



Cliffie Smith Patterson's brother Sgt. E. H. Smith.
He served in World War I in France as a machine gunner.

Table of Contents

Family Background	1
Education	5
Cliffie Patterson's Husband	7
Farm Life . . . . .	.10
Family Background . . . . .	.12
Childhood . . . . .	.24
School Teachers . . . . .	.29
Farm in Illinois. . . . .	.34
Sewing. . . . .	.39
Farm Life . . . . .	.51
Genealogy . . . . .	.59
Entertainment . . . . .	.67
Traveling . . . . .	.69
Disasters . . . . .	.71
Cliffie Patterson's Children. . . . .	.74
Activities. . . . .	.80
Cliffie Patterson's Brother . . . . .	.82
Senior Citizens Group . . . . .	.84

Preface

This manuscript is a product of a tape-recorded interview conducted by Jean Hauffe for the Oral History Office in December, 1984. Jean Hauffe transcribed and edited the transcript. Cliffie Smith Patterson reviewed the transcript.

Cliffie Smith Patterson was born in LaClede County, Missouri, October 29, 1895. She had just celebrated her ninetieth birthday shortly before this interview took place. Cliffie was the third generation of schoolteachers in her family, her son and granddaughters followed in her footsteps, making five generations of teachers, a fact she is very proud of. She reminisces about her school days, her teaching days, and her children's education, and how things have changed over the years.

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.

The manuscript may be read, quoted and cited freely. It may not be reproduced in whole or in part by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission in writing from the Oral History Office, Sangamon State University, Springfield, Illinois, 62708.

Cliffie Smith Patterson, October 3, 1984,

Jean Hauffe, Interviewer.

Q: Now, when were you born, Cliffie? Do you want to tell us that?
(laughs)

A: I was born October the 29th, 1895.

Q: 1895?

A: And that school was taken in, that picture was taken in 1892.

Q: That was a little before you were born then?

A: It certainly was.

Q: Your dad was a school teacher?

A: For 13 years, then 13 years he ran for Recorder of LaClede County.

Q: That was LaClede County, Missouri . . .

A: And was nominated [elected] and his health--is that recording there?

Q: Yes. That's okay. That's what we want.

A: And his health wasn't too good, about the end of his term, so we moved back to the farm. We were farmers to start and then we, as I say, we moved to town, and his health wasn't very good and then we moved to Colorado. We was in Colorado two years. But still his health still wasn't very good, but then we came back to Lebanon. Tha's where we lived, in Lebanon. That's where my parents are buried. And before he passed--he knew that his life was short and he wanted Blanche and I, my sister and I, to go live with my grandmother, until--he knew he was going to be gone--you know. And we had a sale--oh, we had a sale before we went to Colorado, after we moved to the country, back to the country. And, did I tell you that we four children were born there in LaClede County?

Q: What are your siblings' names here?

A: Well, we were all were born there in the house. I guess that was on the place when Poppa bought it. They don't say Poppa anymore, either, do they? (laughs)

Q: No, they don't, do they?

A: Well, then he built another house on the same farm, and then it was from there that we went to Lebanon.

Q: I see, and you had three brothers and sisters?

A: I had two brothers and one sister.

Q: Were they older or younger than you?

A: I was next to the youngest.

Q: Who was the oldest?

A: Edmund.

Q: When was he born, about?

A: He was born in 1891.

Q: Who was next?

A: And my brother, Claude, was born in 1893.

Q: 1893?

A: 1893. And Cliffie was born 1895, and Blanche was born 1897.

Q: Are they are still wandering around with us?

A: What?

Q: Are they all still alive, just like you?

A: I'm the only one that's left. And my mother, her name was Cook. And her grandmother's name was . . . what was their name . . .

Q: Let's see, I have Warren, Mary Warren here. Here's the chart, can you read the writing on there?

A: It was Margaret Mouser.

Q: Oh, okay. We don't have it on this sheet then.

A: No. She was the mother of my grandfather.

Q: Oh.

A: But it's Margaret Mouser.

Q: Mouser, okay.

A: M-O-U-S-E-R, I finally get it.

Q: Yes, it comes back when you work on it.

A: Margaret Mouser, and they said that she married my grandfather's father, and she had a brogue when she talked, she never got rid of it.

Q: She must have been Irish?

A: She's German!

Q: Oh, okay.

A: And on my mother's side, oh, let's see, on my mother's side, her people came from England. And there is a lady in Massachusetts that is writing a book. She belongs to that Cook strain and she's writing a book relative to our Cooks and she's been over to England, I think about three times looking up material. I'm expecting to get that book pretty soon.

Q: Yes, that would be nice. Did your mother die when you were young? You didn't say much about her.

A: Oh, yes.

Q: I missed that.

A: I was just six.

Q: Oh, my heavens.

A: Oh, yes.

Q: What did she die of? She was so young.

A: At that time they didn't have the doctors like they have today. And the way I've heard it, they talked like it was quick consumption. They don't call it consumption anymore, they call it TB.

Q: I've heard the quick consumption term.

A: Well, I remember my mother, we had two homes there in Lebanon. At the first home, it was out at the edge, pretty close to the edge of town and we had a small acreage and they had fruit on it. I remember, although we were small, I remember my mother going out and picking berries and things and when she came home, she sat in the, well, a doorway between the kitchen and--well it wasn't a screened-in porch, but it was filled in. Like a little room. She was so tired, she sat down there and that was the beginning of her sickness. And I well remember we had a colored nurse for my mother--Mrs. Miller--and anyway when my mother passed away then, she passed away December 31, 1903. It was December, well, I guess I was about seven. Well, anyway, Poppa bought a place up closer to, nearer the business part of the town.

Q: He was County Clerk at this time?

A: Oh, no.

Q: Not at this time?

A: He was Recorder of Deeds.

Q: Recorder of Deeds at this time?

A: Yes. I remember we were still on the farm, he had a man, it was a young man that did the farm work, and had a lot of peach seeds and he told that guy to go out and plant them and he dug a hole and planted all of them in one hole. (laughs)

Q: Did your father make him replant them?

A: That's all I remember about it.

Q: Okay.

A: That's all I remember about, but wasn't that something?

Q: He planted them all in one place?

A: He just went out there and dug a hole and put the whole outfit in there.

Q: He wasn't about to work too hard. How long was your father Recorder of Deeds of LaClede County?

A: Just four years.

Q: Just the one term.

A: Just the--that's when his health wasn't very good. He was only 43 when he passed away.

Q: I know he was young. What year was it, do you recall, that you went to Colorado? Would this have been after your mother died?

A: Oh, yes. We had a step-mother then. We hardly ever mentioned her. (laughs)

Q: I don't mention mine, either. (laughs)

A: Seems like she's not in the family. But, see, before Poppa died, he wanted Blanche and I to be down there with his mother. See, our mother was gone.

Q: Now was his mother still in LaClede County or where was she?

A: Oh, we was all in LaClede County. That was the only place. But now talking about my grandfather Cook, didn't you wonder the other day if he was married?

Q: Yes.

A: He was only 27 when he went out there, and he got married when he came home.

Q: Oh, I see.

A: What else you want me to tell you?

Q: Well, I was kind of wondering--what kind of pets did you have when you were on the farm? Did you have cats and dogs?

A: And do you know when my father was teaching school, my mother would put on her coat and whatever she had on her head--a scarf--and go out and milk the cows.

Q: She did?

A: She did.

Q: Did you ever milk cows when you were young?

A: Oh, yes. We had cows and horses and I remember when we went to Lebanon, my dad bought a surrey.

Q: Well, that was fancy, wasn't it?

A: It was fancy. I think it had fringe around on top.

Q: Just like the movie?

A: And, let's see, it was a one horse affair.

Q: What was the horse's name? Do you remember?

A: Charlie, I think. (laughter)

Q: Did you start to school in the country or did you go to school in Lebanon?

A: Went to school at Lebanon. And my second grade teacher there at Lebanon--she took mine and Blanche's pictures near where we all went to the bathroom--well, we didn't have no bathroom then. We had a little building on the outside where the boys had their building and we had our building.

Q: Yes, they still had that when I was in school.

A: And, I think they got their water out of a pump.

Q: Wouldn't be surprised.

A: Anyway, my second grade teacher, she took mine and Blanche's pictures and at that time, when people had a Christmas tree, it was always at the church.



Log schoolhouse where Cliffie Smith Patterson's father taught in LaClede County, Missouri ca. 1890. Mr. Smith is standing in the doorway.



Cliffie Smith Patterson and her sister Blanche ca. 1901 when Cliffie was in the second grade.

Q: That was the only place that had a Christmas tree?

A: Well, I think so. (laughter) That's all I remember.

Q: You didn't have one at home?

A: But anyway there at the Christian Church there at Lebanon, my second grade teacher put that picture on the tree for me.

Q: Well, that was nice.

A: I'll show it to you after a while.

Q: Okay.

A: I have the original picture that she took. Well, what else will I tell you?

Q: Well, what was the school like? Was it a big school, was it a one-room school?

A: Oh, in Lebanon?

Q: Yes.

A: Oh no, it had upstairs and downstairs and all.

Q: Oh, separate classes?

A: I think it was the Vick School.

Q: Oh, that was just really modern.

A: Oh, yes.

Q: And up-to-date here.

A: And at that time people had the outdoor toilets.

Q: Yes, that's not all that far way. I remember those.

A: You can remember that?

Q: Yes, afraid so. Okay.

A: Well, now, what else?

Q: You stayed in . . .

A: We was in Colorado two years just for Poppa's health and then we came back to Lebanon.

Q: And you went to school there? Did you go to high school there in Lebanon?

A: All the high school that I had I got in college. And listen, at that time, they had high school work in the grade schools. We had algebra and everything.

Q: Did you go to grade school eight years or did you go longer?

A: . . . and, I had an uncle that was a teacher, and before we had to take our teacher's examination, and before we took that teacher's examination, Uncle Frank would have us to come over--my cousin and I--because we wanted to take the examination, he wanted to train us. And we went to Lebanon--and now remember, Poppa and Momma was gone.

Q: Yes.

A: We went to Lebanon, and believe it or not, we went in a wagon.

Q: Oh, yes.

A: Uncle Joe took Lela and I up there and we took the teacher's examination and then if you'd pass the teacher's examination you could teach school. You'd get a teacher's certificate.

Q: Now had you been to college yet, or you just . . .

A: I went to college after that.

Q: Oh, okay. Just out of your grade school?

A: Southwest, well, it's called Southwest Teacher's College now, but at that time they called it Teacher's Normal, but they've changed it to Southwest Missouri now.

Q: Is this in Lebanon?

A: All right, I taught one year . . . just one year. My sister taught two. And then I stayed with my great-grandfather and grandmother . . . just before I got married. Got married after I went down there to stay with them.

Q: Now where were they?

A: They was at Redtop, Missouri.

Q: Now is that in Dallas County?

A: That was Dallas. You knew about that too, don't you? (laughs)

Q: I looked in the atlas to see where these counties were.

A: Oh, yes. Well then when Herve and I got married . . .

Q: Now did you meet him at college? Where did you meet him?

A: I went to college before I got married.

Q: I know, but did you meet him, meet Herve at college?

A: I met him there at my great-grandfather's and my great-grandmother's home. Well, it was not their home, it was my aunt by marriage, her sister is the one that got us together. All right, then his first work--after we got married--he was the conductor on a streetcar.

Q: In Redtop?

A: No, no, no, in Springfield.

Q: Oh, okay.

A: And because his brothers was out here all farming around Mt. Pulaski, you know, Herve didn't like that, when he was raised up in the country, being a streetcar motorman. All right then, then we came out here.

Q: What year would that have been?

A: All right, then, we came out here, as I said, let me see--I have to think a minute. But he was on the streetcar, he worked for the traction company, and as I said we came out here. And he came on a freight train carrying our . . . I think we had two cows and some horses.

Q: What were the cows' names? Do you remember?

A: Oh, heavens, no. I don't remember that. But anyway, Steve Patterson, Herve's brother, got us a place out here, out be Mt. Pulaski there, and we were there five years on that place.

Q: Who owned the place?

A: And the man that had bought the place, he was renting and he owed money but he bought that place. All right, after we were there five years his sister lost their farm over by Elkhart. Well, anyway, Herve wanted to come out here on account of the other boys being out here. Well, then a man called us up that had a farm for rent. And he's the guy that everybody hated. (laughter)

Q: Mercy.

A: Well, anyway, he said he saw--we even had our sale bills printed.

Q: You were all ready to quit farming then?

A: We didn't want to.

Q: But you didn't have a choice, looked like.

A: But the man that place, his sister and her husband had lost their place, and he cried when he told us that he would have to let his sister have it because he said, "She had money when I didn't have money." All

right, this other man up there, between Mt. Pulaski and Latham, he called us and he said he had a place, so we went over there and we was over there five years, every year we was looking for another place.

Q: You didn't like him either?

A: We didn't like him. All right, there was a man called Leimbach that had a farm up close to Latham. And he lived on it but the farm that he wanted us to take was closer to Mt. Pulaski than it was to Latham. But the kids first had to start to school in Latham because they had us in that district. Wasn't that awful.

Q: That's always an aggravation.

A: But anyway, we got over that because Mr. Lukenbill, you've heard of him, haven't you?

Q: Oh, I remember Mr. Lukenbill.

A: Oh, yes, he used to visit all the schools. Well, let's see--how was that now--oh, he said he'd let us be in the district of Mt. Pulaski because we were the only ones around there that was so interested in their kids.

Q: So they didn't have to go to Latham?

A: And he said this, "Don't ask me," in his last term because he was going to have to be re-elected, says, "because I'll have to go electioneering again." (laughter) And we didn't ask him, just one year we had to pay. And now Mt. Pulaski or Latham, the Latham district that we was in when they had to go to school there, it was put in Mt. Pulaski so our kids had to go to Mt. Pulaski to high school.

Q: They do change the districts.

A: That was terrible. And we was closer to Mt. Pulaski. And, anyway, we got this Mr. Leimbach--yes, Leimbach--wanted us to take one of his farms and it was closer to Mt. Pulaski than it was to Latham and we were there 32 years.

Q: Well, that's where I remember you living, isn't . . .

A: And we had no contract . . . and wasn't that something? And we never had to move.

Q: That was something to stay on a farm for 32 years.

A: Thirty-two years. And the two grandsons inherited that farm and . . .

Q: The Leimbach grandsons?

A: Leimbach's grandsons. And they had been over here to visit us.

Q: Over here, to this place?

A: Over here, at this place, and now their husbands--the Leimbach grandsons, they both died--and both of their women have been over here to see us.

Q: They must have really liked you.

A: Well, and then when Herve--his funeral was in Mt. Pulaski, or in Lincoln--one of them was sick before he passed away, but they come to that funeral.

Q: I'll declare. While you were on Leimbach's farm, would that have been during the depression? In the thirties, 1930s?

A: Well, sure, it was long about that time, wasn't it?

Q: Yes, things got really bad. What did you get for crops back then . . .

A: Yes, we know all about that depression.

Q: Yes. What was the lowest price you ever got for corn during the depression? Can you remember that?

A: Oh, I don't know what it was . . . now that's terrible that I can't think . . . Kenneth would . . .

Q: That's a long time ago to ask a question like that.

A: As I say, we were there 32 years, and we never had to have a contract and we didn't have to move.

Q: Did you farm on halves or what . . .

A: Yes.

Q: Or how did it work? It wasn't . . .

A: We farmed on halves.

Q: Now they do cash rent.

A: Yes. And now I believe--I forget--we had a small acreage in a pasture, and I believe at that time all we had to pay was ten dollars on whole amount.

Q: Did you keep livestock in that or . . .

A: Yes. And we had a little building down there that the cows could go in, you know.

Q: Were they milk cows or beef cows?

A: Oh, they was milk cows, and we had a cream separator, you know.

Q: Oh, yes. You sold milk then?

A: We didn't sell milk then, we just sold cream.

Q: Oh, must sold the cream. You didn't sell the milk?

A: Yes. Not the milk.

Q: Oh, we used to sell the milk too.

A: Well, you lived in lighter days.

Q: (laughs) A different time.

A: A later day. (laughs)

Q: Did you sell eggs? Did you have chickens or did you just have chickens for yourself?

A: Oh heavens, yes. Always had chickens.

Q: Did you make butter out of your own cream? I can remember Mom doing that.

A: Your mom doing what?

Q: Making butter from the cream. Did you do that?

A: Oh, yes, we made butter and everything.

Q: So you didn't have to go to town and buy all those things.

A: I always had a big garden.

Q: I was going to say you had to can then, you didn't have a freezer did you? Early?

