

**Interview – 20 March 2007 – with Walter C. Robbins ID0005 –**

Interviewed by his son Walter C. Robbins Jr., ID0001

While traveling in a vehicle in Randolph and Delaware Counties

(The numbers at the left refers to the time on the recording counter)

== These notes are taken from an audio interview made with a digital recorder =

0 to 2:35 Myron's [ID0016] Senior Class went to Muncie to see a talkie motion picture instead of a trip or anything else – Dad didn't know how many was in his class – Myron thought it was pretty nice.

:35 Dad can remember Uncle Christopher [Robbins ID0071] taking him to the movies and then they were silent pictures with the words across the bottom and Dad had a hard time reading then because he was little so he just watched the pictures – He said they were mostly all westerns then.

4:53 – In 1940 They got their first electricity at the Fairview Farm – It was a Co-op of some kind out of Portland. They paid something like \$40 for a share in the Co-op – They also had to pay for the poles and the wire up to the farm from the road.

6:20 – Randolph Co CR1200W, north of Parker, going north to St Rd 28. Just south of Fairview on this road was a big steel bridge [now replaced by a concrete bridge].

8:08 – Should have married this girl – I would have gotten the 80-acre farm – she had gone to college and worked in Winchester. – The one I SHOULD have married was when I was living at G Foulke farm in Hamilton County – She was the only child – she wasn't as good looking as some – but she had a college degree – her name was Virginia something – She said she loved me [9:49]

10:00 – The one I was going with was a good looking girl

11:17 – They taught algebra at Cicero High School – They fired the teacher because everyone passed the first semester but he failed everyone the second semester. Cicero was going to have a special class for the students the next year so they could get the credits in Algebra to graduate. Dad moved to the Arcadia area and began going to Walnut Grove School – They did not honor this and would not let him out of the first semester of Algebra so he quit school and began working on the farm. His mother didn't like it but his dad didn't mind. When G Robbins got sick, dad began doing most of the farm work.

12:14 - His parents bought him a car for all the work he had done. If he had stayed at Cicero he would probably have graduated.

13:44 – Go across the bridge at Fairview and arrive at St Rd 28. The road going north out of Fairview to the Fairview farm is Randolph CR1150W – We took this road north to CR1000N to a Tee in the road. We turned right [east] on this gravel road – The Fairview farm is the first farm on the south side of CR1000N.

16:17 – Square house, Big Red barn with metal roof – 103 acres – Land goes back to the ditch – There was a neighbor on east from the farm on the north side named Baker – She made good dinners – Dad and Myron went there for the meals

17:57 – Taylor or Johnson lived on the corner of 1150W – Dad went with their daughter.

The address of the Fairview Farm is 10825 W 1100N

18:30 – There is a tobacco barn between the house and the big barn. – Dad and Myron were tearing it down and part of it fell on Myron but he didn't get hurt. Later Myron ran a nail through his finger and it got infected.

19:30 – The Johnson's lived near and Dad went with their daughter – they would go to Selma roller skating.

22:40 – Dad talks about when they installed the 3-way stoplight on the west end of Albany at the intersection of Ind 28 and 67.

23:00 – McCormick Brothers Corp – Albany, Delaware Co, Indiana

Lots of people working there

Big building

WPA was building a bridge behind the factory – they were making \$19.50 and the people at McCormicks were only making \$12.00 – McCormick's needed workers and tried to hire some of the WPA people but none of them would quite WPA and come to work.

26:06 – Dad said he worked on the second floor in the NW corner of the plant. – They made refrigerator shelves and the tin parts for Hoosier cabinets for the flour bins. During the war they had an Army contract and after the war they began making bolts –but Dad did not know what happened to them after that – they are out of business now.

27:19 – There was a heat treat [ and a plating operation] behind where they chromed the shelves.

27:49 – You could work any shift you wanted and as many hours - Dad worked 3<sup>rd</sup> shift and farmed during the day. – Most workers were farmers

== Dad and others would go over to Albany all the time – used to play pool in a building on the corner.

29:39 – The Ford dealer in Albany is where Esther [ID0198] got her first new Ford – The owner of the dealership had worked at McCormicks but quit to start the business. [31:30]

30:45 – The lumber yard on the west end of Albany south of St Rd 28 was where Bill Crabill [ID0384] had worked

33:40 – Arthur [ID0086] – The Foulke farm could have been saved – the mortgage was \$5500 but nobody had any money

35:50 – Carrie Foulke Suicide [ID0081]

36:14 – Amasa Foulke Murder trial [ID0097]

38:03 – Newspaper article when it was reported that I had burnt to death – Probably the New Castle paper – but maybe the Middletown Newspaper.

42:17 – Rob [Ross ID0085] had about beat G Foulke [ID0078] her to death – The courts said they couldn't do anything to Rob Ross because it had been longer than 7 years – the statute of limitations had run out. Dad feels that both Arthur and G Foulke died over the loss of this farm. G Robbins just moved away rather than getting any more involved. The farm went back to the bank. If Arthur had lived, he and G Robbins could probably have figured a way to bought the farm and made a go of it.

Arthur was out at the farm almost every day doing something. He removed all the windows of the house and painted and puttied them – He also worked on the tractors too. He was a real nice guy – He seemed to spend more time at the farm than at home.

Arthur was good at everything – Dad feels that he probably got a lot of his skills from being around Arthur.

G Robbins [ID0014] could do most anything too, but he was not as good a mechanic as Arthur – He had built a house and barns

Arthur's partner/helper moved to Cicero after Arthur died in 1935 – he had a daughter

Arthur had a nice home in Arcadia – one of the nicest ones

48:16 – End of recording