

Transcription of Interview with Walter Clifton Robbins ID0005 (S)
22 Sept 2005 at his home
Transcribed by Walter Clifton Robbins, Jr ID0001 (His Son) (J)
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Acc000523

Hi Buddy (This has nothing to do with this interview – I had taped over a previous use of the tape)

J- Now the first question is – You said you quit school to help your dad between, after just before you were a junior in high school

S- Yeah

J- So the summer and that would have been about 1934 the way I've got it figured

S- Probably in April because school wasn't out yet –

J- So, you quit before school was over

S- Yes about a month

J- You were 16 in March and so you quit in April then you think?

S- I don't know we had about - cause we moved sometime in march so it was April – we only had a month left in the Junior year to be a, eh yeah

J- So that was when you moved away from Grandma Foulke's then

S- No, let's see, yeah

J- It had to be – because Arthur died in 1934 when you were 16 – you turned 16 in March and he committed suicide in June of 34

S- Yeah it would have to been, yeah after we left Grandmas, yeah when we moved to the big farm – I had about a month left – from Cicero – Then I just quit there

J- So what farm did you move to after you left Grandmas then?

S- That farm there

J- In Fairview?

S- No – it was there at - right off of 37

J- Still in Hamilton County?

S- Lets see, yeah it probably was still in Hamilton County – Lets see, it was just east of Arcadia

J- How big a farm was it?

S- I think there was two hundred and some acres

J- Did Grandpa rent that then?

S- Yeah he rented it

J- So that is where you went after you left Grandmas Foulke's

S- Yeah

J- Oh, OK –

S- When we left that we went to Albany or Fairview after that – we stayed there two or three years

J- At the one at Arcadia?

S- It was about, lets see, probably 6 miles east of Arcadia on the Arcadia Road – or whatever road that was – County line road or something I forget what it was – You probably been past there

S- It was a big house – on that road there was a jog and it was about the first farm past the jog – 6 miles east of Arcadia

J- Here is a map and here's Grandma Foulke's farm – right there is Cicero

S- Yeah that's right there [the location of Grandma Foulke's farm I have marked on the map]

J- And then here's Arcadia, so if its west and there's a jog – that didn't copy very well – Here's Arcadia up here

S- Well this would be west, see we lived east

J- Oh, east of Arcadia – Ok I don't have that map

S- See, we probably 6 or 8 miles east of Arcadia

J- I've got

S- But the road didn't come right straight out it come this way up out of Arcadia and then right on east

J- Find Arcadia [consulting another map in the book Indiana's County Maps Book# 1857, page 36] again- right there is Arcadia – so

S- Well, let's see – What does this say here?

J- It says Omega

S- Well we lived

J- There is Aroma

S- Well that is where Ina went to school there – or well she – let's see that was a little town about a mile or two from us – this little town here

J- Here is the jog in the road

S- No the jog was – right here is Arcadia

J- Oh, right here then

S- Yeah – it was straight out – well there was a little jog in this road someplace – then we lived on beyond that

J- Well, there is a little looks like a little jog right there

S- That might be it

J- Yeah it looks like might be a little one right there

S- Well, because this was 13 –

J- This is 213 here going this way

S- Well, see we lived on the other side of this

J- Here's 13 right here

S- because we would go over here and go to Indianapolis on this – Walnut Grove is where I would have went to school Walnut Grove – I went one day and then I quit

J- Oh, at Walnut Grove – OK

S- Yeah

J- So that was the last school you went to then?

S- Yeah

J- Walnut Grove

S- I couldn't think of the name of it

J- You lived somewhere right in here

S- see, now this is 37 now – when we lived there is was a county road – they hadn't made 37 then when we lived there – and I got stuck on that darn thing it was so darn muddy and broke an axle and then I had to haul it back home and put a new axle in it and but then it was just a county road – or, yeah division road or whatever they called it and then they made it 37 out of that and finally went to Elwood, see Elwood's up here someplace and that's where we worked at the canning factory – But this was just north of us, so we had to live on this road here

J- So the one that Aroma and Omega and all that's on just west of Aroma somewhere

S- In here someplace where we lived – but if that was the jog if the jog is there we lived about ½ mile east of the jog

J- OK that answers several questions then – that is where Grandma Foulke's farm was

S- Yeah that is right there

J- That is what I thought – this is out of an 1880 plat book – is what that is

J- What – do you remember much about Uncle Arthur

S- He was quite a mechanic – he was a number one mechanic – he could fix any car

J- Ok so that is what he did for a living?

S- Yeah he had his own garage and everything

J- Where was his garage?

S- In Arcadia – he had his own house and everything

J- He was married – wife's name was Ines and did he have any kids?

S- He had a daughter

J- He had a daughter – do you remember what her name was?

S- Well, you probably Janet might remember but I don't remember – no, I was going to say Helen but I won't say

J- I don't have that – I've got his wife's name but I don't have whether he had any kids or not

S- Yes, they had a daughter – see after he died she married this other guy and they moved to Evansville – with the daughter and then she didn't have nothing – I guess that guy didn't have nothing – eh something happened – she didn't have nothing and the daughter got wild and got into trouble with something I think one time then we never heard of her after that. Now the to get something on that you would probably have – might have to talk well, nobody is left to tell you now probably

J- I can find out

S- Anyway they had a daughter

J- OK, well that helps because I can go to the records and find it but

S- Probably the daughter wasn't more than school age when he killed himself – she was real little – because before we moved – well maybe before we moved there – he had a Ford coupe and she'd lay up next to the rear window in that little offset that's always back there – she'd lay up in there

J- She wasn't very big then was she?

J- So, what was - what caused him to commit suicide, the depression?

S- No the farm – see Rob Ross he wanted to farm it and Dad wanted to farm it

J- You're talking about Grandma Foulke's farm?

S- Rob Ross was farming it

J- No, I mean you're talking about Grandma Foulke's farm though?

S- Yeah –

J- They were wanting to farm it

S- Yeah – well Dad wanted to farm it – well, he wasn't big enough big shot enough to do it see – Rob Ross he was an auctioneer supposed to be a big wheel see – so he farmed it – well he kept making her sign notes – I think one was \$12,000 one was \$13,000 and one was something else - well he forced her to sign them with a gun according to her – well, she was afraid to tell anybody and well it got so far in debt they was going to take the farm away see – so Arthur he found out about it- finally she let him told him or something – anyway he found out about it so he was going to take him to court and settle it see and so he bought took the farm over so he could– took it out of Ross' made – they moved out and then's when we moved in to help ????? so then Dad take part of it and Arthur take part of it so they were working together to farm it – well, it got clear out of hand well the court, eh court says that - what is it – runs out after 7 years – whatever they call it – I forget what they call it – after 7 years it's too late to do anything about it and they got a name for it but I can't remember what it was – after the 7 years well so Arthur couldn't do nothing either so he was going to lose it so he just committed suicide over it – over that darn farm

J- So, how big was that farm?