A: Oh, heavens no! Oh. no, we had the freezer over home though.

Q: Yes. What kind of things did you can, do you remember?

A: What?

Q: What kind of vegetables and things--what all did you can when you put things up?

A: I'll have to tell something about that canning deal. Now my home--I'll show you a picture after a while--we had an upstairs. That's when my mother was alive. And you know she'd even dry pumpkins?

Q: How did she do it? Do you remember?

A: I remember her cutting it in little circles and would hang it over-I don't know what it was--whether it was a rope or a string or what it was. Now wasn't that something?

Q: And just leave it to dry? What would she do with dried pumpkin after it was . . .

A: I don't know. I really don't know. And I do remember my mother must have passed away in the night, but the next morning he said to we children, he said, "Your mother is in heaven this morning." That's the way he said it.

Q: That was a nice way to put it, wasn't it?

A: Well, yes, but you know you begin . . .

Q: It's hard for children.

A: You begin to kind of wonder too, you know. But that's exactly what he said.

Q: Did he have consumption too?

A: Have what?

Q: Did your father have consumption?

A: No. No, no, no. It was heart trouble. I want to tell you . . . I remember when my father taught school not too far from home. Well, it might be quite a little ways, too. But he had to ride his horse when the river was up to get home.

Q: He'd have to cross this river?

A: To cross the river, his school was across the river. And I think on Friday night then, I think he come come; but the river was up, he'd ride that horse across that. And Grandma always said--his mother--that he just exposed himself.

Q: He got too much bad weather?

A: Now thin, he was only 43 years old and he had a family and he raised those four kids. And going, and then Recorder of LaClede County, I think it was all too much for him.

Q: Did he have to swim the horse across the river so that he got wet?

A: Sure! His clothes would be wet. I think they said they would even be froze on him sometimes. Now imagine such as that.

Q: There's not too many people do that now.

A: Well, at that time, though people didn't live so long either.

Q: No, but still that was young even for that time.

A: Yes, oh yes.

Q: Let's see, what you've got in the way of pictures here. Let's talk about those a little bit.

A: Well, let's see. Let's see. You knew I went away to school. Did you put that down?

Q: Yes, yes, I think so. How long were you in school? How long did you go to college?

A: I think about five months . . . I want to tell you, they taught a lot of subjects when you was in the grade school like they do in high school today.

Q: That's what I've heard, that it was a lot different then. You learned more.

A: Well, I should say so. And you said you want to take the picture of that, didn't you?

Q: Yes, I want a copy of that after a bit here.

A: Oh, I want to tell you this . . .

Q: Okay.

A: I have traced a lot of my relatives and a lot of them come from North Carolina. They come from North Carolina into Tennessee, and my grandfather on my father's side, was born in Bradley County, Tennessee. All right. Some of these relatives that--well, one of them was a Signer--of mine was the great-great-great grandfather of mine. He signed. He signed this what they called--a bunch of them went down there into Tennessee and whoever went . . .

Q: Oh, yes the Wautauga Compact, I believe it was here, yes.

A: My uncle's names on here somewhere.

Q: Jesse Maxey?

A: That's right.

Q: Okay. That's interesting. Let's see if I can find this. Oh, the Cumberland Compact.

A: Yes.

Q: Let's see, let me get the date on that here. May 1, 1870.

A: Well, I want to tell you. I wrote down there and I wanted a copy of the Compact. Well she wanted it as it is and I think one or two of

the--that you could hardly read some of it. And this is the best part of it . . . let me see . . . oh, that tells about that Compact.

Q: Oh, I see.

A: But there's another page in here that tells quite a bit. And listen, they settled around Nashville, but Nashville was not there, the name of their town, village or whatever it was. And they called it Nashboro. It's in there. Did you know about that?

Q: Yes, I knew it was Nashboro before it was Nashville.

A: Yes.

Q: I think it may have had another name before that, but I'll read these after a bit so . . . This is interesting.

A: Oh, you wanted to see some of these pictures.

Q: Oh, yes, let's look at the pictures and talk about those. Those are always interesting. I like pictures.

A: Well, you saw this?

Q: Yes, I have a copy of that.

A: Oh, you do. Well, do you have Grandpa's picture?

Q: No, I don't have a copy of his picture. I'll take a copy of that when I'm copying pictures here after a while.

A: And now listen, Grandpa Cook and his brother would teach school. One would teach one week and one would teach the other week.

Q: The same school?

A: I suppose it was. I have that information. Now some of those things didn't have Grandpa's picture in it.

Q: No, the one I got didn't have it. Now, if your great grandpa--if your grandpa was a teacher, and your daddy was a teacher and you're a teacher and Kenneth was a teacher . . .

A: Kenneth and Rita, five generations.

Q: . . . and your granddaughter is a teacher, five generations of teachers.

A: Five generations. Now I don't know whether there's anything here that you want to see, I don't know.

Q: Did your grandfather teach in Missouri, also?

A: Yes. Now, Grandpa Cook's folks--the reason they got to Missouri--they'd heard about the fur trade. And that's how come our folks came to even be in Missouri.

Q: I'll be darned.

A: And they came there due to the fur trade. Oh, I guess when you get to my age you can remember a lot of things.

Q: A lot of things the rest of us don't.

A: Let's see what this is--I don't know.

Q: Was your dad elected . . .

A: Oh, now there's the school.

Q: The house?

A: The house that my dad had built. I don't know who built it.

Q: Here, let me turn it around where you can see it better this way here. Now you can see.

A: There's his dogs and there's chicken coops out there. And there's my dad's brother and his wife and their two daughters, and these three are all dead and there's my mother and her father that went to California during the Gold Rush.

Q: Now he's the one that wrote the diary?

A: Oh, yes. My aunt Ang, her name was Aunt Angeline--Grandpa lived with her his last years. Let's see, how was that? Now, what was I going to tell you?

Q: He's the one that wrote the diary, right?

A: He's the one that wrote the diary.

Q: That's incredible, absolutely incredible.

A: And there's my mother and there I am and there's my Grandpa Smith and Grandma Smith; there's my dad.

Q: You've just got the whole tribe, right there.

A: And then there's Blanche, my sister; and my brother, Ed; and my brother, Claude; and there's Uncle Fred. That's Poppa's youngest brother.

Q: That's just a right nice frame house with two stories and a nice porch and . . . a kitchen wing.

A: Well, after all, in that day it was pretty good.

Q: It was a nice house.

A: And it was on this place that that man buried the peach seeds.

Q: (laughs) In one place. Let's see. Let me ask you something, Cliffie, that school was a log cabin, did you ever live in a log cabin?

A: Heavens, no!

Q: Oh, not at all? I thought maybe . . .

A: Now listen, I knew of people that did.

Q: I knew they had them way up into the 1900s and I just wondered.

A: Well, I think, well, I know there was log cabins then. I know that.

Q: Oh, yes, I know that.

A: But I never did.

Q: My Aunt Lillie--my aunt said that they did, just for a while once; and I just wondered.

A: Oh, now Grandma Smith did have a log cabin.

Q: In LaClede County?

A: Yes.

Q: Yes.

A: She did.

Q: So you got to see it anyway.

A: But that was . . .

Q: But that was your house.

A: That was ours.

Q: So you didn't get that fun. Okay, now who are these people?

A: Here's my mother and my dad. That's my mother's sister and her husband. And here's my mother's sister and her husband.

Q: Turn it this way you can see it better.

A: And here's my dad and my mother, oh, that's the same picture.

Q: Had your dad gone to college? Did I ask that? I can't remember.

A: In those days you'd teach a while and go to school; you'd teach a while and go to school. Well, my dad went to Richland, Missouri, to a school . . .

Q: Richland, Missouri?

A: And he was a real good friend of some doctor and that doctor had a girl named Cliffie and that's where I got my name. (laughter)

Q: That's nice.

A: There's that same school. Poppa and Momma. Here's my dad and my mother. And here's my Grandpa Smith and his wife. And they had two or three sons that were teachers. They were parents of my father. Oh, there's Margaret Mauser Cook.

Q: Oh, then that's an old picture.

Q: She was my grandpa's grandmother.

Q: Oh, my goodness.

A: Yes. And she's the one that came from Germany and she's the one that she had a brogue.

Q: So thick you couldn't understand her.

A: It was hard to understand them. And there's Grandpa. Well, I think some of those are later ones.

Q: Did she ever--the German grandmother--did she ever speak German to you?

A: Oh, I never saw her.

Q: Oh, she was dead. Okay, she's gone before you were here. I've got some of these people mixed up.

A: And there's Momma and Poppa and there's Grandpa. And here I am. And there's my mother and there I am when I was a little girl. Looks like I was dressed like an old woman.

Q: Well, that's the way they dressed little girls to make them like little people.

A: Well, everybody wore long dresses.

Q: At least it kept you warm.

A: There's my Grandma and Grandpa Smith. And there's Herve's grandpa, and that's the only picture we could ever find.

Q: Now Herve's folks, they lived in Dallas County, Missouri?

A: Yes, it joined LaCleda.

Q: Yes, it's adjacent.

A: And those people were related to me was on Momma's side and they lived, a lot of them did, in not Dallas . . . oh, what's the name of that county?

Q: Back into LaClede?

A: It joined LaClede.

Q: But not Dallas?

A: Not Dallas.

Q: Well, we'll look in the plat book here. Let's go on and look at these pictures here and we'll see if we can find what that county was here. I just happened to bring a plat book. Never know when you'll want to know where someplace . . . let's see, I've got Dallas and LaClede and Wright and Webster. Let's see, Wright's south of LaClede. Texas is east, Pulaski is . . .

A: That was it!

Q: Okay.

A: It was Pulaski County.

Q: Just due east there?

A: Isn't that awful when you want to think of something you can't?

Q: Well, it never fails if you want something, that's exactly what doesn't come to mind, this is all . . .

A: All of these . . . oh, this is my Grandpa, my Grandpa Cook's home.

Q: It's pretty, it's as big as Doris' house, a big two-story house.

A: It reminds me of Doris' house. And, Grandpa Cook, I think made most of his money when he went to California during the Gold Rush.

Q: He really struck gold?

A: Well, I guess he did. And listen, he brought some gold back and he gave two of my cousins--we wasn't close to him--some pieces of gold that he had got in California.

Q: Oh, my goodness.

A: Now wasn't that something?

Q: Do they still have, the family still have it?

A: Yes, they do. But so we kids didn't get none of it because . . . oh, I think most of these are . . .

Q: Yes, these all seem to be . . .

A: . . . oh, there we four kids are.

Q: Oh, you girls were dressed alike, pretty dresses with, what is it, gold flowers on it or what color flowers?

A: White.

Q: Were they white?

A: They were white, and the dresses were navy blue. And Blanche and I . . . that was taken after Momma passed away. And there was some dressmaker from St. Louis, Missouri made our dresses.

Q: All the way down there. And how far southwest of St. Louis are you down there, about one hundred miles?

A: What?

Q: How far southwest of St. Louis were you, about one hundred miles?

A: Oh, I imagine.

Q: It's pretty close to Springfield, Missouri.

A: It isn't too far, it isn't too far. I believe these are all.
(inaudible) Oh, here's an old-timer. Now see Herve was the youngest of all the family. That's his mother, and his father and next to the oldest brother.

Q: Oh, his father has a fine white beard there.

A: Isn't that an old thing? And there's Blanche, my sister.

Q: Now did she stay in Missouri or did she come up here too?

A: Oh, no, she lives in Kansas. Now my brother worked in the office for the traction company in Springfield, Missouri. Well, I guess the superintendent, the workers all went on strike, and the superintendent left Springfield, Missouri and went to Wichita, Kansas. And when he went to Wichita, Kansas, he had my brother come too. And my brother was in the office for the traction company there in Wichita.

Q: He just stayed in Wichita, he liked it?

A: Well, yes, after they had moved out there, you know, and the company liked him so well. He says, "You just come," he was working in the office there in Springfield, Missouri.

Q: If they weren't going to work, they'd go to Wichita and work.

A: Well, after all, that superintendent I guess got work out there. He told . . .

Q: He saw a good man to have with him.

A: Yes.

Q: Now those are . . . that's Cook, I can't read what the first name is on these tombstones here.

A: I think . . . I believe that's Grandpa Cook.

Q: Probably, let's turn this here and get the light . . .

A: That's good of Doris and Kenneth, isn't it?

Q: Yes, that's a good one.

A: Let's see, what does that say?

Q: Let's see, can you read that? I usually carry a magnifying glass with me . . .

A: Now what in the world does that say?

Q: Let me turn it this way and see if I can . . .

A: See if you can see it.

Q: I've got bi-focals and I can't . . . oh, Margaret, this one says Margaret.

A: Oh, that's that Margaret Mouser.

Q: Yes.

A: And her husband. They were the grandparents . . . I tell you, you get mixed up in this deal.

Q: Don't you? All families are confusing. Let's see here, I think I've got that all on the chart . . . yes, here she is, she's . . .

A: It's Margaret Mouser.

Q: Yes, she's your mother's grandmother?

A: Yes, yes. Yes, that's the way . . .

Q: Your mother was Lucy Elvira?

A: Yes, that's my mother.

Q: They pronounced it Elvira or Elvera?

A: E-L-V-I-R-A.

Q: Yes, how did they pronounce that?

A: Elvira.

Q: Elvira, okay. So, she would have been her grandmother; be your great-grandmother, that's a long way back.

A: Now, Margaret Mouser, is her husband's name down there?

Q: Yes, Joel Burton Cook.

A: Joel, oh yes. Don't you get bound with all this stuff sometimes?

Q: Yes, I have to look it up. I can't remember all the names.

A: I do too, I do too.

Q: There's too many names. I laughed, I said there's days I have to look at my driver's license to see who I am.

A: I want to tell you something. There's just so much to think about, and it's a job that you never get through.

Q: No.

A: You're never done.

Q: Now what, you've got more pictures?

A: Oh . . .

Q: Oh, this is beautiful.

A: Now here is the picture that my school teacher took of Blanche and I. It's not in the very best of . . . that's . . .

Q: Oh, out on those big rocks. Was that some they pulled out of the fields?

A: Well, I don't know what they were there, but I think this is the building for the girls. And I had some copies made off of them like that.

Q: Oh, the copies are better than the originals, yes. Did you girls always dress alike?

A: What?

Q: Did you and Blanche always dress alike? I see you've got the same dresses here. Same dressmaker make these?

A: Yes, I think it was that lady from St. Louis; but I don't know what happened here, but I had some made off them, but that's the picture that that teacher of mine put on the Christmas tree.

Q: That was a nice present, wasn't it?

A: Well, I wasn't expecting it.

Q: Back then, a picture was really something.

A: I like that picture.

Q: It's a pretty picture, it's well set-up and everything. I'll copy that after while and keep that in the file.

A: I think that's the negative of that. Oh, I get calls, I've gotten calls . . . now I have a cousin of my mother's, he's a doctor down there in the state of Georgia. And he has called me twice relative to some of this stuff.

Q: The pictures and the family tree?

A: Well, you see, he was related to my mother and he's writing a book.

Q: On your mother's family?

A: Yes. And the same way that lady that's in Massachusetts, she's writing a book. I think . . .

Q: You're going to have two books on the same family?

A: Oh, I think these are all late.

Q: Now that looks like those are all color pictures.

A: Yes, I think they're all late.

Q: I want to back up a little bit here now. We were talking about your lady from St. Louis that came down and did sewing for you; is she the one that taught you to sew? Where did you learn to sew?

A: My grandmother on my father's side was a real good seamstress and different ones, I remember people that lived around her in the country would come and have Grandma to cut the dresses out. She wouldn't make them . . .

Q: She'd cut them out?

A: They done well to even get them cut out.

Q: They had to make their own patterns then, didn't they? You didn't have much in the way of patterns.

A: But they just figured that Grandma would cut the pattern to suit them.

Q: She must have then. That must not have been too easy, really.

A: What?

Q: If you didn't have a pattern, what, did she measure them, how did she know. Or did she just have an eye for it.

A: I think she just had an eye for it. And different ones would come there and have her to cut the material out. Isn't that something?

Q: That's incredible.

A: Well, I guess they didn't have money enough to hire it done. If she'd hired it done, I don't suppose she'd charged much for it.

Q: Did you learn to cut out from her or did you prefer patterns?

A: Oh, when I was in the fourth grade there at Lebanon, they had contests, or something, some project that you'd make in sewing. I got high prize. One dollar.

Q: That was a lot of money then.

A: And do you know, Blanche and I went home and we was telling my dad about it and Blanche cried, and Poppa gave her a dollar.

Q: That wasn't hardly fair, was it?

