannot get over that.
- Maniscalco: And the last one of all of them.

- Herschberger, L.: Just wait 'til I show my sister! (interviewer laughs) Okay. And I'll probably have to have some help. How are we going to do this?
- Maniscalco: I have one hand, so... (both laugh)
- Herschberger, L.: Okay, here. Well, you might want to take the other corner. This one. (pause)
- Maniscalco: Oh, wow.
- Herschberger, L.: Oh, they are so pretty. I mean, I think they are just... And this is what I'm putting together—I'm putting together another one like this.
- Maniscalco: To match it?
- Herschberger, L.: Actually, it's not quite like this. This is the one that goes to Tennessee. This is a little different. More bright. And that one's just a little bit different. But actually, you just put it together by blocks. We do what we call strip-piecing.
- Maniscalco: Oh, I see, so each row is kind of all together, and...
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah, so you don't actually put the small blocks together. I mean, they're in strips, and then you cut them again, so it's a lot easier.
- Maniscalco: Now you said this one's brighter than the other one because this one's going to Tennessee. Do you make brighter ones for kind of—
- Herschberger, L.: No, it just happened to be that way.
- Maniscalco: It just happened to be that way.
- Herschberger, L.: Yeah. I actually had made it for my daughter, and she said, oh, she's not sure she likes the colors after all.
- Maniscalco: Oh, really?
- Herschberger, L.: I said, "Fine, we'll just sell it some other way." And she didn't think she liked the bright color, and she thought maybe she'd like it more in blue. So I said, "That's fine, we'll do something else with it," and then it worked out somebody else wanted it.
- Maniscalco: Now how many hours does it take to do this?
- Herschberger, L.: In this? That's really hard for me to say because I do just whenever I have time. Now, my sister, she hasn't done this kind yet, but she can put a lonestar together in a day.
- Maniscalco: Oh, wow.
- Herschberger, L.: But she's done it for I don't know how many years, so she can do it by heart, probably, (interviewer laughs) where I couldn't do that.
- Warren: Why don't you go ahead and turn that off.
- Herschberger, L.: I can take the quilt.
- Maniscalco: Here, if you can just hold this corner.
- (end of interview 2)