S- Hundred and two acres or hundred – hundred and something – I can't remember what

J- It says here [referring to the map from the 1880 history of Hamilton Co, Jackson Twp map] that the one in yellow is 73

S- I think there was more than 73 acres there – Now I won't say – Now I'm not saying it isn't

J- It might be

S- I was thinking it was hundred and something but I couldn't tell you

J- See here's the one that says George Foulke and then here's his Dads that's an estate – there's the estate over here – his dad so it could be that it was these two together [indicating the George Foulke 73.32 acres and the 36.96 acres just south of it which belonged to Smsshane on the 1880 map]

S- Now that might have been a little bit more but I was thinking it was over a hundred acres but I won't say for sure

J- See this was 30 some 36 and then 73 that would make the hundred and nine

S- That sounds more right but I won't – I wouldn't want to say for sure but I think that is what it is

J- Yeah, because

S- It seemed to me like it was over a hundred acres

J- Yeah, because this is in the 1880's so

S- Yeah, seemed like over a hundred acres

J- I need to check a later plat book

S- Then Russell he owned the one on the south of that – that was his son before he married Foulke or before he married my Grandma – see he had two kids

J- What were their names?

S- That one was Russell and I forget I can't think what the other one is

J- That was George's - your grandpa's son before he married your grandma?

S- Yeah it had two kids or one kid

J- He had one

S- One?

J- So that was the farm south of him then

S- Well, then he owned – I don't know which one it was but south or west or east but I thought it was south

J- See there is one here that was a Foulke and then here's the one his – your – well your great grandpa – that was his farm there

S- Well I was thinking he lived in this one – seemed like he lived south of us – probably that was his [the one that says J.B. Foulk 73.32 acres]

J- Yeah I bet that is the way it was – I will have to look on a later plat book to

S- It has been so long that I just don't remember

J- Well, that's OK, I – anyway I'm glad – I know where that is [George Foulke farm]

J- So, where did he commit suicide? [Arthur Foulke] Arthur – at home

S- In his bathroom

J- In his bathroom – did he live in Arcadia?

S- Yeah I can't tell you what street it was but he lived pretty close to his garage – not at his garage but pretty close

J- So what was his business name – did it have a name?

S- I don't even think it had a name then – Well, I suppose it did but I don't remember what it was – but him and another guy was in together – he owned it but he had a helper – and I can't even remember his name now but

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J- Was he much of a farmer?

J- Trying to keep the farm up or

S- Well, he didn't farm it we done all the farming he just come out and the house was all run down and the barn was run down well he was fixing the barn and the house up - working all the windows put new putty in and painted them and all that stuff – same way around the barn – he'd come out every day about and help a little and over the weekend he come out and help and the same way with Dad he – Dad done the farming with us kids and then he'd come out and just help stuff like that see trying to keep it

J- To help his mom

S- Yeah – cause his mom lived down to that little house in that tenant house

J- So how far away was the tenant house from the big house?

S- Not much further than from here to Brown's – a little piece

J- About a ¼ mile or something

S- I doubt if it was a ¼ mile – probably maybe like from here down to the end of brown's [Brown is his neighbor – there is a house between Dad and where the Brown's live] - it wasn't very far. – A little 4-room house

J- How big was the big house?

S- It was a 2-story – it was probably 8 rooms I imagine I don't know – pretty big house

J- You said you helped - you quit school to help grandpa – your dad – what was wrong with him? Cause he was 58 years old when

S- I forget what was the matter with him – he was sick of something – whether he had stomach problems or what I don't remember

J- Do you remember how big the farm was at Shirley? – You weren't very old when you were there

S- No, I can't – I really couldn't tell you

J- Grandpa didn't own that one though

S- No

J- He rented that one

S- He rented that off of a banker

J- Is that the farm at Shirley – is that the one he built the silo at?

S- Yeah we built the silo – the silo was still there the last time went past there

J- What – do you know how big the Cadiz farm was?

S- That was 80 acres there – well, then 80 acres was a pretty big farm – yeah it was 80 acres there

J- What kind of barn was on that farm was there anything special about the barn?

S- No just an old barn

J- Did you raise cattle?

S- Yeah had milk cows – always had milk cows

J- And you had horses

S- Yeah and Poland China hogs – that's what he raised – that's all he raised – the black ones – Poland China

J- So how many hogs do you suppose he had normally?

S- Oh he always had 5 or 6 sows or more – he had registered ones to start with

J- Oh yeah Ina that reminds me Ina was talking about you guys took them to the State Fair and stuff didn't you?

S- He was a pretty much of a farmer on Poland China hogs – he had some nice ones

J- She told me about going down there to the State Fair

S- Course we always have 15 or 20 milk cows – cause all of us had to milk and mother always had 500 hens or more - That's the way they made a living

J- 500 hens – that's a lot of chickens

S- See you just take the eggs to the store and trade them for groceries – you didn't sell them you just traded them – then they'd sell the eggs

J- That makes sense

S- Then we always sold cream we never sold milk we sold cream then give the rest to the hogs

J- Just fed the milk to the hogs

S- Whatever you didn't drink well

J- That makes sense

J- What caused the fire at the house?

S- well, see everybody then back then had smoke houses – smoke their meat – well , Dad figured that – see you hung it over a fire – had the fire in there all the time – red coals it wasn't really a fire you had red coals – to smoke the meat - cause you didn't have a fire you had to have the smoke – smoke was what you need like sometimes they put brown sugar or something on the hot coals to make more – well he just figured – see that's all hanging on hooks on rods going across there – he figured maybe one of the hams maybe come loose from that hook and fell down in the fire and spread the fire there's where the fire started – course you never know but he figured that's what happened see – because it started in that little smokehouse – lot of people had them – just to smoke their meat – made it taste a lot better – the hams you see – and he figured maybe that's maybe what caused it – of course you will never know I reckon

J- So what time of the day was it at night?

S- No

J- Were you guys gone?

S- No, My dad and Myron went to Shirley to the elevator to get seed – this was in March – I think it was in March – anyway they went there to get seed oats and while they were gone the house burnt – Well, me Ina and Mary was playing out in the front yard see, well the smoke got so darn bad that we went around to the other side – well, if we had been old enough had any sense we'd have known that the smoke was coming from someplace

see – well it got so bad on the other side we went and told Mother – she was in the house – and she just opened the door to that shed and everything was on fire – well she called Shirley or Cicero or Cadiz and they sent a bunch of guys out but by that time it was too late – and of course you didn't have no fire trucks or nothing – and if you didn't have water well, we had water but not enough to put a fire out so it just burned all down –

J- So nobody was hurt?

S- No, nobody was hurt or anything

J- So, you lost everything

S- Yeah

S- See, they had it in the paper then that I was dead –

J- Oh, they did

S- See, they was supposed to put it in there that my clothes burned up – But Instead of that Walter burned up

J- That was just a little mistake

S- So I've been dead twice – like a cat

J- Well, you've got 7 to go

S- But if I you know if I had kept that paper it would have been worth something today

J- So what paper was it in?

S- In the Cadiz eh, ledger the Noblesville ledger I think

J- The Noblesville Ledger?