A: Now wasn't that something though? She cried. And listen, when my dad was in office there at Labanon, Missouri, maybe of a noon hour we'd pass by the court house and maybe he'd give us a nickel a piece. A nickel.

Q: That was a lot of money then. You thought you were rich.

A: Let's see, what else, if there's anything else. You saw that.

Q: Yes, we saw that one. Did you sew when you were in Missouri or did you wait till you got up to Illinois to do that very seriously?

A: That's me.

Q: (laughs) You're a little pixie there. Was are you, about six months old or so?

A: Looks kind of like a baby about six months, don't it?

Q: Yes, just barely sitting up good.

A: My dad and my mother . . . look at that dress she has on.

Q: That's a fine dress. You see she's got a watch up here on it; isn't it? Is that a watch or a brooch?

A: It might be a brooch. But you know they're using them about that same style here today.

Q: She's a pretty woman.

A: The crazy sleeves . . .

Q: Yes, leg-o-mutton sleeves.

A: I think they're terrible.

Q: I'd hate to iron them.

A: Now this is a bunch of stuff I've collected.

Q: Oh, you've got all kinds of scrap books. It's a real good scrap book there. I'll have to look at that in a little bit, and see what's in there. I see your father's James Harrison Smith. Where did the name Harrison come from?

A: What was that?

Q: James Harrison.

A: Yes.

Q: Was he named for a president Harrison?

A: I imagine he was. In those days they named kids after somebody. Now like me, I was named after that doctor's . . . Oh, did you want to look at this?

Q: Yes, I'd like to look at that in a minute. Let's turn this off for a little bit here and . . .

End of Side One, Tape One

Q: Okay, Cliffie, let's start back here with, well, let's start with your home. Let's go back and let's be a little girl. Let's talk about being a little girl this whole time and your family; everybody in Missouri.

A: I went to school to my father the last term he taught. He taught for thirteen years. And he and I--my two brothers were older, they had walked to school--no, my dad rode a horse and I rode behind him to that school. And that was the first school that I went to, and the last school that my father taught.

Q: How far was that from your home?

A: Oh, my, I imagine three miles, maybe. I don't know, I'm just guessing. And do you know, that when Poppa and I would--Poppa, you don't say that no more--when we would ride to school, I'd be scared, afraid a panther would jump down on us. Now I was a little girl.

Q: Were you going through a timber?

A: Oh, sure, we went through--oh, yes, we had timber too. And well, what all do you want me to tell you?

Q: Well, what did you do in school? Tell me about school, what did you study, what was it like? Name some of the people you were in school with.

A: Well, my two brothers went to the same school. I showed you a picture of the school that my dad . . .

Q: Yes, the log cabin.

A: That was before I was born.

Q: Did you have a special friend, a buddy?

A: Well, I did later because I had cousins that went to school at the same time and we would come around together. Now there's one of the cousins.

Q: What's her name?

A: Florence.

Q: Florence?

A: Well, it used to be Jackson, but she married a Bernard. And there I am, and there's my sister. I'm the only one that's left out of we four kids.

Q: My heavens. You were in school when your mother was still alive, weren't you?

A: Well, yes, I think I was about six years old or something like that.

Q: You said something in an earlier tape about her drying pumpkins. Your mother dried pumpkins?

A: Oh, yes. You know what, I well remember that. Upstairs, the floor was in but the walls weren't finished, but around that chimney Momma would cut strips of pumpkin and hang them over a stick and hang around that chimney.

Q: Did she make pie out of those?

A: I don't know what . . . (laughter) I just remember with that.

Q: After your father died, you went to live with your--well actually before he died--you went to live with . . .

A: With my grandmother.

Q: You went to his parents?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay. What was their name?

A: Margaret Jane Wilson Smith.

Q: That was a lot of names.

A: Well, that was her maiden name too.

Q: What was it like there? You and your sister both went, didn't you?

A: Both done what?

Q: You and your sister both went to live with your grandmother?

A: Oh, yes, just we two.

Q: I'm going to move over here where you can hear me better, I think that'll be a lot better.

A: Grandma can't hear as good as she once did.

Q: I don't either. Did you have a separate room upstairs, or what was their house like?

A: Blanche and I slept upstairs. But the thing of it was, before my father died, he was a Mason.

Q: Oh, now we didn't know that.

A: And he was an Odd Fellow. And he thought the best thing for Blanche and I would be to go to the Odd Fellows Home at Liberty, Missouri or the Masonic Home in St. Louis.

Q: Oh, my.

A: But, no, the folks wouldn't stand for it. And Blanche and I thought that was just like dying.

Q: I think so too. Oh, that would have been awful.

A: Well, he just wanted to take care of us.

Q: Yes, I know, but still . . .

A: But the folks would not allow it at all and we never did.

Q: Did your grandmother teach you and Blanche to cook and sew?

A: Sew. As I said, my grandmother was a wonderful seamstress and the people would come up from--her neighbors--and bring material and they'd want Grandma to cut out their garment. They would make it.

Q: She would design the pattern in her head?

A: I guess, whatever they wanted. I imagine she even designed the pattern. But she never charged, she just had the good will of them.

Q: I'll declare. Your grandfather was a farmer?

A: He'd been in the Civil War.

Q: Okay. Union, I presume. Was that Union or Confederate down there?

A: Oh, Union. Union. Although he was born in Tennessee.

Q: That's what I thought, that they were southerners. (laughter)

A: Grandpa was born in Tennessee, but my other grandfather was born in Missouri. But his folks all lived in the east, in New Jersey and New York, but some of them--my grandfather's grandfather--came to Missouri during the . . . oh, what was that . . . oh, the fur trade?

Q: Were they fur traders or were they merchants?

A: That's all I know. That's all I know.

Q: Did your grandfather have any Civil War stories that he would tell?

A: Oh, I wish I knew. So many things now. I have a cousin that lives in Oklahoma, he's a minister of a First Christian Church over there. And he has gotten into this genealogy about our grandparents; it was his great-grandparents, it was my grandparents. And he's really working on it. He goes to Oklahoma City and there's a place down there where you can get information and he has recently sent me some material.

Q: But I just wondered if your grandfather had told stories to you girls when you were home.

A: Had we known about all this, we'd have found out a lot more.

Q: We never know at the right time, though do we? How big a farm was it, was it a . . .

A: What?

Q: How big a farm did he have?

A: I don't think but forty acres.

Q: That was a big farm, really, in that time.

A: Well, I guess it was. And, another thing about it, they never bought anything in the line of groceries except coffee and sugar.

Q: How did the sugar come in those days. It wasn't in sacks, was it?

A: I don't, that's all I know.

Q: And, otherwise, they would raise everything that they ate. And as far as meal and flour was concerned, they took their flour to the mill and their corn to the mill to have ground into meal--corn meal.

Q: Was there a river there that they had a water mill or was it a horse mill? Do you remember?

A: Somebody would own a mill and the people would rush there and have their grain ground.

Q: You don't remember whether it was a water mill or a horse mill?

A: I think the mill was on a creek or something and I think that creek or that water was the power for the mill. Now I think that's the way it was.

Q: Probably. Most of it was water mills, I think, back then.

A: I think that's the way it was. And then another thing about my grandmother, she'd make her own soap.

Q: How did she make soap?

A: All right, they had an affair--boards comes together like that.
(forms triangle with her hands)

Q: In a V?

A: In a V. And they'd save all their wood ashes and put in that, what they called a lye hopper.

Q: A lye hopper?

A: They was going to make lye. And they put water over those wood ashes and it would drain down to the bottom into a container and she would use that lye to make soap and it would be soft soap.

Q: Now did she only pour the water over that when she was going to make soap? Just at the time?

A: I think it was wet all the time.

Q: Oh, I see.

A: And you know, the lye would gradually drain through and she would, I guess, save that lye and make soap.

Q: What else went into the soap?

A: What?

Q: What else would go into the soap, besides the lye water? Do you remember what else she put in it?

A: Well, old lard and stuff like that.

Q: Oh, now see, I don't know how to make soap. I don't know what was in it.

A: Well, you'd have to use lard or something you know.

Q: Did they cook it or let it set?

A: Oh, I guess they cooked it. Now I don't know what else to tell you.

Q: Well, were you living at your grandmother's when you went on to college?

A: Let's see, how was that? No, Blanche and I went to Springfield. I wanted to go to college and Blanche worked for my step-mother who had a beauty shop. And after we left the school in the country, at Grandma's, we went up there to Springfield, Missouri.

Q: How old were you then, about?

A: Oh, I imagine I was about fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, somewhere like that.

Q: You were just a little girl then.

A: Oh, I was a young . . . listen, I want to tell you something. A person might think it's funny but in school then you would get subjects that you now get in high school. And I never went to high school, but I had high school work. I had high school work in my grade school and in a college, but I never got a diploma from high school. (laughter)

Q: That's funny.

A: And I'll tell you how my dad would do then. He taught thirteen years. And he would teach a year and then go to school a while and teach again. And that's the way . . .

Q: Didn't you say his father was also a school teacher?

A: No. My grandfather on my mother's side, my grandfather on my mother's side was the teacher. He and his father would take turns about teaching a week at a time.

Q: Oh, I see, I've got . . .

A: All right. And then my dad, and then Cliffie, then Rita, and then . . . wait a minute . . .

Q: I think we need Kenneth in there.

A: Oh, yes, Kenneth. Kenneth, then Rita. Yes. Five generations.

Q: And isn't Natalie [Cliffie's great-granddaughter] going into education?

A: What?

Q: I think Natalie's going into education, isn't she? Your great-granddaughter up there, Rita's girl?

A: She's going to college.

Q: Yes.

A: Yes.

Q: But I thought maybe she was going to be a teacher too.

A: Well, you never know.

Q: Wouldn't that be something, six generations in the family.

A: Six. I think it's something that there is even five.

Q: Oh, I think that's terrific, that's just unheard of.

A: And at that time, that school that we went to was named after our relative.

Q: What was the name of the school?

A: Nelson. But that was on my mother's side. My mother's grandmother was a Nelson.

Q: Do you remember the street you lived on the Lebanon when your father was still alive?

A: Oh, I don't even remember them streets.

Q: Do you remember any of the neighbors? Who lived beside you?

A: Oh, I remember some of the girls that was in our room at school. There was Louie Shields--that was a girl--that was one. Oh, I could finally think of them, maybe. I could probably think of them.

Q: Well, let's go on . . .

A: And a Burling girl. And when my dad was elected Recorder of our county, this Burling girl's father was in the county office just like Poppa was. Poppa, that sounds funny, I know.

Q: No, not really. Did you live in an apartment in Springfield or did you stay with relatives?

A: We stayed with my step-mother.

Q: And she had a beauty shop?

A: Oh! I stayed at the girl's dormitory when I went to college.

Q: Yes, but first you stayed with . . .

A: But Blanche stayed with my step-mother, because . . .

Q: Now, she left--the step-mother left Lebanon after your father died?

A: Yes.

Q: And she had, what, two youngsters?

A: Yes, she did. Now her boy has passed away and she had a daughter that lives in St. Louis.

Q: In St. Louis. So Blanche lived with her in Springfield, then later . . .

A: Yes, because, see Blanche taught two years of school.

Q: In Springfield?

A: No. It was around, close to Lebanon, not far from Lebanon. And then after that . . . you know in those days, you know you go to college now and you go so long you earn your certificate.

Q: Yes.

A: We had to have a written examination. If you could pass your examination you was all right.

Q: When you got to Springfield, you went straight to college and lived in the girl's dormitory?

A: I went to college, and that's . . .

Q: What was the girl's dormitory like in that time? Tell me about that.

A: Well every evening before we would have lunch, we would sing a song--"Day is Dying in the West." You've heard of that song.

Q: I've heard that a long time ago.

A: All right. That's what we would sing before we ate.

Q: Almost like a prayer? What was the building, what was the dormitory like? Can you describe it?

A: Seems like everything was kind of plain, as I remember it. There was nothing elaborate about it.

Q: Was it an old house or was it built as a dormitory?

A: No, it was in conjunction with the college.

Q: And this was what, Southwestern Teachers--what's known now as Southwestern . . .

A: It's known now as the Southwestern State Teacher's College. At that time it was called a Normal School.

Q: And this is in Springfield, Missouri?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay. Now what kind of classes did you take?

A: What?

Q: Do you remember your classes or any of your professors? What did they teach you?

A: Seems like for one thing we took pedagogy. You know what this is, don't you?

Q: Teaching? (laughter) Just pronouncing it would be a job.

A: Well, that was one thing. And I think we took algebra, I think we did. And English, of course.

Q: How long were you there?

A: About five months.

Q: About five months, just . . . what, one semester, roughly. Term, whatever.

A: Just about five months, however it was. Now that's all I know.

Q: And you had to take this final exam to get your teacher's certificate?

A: I guess we did, but . . .

Q: Where did you teach? Where was your first school? Was it right about that?

A: Oh, no, it wasn't here. And I got married and had two boys.

Q: Well, where was your first . . . tell me about this teaching experience. What was that like? Were you scared?

A: All right. When I was teaching, I lived at Grandma's; that's before I started to college. I had taken a written examination, you know. All right. I had to board away from home, across the river from my grandfather's to my cousin's and I boarded with my cousin's family. And I would walk through timber to that country school.

Q: What was the name of the school?

A: It was called Monarch.

Q: Monarch?

A: Monarch.

Q: How many pupils were in it?

A: Oh, my. I imagine there was thirty-five.

Q: And you had all of those? And you were what? Seventeen or eighteen?

A: I imagine something like that. I imagine something . . .

Q: I'd have been scared to death.

A: I well remember one boy that I called him about something--I don't remember what--and he got up and went home and never came back. (laughs)

Q: How old was he?

A: He was a big boy.

Q: Can you remember what grades--was it all grades, or a lot of . . .

A: I think it was all grades.

Q: Can you remember the names of any of the students this far away?

A: One girl I remember, her name was Artie Chambers.

Q: Artie?

A: Artie. A-R-T-I-E.

Q: Oh. What was she like? Was she a good student?

A: She was a nice little girl.

Q: Was they mostly farm children?

A: Oh, they was all farm children.

Q: Did school get out early so the boys could farm?

A: What?

Q: Did school let out early in the spring so the boys could farm?

A: I don't think so. They probably did, but you didn't miss them. (laughter)

Q: With thirty-five, I guess not.

A: But you didn't miss them.

Q: Did you teach just basic subjects, like reading and writing and arithmetic?

A: Oh, yes.

Q: Did you do any sewing then? Did you teach the girls . . .

A: Oh, no. No. Not till after I was married did I start sewing.

Q: There was no home ec or anything . . .

A: And it was like this. When I got married, my husband was the youngest of six boys and they all came out here on the farm.

Q: To Illinois?

A: Here in Illinois. And all farmed around Mt. Pulaski. Well, Herve never was satisfied until he got on the farm. He used to be a streetcar conductor there in Springfield, Missouri. But, anyway, he dropped that, he dropped that, and we moved out here and we got a train for our household goods . . .

Q: A train car?

A: Yes.

Q: Like a box-car?

A: Of the train, a car. And our horses and our cows, he come through to Illinois on that car. And Kenneth and Doris and I--Kenneth and Dale and I--Kenneth was just a baby when we came out here and we came out on the train.

Q: He wasn't too big then?

A: No, he was a baby.

Q: Dale's older than Kenneth?

A: Oh, yes, Dale was older. Dale was two years older.

Q: Did you have a place to come to when you came to Illinois?

A: Oh, yes. His brother had a farm ready for us over there.

Q: Where was that? Was that where I remember you living?

A: Around Mt. Pulaski. Oh, yes, we had a place to come to. That was all settled before we started out.

Q: What were the names of the brothers that were already up here?
Around Pulaski?

A: Well, it was David and Tom and Jim. Now that was the three brothers that was already out here. And did I say Steve?

Q: No . . . don't have Steve.

A: Well. Steve is the one that rented the farm for us.

Q: Okay. So that's four brothers that are already up here?

A: Yes. And Herve wasn't satisfied until he got up here. So that's how come us to come up here.

Q: We're still short another brother. Did he come or did he stay in Missouri? If there were six.

A: Elv was the oldest one. Elv--what a name! Elvige was his name.

Q: Elvige?

A: Elvige. Wasn't that a funny name? Well, anyway, he was the oldest. And he never came.

Q: Oh, he stayed in Missouri.

A: But there was six boys, see. And four of them was already out here and Herve wasn't satisfied until he got out here.

Q: What was your first farm like? What was the house like? Do you remember that?

A: It had an outside toilet.

Q: Most of them did, didn't they, in that day?

A: The house wasn't too bad. But anyway we moved out there on that place. It was only eighty acres at that time. And years ago you could farm for less and still make money. But nowadays you have to have a lot of acreage.

Q: Well, eighty acres for one man with horses was quite a bit.

A: Yes, we had horses. Oh, I'll tell you something else. I brought my Rhode Island Red chickens out here.

Q: I remember Rhode Island Reds.

A: Well, I brought them, and that year I raised a lot of young chickens. And they was ready to sell, so we called a guy in Mt. Pulaski to come out and get them. Well, two fellows came out to get them and that Tricker house, the front of it was built in and had a gate. And at the top of that gate there was a board nailed across. At the top of that gate.

Q: What was the board for?

A: Well, I imagine just support. I don't know. All right. They came out and they got the chickens and we went out there and there were their scales they had left on that cross piece.

Q: The old hanging scales?

A: And they had the hand of it curved upward so they beat me out of a few pounds of chickens.

Q: Oh!

A: Now what do you know about that?

Q: Made you feel real good, didn't it?

A: Well, when Herve went into town then, he went to them and he said something about it. Well, this guy, it was the other guy I think that done the weighing, he said, "Well, he couldn't do anything about it, because it was that fellow that done it." And we just couldn't do any more.

Q: I wouldn't do . . . did you do . . .

A: Now wasn't that something?

Q: That's terrible. I'll bet you didn't do any more business with them.

A: I should say not. And we haven't never forgotten--never forgot it.

Q: I wouldn't.

A: Now to think, they had that hand turned upward so it would have to not weigh too much, see?

Q: You wouldn't think people would do something like that.

A: No. But listen, I know of one person around Mt. Pulaski--dead now--they would even steal chickens.

Q: Really?

A: Really. And he inherited his farm. But he had that name. That was bad.

Q: That's terrible.

A: Now, let me see.

Q: After you got up here and got to farming, the boys went to school in Latham, I think you said, for a little while.

A: What?

Q: Did the boys go to school in Latham or Pulaski?

A: The thing of it was--we lived on around Route 121 between Mt. Pulaski and Latham. We were closer to Mt. Pulaski. Well, at that time, you know, those school districts were so greedy to get everybody in, they even had our place in. And the kids, the kids finally had to start to school at Latham. Because we were in that district.

Q: Did they ride ponies? How did they get to school? Wouldn't have had a bus, would you?

A: Now, people from around us--there was a girl or two--they'd even take a train into Mt. Pulaski.

Q: Yes, there . . .

A: They lived in our neighbor . . . you know, I really don't know how them kids got to school. (laughter) I really don't know how them kids got to school. Well, anyway, though, after so long our kids wanted to go to school in Mt. Pulaski, to graduate from high school--which they did. Well, we went to Mr. Lukenbill, you remember him, don't you?

Q: Oh, yes. County Superintendent of Schools. [Logan County, Illinois]

A: All right. We went to Mr. Lukenbill and we wanted out of Latham to get into Mt. Pulaski because we was closer to Mt. Pulaski. Well, he said this, "I'm going to grant you privilege to come to Mt. Pulaski because you're interested in your kids." All right. Now, when he said this--but he said, "The last year of high school, don't ask me because I'm going to run for re-election."

Q: What did he mean?

A: We just had to pay one year of tuition.

Q: What did he mean by, "Don't ask me . . ."

A: Well, he didn't want to be obligated--he didn't want that to go against him on the election.

Q: Oh, I see. He was letting you go to school without paying the tuition?

A: Well, if we didn't ask him, we'd have to pay tuition.

Q: I see.

A: But the thing of it, he didn't want that against him on his election deal.

Q: So you just paid tuition that last year?

A: One year.

Q: That's not too bad.

A: And then now, since then, our district is in Mt. Pulaski. That district. They've changed it.

Q: Now, when you were on the farm--did you right away start up being a seamstress--doing sewing or--how did you get into that?

A: I always liked to sew. When I was in the fourth grade at Lebanon, they wanted any of us to make some kind of project in the line of sewing. And I dressed a doll. And I got a dollar for a prize.

Q: That was a lot of money for that day.

A: Well, yes. All right. When my father came home from his office--he was Recorder of Deeds at the time--when he came home and we kids were home from school we told Poppa about it, he gave me a dollar because I got a dollar. And Blanche cried and he gave her a dollar.

Q: Well, you still came out ahead. (laughter)

A: Now, wasn't that something.

Q: When your dad was Recorder of Deeds, did you girls ever go down to the court house?

A: Oh--and listen, when we would go to school at Lebanon, we'd have to walk to school. All right, we'd go by the court house and we'd see Poppa and he'd give we kids, maybe a nickel a piece.

Q: (laughs) Candy money? What was the court house like? Can you describe that to me?

A: Well, I think it was something like--only I think it was red brick--but I think it was shaped something like Lincoln.

Q: A big square with a dome on it?

A: It was kind of large. And there was several offices in it, you know. All the offices that a county has.

Q: Did your dad have clerks in the office, or was he just the only one there at that time?

A: You mean at the office?

Q: Yes.

A: Oh, there was a whole bunch of them, just like there is over here in Lincoln.

Q: Okay.

A: Oh, yes.

Q: Can you remember any of them?

A: The sheriff's name was Sharp. And there was a Dalmburg, I think he was a lawyer, I think he was. And my dad was Recorder of Deeds. I can't think of any more.

Q: That's pretty good, though--you have a good memory here. Okay, let's go back to Mt. Pulaski for a little bit now. And tell me about how you did get into--you were telling me you got to sewing when you did the doll.

A: Remember, I started in the fourth grade.

Q: Did you sew in Missouri while you were down there?

A: Did I do what?

Q: Did you do a lot of other sewing while you were in Missouri?

A: You see, after our mother died, my father married again. After so long he married again. And how was it? Oh, I had got--this is terrible--I had got some material and I slipped and made that dress without my step-mother knowing it. Now that's how well I liked to sew.

Q: Now, didn't she want you to have your material? Why did you slip around to do this?

A: I don't know why I did. It was a project that I was working on that was mine and nobody else's. And then when we got on the farm--we was on that farm for thirty-two years--we never had a contract, we didn't have to move. But the reason we come over here [to Waynesville] was that Kenneth was having trouble with his hired men.

Q: Oh, the reason you moved to Waynesville--this house.

A: That's how we come over here. And now we didn't have to move. We could still been there today, but we didn't have to move. But Herve would say to me, "I don't think you want to go over there." I would never mention it. I wouldn't mention it to my neighbors or nobody. But we finally come and here I am here today, yet today.

Q: Clear up to Waynesville.

A: But anyway we was on that place for thirty-two years.

Q: I still want to know about you and your sewing. Now, you've got to have a lot of stories about that.

A: Well, the thing of it was, we farmed. And Cliffie could sew.

Q: And beautifully.

A: And I sewed for Tom, Dick and Harry. And in here I think I've written (notes she made), says here, "knowing Illinois was a good farming country, that's one reason, that the reason the other boys came out too, you know."

Q: The land's a lot better. Was it rocky where you were in Missouri? The land?

A: Well, there's rocks in Missouri.

Q: Yes, I know there's a lot, but I just wondered if the land . . .

A: Everything's better there now, they say, because they use fertilizer.

Q: But it won't make rocks grow anything.

A: No.

Q: They still won't.

A: Well, really, now when I was real small--when I went to school riding on the horse behind my dad--you see, he had a man hired to do the farm work.

Q: Oh, I see, he taught and then had someone to do the work.

A: He had. And one day he wanted that man to plant some peach seeds. And that--he was a young man, I think, I think he was a young man--he went out and buried that whole--it was in a bucket or whatever it was in--in one spot.

Q: What did your dad say when he heard that?

A: I don't know. I don't know.

Q: Did you dad farm during the summer--well, it wouldn't be that much to do, would there, through the summer?

A: What was that?

Q: Did your dad work on the farm after school was out?

A: I don't remember my dad ever working on the farm.

Q: He just owned--he was the owner and let this young man do the work while he taught school?

A: Oh, yes. And at that time when my father would be away teaching school, my mother, I well remember she would put on a coat of my dad's and go out and milk the cows.

Q: Tell me about your mother. What did she look like?

A: Oh, she was the youngest of four girls and she was little like me. (4' 11")

Q: Well, you're not tall.

A: If you'd see my grandfather on my mother's side, he was a little short man. He's the one that went to California during the Gold Rush. You remember that?

Q: Yes, I remember that story.

A: And he never married till after he come back from the Gold Rush. And he went out there overland, but he come home by sea.

Q: That diary was really interesting. [diary kept by Cliffie's great-grandfather]

A: Isn't that interesting.

Q: There aren't many books like that around. I'm going to include that with this tape.

A: Well, anyway about the sewing deal. They found out I could sew and I began to sew for all the neighbors, different ones of the neighbors.

Q: Did you have any that were special favorites?

A: I just sewed for them all. In fact, I don't think but twice did I ever get beat out of any sewing money.

Q: Well, that was better than the chickens.

A: And one year when they were putting in Route 121 between Mt. Pulaski and Latham, there was some people in there working on that road and one of their wives came to me for some sewing and she left without paying.

Q: Did you suppose she forgot or she was used to not paying bills?

A: I don't know. That was one time. Then another time was--I sewed for one of my neighbors and well, she had a man staying there with her--she was married--but anyway, this man wanted something done in the line of sewing, I don't remember what it was now. I tell you, I've sewed so much I don't know--I'll meet people, I have met people--a lot of people are gone now. But I'd meet them and they'd say, "You remember that dress you made for me?" I don't remember it. I don't remember it. But anyway, I sewed something for this man and never got paid for that. Now, in all those years that I've sewed, but I think I told you in here different places where I had sewed was Lincoln, Lake Fork, Latham, Decatur, Springfield . . . I'd better look here to see what I said--it says here (her notes) my father lived across the river at the time and he'd come on Friday evening--that's what I told you about his clothes freezing on him. It was no wonder he passed away at the age of forty-three.

Q: Now, he stayed across the river through the week and boarded?

A: He would swim his horse across the river and come home.

Q: Every day or just . . .

A: Friday evening.

Q: He boarded then.

A: Oh, yes. You'd have to.

Q: Your mother was home with the children all through the week?

A: With we children. Yes. And I well remember one time I just halfway remember this. One day my mother was making kraut.

Q: Out of cabbage?

A: Yes. And my brother that was just older than me, he wanted to chop off the bad leaves off of a head of cabbage on a chair. Now, I don't know what shape the chair was in or anything about it. But somehow or another, Cliffie put her hand down there and I wasn't going to let him cut that cabbage up . . . and if he didn't wack my hand. Well, I think it was this hand. You can probably see.

Q: Yes, there's a scar across the ring finger and across.

A: And do you know, that my mother--any other time you'd have gone to the doctor--no, she done her own doctoring. And I well remember at that time there would be tramps coming through the country. And on our house--Poppa had had this house built--and on that house the foundation was up kind of high and you could see under it. And we kids saw that tramp coming and we ran around the house and looked through underneath the house part and saw that man, I think he had one leg, hopping down the house. I guess he wanted something to eat, I guess he did.

Q: Most of them did.

A: But I don't remember every little detail, but I well remember that man, he had a wooden leg.

Q: Did your mother feed him?

A: I guess she did. We kids was on the other side of the house, scared to death.

Q: What did you mother do about your finger that got all cut there? Did she bandage it up?

A: I guess she did, but that I don't remember. But I sure remember putting my hand down there so Claude could not have cut that cabbage.

Q: He was going to cut it anyway.

A: And he just whacked my hand.

Q: That was a scary thing to do.

A: Now I don't know . . . well, I told you about that sewing.

Q: Yes. Tell me, did your mother use any home remedies? You said she did some doctoring.

A: Oh, I guess she did.

Q: Do you know any of them? What were the old country remedies? We don't talk much about those anymore. Do you know any from your grandmother?

A: That I don't know. I don't know whether they even had any or not. I guess they did.

Q: I suppose. You know, they used to use plants and things.

A: But I sure don't . . . but talking about sewing. I sewed for a doctor in Springfield. I knew his niece real well in Mt. Pulaski and I still know her. She's been over here.

Q: Wouldn't be Dr. Zelle, would it?

A: Yes, Dr. Zelle. How did you know him?

Q: I'm related to the Zelles.

A: Oh, yes, this was Dr. Zelle. Yes.

Q: Now tell me about Dr. Zelle and the sewing. Did you go to his house?

A: The thing of it was--let's see, how was that now--Mildred and I, his granddaughter, no, his niece; we went to, oh, Dr. Zelle wanted me to do some sewing for him. Dr. Zelle's wife had passed away. And he wanted me to do some sewing for him. And Mildred and I, Mildred Hahn, and I went down there then. And I upholstered some chairs for him. and listen, talking about sewing, I've done everything in the line of sewing.

Q: It sounds like it, if you've done upholstering.

A: I upholstered furniture, I made an airplane sock. You know what that is?

Q: Oh, wind sock, a wind sock.

A: Yes.

Q: Who did you make that for?

A: Well, for a guy over here between Chestnut and Latham.

Q: One of the Stahls?

A: Wasn't Stahls. The fellow lived around there. His name was Louis somebody. They're both dead now.

Q: Volle? Oh, well. What did you sew for Dr. Zelle?

A: What?

Q: If his wife was dead, what did you sew for Dr. Zelle?

A: I upholstered those chairs. Remember, when I first knew Dr. Zelle, Mildred and I went to his home that was on Lake Springfield and after his wife died, he moved into town. And I upholstered those . . . oh, I upholstered furniture, a lot of it.

Q: What kind of upholstery did you put on chairs for Dr. Zelle? What kind of chairs were they?

A: Well, like a living room, and stuff like that. And then when Dr. Zelle, I believe went to Africa--didn't he go out there for, well, for something. And he wrote me a letter.

Q: That was nice.

A: Wasn't that nice of him? And out in my front room in there, in that front bedroom, when Mildred and I was down there at his Lake Springfield home, I saw he had two corner cupboards and he wasn't going to take them to town and I said, "I'd like to have them." Mildred says, "I wouldn't mind it myself." But she says, "If you want them, then you can have them." And I have got them today.

Q: From Dr. Zelle's house?

A: Yes, ma'am.

Q: Are they antique, or were they built into the house?

A: You want to see them?

Q: Yes. Let's take a look at those. (tape stopped)

A: . . . a new living room outfit and nobody said a word about that. But Judy wants this,

Q: Judy wants the oak table. Now, how did you get Dr. Zelle's cupboards out to your--those beautiful corner cupboards--out to your house? Do you remember that?

A: I have no idea. We had a truck. Maybe we went and got them. I don't . . .

Q: They sure look like walnut. Those are beautiful.

A: Aren't they lovely?

Q: And you say Rita wants those?

A: Rita wants them.

Q: And there's that gorgeous cedar chest that Dale made.

A: Dale made that. And Judy wants that. And Judy wants that rug there. And do you know, at that time when I got that rug, I got it at Wards in Decatur--\$84.

Q: That's been a long time. That's a beautiful oriental carpet.

A: \$84. And my sewing machine is out there on the porch. I've been trying to move downstairs.

Q: Yes. You used to have it in an upstairs bedroom.

A: I had a sewing room up there.

Q: Yes, I remember that.

A: Now Cliffie don't sew no more.

Q: You don't have time?

A: Time? I'd have time, but I don't see quite as good as I once did.

Q: Oh, you had cataract surgery, didn't you?

A: On both eyes.

Q: On both eyes?

A: Both eyes--at different times.

Q: Yes. Tell me about this schoolmaster's desk in here that belonged to your great-grandfather, or your grandfather?

A: Kenneth's grandfather.

Q: Your dad?

A: Wait a minute. No, his father's father.

Q: You grandfather, then?

A: Kenneth's grandfather, not mine.

Q: But your dad? Give me a name of who the desk belonged to?

A: It's Kenneth's father's father.

Q: Oh, okay. I see. On that line.

A: And he got it when he was a young man. And I don't think there's a nail in it, I mean there's not many, if there's any. I think maybe there might be very few. But they used wooden pegs.

Q: This belonged to the Patterson line, then? Okay. Were they school teachers, or what did the Pattersons . . .

A: Oh, they was farmers. But they was pretty well-to-do people, I mean, at that time.

Q: Comfortable, anyway.

A: They were comfortable.

Q: That's a beautiful walnut desk.

A: Oh, yes, Kenneth wants that. And he wants those figurines on each side of it.

Q: What are they? Is there a story behind them?

A: You remember a long time ago where different people--different women--would have a party in their home for a certain brand of material?

Q: Oh, yes.

A: And when you had it, you'd get something, and I was given that.