S- I think it was in that – I'm not sure – but anyway it was in the paper – of course I was only 2 or 3 but I can remember that fire just like it was yesterday

J- Well you had to be older than 2 or 3 in 1934 you would have been – no that wasn't 34 – let's see I had that

S- Probably in the 20s –

J- Yeah, I've got it down at home I don't have it

S- Had to been in the 20s – I was born in 18 – 1918 – probably 22 or 23 – Cause I wasn't able to do anything - I was I just stood out and held onto the fence – and Esther we had to carry her she was just – she wasn't even a year old yet – So I couldn't have been over 3 or 4 at the most – I don't imagine

J- That helps so that when the house burned then, then that's when you moved to Grandma's house

S- No, we went to Scott's after that - moved to Scott's

J- Where was Scott's?

S- Down the road about ½ mile

J- So you still went to Cadiz School – so you moved to Scott's –

S- See that didn't work out because she lived with us and Mother was always jealous of her afraid dad was going to have an affair with her and so we only lived there about a year and then we moved away to someplace else – That's probably when we went to Shirley then after that –

J- You said you went to Shirley the 1st grade so that could be then

S- Because Dad then he farmed his farm – which he still owned the one where the house burned so then that's when he built the new house while we was living down there

J- So, OK where did you build the new house – at the Cadiz farm?

S- Yeah, where it burned down he just built another one the same place only we was living down at the other house when he was doing all that – cause there wasn't no place to live – he rented the farm because her husband was a – he moved houses – something happened anyway he got killed doing that so she didn't have anybody to do it – we went down there to farm her farm and I think she had 80 acres too or something – but she had to live with us and that was where the mistake was – but he built a new house – he bought an old house – they cut it in two and moved it up there – then he put it back together and refinished all of it

J- So is that where you fell through the floor and hit your chin?

S- Yeah, That was when he was doing that

J- I remember Mary or Ina or somebody telling me about that

S- Now, Ina could tell you all that – she remembered all that stuff more than I did – that's where it was – I was running after Mary or she was running after me and we was running stepping on the floor joists and I missed one hit my chin on it – That's what really happened – of course it wasn't very old then. See them was the good

old days - he was building a porch or something on it after he got the house back together – he was still working on it.

J- So, what year do you think you moved to Grandma's house then? Your grandma's house - Cause you said you were probably 14 or 15 the other day

S- We probably lived there 2 or 3 years I imagine

J-So, it would probably be around 32 or 33 – if you were there a couple of years – cause you moved away in 34 because that is when Arthur died – so you probably moved in 31 or 32 then

S- Probably because we were only there 2 or 3 years

J- But you moved from Cadiz

S- I think he lost the farm in 29 or something like that – because even down there we he still couldn't afford to pay the interest on it – because he give - well farms were real high when he bought that and the depression came and well then it wasn't worth nothing then so he just told them to take it back and forget it – cause it was taking everything we make to pay the payments on it

J- So he built the house and you guys moved back to Cadiz I mean to that farm

S- No we didn't move back there

J- You never moved into that house

S- He just let it go

J- Even after he built the house

S- No

J- You never lived there

S- No, not as I know of – No

J- So then you went to Grandma's house once he lost the farm

S- Now, we might have moved back but I don't remember of it

J- Ok, Well that clears up a lot of stuff then

S- But anyway he built the house back and then that one burnt and another one burnt after that same place

J- For heavens sake that was not a very good deal – that was a bad place to have a house wasn't it?

S- The one he built I think burnt – course we was still in the vicinity when it burnt but Dad thought the flu had come out of the – of course everybody had big stoves and flues and he thought the flue had come out of the wall and fell down and that's what burnt it but now I don't know – that's what he said – that's what Dad said – that's all I know – We wasn't living there so –

J- Somebody told me one time that your dad was a bridge builder

S- Yeah he built bridges before he got married

J- Oh, before he got married

S- Yeah, he didn't after – before he got married

J- Where did he do that, Hamilton County somewhere?

S- Yeah down by – where is it Myron's at? – I can't remember that stuff anymore

J- Baker's Corner?

S- No

J- Oh, Westfield

S- Yeah down by Westfield – that's where he lived

J- You mean Grandpa

S- Before he got married – down by Westfield – where his dad lived – and I suppose the bridges down there someplace – of course I really don't know because he did that before he got married

J- Did he just build one bridge or did he work for

S- He worked for this guy that built bridges – and he was strong he lift timbers and everything

J- So one time he told me, when I was a little kid, about somebody getting – was it him that got underneath – caught underneath a plow or a disc or something and

S- Under the disc

J- was that when you were around

S- Yeah – he got tangled up under it some way I don't know how he done it

J- He got all torn up they said

S- Yeah

J- I can't remember anything about other than that

S- Well then a boar hog cut his leg one time from here to there that deep and he didn't even go to the doctor just put a bandage on it – blood just gushed out of that – course you didn't go to the doctor then unless you was dying – and I thought boy that was a mess

J- How big a thing was it 6 or 8 inches

S- It was probably that long all the way down – those old boars them tusks caught him with that tusk and ripped it right down through there

J- That would have to hurt – wonder that didn't kill him

S- I know it

J- He was a tough old bird wasn't he

S- Yeah he was – you had to be to be a farmer then

J- He was a tough old bird

S- Cause when I was farming I broke the tusks off every time

J- I remember that you cut them off

S- I didn't want any of that

J- I remember you guys cut them off put that wire around their snout and cut that off

S- Yeah, I didn't want none of that

J- I'd reckon not

S- Cause I remember boy that was quite a gash boy – ooh

J- When do you think that – how old do you think you were when that happened to him?

S- I wasn't probably old enough yet to do much farming

J- About 8 or 9

S- Probably because I started farming when I was 9 – making hay and everything else – I was nine when they built that darn silo – I think it was 9

J- Oh, there at Shirley

S- Now I don't know where that was there when he got the male hog but I don't know remember where we was when the male hog done that – but I just remember him doing it but I don't remember where because we moved around so darn much couldn't hardly keep up with it

J- When he built the silo you – he was renting the farm- he just built the silo for the person who owned the

S- Yeah the banker we built it for him he paid all the bills we was just doing the –

J- Doing the work

S- They had some guys doing the cement work and then I was filling them holes and I forget what Myron was doing but he was doing something helping out – maybe carrying cement or carrying the blocks or something

J- So, how big a silo was it?

S- Probably 20 or 30 foot across and then I think it was 20 or 30 foot high – 20 maybe

J- Did it have a roof on it?

S- No it didn't have a roof – it was still there the last time I was past the farm it was still there – the silo was

J- We will have to take a trip down there and see if it is still there

S- I don't know if – Ina and Mary can tell you where it was but you go south on from Mechanicsburg south and it come right out to it but I don't know if I – probably couldn't find it – but anyway south of Mechanicsburg before – because we was about a mile 2 miles or 3 miles from Shirley - back east from Shirley and there was a railroad there and it was right next to the railroad.

J- We should be able to get close to it on a map

S- Well it was off what is that 237 that goes through there?

J- It is 230 something 238 isn't it?

S- Well anyway we was off that about 2 miles south – cause we had to come up the highway and down that highway and then across the railroad and there was where the farm was at – whatever highway that was

S- Well, there's another little town next to it – that is where I had my tonsils taken out when I was nine that's where we lived

J- That's Hancock County – Is that Hancock County? Or is – Shirley is in Henry County isn't it?

S- Yeah that would be Henry County, yeah – cause the little town on the other side of Shirley – West of Shirley – that was where I got my tonsils taken out – right off the highway –

J- Right here is – that there is Shirley – there's Mechanicsburg – [Consulting the Henry County Map in Indiana's County Maps, page 41]

S- Well,

J- This is the road and it goes all the way through now and this is 237 or 238 is what it is I think

S- Well, we lived south of that – That's Kennard – well see Ina and Myron went to Kennard and I went to Shirley – Now we lived right on this railroad – right off this railroad someplace so must have been one of these roads here apparently wasn't it. Cause here – that's a – what did you say the highway was

J- There's one there and there's one here

S- This I think this is the one I was talking about – we lived south of that

J- Ok here's the one coming out of Mechanicsburg here

S- So it probably had to be one of these two roads here off the railroad – we lived right on off the railroad

J- So just east of Shirley and one of those two roads at the railroad

S- Probably cause see we went to we took a bus to Shirley and then they took a bus to Kennard when we went to school

J- Maybe we can go down there sometime and see if that

S- Anyway the last time I went past there which has been several years ago but – well I think when I done that was after they had that storm at Kennard – I went to Kennard to see the storm where they tore that school house down and I think I went down past where I lived and the silo was there then – I think that was the last time I was down there it was after that storm – how long ago has that been? Five or ten years ago or more isn't it

J- Well, sometime we will go down there – I will make a note about that and see if we can find that

S- Well, anyway it was right in there someplace because we was right by the railroad –

J- So you think you know where the farm was at Cadiz?

S- Well, I know where it is – yeah I've been past that one – it's right on the corner

J- We'll see if can find that one

S- I can find the one at Cadiz

J- You know that one OK – I'll make a note and we'll see if

S- in fact I think I took see Wilma – I took somebody down past there here last year – Whether it was Wilma – I don't know if it was Wilma or not –

J- Well, we'll see if we can find those places

S- But now the Shirley I'm not sure but I know about where it is but I'm not sure – but I know Paul said if you go south – that's when he lived in Mechanicsburg – he said you just go south of Mechanicsburg and you run right into it –

J- That's the way it looks on that map

S- Yeah - So that's all I know about it – but it has been so long since I've been there I just can't remember and everything has changed too – of course the silo could be gone now but it was there then

J- We will check it out sometime

J- Grandpa played the violin, the fiddle?

S- Yeah he was quite a fiddle player – they played for dances – in Westfield – Saturday nights

J- That's when you were kids?

S- No, that was before he was married –

J- So that was before he got married

S- Yeah all this is before he was married

J- So he didn't do that after he got married

S- No, I never even saw him play it – I never did see him play it - he wouldn't play it for us

J- Did he – he had it though

S- Yeah – he kept it – I don't know what happened to it unless Myron got it

J- Well, I heard somebody said that he played the fiddle

S- Yeah I guess he was really good at it – yeah he kept it

J- I remember Esther – Esther showed it to me one time when they were living on the big farm and I was upstairs messing around or something and she showed it to me and that's the only thing I remember about it

S- Yeah he I guess he was really good at it – they played – they had a band – played Saturday nights at dances in Westfield

J- I'll be darned

S- That is what he said

J- So, Grandma played the piano

S- Yeah she played the – she took lessons for that see

J- Did she play when you kids were...

S- She played once in a while but not much – we had so much work to do they didn't have time for all that – when you was a farmer that is about all you done – and then she had 6 kids to look after so she didn't have much time to do all that other

J- I'd reckon not

S- Not like it is now –

J- Ina said she took lessons but she never got very good

S- She never took lessons Ina didn't – she just learned it by seeing her mother doing it

J- Oh, is that the way she did it

S- But mother took lessons

J- So when did Grandma take lessons? Before she was

S- After she got out of college see – she went to college in St Louis – she got to be able to be a teacher

J- So what – do you know what college she went to?

S- Whatever is in St Louis – she went to St Louis but I couldn't tell you the college name – she went to St Louis – that was during the World War or the World Fair – in St Louis

J- Ok she down that is why she was down there going to school

S- Yeah, well while she was gong to school they had the world's Fair there

J- So did she ever teach?

S- No she subbed one I think a little bit and then she got married – well after she got married that was the end of that

J- So, that brings up the question – was the Foulke family fairly wealthy then?

S- Oh, yeah, they was classified as wealthy people – and that's the reason they didn't want her to marry Dad because he was in the poor class – and she was in the rich class – well he didn't amount to nothing see – her mother wanted them to marry high – good people so – of course Rob Ross was a big auctioneer he was number one auctioneer in Hamilton County- Well then the other girl, her husband was a veterinarian he was a number one veterinarian in Hamilton County – Well so they are marrying big people see – big name people – Well, then Mother marrying Dad – he didn't have nothing – he was just an old woodcutter – that's what they done for a living was cut wood and sell it – well so he didn't amount to nothing so she didn't want him to marry her – well see her then her sister she wanted to marry a garbage hauler and they wasn't going to have that – they said no you're not going to marry him for nothing so she killed herself because she couldn't marry the one she wanted to – well they wanted them to marry rich people – you know high class – cause they were high class – well they wanted them to marry high class – and that's what happened. – That's the reason she wouldn't let Dad farm because he wasn't he didn't amount to nothing he was nothing see - Rob Ross he was a big wheel – but if Dad would have farmed it everything would have turned out all together different because he wouldn't have done that – he would have farmed it for the profit where Ross he just took it – he didn't do nothing

J- He was just taking it from her

S- Yeah- he – every year instead of farming it and making any money he made her sign another note then he'd cash it

J- So Rob Ross was then Grandmas Sister's husband then

S- Yeah – Sarah Ross

J- Sarah – Sarah's husband – OK so all he was doing was trying to take the farm away from her

S- That's all he done –see he would buy a new car every year and he made good money – he was the number one auctioneer – he'd get 50-100 dollars every week at a sale – well, he had them all through the week even – he smoked big cigars

J- He was a big time guy then, huh?

S- Drink all the time – he spent probably twice as much as he made so well he spent so darn much well then he had to have her to sign a note and the time ran out on the thing after 7 years they said they couldn't take him to court after 7 years – so then that's what made him kill himself – well he couldn't help because it was so far gone that – in debt so far that they couldn't – back then well you wasn't making any money anyway anyplace well he was a mechanic but you didn't make that kind of money you do now – probably work on a car if he got 10 dollars probably he was lucky you know – maybe it would be 2 dollars or 3 dollars – but he was a good mechanic but that wouldn't have made any difference because and then his wife she liked to spend money – and that made it worse yet – she wanted everything number 1 see – then after she married this other guy she didn't have nothing – but she had a good living when she was married to him – but they had plenty – they were what was called rich people in Atlanta – cause he was the number one mechanic and he had a good job but she liked to spend money but you know act like a big wheel –

J- Spend too much money

S- Yeah – that and the farm together caused him to commit suicide – Dad always said his wife caused more of it than the farm – but of course you never know –

J- Yeah it sounds like it – So how did the Foulke's get their money - farming?