Q: It's a . . . what, a colonial lady and colonial man. They're--what, about ten inches tall?

A: There was a paint shop in Decatur, and I remember seeing that paint shop and I think it was . . .

End of Side One, Tape Two

Q: . . . oh, between the figurines?

A: Yes. Kenneth wants that too.

Q: What kind of clock is that, do you know?

A: I don't know.

Q: Just a minute here, I'll go look.

A: You may have to get up in that chair. (tape stopped)

A: Now to tell you the truth, I don't know the name of the clock. But he wants that desk, that clock and those figurines.

Q: That's a beautiful clock.

A: And that old chair.

Q: The one in front of the television, the ladder back?

A: Yes. Yes.

Q: I can't tell what kind of a clock it is, it's too high. (on top of a schoolmaster's desk) But it's got a pendulum, and it's got a finial on the top. It looks like it's walnut, too. It's beautiful.

A: Oh, it is. And it runs all the time.

Q: Who did that belong to? Did you buy that?

A: Kenneth's aunt.

Q: Your sister? Or Herve's sister?

A: Herve's sister. But they was quite a bit older than we were. Herve was the youngest one of the family.

Q: Did all the Pattersons, were they all in Missouri, other than . . . The girls, I guess . . .

A: All of Herve's family was born there in Missouri.

Q: And the boys came up here. Did the girls come up?

A: One girl came.

Q: Did she come to Pulaski?

A: We was all around Mt. Pulaski.

Q: What was her name? I don't think I have her name.

A: Her name was Caroline, but the called her Callie.

Q: Callie. That's pretty. Who did she marry?

A: She married Walter Cowan.

Q: Cowan?

A: C-O-W-A-N.

Q: Okay. Anyway, would you try and talk about your sewing? We got as far as Dr. Zelle. Who else did you sew for that had a good story with them?

A: Well, I just sewed for so many I just can't designate which ones to talk about. I just sewed for them all.

Q: Was anybody particularly contankerous?

A: No. They knew if Cliffie would fix it, it would be fixed. I'll never forget, you know Louise Irvin, married Harold Tendick?

Q: Yes, I've heard the name.

A: Well, they're your neighbors over here. Her daughter went to college and while she was in college she wanted to get something for one of her classmates. But whatever it was, it had to be fixed. And here come Louise and her girl out with whatever it was with her. Listen, I've sewed so much I don't even remember a lot of that crap. (laughter) So, anyway, Louise and her daughter brought it out, whatever it was, I don't know whether it was a pillow top, I don't know what it was. I'm not saying what it was. But, when Louise started home she says, "Well, my worries are over." She knew I'd fix it.

Q: Knew it was all taken care of when you got it?

A: Now that's just the way they knew I could do it.

Q: There wasn't anything you couldn't do with a sewing machine.

A: I would do--I'd try anything.

Q: Tell me about it, did you start out with hand sewing or did you always have a sewing machine?

A: Oh, I started out with hand sewing, you know. In my lifetime I've had three sewing machines.

Q: Tell me about them. What were they?

A: Well, the thing of was, when we started out in Springfield, Missouri, and Herve was on the streetcar then, I bought a Singer sewing machine, but it was used.

Q: A used Singer.

A: A used Singer. Well, it stood up all right, but I wasn't satisfied because it wasn't new. Well, anyway, then, we came out here and I went to Decatur and you know where Linn & Scruggs used to be? Well, all right, I went in there and I looked at their sewing machines and they had a brand they called a Standard.

Q: Standard?

A: S-T-A-N-D-A-R-D. Well, it was a good brand. Well, I bought me a brand new Standard. Well, after so long then, I decided that a Singer was number one when it come to sewing machines. I wasn't satisfied until I went to the Singer shop there in Decatur and got me a brand new Singer sewing machine.

Q: Did you trade in the Standard?

A: I guess I did. That I don't--but the sewing machine is out here on the porch and it's a good looking sewing machine.

Q: How long have you had it?

A: Well, you know, we've been over here better then twenty-five years.

Q: And you had it before you came here?

A: I had it before I came over here. I'll show it to you in a minute. So I got me a brand new Singer. I wasn't satisfied with that Standard, although it was a good one, and it's a good brand.

Q: Did it have a lot of attachments on it, a lot of fancy stitches?

A: Oh, in my sewing machine out here, I've got every kind of attachment you want, even to the pinking shears.

Q: On the sewing machine? Let's go look. (tape stopped)

A: If I'm waiting for the mail carrier to come or something, and have just a little time on my hands, I'll sit down and play a game of solitaire.

Q: I like to play solitaire. Now, tell me why you bought a treadle machine instead of an electric.

A: Listen, I don't know how many times, how many different times, I found out that people are having trouble with their electric sewing machines. You know anything about that?

Q: Yes, I certainly do.

A: All right. I wanted that other sewing machine. I wanted one that I knew was all right. And as I say, I could have bought an electric. No, but Cliffie didn't. I didn't want no electric.

Q: (laughs) Do you feel you have better control over the treadle machine than you do the electric? Do you feel it sews better?

A: I like it.

Q: You just like it.

A: And I'm used to it.

Q: That has a lot to do . . . I learned to sew on a tradle machine and Mom's old machine is still over in the house, but . . .

A: What kind was it?

Q: It was an old Singer--belonged to my great-grandmother. Well, Doris's grandmother.

A: And it still works?

Q: Still works fine. Mom used it right up to the, almost the day she died.

A: I'll bet that girl of yours would like to have it.

Q: Well, Leo's girl gets it. We had to share.

A: Oh, yes.

Q: What kinds of materials . . . do you find a big change over the years in the quality of materials? The types?

A: Well, it was something--oh, what's the name of this new material--so much of it?

Q: The double knits or knits, polyester?

A: The knit, I think, so much of the knit has come. But you remember when I first started out we had calico.

Q: Calico's pretty. It's making a come back, you know. Was it easy to work with, when you sewed?

A: Well, not the knit.

Q: No, the calico.

A: Calico was good.

Q: Was thread always on a wooden spool? How did it come when you started?

A: Always on a wooden spool. And, upstairs--I was in Chestnut one day, in Williams's store and they was beginning to sell out. Well, you remember in those stores in those days they had a thread--a cabinet for thread, just for thread, and they pulled out the drawers.

Q: Yes, I remember those.

A: I wanted to buy it, and I think I gave five dollars for it.

Q: The last one I saw was priced three hundred dollars.

A: I think I gave five dollars for that. Well, I had to have it fixed up a little bit, a large drawer at the top, under those doors, you know, and then the smaller drawers at the bottom and they have white knobs.

Q: Yes, I remember those.

A: Well, they want that to go with that sewing machine. (laughter)

Q: Did you keep thread in it then, after you got it home?

A: Oh, it's full of thread now.

Q: Oh, still is?

A: And you know, I have so many of them little spools. You remember them?

Q: Oh, yes.

A: And you know how expensive thread is now.

Q: Oh, it's terrible.

A: It's terrible. Well, I don't know what I haven't done.

Q: Did you have time to keep a garden in amongst all your sewing? Did you really like gardening or was it just something you did?

A: Oh, I liked it.

Q: What did you plant? What kinds of things?

A: Oh, in the garden?

Q: Yes.

A: Oh, lettuce and radishes and onions and peas and beets and potatoes.

Q: Then how did you keep them over the winter? What did you do--did you dry . . .

A: We would have a cellar.

Q: But I don't know how you put things in the cellar. I don't remember that. How did you do that?

A: You mean put it in the cellar?

Q: Yes, what did you do? You didn't just put it loose in the cellar, did you?

A: Well, we had a bin. We had a bin made in the cellar up on legs and that's where the potatoes went.

Q: They weren't covered or anything? You just put them in this bin, off the floor?

A: Why would we cover them?

Q: I don't know--that's what--I don't know what you did with them.

A: No.

Q: You just put them in the bin down there? Okay. What did you do with the beans? Did you can or dry them? What did you do?

A: Oh yes, I have canned beans, and tomatoes and cherries. We had all kinds of cherries there.

Q: I love cherries.

A: We had all kinds. And people would come there and pick cherries.

Q: So you had more than you really needed from your cherry trees. Did you sell them or just let them come and pick?

A: I think I sold them.

Q: Well, I would.

A: If they picked them, you see, they was cheaper.

Q: Yes.

A: Well, if they wanted them, they was in demand, a demand for them.

Q: There certainly was. (laughter) How big was that farm there at Pulaski?

A: I believe it was 166 acres.

Q: 166 acres? That was a big farm then to . . .

A: And listen, we farmed right up next to the railroad, and that railroad, that Route 121 ran right beside the railroad.

Q: Yes, that's just right parallel there. What was your best crop? What were your main crops?

A: Oh, corn and soybeans.

Q: Did you do oats a lot to begin with, when you first came up here, for horses?

A: We farmed with horses to start with.

Q: Yes, but I'm saying, did you grow oats for the horses?

A: Oh, yes.

Q: And kept a pasture? Did you have dairy cows--milk cows?

A: Yes, and we'd sell cream. We had a cream separator.

Q: How did you get it to town? Did you take it down to the railroad?

A: I think we had a Ford touring car.

Q: A Ford?

A: A Ford touring car with curtains on the side, you know, and everything. I'll never forget one time we went over to Herve's brother, and our car was new then. And Steve said to my husband, "That car is good enough for anybody." And do you know there was no heat in there.

Q: Didn't have a heater?

A: No heat, there was no heaters then.

Q: What year was this?

A: Maybe it was 1921, or 1922 or 1923, somewhere along in there. And then after that, see we had those side curtains on it and Kenneth and Dale would have to ride in the back, and we'd have to put a quilt over them. (laughter)

Q: I think you would have needed two quilts in some of this weather.

A: And then after that we got a--what kind of a car was it, Ford made better than the regular touring car?

Q: Sedan? Oh, the Mercury? You mean the Mercury?

A: Mercury.

Q: Yes, okay.

A: Yes, we finally got a Mercury. And then we had a Chevrolet . . .

Q: Was there a dealership in Mt. Pulaski or did you buy these cars in Lincoln?

A: I believe we bought them in Mt. Pulaski--the cars. Is that what you asked me?

Q: Yes, that's what I asked. You don't remember who the dealer was at that time, do you?

A: Well, I don't know. I don't know. And there was one car we bought--it almost makes me vomit when I think about it.

Q: What was the matter with it?

A: What was the name of one of those cars about that time?

Q: Well, there were Packards . . .

A: No. It wasn't no Packard!

Q: Well, there were Fords and Chevrolets and Dodges . . .

A: Plymouth!

Q: Plymouth. Okay.

A: Every time we wanted to go somewhere we had to take the tractor to start it.

Q: Wouldn't start by itself at all? You might as well had a horse.

A: Wasn't that awful?

Q: That would be terrible. The dealer wouldn't fix it?

A: I say every time, maybe not every time, but so many times. Many times we had to start it--and that's what makes me vomit almost when I think . . .

Q: I would be cross.

A: . . . when I think of a Plymouth.

Q: Any car that you'd have to pull with a tractor to start . . .

A: And you know, anybody that you talk to about a Plymouth, well they liked their Plymouth that they had. Oh, we got a pill.

Q: I got a Dodge I'd like to give back. When did you get your first tractor, did you buy it new or used? Do you remember?

A: Oh, heavens yes. Anything we bought, we bought new. And at that time every time we bought anything, we had the money to pay for it. We didn't do like a lot of them did, but it on time--no, sir. We waited till we could pay for it.

Q: What do you remember about that first tractor?

A: I believe it--well, what was the name of them first tractors?

Q: Well, there were Ford tractors came out, John Deere; I don't remember when the Internationals came out. There were big old Cases . . .

A: I don't think--it wasn't a John Deere.

Q: They had Case tractors. Remember, they were great big old steel-wheeled outfits.

A: I think our first tractor was a steel-wheeled--I think so.

Q: What was International--I can't remember what International Harvester was before it was IH--Farmall.

A: What?

Q: Farmalls--those red outfits. Did you have one of the first tractors in the neighborhoods. Seems to me like . . .

A: No, we was a little slow about it, just like we was with the television.

Q: (laughs) You wait to see if they were going to work?

A: Well, we just didn't hurry about it. We waited till we had the money to pay for it. Now, that's just the way we always were. Nowadays, though, they go and buy, buy it on time.

Q: Can't pay for it anymore, either.

A: And pay extra.

Q: Pay dearly for it. Some of them . . .

A: Now that's just the way we were.

Q: Worked a lot better too, didn't it?

A: It was bad enough then. (laughter)

Q: But at least you got it and you still could retire.

A: And I remember our combine, and I remember the disc that we had in the field and I would even ride on the disc. I could disc.

Q: What did you do on the disc?

A: Disc the ground.

Q: I mean, you rode on the disc?

A: Rode--well, yes.

Q: Was this a horse-pulled disc? Or was it behind a tractor?

A: I believe it was horse-drawn.

Q: Oh, okay. Probably was.

A: I think it was.

Q: How many horses would you have on a disc?

A: I think four.

Q: Four.

A: I think so.

Q: And you handled four big horses?

A: And do you know that reminds me, the other day I saw Linda Marvel and her children, and her little boy says--he's in the second grade--he says, "You know I've been riding on"--what did he say it was, some kind of farm machinery. But I'd be afraid to let him ride on farm machinery. You know he's not over eight anyway. But he did say--"Oh," I said, "I don't know whether I'd want you riding on my farm machinery or not." He says, "Well, my dad always rides right behind me."

Q: Oh, that's not so bad. You mean he's like he's driving a tractor--this little boy?

A: Yes. I thought that was dangerous.

Q: That's scary. That's scary.

A: And I think it's against the law.

Q: You have to be, I believe, it's fourteen.

A: Yes.

Q: Because we had trouble with the boys, they couldn't farm for Dad until they were fourteen or sixteen.

A: But when he told me that and he was in the second grade in school. And he says, "You know, Dad just rides right behind me."

Q: You could be run over by the time Dad gets to you.

A: I should say so. I don't know whether you remember or not, but there was a couple that lived on Route 121 north of Mt. Pulaski and they farmed out there on Salt Creek. You know where Salt Creek is?

Q: Yes, I know where Salt Creek is north.

A: All right. They farmed this side . . .

Q: South?

A: South of Salt Creek there a little ways. And they had two boys. And one boy went out to get the mail one day and he got hit with a car and killed him. And the other boy was out in the field on the tractor and lightning struck and killed him.

Q: Why, he must have had a plow in the ground or something then. If he was on the tractor because the tractor itself wouldn't . . .

A: I guess he was. I guess he was.

Q: Wouldn't that be terrible to lose two boys?

A: They just had those two boys and they was wiped out, just like that. And then they separated.

Q: That's terrible.

A: And she has never remarried or anything. I think she does hospital work over there at the Christian Nursing Home [in Lincoln, Illinois] and at the regular hospital [Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital] over there at Lincoln, too. She's a lovely, she's a good girl.

Q: I don't know the family, but I--that's just terrible, something like that to happen.

A: And then, well, this is his third marriage, he married again. That was his third marriage.

Q: Takes all kinds, I guess.

A: I guess it does. And they don't think anything about divorcing anymore than nothing, do they?

Q: Doesn't seem to matter.

A: They don't seem to think anything about it. It's like--I've heard Kenneth say one day, he says, "I thought when you got married you had to stay married."

Q: I didn't know any different, did you?

A: No.

Q: How long were you married?

A: Sixty-four years when he passed away.

Q: How old was Mr. Patterson when he died?

A: And he's been gone five years.

Q: Doesn't seem like any time . . .

A: You was there, wasn't you?

Q: Yes, I came.

A: You wasn't at the funeral, was you?

Q: No, I had to work that day.

A: Well, anyway, the minister made mention of the fact that we had been married sixty-four years when he passed away. Now isn't that something?

Q: That's a long time.

A: And do you know, believe it or not, I am going on my ninetieth birthday now.

Q: You just had a birthday Wednesday.

A: Eighty-nine. October the 29th. But after all those, I'm still going on.

Q: You going on to that next one in no uncertain terms. I think that's terrific.

A: I guess it is--and to think that I can do everything that I'm supposed to do in my home. Now, it's like Kenneth says, "Mom, don't make no garden, we'll have enough garden for you anyway."

Q: You've always had garden though, haven't you?

A: Always had a garden.

Q: Are you going to put one out anyway?

A: And I canned--oh, I've always canned. And here, not very long ago, Marge Rich was down--you know Marge Rich and Kenneth . . .

Q: I know Marge.