S- Yeah farming – well they had thousand – hundreds of acres – all together all around

J- I saw on the map it shows a bunch of

S- They were rich farmers – what they were

J- So that is where they got their money?

S- Yeah

J- So, were the Underwood's were they were they rich? Because

S- I suppose they were but I don't know anything about them

J- Cause that's your Grandma and

S- I don't know much about them but

J- Esther was in Riley hospital – how long was she in the hospital

S- 6 months

J- How old was she when she was in there?

S- Probably only about 2 when she went in there – 2 or 3 – But she had to lay on a board without getting off I think for 2 or 3 months – flat on her trying to fix her back – boy that would have been pitiful- painful

J- So did she go to back to Riley once in a while after that?

S- No, once they got home that was it – I think Dad and Mother only went to see her maybe once time well maybe she was there a whole year but she had to lay on that board I think 6 months before she doing anything - She might have been there a year but that is the reason Ina wanted to give that 25 thousand for that because the state paid it because dad didn't have any money – and the state paid all of it – course it didn't help her any anyhow but – but she was down there maybe a whole year – but she was down there a good while – of course you couldn't afford to go down there because heavens sake

J- That was a big trip then

S- Oh, yeah – like going to California

J- I remember when we went to Indianapolis from up there – up there around Eaton that was quite a trip back in the 50s – go down to see Lizzie

[End of Side A of the cassette tape]

[Beginning of Side B of the cassette tape]

S- All that stuffs years ago

J- So did she [Esther] go to school I mean she went to regular school –

S- She graduated from school – High School

J- Where did she graduate do you remember?

S- There at Green Twp

J- So did your family go to church?

S- Yeah, Mother was quite a church ???? – My Dad never went – Mother went Kids always went but dad didn't go

J- What kind of church did you go to?

S- Whatever was in the neighborhood

J- Was it a Methodist?

S- Yeah it was all Methodist, Christian – we never went to Catholic or anything

J- It wasn't Quaker though?

S- I don't know

J- A lot of your family was Quaker

S- Well anyway whatever was in the neighborhood – that's where we went

J- Did Grandma – do you know, you may not even know – She graduated from Baker's Corner according to the picture I've got anyway – the school in Baker's Corner – so her family – that's a long way from where her – that's a long way from where her Dad's farm is

S- No, No, not too far – closer than Albany, eh closer than Cicero – just across the highway – probably not over 3 or 4 miles – Across 31 – from where she lived to 31 – you got 31 on there? [Walt Jr is looking at a map]

J- Not that one –

S- The one that from Cicero where we lived in Cicero 31 should be on that one –

J- Well, there's the – so what would – would this be 31?

S- Oh, no, probably out here someplace

J- So, Baker's Corner is on this side of 31

S- Yeah

S – Baker, he lived – he was the sheriff – that's Mother's cousin – he lived about half way between where we lived and Baker's corner

J- See there's Baker's Corner

S- Right next to the highway – see we lived

J- You lived out in here someplace – right in here

S- Probably right in here – wasn't very far from the farm – we walked there - they had parties – they had some every Saturday night at Baker's Corner – and we'd walk there and back

J- I was thinking Bakers Corner was the other way

S- No, it couldn't been over 2 or 3 miles because we just walked it

J- Then that makes sense –

J- You just went to whatever church was close to wherever you were living then?

S- But they was all Christian or Methodist

J- So Grandma was really a church goer

S- Yeah she was

J- So was she involved in ...

S- No, of course dad didn't go so she didn't get to go much

J- Ok so you just went on Sunday mornings

S- Yeah, us kids half the time we'd walk to church because the church was just down the next road down and over

J- Did Grandma walk too

S- No, she didn't go – she went some but not very much – just us kids mostly – walked to church and back

J- Oh, I thought you said Grandma was really a church goer

S- She was before she got married – after she got married well dad didn't go to church so she didn't do much of it either then

J- What was your first car?

S- My first what?

J- First car

S- 31 Chevrolet coupe

J- What color was it?

S- It was a 30 coupe – black I think – cause most of them were black or dark then – yeah 30, it was 30 instead of 31

J- Do you remember what year that you might have gotten that – how old were you?

S- Well, I was 17

J- I can figure that out then

S- It was after I quit school and dad bought it for me for helping him through that winter

J- Do you remember how much you paid for it?

S- \$150

J- \$150 – well, that was more than my first car – my first car was \$100 – that old '49 Chevy

J- So how much was gas then – was that the 6 gallon for a dollar?

S- Probably cheaper than that then – see when I was working at McCormick's it was 6 gallon for a dollar – I don't remember what it was then

J- Lot cheaper than it is now – [\$2.79 per gallon 24 Sept 2005]

S- Yeah, it was lot cheaper – it might have been just \$.20 – well, I don't know what it was I wouldn't want to say but I know when I worked at McCormick's I got 6 gallon for a dollar – and that was in 40 or 39 and 40 – or 38 and 39 right along there –

J- When did you work at McCormick's – you were working there when you went to the service right?

S- Yeah –

J- So, when did you start?

S- I think I started in '39 and I worked til '42 –

J- I got down here

S- After we moved to Fairview then still couldn't hardly make a living so I got the job there to help out

J- What did you do there - Machine operator?

S- Yeah – then I was setup a while and then I did – the guy that had it before me came back so then I went back to being assembly – well, I worked – they had the wire machines and I ran them – sort of a skilled job – better than just production – just watch the wire machines and keep the wire straight

J-How much money did you make there?

S- 25 cents and hour – well that was good wages then

J- So, 40 hours a week

S- Yeah – oh, once in a while you got overtime but not much

J- How many people worked there - do you have any idea?

S- Well, Myron worked there too – probably – well a lot of them worked there – well they had – that's when they had the WPA – because they had WPA working right down from where we was at building a bridge – and they tried to get more help for McCormick's couldn't get enough help – well them guys got 19 dollars a week on WPA and didn't – we were only getting \$12.50 there so naturally none of them would come over and work

J- Right – heck no

S- Cause they had about 50 there and 40 of them was standing around doing nothing

J- They had to stand there watch the others work

S- I never, why it was pitiful to look out the window and see them guys working down on that little bridge, hell wasn't – the creek wasn't 20 feet wide – took them all year to build that darn bridge

J- You could just jump across the creek

S- Yeah – well see a contractor wanted to build it for a 1000 dollars – well WPA come along and said we we're going to build it – see they had to have projects well they was paying them to do nothing what they were doing all over – just to give them something to live on – just like WPA really, or that was what it was WPA like being on

J- Welfare

S- Welfare – that's really what it was

J- It is like watching the light company guys work – 20 of them standing around

S- They got \$19.00 a week see – well see Ina’s husband was a secretary on theirs he was a college graduate so he didn’t work he took care of the books – he still made the 19 dollars I suppose or whatever they paid them – but he was in Elwood where this was over at Albany – Every town had them WPA – but Norman he was – he was a secretary he took care of the books

J- Well, somebody had too

S- Dad wanted him to help him – that year we had so much corn to shuck and he was trying to hire help to shuck corn and so he tried to get him to come out from WPA “Well, I’m not going to shuck corn, I’ve got a good job” He was on WPA see – kind of made dad mad. – on taxes you know taxes was paying his bill and they – if they had a chance to work they were supposed to work but if they didn’t they could be on that – he said “Hell, he wasn’t going to shuck no corn” He just stayed on WPA

J- Heck yes, he was making better money – didn’t have to work

S- Just like McCormick’s or anything else – Then that really wasn’t right but that is the way it worked – Just like people on welfare now they’re not going to try to get a job – they already got it made. So they’re not going to try – but that is what they supposed to do if they could get a job they were supposed to work but

J- Well they are not going to do it

S- No

J- Not when you give them everything

J- How big was the Fairview farm?