A: Well, I said, "Marge, I've got a lot of canned tomatoes there in the basement, a lot." I don't know how many there were. I says, "If you want them, you can have them. I don't have no use for all that stuff anymore." But I just kept canning and kept canning and kept canning. And there was that over supply of canned tomatoes. And she and her daughter came out here and they brought a huge big box to put them in and that didn't hold them. And I went and found another box and they filled that.

Q: What do you do now with your time that you don't--you can't see to sew too good?

A: Don't think for one minute that my time is not occupied.

Q: Why, I know it is. That's what I want to know here, what all you do. That is what's fun.

A: Well, you want to know what I do? It takes time to take care of your house like you ought to. I mean it takes some time.

Q: Oh, well, yes.

A: And you got to defrost your refrigerator, you got to haul out your junk.

Q: You're doing all this yourself?

A: I do everything--I wash in the basement, I have a dryer that I can dry it, you know. And I don't wash as often as I used to.

Q: Well, only one person.

A: But, oh, I don't know. And my mail means a lot to me and I still do genealogy work.

Q: Do you go to libraries or do you do it mostly by correspondence?

A: I have a cousin--oh, I've done everything in my line to know the whereabouts of my former, older people. And I did all I could to find out all about my grandfather and my grandmother on my father's side and I didn't go too far with it, but other than Tennessee. Well, now this cousin of mine is a minister at the First Christian Church in Duncan, Oklahoma, he's got interested in it. And he goes to Oklahoma City and he sent me, let's see, just recently a bunch of stuff.

Q: A whole big envelope here. Oh, his name is James Smith.

A: Yes. He was named after my father.

Q: How old is this cousin? Is he younger than you?

A: His father is younger than I am.

Q: His father is younger than you? (laughter)

A: His father is. But his great-grandfather and my grandfather Smith are the same.

Q: Oh, okay.

A: And he has been to Oklahoma City and he sent me a bunch of stuff that he found out up there.

Q: And it was things that you didn't know about?

A: Well, some of it I did.

Q: And some you didn't?

A: Now, like my grandfather's father--I went to Columbia, Missouri and got material from there about my grandfather's father. And it was a census record of LaClede County, Missouri in 1850.

Q: 1850?

A: That was what I got from Columbia, Missouri. Well, I sent what I had then to this second cousin of mine that is the minister in Oklahoma. But he's like me, he wasn't satisfied with all that. Well, anyway, he's still searching and I went as far as Bradley County in Tennessee.

Q: Grundy?

A: Bradley.

Q: Bradley--see, my hearing's not too good either.

A: Well, mine's not either. It's not like it was once. But on my mother's side I have material from England.

Q: From England?

A: From England. Where my mother's first people came from England over here to the East Coast here in America.

Q: How far back does that go?

A: Well, this lady in Massachusetts that is a relative of my folks, she's writing a book and then I'll find out exactly.

Q: I'm anxious to see that book. I'll bet you are too.

A: Yes. Me and another lady that is getting material, she's from Iowa, and I hear from her real often. We're both waiting for that book.

Q: I'll bet.

A: In fact, I think I have five books. One from the Mouser family, my grandfather's grandmother was a Mouser and she came from Germany and I've got a book on that Mouser family. Oh, I think I've got five books.

Q: On various families?

A: On my relatives. But there's another one being published in Massachusetts. I hope that lady will hurry.

Q: I'm always anxious for a book to come out. I had gotten 1910 LaClede County, Missouri census and it lists your father, and your brothers and your sister and some of your neighbors. I don't know if you can read my writing here or not, I've got the whole census, I'll copy it off for you.

A: (reading transcript of census) My dad's second name was Harrison . . .

Q: Harrison--was that what it was. Okay. You can read my writing?

A: Now, Della was his second wife.

Q: Was that her name?

A: Della H-O-U-G-H. But my mother was Lucy Elvira Cook.

Q: I like Lucy Elvira, that's a pretty name.

A: Now, that Hooker. He was named after a minister. He hated that name, just like I hated mine.

Q: You didn't like the name Cliffie?

A: Well, I didn't--I've never liked it very well.

Q: Oh, I've always thought it was so nice.

A: Well, anyway this Hooker deal. When he went into the service you had to use your first name and his first name was Edmund and ever since he has been in the service, we called him Edmund. And Herman Claude and Cliffie Gertrude.

Q: Gertrude. Now, I wouldn't have cared for that. But I like Cliffie.

A: And Beatrice Blanche.

Q: Edmund was in the service, what, First World War?

A: Oh, that was Margaret Lucille. See, and that was his second wife.

Q: Yes, your mother was gone by then.

A: My mother was a Cook.

Q: I need to get the 1900 census to get your mother, because she died in 1903.

A: Yes, she died in 1903, on December the third.

Q: Yes, I'll have to get the 1900 census for that. But I didn't, couldn't get ahold of that but I thought, well, you might like to see that.

A: So that's Edmund.

Q: Was he in the First World War?

A: He was in the First War.

Q: Did he go to Europe or anything or was he strictly . . .

A: He went to France.

Q: Oh, he did?

A: Oh, yes.

Q: Did he fight, was he in fighting?

A: He was a machine gunner.

Q: Oh, for heaven's sake.

A: Yes, he was a machine gunner in France in World War One.

Q: Do you have any pictures of him in uniform?

A: Oh, yes.

Q: Can we copy some of those pictures after while here when we get done talking? I don't need it right now, some other time.

A: Didn't I show you that picture with my brother in uniform, I think it was taken in France?

Q: I don't remember. You may have.

A: You want me . . .

Q: We'll look after bit for that. Let's go on talk about this. Is there anything else on that census now that we . . .

A: Well, you know how you'll think of your step-mother. That's my father's second wife and these two kids here [the children by the second wife as listed on the 1910 LaCledde County, Missouri census] he died but she lives in St. Louis. I did get a birthday card from her. But they're not like your own.

Q: No. It's different. Did you just kind of keep in contact and that was about all.

A: At Christmastime. And now my birthday, here she sent me a card. And you know, when you don't drive like you once did, you don't always have a card to send when you want to send it. Well, I didn't when Lucille's birthday was, it was in June. And I really don't have a lot against Lucille. But she wasn't like my own sister.

Q: I understand. I understand perfectly.

A: Well, they're all gone except me. [notices her name is misspelled on the census record] And it's C-L-I-F-F-I-E.

Q: Yes, that's the way they spelled it--they spelled it wrong on the census. That's the way they spelled it.

A: Well, do you know, I got a birthday card and it was C-L-I-F-F-Y.

Q: Do you remember any of these neighbors? I copied a few of the people that were just beside you, just the way they came on the census.

A: Now, I've heard of these Elders. I've heard of them. When my dad was Recorder. I've heard of the Elders. But I don't remember them. Now, I've heard of the Grays.

Q: That's all. I just copied a few there for the moment. What township did your grandparents live in? I didn't find them.

A: Nebo.

Q: Nebo. Okay, I'll go look that up next. You can keep that page if you want just for your own records. Add that to your collection.

A: Do you have this at home?

Q: Oh, I've got the whole film. I bought the whole LaClede County film. I can find anybody that was there in 1910. (laughs)

A: I would rather my mother's name would have been there.

Q: Well, I'll get the 1900 with your mother's--I'll get that later.

A: She passed away in 1903.

Q: Yes, but she'll be on this other census.

A: December the third. We was living in Lebanon then and my dad was Recorder.

Q: At the time your mother died?

A: And I'll never forget, we had a colored nurse for my mother. Mrs. Miller.

Q: What was she like? Was she a . . . Did she keep house and everything, or was she just strictly a nurse?

A: I think she was just a nurse.

Q: Did you have a housekeeper then when your mother was ill?

A: Oh, yes. We always--at that time we called them a hired girl.

Q: Hired girl. Okay.

A: And I'll never forget, my mother died at home.

Q: Most people did at that time, didn't they?

A: And that morning my dad came in there and told us that our mother had gone to heaven.

Q: That was hard.

A: Well, you wondered if she was even gone. Whether she . . .

Q: I know what . . . not exactly . . .

A: That was the funniest--a funny remark, I thought, for my dad--and I'll never forget it. But everybody loved my mother.

Q: Did they have the funeral at home?

A: At the church. At the Christian Church. And the minister that preached her funeral, his name was Clay--C-L-A-Y. Oh, and then when we lived at Lebanon, we went to the Christian Church and my second grade school teacher took mine and Blanche's picture on the school grounds there at Lebanon.

Q: Now is that the picture with the big rock and everything in it?

A: She took our pictures and I didn't know any more about the picture until Christmastime. At that time, you know, everybody had a Christmas tree at their church. And Miss Searl, her name was Netta Searl, she put that picture on the Christmas tree for me. And that was the picture of Blanche and I. And I don't know how many copies I've made off that picture. It was a darling little picture.

Q: Yes. You said one time you went to Colorado for a couple of years for your dad's health . . .

A: When Poppa was in office, his health began to fail. And we decided to go back to the farm and have a sale and go to Colorado. We went to Colorado for, I believe two years. But his health didn't get any better, so we came back to Lebanon and he passed away there in Lebanon.

Q: Well, tell me about going to Colorado. How old were you then? Do you remember the trip?

A: Well, we went on the train. Went out there on the train.

Q: Did you take stock with you or had you sold all the stock?

A: Oh, we lived in town.

Q: Oh, you lived in town at that time.

A: Oh, yes, we lived in town. And I'll never forget one time--the penitentiary was at Canon City, Colorado and my Uncle Scott, who was a high school principal at different places there in Missouri, he came out there to Pueblo, Colorado where we were and worked, oh, what did they call that--it was some kind of big factory of some sort.

Q: In Pueblo?

A: In Colorado. And he was a school teacher and he came out there while we were out there and stayed with us and worked at that--kind of like a Caterpillar place or something like that--that's all I remember.

Q: A big equipment factory of some kind? I don't even know what's in Pueblo. Anyway, he worked in a factory?

A: It was in Pueblo, Colorado. Well, Poppa's health didn't get any better so we went back to Lebanon then and had our home and everything. And before he passed away then he wanted Blanche and I to go to Grandma's.

He wanted to know that we were there. And we were there a while before he passed away, after school.

Q: What did he do in Pueblo? Did he work or did he teach school out there?

A: No, no. He bought a livery barn.

Q: Oh, I know--horses and buggies and the whole thing. Yes, my grandfather had one.

A: And those days they had horses.

Q: Do you have any pictures of that?

A: It was called the Elk Horn Livery Barn.

Q: In Pueblo, Colorado.

A: Now, I don't know whether we went to Fowler, Colorado first or Pueblo.

Q: What time was this? How old were you?

A: My dad died in 1910 and that was probably in 1908 or 1909.

Q: After your mother was dead?

A: Yes, she passed away in 1903. And I was born five years--in 1895 you know.

Q: Sounds like a long time ago, doesn't it?

A: Do you know that my sister passed away two years ago now and I have a letter that she had written to me and she says, "You know, we are awful lucky that we have lived to be past eighty." And she passed away, I think at eighty-five. And here I am.

Q: Still going strong. You ought to be good for a hundred and ten.

A: You know what Kenneth told me?

Q: Hard to tell.

A: "Mom, you'll live to be a hundred." (laughs)

Q: Should and easy. You're in good health.

A: They do that now. And at different times I thought maybe I'd get me a--this is what started it. Do you know Juanita Yates?

Q: Yes.

A: All right. She called me up one day and she says, "Cliffie, my son wants me to come to Lincoln at this . . ." Oh, it's an apartment building out there on . . .

Q: Friendship Manor, out there across from the high school? [in Lincoln]

A: Yes. She wanted to go there. And I said, "Well, I don't suppose I'll be able to stay here forever. Doris and I will go and see about it." So she'd already been to see about it, so we went over and we saw the room and they were lovely. And anyway, Juanita had her room across the aisle from where I could have a room.

Q: Was it a room or was it apartments?

A: An apartment. It was lovely. It was really nice. Well, I couldn't go then because we were going to have our family reunion in July and I didn't want to go until after that.

Q: Where did you have your family reunion?

A: Well, the last of July?

Q: No. Where?

A: You mean at that time?

Q: Yes, where was the reunion?

A: Oh, we always have it around Springfield down there.

Q: In Missouri?

A: Well, anyway, Juanita was over there two weeks and I kept hearing things about her--that she was going to come home, or that she had moved from that fourth floor where she had an apartment down to the second floor where the handicapped people were.

Q: She's not handicapped, is she?

A: Well, I'd been hearing things. Well, I'm not going to have anything to do with hearsay, I'm going to call the manager and ask him about it. And I said that I had heard that she had moved down from the fourth floor to the second. Yes, he said she had moved down, but she was gone now. She moved down where the handicapped people were because she had a heart condition. That's what he said. Then I said, "I also heard that she was going to move home." He said, "She's already moved."

Q: Then she didn't stay too long.

A: I think she stayed two weeks. That done me.

Q: You weren't about to . . .

A: I had never thought of moving or anything. But now to think, it would be silly if I would move--you have to move your furniture--maybe the next week I'd have to go to a nursing home.

Q: Oh, I don't think so. I don't think you're going.

A: (laughter) I don't think so either, but wouldn't that have been silly though. According to your age and everything and you'd have to move your furniture and everything. All right.

Q: I couldn't stand that much company.

A: I couldn't stand it.

Q: I like people, but not in large doses.

A: So I told Kenneth, I think in the spring, I said, "Well, I may go there, I don't know." Well, anyway, this fall then, Kenneth says, "Mom, stay where you are." (laughter) That just settled everything with me. So I'll be here until they haul me off. And do you know what? I am glad that I got out to the mailbox twice a day to get my mail. That's good exercise for me. [Her mailbox is at the end of a fairly long lane.]

Q: It is, it is. Now do you belong to a pinochle club or anything like that?

A: Oh, heavens, yes. But you know, so many have passed away and like Wava Kirby, she's in Oklahoma with her daughter--she's not a bit well now. No, we don't have no pinochle club anymore.

Q: Oh, you don't.

A: But you know what, once a year over here at Wapella the church has a pinochle outfit. I guess they all play pinochle. And every spring then they invite everybody that wants to come and you have to pay a fee, I think it was three dollars. Well, every spring then I go.

Q: Oh, I see. You still get to play pinochle anyway.

A: And I believe the last two times I went, I got the high prize.

Q: (laughter) You can still play cards with the best of them.

A: I still know how to play cards. And I love to play.

Q: Oh, I like to play cards.

A: Oh, I like it.

Q: The first thing we do when we hit Pat's over there is get out the pinochle deck. (laughs) He's always ready for one more game.

A: Yes, we like it. And Erica likes it just as well as the rest of us.

Q: Oh, she's something else, I guess.

A: And you know when I was home, we used to play flinch and high five.

Q: High five--now what's that?

A: I don't know whether I even know how to play it now.

Q: Oh, but it was a card game?

A: Oh, yes. But my dad would play with us, play with we kids. Now some people wouldn't even allow a deck of cards in their home.

Q: I've heard that.

A: I've heard that, but we played at home. And my father thought it was all right.

Q: I like to play cards, I don't see any harm in it.

A: I don't think there's any harm in it. I tell you what, see that deck of cards over there? If it's about time for the mail, but not quite time, I may come there and shuffle that up and play a game of solitaire to pass the time away.

Q: You don't have any time to be bored, do you? You've got something going every minute.

A: I'm never bored. Now, like this morning, I walked down to the mailbox, now I got those twenty-seven cards, some that I wasn't expecting. So I wrote them a little letter. And yesterday morning I think I mailed, well, I don't know, altogether I think I mailed about fifteen. I think that's what. But this morning I just had two left and I went and wrote them and took them down to the mailbox.

Q: You'll probably get answers to all those. You'll have mail all winter.

A: Well, mine was really answers to their cards. Because they nearly always would write something.

Q: Well, maybe they'll write again before the next birthday.

A: Now, I even got one card yesterday. He says, "I'm late." That was from Kansas.

Q: Maybe the mail is slow from Kansas.

A: He just wrote on the inside, and he said, "Well, I'm late, but here goes."

Q: At least he sent you a card.

A: Now, my sister's daughter and her husband [brother] were my sister's twins, but they're both married and they've got families and they're grandparents. The whole clique wrote to me.

Q: That was nice.

A: And then this month I look for them. My niece, her daughter, and her son and his wife, they're going to fly out here. I talked to Helen a few days ago on the phone--she calls me every once in a while--but I had called her and I said, she said, "We're going to fly out." I said, "Well, you'll have to let me know where you're flying to so Kenneth can meet you." "Oh," she said, "Her son was going to rent a car."

Q: Oh, just pick something up at the airport.

A: He was going to rent a car and then drive out. Then they can come and go when they want to. Now, is there anything else you want me to do?