S- I think it was 105 acres but I’m not going to say for sure

J- Well, that’s close

J- Do you remember about when grandpa bought that?

S- Probably 38 - 37 or 38

J- You lived there until you went to service probably the summer after you left

S- Then he sold it – probably in ’43 I imagine I don’t know for sure

J- Well, that’s close enough

J- Do you remember how old you were when you started in the first grade – were you 5 or 6

S- Well, I think I had to wait a - I think I was 7 when I started because I had to on account of my birthday I had to wait a year longer but I’m not Seems like I was 7 when I started but I won’t say for sure – I think Mary started when she was six but I’m pretty sure I was 7 when I started.

J- So did school go from August to May then?

S- See we always got out in May on account of farming or April always got out in April

J- So did you start in August or September?

S- We started at Labor Day

J- Ok day after Labor Day

S- Well, sometimes a day or two before Labor Day but if we started before Labor Day and you wanted to go to the State Fair they wouldn’t dock you to go to the State Fair – but it was always around Labor Day when you started school and end of April when you quit or got out – cause see Myron or Milton was born the last day of school which is the 29th of April - yeah probably or May I think 29th of anyway we never did go in June I think it was the end of May - April or may anyway he was born on the last day of school

J- That helps

S- They let them out – see we didn’t have all them vacations when you went to school went to school until you got out you didn’t have no days off no holidays or nothing except Christmas - we got off at Christmas I think the only holiday we had maybe Thanksgiving but now they’re out half the time - we didn’t have all that we just when we went to school til time to get out – course there wasn’t any unions to tell the teachers not to - all that stuff you see

J- Was your schools were they bigger schools have several rooms or did you ever go to a one-room schoolhouse?

S- See when I went to Shirley that was a one-room school – one to six grades

J- All in the same room

S- I doubt if there was 100 people in there

J- Just one teacher?

S- Yeah one teacher and one room – we had a big pot-bellied stove for heat and water was outside - pump

J- Had an outhouse out back

S- Yeah

J- So then when you went to Cadiz was it a bigger school?

S- It was a bigger school then see - they just had each grade then there

J- They had a high school

S- Yeah that's where Myron graduated from high school – yeah they had a high school there – they had 2 schools in Albany see Cicero see I think I went to one school and he went to another – I don't think we went to the same school – but anyway that's where he graduated from – he graduated from Cadiz and I – yeah that's where – yeah I think they only had the one school but anyway that's where he graduated

J- Did they have 2 schools at Cicero then? – Because Ina graduated from Cicero

S- I won't say I don't remember – no I think it was all one school

J- About the different remodeling you did – on the 16th St house you added a bathroom there

S- I added the bathroom and a porch

J- How many bedrooms did it have?

S- 2 bedrooms

J- Didn't have a basement or anything?

S- No – had a garage out by the alley

J- So anything else you did to that house – we only lived there what a year and a half or two years?

S- Not very long

J- Couldn't have been very long – so when did you buy that – How long after you got home from service – you got home in Oct of 45

S- Probably wasn't home over 2 or 3 months or so

J- So you still probably bought it last part of 45 then

S- Probably, cause I wasn't home very long cause we was living at John's in that one room

J- in an apartment

S- And I just bought the house and moved over there

J- So that's quicker than I thought then

S- Well, it wasn't long we didn't live with John very long – cause I didn't like that at all

J- I wouldn't think so

S- Course she lived there while I was in service but I didn't live there hardly at all

J- So you never lived at Grandma's house

S- No

J- OK, she did though

S- Yeah she lived there while and her and her mother couldn't get along very good so then she moved over at John's and then he fixed a room up for her so she lived there after she had the baby [Walt Jr]

J- So the Centennial St house what did you do to that one?

S- I put a bathroom in there and a septic tank- well see I had to put a well in there

J- So what did it have a crank or whatever you call it pitcher pump when we moved there?

S- well it had a pump but I don't remember what kind – if you'll remember Milton came out and cut the pipe – I dug it down and he cut the pipe off and I put the –

J- I don't remember

S- That's where I put the pump in under the sink

J- I remember I remember the pump was in the house – Phil got his finger caught in it

S- Yeah in the belt – it had a belt on it

J- Cut part of his finger off – yeah I remember

S- That's when the pump and the motor was separate – you had a pump and then you had a motor to run the pump and that's when he done that

J- Because I can remember – I can vaguely remember that pump being in the house

S- Yeah it was in the house and so I had to run the pipe – course he cut the – I dug down then he cut the pipe off then I had to put a cap on it you know and run the pipe into the pump – cause they didn't have water inside so then I put the sink in and the bathroom and run had water in the house

J- So, we didn't live there very long so

S- A little over a year, then I bought that out north

J- 26 acres

S- Yeah – because I had 5 acres there but the reason – one reason I moved from there they was talking about they wanted to – that was wet and they was wanting to put that big sewer in of some kind was going to cost everybody \$1500 to put that darn thing in there to drain that darn thing off for some reason – I don't know if they ever done it or not but then I decided I didn't want to live there any longer – it was going to cost so much to get all that done

J- So that is the reason moved from there

S- That was one reason

J- So did we have any animals at that

S- Yeah I had a cow – I don't know how may cows we had but I had some cows there – cause I had my own milk

J- Was there a barn on

S- Yeah there was a barn on there and I worked on automobiles for 1 year – and I noticed the cars that was in good shape I could fix and make money but the ones that wasn't they wanted them fixed for nothing and hell you couldn't fix them anyway – so I just quit it after about a year – it just wasn't worth it – bring an old car in there and had to spend \$20 and they only wanted to give you \$10 to fix it so then if you brought in a nice car and you just had to a little bit to it well they paid that – see I worked on a lot of the cars General Motors give the employees – See John had one all the high offices in Chevrolet get a new car – well John would bring some of the cars out and I'd have to work on them – cause they didn't do it in the plant then – and they'd pay right out – but then one guy came in with a car and something wrong with the carburetor and it really needed a new carburetor was what it needed – but he didn't want to spend any money on it – he wanted it fixed but he didn't want to spend any money – after that I just said to heck with it – I just quit messing with it

J- That was what you really enjoyed – working on cars

S- Yeah, I'd rather been a car mechanic than anything cause I liked to work on them – but then John's – well I think a friend of John's lived in the basement of his house or something – I don't know, something – he worked at Chevrolet and he was a body repairman – he done body work – he was good at it – only got a dollar an hour and so that was all the mechanics got at Chevrolet and I got a dollar, or \$2.08 or something at Chevrolet – well I wasn't going to be a mechanic at a dollar an hour when I could work at Chevrolet for \$2 or whatever it was then – well, I started at \$1.08 I think then after we got that \$.17 raise or \$.18 raise I think it went to around \$2 or more – but they still only paying a dollar for mechanics – so I thought well heck I'm not going to do that – I wanted to be a mechanic but – so after all you work for the money and I always wanted to be a mechanic but

J- Not for free

S- No – so I just never do it any further see

J- How long – did you do any mechanic work when you were at the Sunoco station?

S- Yeah, I overhauled 2 or 3 cars, done little jobs that come in you know like work on their windshield wiper blades and put in fuel pumps and stuff like that

J- How long did you work for – What was his name? - I used to know that

S- Not Reed –

J- No that's not it – I'd know it if I heard it

S- But I worked there about a year off and on

J- So, that was after you come back from the service

S- Yeah – course I wasn't farming anymore so I just worked at Chevrolet and I think I worked there when I was on strike – see I was off – we had a strike for 4 months right after I started there and I tried to get on at the furniture store but he said we won't hire you because you will go back to Chevrolet as soon as they call you – which I probably would have anyhow – No, if I get a good job I'm going to stick with it but I don't even know what they paid because he wouldn't hire me so I just – I didn't do anything

then for 4 months and then I found this worked at the filling station then finally about the time I was ready to go back to Chevrolet –

J- So then you just worked part time after you got back off strike

S- Yeah – and I helped him out weekends and sometimes at night – but then I worked nights at Chevrolet mostly then

J- Wish I could think of his name – cause I – anyway

S- I can't think of it either now – he was a nice guy

J- I can barely remember going down there but

J- Now, what all did you do on the 26-acre farm – you sided the barn you said

S- Yeah, farmed that I had that old tractor –

J- but, no, you put siding on the barn

S- Yeah I put siding on the barn right off the bat -

J- Did you – you put a bathroom in that house too

S- I put a bathroom in the house then I put all new stalls for cows in the shed at the side – I may have built the shed on it because I had the cement – I cemented the floor – that's when I bought the cement mixer – cemented the floor, put the groove in for the cows and put in all new stanchions in and everything – I think I put six in there – so I probably just built the shed on the back – cause the shed was on the north side and chances are I just built the whole shed

J- So you're talking about the shed on the north side of the barn – not the south side

S- See there's a shed on both sides

J- Was there already a shed on the south side when you bought it?

S- Evidently

J- So you added the one on the north

S- but I may have just built the one on the north side because I cemented the floor and made it regular for regular cows stanchions and everything just like they have in –they put their heads in and all – I put all that in so I could have the cows there –

J- So, how many cows did you have at that farm?

S- Probably 3 or 4 or 5, I don't remember –

J- Did you plant anything much there?

S- Yeah, had hay and corn there

J- What kind of tractor – was it a F-20 or

S- Well, there was an old John Deere there when I moved there it came with the farm – but then I never did use it I don't think - I got an F-20

J- Was that the place there was an old Fordson or something?

S- No, I think it was an old John Deer- it was a 4 wheel tractor

J- Yeah, the wide wheels?

S- I think it was a John Deere – it had that great big orchard there

J- Yeah, I remember that off on the east side

S- Yeah

J- Yeah, I remember that tractor but I was thinking it was a Fordson but it I remember

S- I think it was a John Deere but I won't say for sure but it wasn't

J- It had the wide wheels

S- Yeah – 4-wheel tractor

J- Steel tires steel wheels wasn't it?

S- I don't even remember that but anyway and that's where I got that little truck – I wish I had kept the truck

S- Cause that was a cute little outfit

J- I remember the truck –

J- Which field was it that you farmed – the one next to the railroad then?

S- I had pasture because I got them to put the fence up – the railroad put the fence up – had most of the pasture there

J- So then you farmed where that guy built that house

S- Yeah back in there, yeah

J- Now was that a natural hill back there?

S- Yeah it was there

J- I didn't know whether

S- He might have made it little higher but it was a little bit raised – it was almost level all the way through there

J- That's what I thought but

S- It wasn't that high

J- So they've added dirt

S- Probably when built the.. dug the lake out they probably built it up there

J- Ok, that makes sense

J- So what all did you do at the 110-acre farm? You

S- I put a new kitchen cabinets and everything in that house –

J- You had to put water in

S- Then I redone the bathroom made a room around the bathroom because he just had the stool sitting out in the middle of the room and so then I put all new cabinets in and put water in it – run the water in it – and then done the ceiling – remember the ceiling was bowed down so I had to up and put ceiling joists across and then I jacked it up from the floor so it would be level and then I bolted it together – the joists I put in was straight so then when I got it jacked up then I just bolted it to the joists – I don't know whether I put 2x4s in it and bolted – anyway that's what I done – I bolted the joists that I put in so it would come out even across and I done that on all the joists – to make the ceiling level –

J- Then put a new ceiling

S- Cause the ceiling had come down there about some places 6 or 8 inches and it looked so bad that – and that was the first thing I done was leveled the ceiling

J- You took all – it had those big ole tall cabinets in – and you took all those out

S- I put all new cabinets in

J- Did you put a roof on the barn?

S- No I had the barn painted but I didn't put any roof on it that I know of – I don't remember that

J- Did you – it had a metal roof on it

S- Yeah I think it did

J- So you just had that roof painted?

S- I don't remember what I done

J- I was thinking you did something to that roof

S- Yeah, I had it painted but I never put a roof on it I know that

J- You did something to the hog house didn't you?

S- Yeah, I put new stalls in for sows – see it was just – wasn't nothing in there – then I ran water back there and then I put – made stalls for sows – to have pigs in

J- I remember that

S- That's when I bought that big drill and that power saw – to do that with because I had the lumber sawed I used them from logs in the woods –

J- so that is where the wood came from our woods?

S- Yeah, see I had the logs taken out and hauled them up there and they sawed the lumber and then I brought it back and that is what we made the all the stands - stalls out of

J- So was the sawmill up at Matthews?

S- Let's see I think at Hartford – Don't seem like I went to Hartford though – anyway went to a sawmill someplace – lets see

J- So it was probably all oak

S- Yeah, it was all oak - I don't remember what saw mill cause – they had two in Elwood – in Hartford City and then the one in I think Matthews – I don't remember where I had it sawed at but anyway I had the logs sawed and we used the lumber

J- I remember the ole rough oak

S- Hard – that was the reason I had to buy the drill – you couldn't nail it you had to drill holes to put the nails in

J- Yeah that was hard ole stuff

S- I'd think so

J- So, that building had a cement floor in it

S- Yeah

J- They used that – was that where the Mexicans lived when – he raised tomatoes didn't he?