Q: Oh, I think that's probably enough for today, but I sure would like to come back.

End of Side Two, Tape Two

Q: First of all, we were going to talk about, ask about Dale. He lived several different places. Did you go visit him? Did you travel quite a bit?

A: Yes, Pam and I went out there.

Q: Okay, where did you go? Tell me about the trip.

A: Well, Pam's company, G. E., wanted her to go to the southern part of California, on a business trip. They wanted her husband, Bill Doyle, to go to the northern part. Well, I don't know whether Bill suggested it to Pam, that she should get her Grandma to go with her. So Pam asked me if I wouldn't like to go. And I said, "Yes, I'll go." And we'd go by plane. And by the time that we was supposed to go, we had a great snow here. It was terrible. I didn't even know whether I would even get to go to Bloomington or not. But, anyway, Kenneth and Doris finally come over and they took me to Bloomington. But in the meantime--let's see, how was that now? Oh, Pam was going to drive to [from] Bloomington to Chicago to get our plane in Chicago. Instead the streets and everything was so bad about that snow we had to take a plane from Bloomington into Chicago. So we got into Chicago then and then we had to take a plane to Minneapolis. And in Minneapolis we changed planes and got a plane and went directly then to California.

Q: Where did you go in California?

A: Wilmington. Oh, no, into Los Angeles. Wilmington isn't far from there. That's where Dale lives, you know. And they met us there at the airport. Pam wanted to stop at the hotel that she was supposed to stop at there in Los Angeles relative to her job that she was sent out to do. Well, Dale and Betty then, we drove to Wilmington at their home you know. Then after a few days, after Pam had done most of her work, I think, she wanted to come out to Dale's then. She came out there then and then she

left Dale's then and met Bill, her husband. I guess maybe in Los Angeles and then they went sight-seeing. And then we had a certain day that we was going to leave. But Pam says, "I will be right there and we'll go back together, like we came." Well, we got back there, we couldn't find Pam for a while, but after so long we finally found Pam and then we had to find out about our tickets. Of course they was all paid for the everything. But whoever I was talking to, they said, "Well, there's not room for you on the plane with Pam." And do you know, they escorted me to another plane, and here I was away from Pam. And when I went in there, I said, "Oh, I sure hate this, that I've been separated from the lady that I drove in here with." And in about ten or fifteen minutes while the plane was sitting there, here come a man in there and he said, "We want you on the other plane." And we got back together. And then we rode that plane directly to Chicago, I guess. Well, anyway, we got to Chicago and then Pam got a car and we drove from Chicago to Normal. In Normal where they lived then. And that was the end of that trip.

Q: You almost got to make the trip by yourself.

A: Wasn't that awful? Here they had me on that other plane and I said, "My goodness, I don't know anything about Chicago." And to think they would take me back there to Chicago. Oh, that was the most terrible thing.

Q: What did Pam say?

A: Well, Pam was dumbfounded, just like me. But all I knew to do when they said they didn't have room for me on that plane, they escorted me to that other plane. And I just couldn't get over it. Even among the passengers I said, "I'm just worried about, to think that they have separated me." And I don't know how it happened, but here they sent that fellow in there after me. And we got back together.

Q: O'Hare is a scary place by yourself.

A: Well, Pam knew all about everything, it seemed like. Our suitcases and everything came in there, you know, and she was there to pick them up and everything. And she knew about getting the car to drive out to Normal.

Q: Pam traveled a lot.

A: Oh, she done fine.

Q: Didn't Dale live in New Orleans or someplace, did you go down there?

A: Yes, we went there. We went there one winter and stayed quite a while.

Q: What was it like?

A: It was Lake Charles. But he had to travel to New Orleans on account of his job, you know.

Q: Did you and Herve go?

A: Yes, both of us. We drove down and I done a lot of the driving and now I don't even drive. Isn't that terrible?

Q: What was it like, what did you do in Lake Charles where it was warm?

A: Well, we went down to the ocean and waded and bathed and we did attend church, I think just one time while we was down there. Right now, I can't think of much else we done.

Q: Okay. I was going to ask--I think the most exciting thing that ever happened at Mt. Pulaski was probably that railroad explosion. Do you remember that? 1958?

A: Oh, we lived out there on Route 121. We was there for thirty-two years and we could still have been there, but I mean that it was time for us to retire. Well, the thing of it was, we were home, but it did do something to an upstairs window. I don't know whether it broke the window or . . . something happened to windows upstairs. That was the only bad effect we had. But, you knew when we went to Mt. Pulaski that overhead bridge [Route 54 goes over Route 121 just east of Mt. Pulaski] was all ruined. Isn't that awful?

Q: Did you hear the explosion out there?

A: We never heard it.

Q: They said it was heard for so far. Did you feel the vibrations?

A: Well, we felt the effects on our house. And it done something to a window upstairs, but that's all I can think of. We were just lucky that we didn't have any more damage. And we was out about, well, you know where Narita was? [Narita was a small country elevator along Route 121 a few miles east of Mt. Pulaski.]

Q: Yes.

A: Well, we was up a little closer to Mt. Pulaski, we was about the second house up from Narita on Route 121.

Q: Yes, there's a new house there now.

A: And we lived there when Route 121 was built.

Q: What was it like when they built it?

A: Well, you see we farmed right up next to the railroad. Let's see what can I tell you? And the hardroad wasn't built then.

Q: Was it gravel?

A: I guess it was. I think most of the roads were gravel. But they was people that lived . . . they come from afar, I don't know far, to work on

that road. And of all the sewing I ever done, I never was best out of anything only one of them worker's wives. (laughter) No, I say never, there was twice. There was another man that came up from the South to a place just south of us and his work was up there for some reason, I know what. But anyway he had something he wanted altered, now I don't even think what it was now. And he never did pay me. Now that woman that her husband worked on that Route 121 and that man from the southern part of the state, they're the only two that never paid me.

Q: (laughter) Did they use motorized equipment when they built the hardroad?

A: Oh, yes, I think they would. You see, we farmed right up next to the road and our house was quite a ways back. But we had to walk down or ride down to the hardroad to get our mail. Our mail was just across the road to the mailbox.

Q: On the north side. No, it would be the east side of the road, wouldn't it? [Route 121 angles northwest to southeast from Mt. Pulaski to Decatur.]

A: Yes. North was toward Decatur. [South was toward Decatur.] Since I've been over here I have to stop and think about the directions.

Q: It's different, because the roads run straight.

A: It's different, Now that way (points) is east.

Q: Yes.

A: Over home, it was that way. I probably got them lined out. But I didn't--talking about this--[the 1910 LaClede County, Missouri census] know my stepmother's age. And you know she used to be our hired girl.

Q: She did? Well, a lot of them did that though; they were there and already knew how to take care of the kids.

A: And I see here when my father was forty-three, that was the age that he died, she was twenty-seven. Now just image that.

Q: Sixteen years.

A: Now I didn't know that until I saw that. [The 1910 LaClede County, Missouri census enumeration] And then when I saw that my dad--what was he--proprietor of that. He was a sick man, he died in 1910. That's where that is, 1910.

Q: Yes, what's the date? Do I have--no, I don't have the exact date, I guess, that census was taken.

A: Well, he died in August, 1910.

Q: I think the census was taken in June.

A: And you see, after he was Recorder of LaCledde County, we went to Colorado for a couple of years for his health. And that's why he left the office then.

Q: What did he do in Colorado? Do you recall?

A: Nothing.

Q: Just rested?

A: Oh, I think it must have been something like this pool hall deal. I think he owned a livery outfit. Now, I kind of remember that. But before that he had taught, when he was a young man, for thirteen years. Even taught before I was born, and then he was Recorder for the four years. And then two years he decided he'd better go to--you know people went to Colorado for their health. And I guess it didn't do him much good so he just come home. He come to Lebanon. Now I don't know what else I can tell you.

Q: Well, I guess that covers that. Do you remember, did you go into Mt. Pulaski after the explosion and look around as soon as they would let you back?

A: The worst thing that I thought about it was that overhead bridge that you go under from our place to Mt. Pulaski. It was just riddled. I think that to me, that was the worst disaster. Course I imagine there was a lot of people in Mt. Pulaski was affected some way. But personally I don't know.

Q: Were there any storms or tornadoes or anything that you remember particularly?

A: Yes. Maybe you don't remember, but there was a tornado that came from Cornland and hit Mt. Pulaski and Chestnut. And I believe it killed a child in Chestnut. [April 19, 1927, Hobart Baker and a Goodwin child were killed in Chestnut at the grade school when it was struck by a tornado]

Q: I think there was--at the grade school.

A: Now that's about all I remember about that tornado. And it didn't affect us. But it came through Cornland, Mt. Pulaski and Chestnut. And I believe . . . seems to me like this little kid kind of wandered out someway or another where he shouldn't, but he got killed. Whoever it was.

Q: Was there one that went through Narita about 1950? Narita, Heman . . .

A: Probably, maybe it was the same thing. Oh, I don't know, that's pretty close to me you know.

Q: I was going to say that was down in your neighborhood. But you don't remember any particularly that got real close to you?

A: All that I remember is that one that came from Cornland.

Q: I think that was . . .

A: And I expect you remember that. I imagine you remember that when it came out and hit Mt. Pulaski and hit that overhead bridge. And that was a cement affair. And that was just riddled.

Q: Yes, that was with the explosion.

A: Something along there, something about a train. Now how was that? Seems to me like it was it was from that explosion, I don't know, but seemed like there was a train on the tracks near that overhead bridge. And didn't it kill a man?

Q: I think so.

A: I think so too.

Q: I think it did.

A: That's like that sewing. You don't think back. I think it did. I think it killed one of them railroad men. [actually two men were killed]

Q: Did they ever find out what caused the explosion?

A: Wasn't it from a car on the railroad tracks?

Q: I don't know, I just wondered if you knew.

A: I don't know.

Q: It's been so long ago.

A: You half-way remember that stuff. And as I say, it's like the sewing, when they ask me about that, I don't know what sewing they're thinking about. But I said, "Now, if I saw it I'd know it."

Q: You'd know who it was?

A: Well, is there anything else?

Q: Well, when the boys were in school, did Dale go on to college like Kenneth did?

A: He didn't think he wanted to. And he had a cousin that went in the navy and he thought, "Well, I'll go in the navy too, just like Carl." Or like--oh, what is his name? Oh, I can't think of that boy's name. (laughter) Clyde.

Q: So Dale went into the navy. Did he serve during the war? [World War II]

A: Well, now what is that country that just now our country is recognizing them, and he was over there at that time? What was the name of that country, they didn't think that our country treated them exactly right when they came home, and just lately they've been recognizing them? And they made big plaque in their honor?

Q: I can't come up with it. Is it South America or Europe? No idea.

A: What was one of them wars that they--finally had to call--the President finally had to call our men home?

Q: Viet Nam?

A: Yes, that was it.

Q: Couldn't come up with it. Dale was in Viet Nam?

A: He was in Viet Nam. And he finally got a disability discharge and now he's living in Wilmington, California.

Q: Pat went to college. What inspired him?

A: Oh, yes. You knew Wesley Carter, didn't you?

Q: I know Wes.

A: Well, Wesley went over there to Lincoln College right away. But you know it was the time of the depression and Kenneth's dad thought, "Well, just wait another year." Which he did. All right. Kenneth wanted to go over there to Lincoln College, which he did. And I says, "Well, Kenneth, I want you to go. I want you to go. And you dad can pay your tuition and I'll buy your books with my sewing." And that's the way he went to college.

Q: And he went two years to Lincoln?

A: Yes. And that's where he met Doris.

Q: I'm glad he did.

A: Well, they make a pretty good couple.

Q: I like them.

A: Now, is there anything else?

Q: Well, after you got the boys all through school and off to the navy . . .

A: Oh, the reason--Kenneth was called to be examined to go into service and before that--let's see, what's the name of that stream over there on the other side of Chestnut where people go and jump off from the bridge into the water? What's the name of that . . .

Q: Salt Creek.

A: Well, I guess that was it. All right. Kenneth went over there to Salt Creek one day and he dove into the water and he injured one of his ears. So we didn't do anything but take him to Dr. Balding in Lincoln to a ear and eye specialist and anyway after that then he was called to be examined for the service. Well, he went and was examined and he came home. And he said, "Well, Mom, I don't have to go." "Oh," I said, "good." Kenneth said, "Well, I don't know whether you'd call it good or not." That was exactly the remark and I thought that was sweet of him.

Q: But I've been glad he stayed home.

A: Well, any mother would be. And I'll never forget that. And another thing I won't forget, Dale helped his dad a lot in farming, Kenneth was my help. Sometimes they'd want Kenneth to help. One day the men were out and I think Kenneth was afraid they was going to call him and he said, "Mom you tell them that you need me." I told them, I told them, I said, "I need him." (laughter) But I'll never forget that either. And I'll never forget what he said about he said about that army deal, or well, I don't know what service he would have been in, but I was so happy that he didn't have to go. He didn't know whether I should feel that way or not.

Q: But he taught school all through the war.

A: Oh, yes. And the day he got his school, he could have gotten two schools. He could have gotten one south of Mt. Pulaski and he could have gotten one over here next to the district where Doris taught. Oh, and you know then a married woman was lucky to ever get a school so Kenneth and Doris didn't want to tell about their marriage. And Doris got that school and then when Kenneth had a chance to get a school in the next district, he took it. Well, then after so long, Frances [Hahn] decided that she would announce their wedding. And she invited several of us over there and I know Wes and Elsie [Carter] was over there. I think Wes and Elsie was there, I know either Wesley and Charles, his brother was there. But anyway, that's when they announced it. And you know, Doris' dad said to Kenneth and Doris, well, he said it to Kenneth, I guess, "I'm not telling you what to do, but if you want to farm this place, you can farm it, and not teach school. But that's up to you. I'm not telling you what to do." So they took to the farming. And then I think, didn't Doris teach a year or two afterwards, up here on the corner? [Tabor School]

Q: Yes, she taught at Tabor.

A: And do you know, if I remember right, before Doris took her last school some of the directors, I think I'm right, the directors told her if she wanted to teach again there, she could have a salary to her liking. Now wasn't that something?

Q: She was a good teacher.

A: Oh, she's thorough in anything she does.

Q: I went to school to her.

A: Oh, she's good at anything. She's a good cook or anything. She'll cook things, pie or something and she'll send it over to me, you know. And the other day when she knew I was going to have company she sent a big paper plate dishful of candy that she'd made. Last night she and Kenneth were over here.

Q: No, you can't beat Doris.

A: Well, I don't think you can beat either one of them.

Q: (laughter) Well, no, no. I don't either.

A: But of course Kenneth is mine. But that's exactly the way I feel about it.

Q: I think I like Kenneth better than I do some of my blood uncles.

A: Oh, I think Kenneth is a wonderful boy.

Q: I want to ask a question--I heard a story a long time ago that maybe when Kenneth was young he might have run away. Is that true?

A: I never heard of it. You mean you say run around?

Q: Run away. Run away from home, not run around.

A: Oh, he did. I want to tell you--you've heard of the Scroggins around Mt. Pulaski, they were in the bank. All right. A grandson of the man that ran the bank there in Mt. Pulaski, after school was out he said, "Kenneth, let's just take a little trip out to my aunts in Washington." In the state of Washington. Oh, Lord, I know all about that. What was the name of that kid, his last name was Scroggins? Well, anyway, his aunt lived out there in Washington. He said, "Let's take a trip out there." And they went on the train, it just worried me to death.

Q: Did he tell you he was going?

A: He was going with this Scroggins boy and he was a nice kid, you know. But whoever thought--and that poor kid, when he got home, he had lost weight.

Q: He was thin anyway.

A: And I think the boys would work for food that they got on the way. Wasn't that the craziest thing you ever heard tell?

Q: Did they hobo rather than pay their way? I mean did they . . .

A: They bummed their way.

Q: Yes, that's what I wondered.

A: That just beat anything that I ever heard tell of.

Q: Did you know he was going to do that?

A: Well, after he had made up his mind that this Scroggins boy wanted him to go with him, I thought, "Well, he's in good company." Oh, of course I didn't want him to go.

Q: But you did know.

A: But when he came back, he was thin.

Q: He didn't eat too well, then.

A: Well, he didn't eat too well when he got home, because you know if you don't eat for quite a while your stomach won't stand for it.

Q: He didn't do that again, did he?

A: Heavens no. He was tickled to death to get home. (laughter) Can't kids do something?

Q: I can't believe.

A: And Kenneth always had good company. But anyway, after Mr. Gehlbach told him, he says, "If you want to farm, you can." And I think Doris either taught one or two years after that. I believe she did.