S- Lets see – no they had – see what did they uses that for – I forget something about the tomatoes I think – they built that special for but I forget what it was for – see he raised tomatoes – he was quite a tomato grower and milk and milking

[Lost due to faulty tape]

S- Built that for something but I forget what it was for – then I just changed it over because he didn't use it – it just sat there and then I made the hog pens

J- So how many hogs do you suppose we had normally?

S- Well I was raising around 200 head a year

J- I remember it was a bunch of them

S- Yeah, see I had them down there and then had them down at dads too – I raised them both places – I had cattle both places –

J- I didn't remember that – I didn't remember having any down there

S- Yeah, Had them both places – I – well down there half his and half mine – but of course they was all mine down at mine – same way with the hogs –

J- How many head of cattle did we have?

S- I had 60 head of Black Angus one time

J- Plus the Milk Cows

S- Yeah – see we had 10 milk cows – don't you remember me starting the sows and little pigs in my barn and then taking them down to dads and putting them in those little hog houses?

J- No, I remember when all the hogs were born was usually in January or something when it was real cold

S- Had those heat lamps

J- Yeah, had to take a pitch forks and move the little pigs out of the way and – I remember all that but I didn't remember

S- Up half the night

J- Yeah but I don't remember taking them down to Grandpas

S- Yeah, well first we was started he had them down there in the pens but he got so he couldn't hardly get out to do it so I would bring the sows down and let them have the little pigs and then I would haul them back down to his house and put them back in the little hog houses with a pick-up truck

J- No I don't remember that

S- You don't remember them good ole days

J- No, I remember the sows having the pigs I remember that but

S- Hard work

J- I can remember when all cows got sick that time and most of them died

S- That's when we had so much hamburger – see, that kid that fellow that painted the barn, remember? Lived down there on 15th Street – I can't think of his name now

J- He worked at Chevrolet didn't he?

S- Yeah he worked with me at Chevrolet

J- Called him Chickenhouse or something

S- No, not – well he painted the house but this other kid painted the barn – Chickenhouse painted the house

J- I remember him – he was a skinny, funny guy

S- But this other guy painted the barn and that's when the cows when we had so much all that died we made hamburger out of it – had so darn much hamburger I give him 200 pound to paint the barn and he forgot about it and it all spoiled – he got nothing out of it after all – cause he was supposed to put it in a freezer see and I guess

he – I think he told me he forgot about it or something – anyway he lost that whole 200 pound – but I had so much hamburger I had meat – that’s when we had that 17 ft – we had that full and I had meat, meat, meat – so I gave him that 200 pounds of hamburger cause them cows I had made into hamburger cause it wouldn’t have been any good for steaks because they were too

J- Too tough, yeah

S- So I had all that made into hamburger so we had hamburger out our ears – and that’s when he was painting the barn and I just gave him that 200 pounds – or a lot of it – I give him a mess of it – cause I just couldn’t keep all that

J- Yep, I can remember that – What was that Vets name?

S- I don’t remember his name

J- I used to know

S- We had him out there a lot anyway

J- Yeah, he was out there a lot – poor guy

S- Remember when I used to castrate them calves? Remember when I done it?

J- No, I remember the hogs doing the hogs but I don’t remember the calves

S- One time I done the calves one time and it – when he done it, it looked so simple he – on a cow or a steer you had to cut the bottom off and then take them out – but on a hog you just split it and take them out – well I thought , hell I could do it just as well as he could do it see and the darn things I couldn’t keep them from bleeding – when he done it didn’t get a drop of blood – boy when I done it, it just poured out – so I only done 2 or 3 and that was it – they didn’t die but God I though they was going to – now what the difference was I don’t know but I thought I done it just like he did but hogs – I could do hogs in a minute boy – In fact that kid that helped – that painted the barn helped me one or two times do them – he’d hold them down and I’d cut them

J- I remember doing that but – you only done one or two calves

S- Yeah I didn’t do much of that – then on the colt I had it done – but the calves I – then the sheep we clamped them - the lambs – of course we didn’t have them when you was born – we had them a long time before that but they always clamped them – they had a clamper

J- I thought they did that with the calves too that they tied it

S- Well, they did some but that guy always just cut them – but they got to clamping them just like they did the sheep

J- I thought that was – somebody did that

S- Yeah they clamped them – it looked like a pair of pliers about that wide and they just come together – you pull the handles pull it together and just snapped the cords that’s what it done – tighten it tight enough to cut the cords in two and – but they always done the sheep that way – I don’t know why they didn’t do the hogs that way – unless it was harder to get to or something- anyway I think they do hogs that way now but they didn’t then - ??? castrate them and half the people would eat them –

J- I remember somebody that you had

S- Mountain oysters Mountain something I forget

J- Whoever it was that you had out there working painting or something, they took them I remember that

S- Yeah, a lot of people ate them – I guess they was good but they didn’t sound very good

J- Supposed to be like tenderloin they said

S- Yeah that’s what they said

J- Didn’t look appetizing to me

S- But I sometimes I done 40 or 50 at a time

J- I remember I killed one that time – cause I choked him – do you remember that?

S- Cause two people could really go take them fast – see I done them one time when they was only 2 or 3 weeks old – but I didn’t so any more like that because too hard to find them and do them – cause, hell they was only like a BB – so I didn’t do that anymore –

J- The last question I have –

S- Good

J- Worn out, huh?

S- Well I can't remember all that stuff

J- You're doing good

J- Camp Carson when you were out there and Mom was out there part of the time when you were out there – She lived in an apartment – you lived in the camp you didn't live in the apartment

S- No I just nights go out there as soon as I got off duty at night if I wasn't on duty over the weekend until Monday and then of the evenings but I couldn't live there –

J- Ok, so you could go whenever you weren't on duty you could leave the camp

S- See, after I got to be a sergeant anytime you wasn't on duty or anything well you could leave camp but you had a pass anytime you wasn't on duty you could go anyplace.

J- Did you go anyplace like Pikes Peak like the caves there were out there?

S- Yeah we went to several places while we was there – like on a weekend

J- So did you have a car – how did you get to these places?

S- Buses I reckon – I reckon I don't remember – really

J- You didn't have a car so you'd have to take buses or train or something

S- No didn't have a car – buses I think I' not sure or walked – cause we was right next to Pikes Peak – well let's see – see where she – she must have lived in that little town –

J- Yeah I can't remember the name of the town

S- I can't either now

J- Yeah, there were several other wives lived right there

S- That's when we lived at Phoenix

J- Phoenix? Oh she was out at Phoenix too?

S- Yeah, she lived right down town Phoenix – that's when they had the what they called the robins nest – all them women lived in the same apartment

J- So she was out there twice then - I mean she was in Phoenix and then in when you went to Colorado then?

S- I think she was in Colorado

J- I know she was in Colorado

S- Well, anyway where she lived with the other women was in Phoenix – right down town Phoenix

J- I didn't know about that –

S- When I was on maneuvers

J- Well, OK I've got to say the date today is the 21st of Septemeber 19 not 19 2005 –

S- Yeah, probably

J- Its not been 19 for a long time has it? And it's about 88 degrees and its going to rain in a little bit

[End of the interview]

[The rest of the audio on the tape is from a book I was reading to my friend Tom Potts about the transatlantic flight of Charles Lindbergh.]