Q: Yes, she did.

A: And then she decided she was going to quit and as I remember it, one of the directors told her if she wanted to keep teaching they'd give her a salary to her liking. I know she's good. I know she was good. I know that.

Q: After you and Herve moved over here, did Herve go ahead and do farming at this place? What did he do?

A: Remember, we was on that place over home for thirty-two years. We didn't even have a contract and we didn't have to move, but it was time that we could retire. Well, we were up close to seventy, you know, sixty something, he wanted to retire. We didn't have to move or anything. But Kenneth said to us, "Well, why don't you come over here. I'm having trouble with my hired man." Or men, maybe he said men. Hired men. But anyway, he had one hired man and seemed to me like the hired man was from--what's the name of that little old burg over here?

Q: Midland City?

A: Yes, Midland. And he told Kenneth that he didn't want to work anymore that the Lord told him not to work on the farm. Now that's the quality of help that he had. Nowadays, I guess you can get pretty good help because they need the work.

Q: I don't think they work any harder.

A: But wasn't that something. And that is the reason that we came over here. The very reason. And Carter was moving. I always get a Christmas card from Wes and Elsie, I always do. But, anyway, we met at Frances and they announced the wedding there. And the kids were already married. But it seemed like the woman would have a time getting a school because she was married. You know it was kind of depression time. So that's how it all happened. That was how come us here. And like I said, different times I think now, Juanita Yates, you know her, don't you? Well, she called one day and she wanted to go over there to that, oh, what's the name of that place out there at the edge of Lincoln? It's for people that can do their own work, you know. What is the name of that?

Q: Oh, the Friendship House.

A: Friendship Manor, yes. It's nice. All right. Juanita had to go a couple of weeks before I was thinking about going because we was having a reunion over around Mt. Pulaski. Well, Juanita went over there. She was over there two weeks. And I'd been hearing things that maybe she didn't like it. And she was coming back to her home there in Waynesville. Well, you begin to hear things and you wonder if it's right, so I didn't do anything but call the manager over there at that Friendship Manor-- it's a nice place. And the rooms that we would have gotten had never been used, it was that new. If a fellow wanted to move over there, that would have been all right. But now at my age, if I have to go anywhere maybe I'll be bad enough to have to go to a nursing home, I don't know. But it's like Kenneth said, "Mom, you just better stay right here." And after I heard him say that, that kind of settled my idea.

Q: You're used to this place. It fits.

A: It's not like it was when you had your home together.

Q: No, it never will be.

A: It never will be, but I believe it would be worse someplace else.

Q: I think so.

A: And, I've learned--at first, I felt a little bit afraid.

Q: I would. We all would.

A: And I didn't--if I'd ever go at night, then I'd want to search through the house. Did you ever do that?

Q: Yes. Yes.

A: Well, anyway, anytime that I've ever searched through the house, the basement and the upstairs and downstairs, under the beds. Now just imagine such as that. I never found anything. Now I'm getting to where I don't even search.

Q: (laughter) Probably nobody's going to come anyway.

A: But I wouldn't think I'd find anything, but it was like this, you just felt a little better. You just knew what it was like. And as many times that I have searched, I mean, I'd just go and look, I'd take the flashlight and look. And now I don't like to go at night. It's not good for you to be gone at night when you're alone.

Q: No. You don't drive anymore, do you?

A: And I don't drive anymore. And the thing about our car, when we hadn't had the car too long, but Herve wasn't a very good driver anymore. You could tell he wasn't driving too good. And since I've had my operations on my eyes. Now I can't think what the name of them is.

Q: Cataracts.

A: Cataracts. Had one taken off three years before the other one. After I had just one eye to drive, I didn't drive. Then after three years, had to have the other one taken off, then I didn't drive again. And I just said to Herve one day, he just wasn't too good. I said, "Why don't we just sign that car over to Kenneth?" And that's what we did. We didn't charge him nothing, we just signed it over to him. And anytime, I only ask when I really need something--you'd be like that too because you don't want to bother. But they have never refused me. Anytime I'd have to. Now, Sue Marvel over here, I think they're in Florida now, they were going to Florida for January and February, but she called me up one day, she said, "Cliffie, I want you to go with me up to the Senior Citizen's doings up there at the Christian Church and I've been going there ever since." All right. Last winter Sue and Bill were in Arizona at Bill's sisters, she later died. Well, they went out there and the man died while they were out there. Remember that?

Q: I don't remember. I don't know who Bill's sister married.

A: And then she came home with Bill and Sue and she later died here. She's Bill's sister, I can't think of what her name was.

Q: No, I don't remember her name either.

A: There's so many things you have to think of, I can't even think of their name. Well, anyway, then, after her going out there, after I started with Sue I just figured Sue would be going all the time, but she didn't, you know, she didn't go all the time. One time--listen, they won't allow me to stay out here if there's someplace I want to go. Every Kirk or somebody, they're going to send after me. I mean, that's the way they are. I know one time I wasn't going up to the Senior Citizen's outfit, I said, "I didn't think I'd go." And the minister called out and he said, "We're sending somebody out after you." But now, I don't know whether you know Hilda Humphrey?

Q: No, I don't think so.

A: Well, she lives in Clinton. And she's got a farm out, I think not too far from here. But anyway she and I think her aunt and another lady comes to that Senior Citizen's doing in Waynesville every time they meet, once a month. And she comes right by here and she picks me up.

Q: Is she John Humphrey's wife? Hilda?

A: No, I think that's Ruby, isn't it?

Q: I can't keep them straight, I don't now.

A: Well, Hilda was the only child of this Humphrey couple and they passed away, and she does own a farm but she lives in Clinton. But that Ruby Humphrey, I think she used to live around here somewhere. Was it on Route 10?

Q: Yes, that big house up by Hallsville.

A: Anyway, my birthday they both send me a card. I got twenty-seven.

Q: What do you do at the Senior Citizen's? What goes on?

A: Oh, when my company was here, they wanted to go to church. They're pretty good church-goers. I said, "We won't stay for Sunday School," because I figured we'd have home and get dinner. They wanted to take me out, but no, I had planned my dinner. And they wanted to stay for Sunday School. Now that Val, her father is a minister and they enjoyed that Sunday School. They just loved it. You wondered what they do. Well, one time they either take us on trips or they have an entertainer from somewhere and we always have a good dinner. And we meet up there around 10:30 in Waynesville and before, oh, like one time we went up there to that plant up there around Clinton.

Q: Oh, the nuclear power plant?

A: And we went to--isn't there a house where you can entertain--well, we went there. And we had our dinner up there. And then after that some lady drove around in a big van and picked us all up and took us all around the plant and showed us the plant. All right. That happened that day. And then another time--oh, and ordinarily we play bingo from ten o'clock till--let me see, how is that? No, we go up there at 10:30 and we play bingo till time for dinner.

Q: You eat there, at the church?

A: We eat right there, yes. And then, I'll have to tell you, not too long ago--now this Dixie Furman is our Sunday School teacher--and she's a part-time teacher at Olympia School. [Atlanta, Waynesville, McLean and Stanford High Schools are now combined into Olympia High School, Stanford, Illinois] Now she don't teach every day, but she's called to teach, you know.

Q: A substitute teacher?

A: You know her? And she's a good teacher. Well, then Sunday then she said, "I wonder if any of you would want to go somewhere . . ." I was so disinterested with all my company and all, someplace, I believe it was up there around Normal or something, and they put on some kind of a pageant.

Q: Oh, "The Passion Play"--no, not "The Passion Play."

A: It was something they have it different dates in December.

Q: Probably "The Messiah."

A: And if enough of us wanted to go, they'd take us up there. And that isn't all--we went up there at that Olympia High School and this Dixie Furman, she teaches up there part of the time too, she's a school teacher. She wanted us all to go up. All of us that wanted to go could to to the high school play. And I want to tell you that thing was a wonder. You know, the school is big.

Q: Oh, it's huge.

A: It's a lovely . . . and where they had their play was a big affair. And it had a British setting. And there was that London clock . . .

Q: Big Ben?

A: Big Ben. There it was painted on that. And listen, our tickets were all paid for and all of us got to sit down right in the front seats.

Q: Couldn't beat that, could you?

A: And another thing, nearly every time we'd go up there, to Waynesville, and have our outfit there, we'll have our blood pressure taken and a year ago we had flu shots. None of it cost us a thing. Now isn't that something.
(tape stopped)

A: [talking about her son, Dale] . . . discharge. Well, they may have a reason, I don't know. But his wife owns two apartment buildings.

Q: In Wilmington?

A: In Wilmington. And they live in one of the apartments in one of the bunch of buildings. I think she had them when they got married and I believe they're in her name. I believe they are. Because I image if Dale would have an income from them, his disability pension might not amount to so much. I don't know.

Q: Probably wouldn't.

A: Maybe that's the reason, I never even thought of it before. But they were hers when they got married.

Q: Talking about the military, we were going to talk about your brother Clyde and the First World War. You said he was in the army then?

A: My brother?

Q: Yes, your brother.

A: Oh, and Kenneth never has brought that picture over--you're not going over to Doris's are you?

Q: Well, I can.

A: We'll call over there and see if they're home. I wish you would take that picture because the picture was taken in France. And he was a machine-gunner.

Q: During the war?

A: Sure. And at that time he was, I think when the war closed he was a sergeant, but he was supposed to be made something else higher a littler later. But he was a machine-gunner. And Kenneth was over here one day--Kenneth sees anything he wants, why, he knows Mom will give it to him. Well, anyway he saw that picture, "Oh," he says, "I'd like to have that." And that's the reason it's over there. And then after you were here I said to him, "Jean would like to have a picture of that picture." And he said, "Well, I'll bring it over." Never thought of it any more.

Q: I'll corner him after dinner then. Was Clyde or Claude--was his name Claude? I've forgotten names here.

A: My oldest brother was Edmund Hooker, now imagine them sticking a name Hooker. But he was named after a minister. Now wasn't that the craziest thing you ever heard of?

Q: Now he's the one that went to war?

A: Oh, yes. But, he went by the name of Edmund, or Ed. Well, what else?

Q: Was he drafted or did he enlist?

A: Oh, he enlisted.

Q: And early in the war. Did he write letters home? What did you think while he was gone?

A: He'd write my sister Blanche and I letters and I have a letter that he had written to me while he was in France. And I well remember when a bunch of them came home and they marched in Springfield, Missouri.

Q: A parade?

A: Yes.

Q: I'll bet that would have been something.



Cliffie Smith Patterson's brother Sgt. E. H. Smith.
He served in World War I in France as a machine gunner.

A: And Blanche and I went out there to meet Ed and we saw him and he got out of line. But that picture just about tells it all. But I want you to call Doris and see if she's going to be at home. Then you can take a picture of that picture. And the frame of it. See, he was in the army, the frame of it is khaki-colored.

Q: It was a real G. I. frame, then.

A: Well, yes, but I did get the frame after I got the picture, but it sure does fit the affair. And it has an American flag on it. I mean a picture of the American flag. Well, is there anything else to tell you.

Q: Well, I don't know what, what comes to your mind? Oh, I know, can you tell me names of some of the ladies that belong to the Senior Citizens group?

A: Oh, yes, I could tell you. I guess I can.

Q: I think we had Sue Furman, no, Sue Marvel.

A: You want some more paper?

Q: No, I've got plenty of paper . . .

A: Well, put down Ruby Humphrey, and Hilda Humphrey, Hazel Craig, Lucille Coppenbarger, oh . . .

Q: That's all right, we just want a few names here that come to mind.

A: Now, let's see, well, Sue Marvel.

Q: Yes, we have Sue back there. About how many of you are there?

A: Oh, sometimes fifty or maybe more.

Q: My goodness. Are they all from the Waynesville area?

A: Some are from Clinton . . .

End of Side Two, Tape One

Q: . . . from this area?

A: Oh, Edith Atteberry.

Q: Oh, does she go?

A: Yes, ma'am.

Q: Oh, I love Edith.

A: I love her too. She's a dandy. And Nellie Kindred . . . looks like I could think of a lot of . . . and as I say there's a lot that I know, but I don't . . .

Q: Arnold Mears . . . Joe Maddox's, Millie Maddox's father, are they in? Oh, Cora's the woman's name, Cora Mears.

A: Wava Kirby did. Wava's had two strokes. She had one stroke before she left and she left to go out to her daughter's in Oklahoma and she had another stroke out there. So Wava's not good. [well]

Q: I was going to say she must be pretty poorly.

A: Marie Hammitt did too. Oh, if I could just think.

Q: No, that's fine, you're doing just fine.

A: Ellen Van Ness.

Q: Yes, I've heard the name. What's her first name?

A: Ellen, E-L-L-E-N. Oh, there's a Mrs. Fields that I don't know what her first name is.

Q: A lot of these ladies were school teachers, weren't they?

A: Oh, and Josie Furman. I like her, don't you? Oh, and Ethel Riddle . . . Oh, I know a lot of them.

Q: Oh, that's a lot.

A: I know a lot that I don't even know their names. And when we go places we don't pay for gas or nothing.

Q: Who pays for it? Does the county or how is that funded, do you know?

A: I don't know but I imagine it is from donations to the church. I have no idea, but we never have to pay for anything. And to think that we went to that high school play, set down there in the front seats and we didn't have to buy our tickets. And we get our flu shots and don't cost anything. Isn't that wonderful?

Q: I think so. What . . .

A: And you know what, when I first heard of those Senior Citizens, I thought, "Well, I don't belong there." Now that's exactly the way I felt. And after Sue called me and wanted me to go, I don't believe I've missed a time.

Q: Well, when you hear the words Senior Citizens you think of old folks, don't you? And you decided . . . and you knew you weren't.

A: Needy.

Q: You know you're not old. And you know you're not needy.

A: And listen though, there's a lot of people up there that are not needy, but that was my opinion to start with.

Q: Well, most of these names you've read are not needy people.

A: No. No.

Q: These are fine people.

A: It's so nice that Edith and Nelly come, Nelly Kindred. I like both of them. Edith, different times, and she wants us to come back, but she's invited Kenneth and Doris and me to come in and play pinochle.

Q: Oh, Edith is a pinochle fiend.

A: And Edith and I would be partners. And she'd always have a lunch and everything. And we went several times there for a while. And then you know how things kind of drag out. But when I see her, she says, "I'm still looking for you." (laughter) Now right now, I can't think of another person's name up there. Oh, what's Elmer Gehlbach's wife . . . sometimes Elmer and his wife come.

Q: Elmer and . . .

A: Minnie.

Q: I couldn't come up with her name for a minute.

A: Yes.

Q: She's funny as a three dollar bill.

A: And you know she comes pretty often, but you know Elmer looks awful bad.

Q: He has for quite a while.

A: Have you seen him--the last time he was up there, I thought he looked awful bad.

Q: He's kind of contrary about going to the doctor, I think.

A: Well, he looks bad. He looks awful bad. But now I believe the last two meetings that we had, I don't believe he's been there. But she would come.

Q: What went through your mind when you saw that great big Olympia High School compared to the school you taught in?

A: Did I tell you that the school that I got, do you know what it paid me a month?

Q: No. You didn't tell me.

A: Thirty-five dollars.

Q: You weren't going to get rich.

A: That was a lot of money then. And in fact, I think thirty dollars was about the limit of what they was paying around, but someway or another through something or another, I don't even remember what they said it was, I got that five dollars extra.

Q: I'll bet you were glad to have it.

A: Of course. And I boarded with my cousin and what was it I paid a month for board . . . either three or seven dollars, I believe it was three, though. Oh, no, a month, yes, it might have been seven dollars.

Q: You still had some money left over then.

A: Wasn't that something? And now I have wondered, and I don't know, how much Poppa ever got. Listen to me say, "Poppa." Every time I say that word, I think of antiques. (laughter) But you know good and well they didn't get very much. And I showed you that picture . . . well, I think you took a picture of the school that he taught?

Q: Yes, but I'll have to take another one.

A: And that was before I was born.

Q: I can't believe the log school.

A: Well, didn't I show the picture of the school that I went to? The last year that my father taught I went to school--that was my first school--and I went to school with him. He rode horseback to school and I rode behind him. And you know when we'd go along among them trees, I'd wonder if a panther was going to jump down on us. (laughter)

Q: Isn't it funny what kids think of?

A: But there I was, I guess astride, on the back of that horse trotting along there, and I was wondering if a panther would jump down on us. I can't think of nothing else to tell you.

Q: Well, why don't we take a minute and copy some picture and maybe you'll think of something else. Or maybe I'll think of some questions in the meantime. Is that at all right?

A: Yes.

End of Side One, Tape Three