

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

HAZEL LAURA BOSLEY

Interviewed by Chrystyna Huk
28 July 1989
OHRC accession #88-97-1,2,3,4

INTRODUCTION

This interview was conducted by Chrystyna Huk for the Oral History Research Center as part of "The History of Paoli, Indiana." The transcript has been edited by the Oral History Research Center's staff, and by the interviewee. The original tape and final transcript are kept on file in the Lilly Library. Copies of some interviews are kept at the Paoli Public Library and the Orange County Historical Society library. Duplicates of the tape and transcript may be consulted at the Oral History Research Center.

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DEED OF GIFT AGREEMENT

I, Hazel L. Bosley, hereby give
Interviewee (please PRINT)
my oral history interview with Chrystyna Huk,
Interviewer (please PRINT)
which was conducted on July 28, 1989, to Indiana University.
Date.

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Mrs. Bosley would like a copy of the transcript
and a duplicate copy of the tapes for herself
(she is willing to pay for the cost of the tapes).

Yes - a copy may be left at Paoli
Library - OC Historical Society (verbally given 2-12-91
(jms))

In full accord with the provisions of the Deed of Gift, I hereunto set my hand.

<u>Hazel Bosley</u> Donor	<u>July 28, 1989</u> Date
<u>Chrystyna Huk</u> Interviewer	<u>July 28, 1989</u> Date

PAOLI PROJECT
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Biographical Data Sheet

I. INTERVIEWEE/NARRATOR DATA

Full Name: Hazel Laura Bosley
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: Route 2 -- Box 91
Paoli, IN 47454

Phone: (812) 723-2513

Date of Birth: May 11, 1899 Place of Birth: Orleans township

Sex: Female Ethnic Origin: _____

Education: High School Diploma (1918); Indiana University three-month
teacher training; updated teacher certification

Occupational History: Farming, Teaching, Sales-World Book

Special interests, hobbies, etc.: Lick Creek Friendship Club(formerly
home extension from Purdue), quilting

Father's Name and occupation: Alvin Hovey Webb -- Farmer

Mother's Name and occupation: Lizzie Brock Webb -- Farmer's wife

II. INTERVIEWER DATA

Full Name: Chrystyna O. Huk
(First) (Middle) (Last)

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Permanent Address: 3619 Riverside Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44109
and phone

Date of Birth: 2-25-53 Place of Birth: Cleveland

Association with the Paoli Project: Graduate Assistant, 1988-89; Summer Intern, 1989

Subject of interview: Rural life in Orange County, 1899-1989; Changes: farming,
technology (*horse-driven schoolbuses), values, teaching 1918-1923 & 1953-65,
Hoosier Homemakers; Quilting

Number of Tapes: 4--3hrs & 50mins.

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ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

INTERVIEWEE: Hazel L. Bosley
INTERVIEWER: Chrystyna Huk
DATE: July 28, 1989
SUBJECT: History of Paoli
TRANSCRIBER: Paul Russell

Huk: Today is July 28, 1989. This is Chrystyna Huk. I'm interviewing Hazel Bosley at her home in Paoli, Indiana. We will be talking about her life in Paoli, for the Paoli Project.

Mrs. Bosley, could you please tell me where you were born and a little bit about your family.

Bosley: I was born in the country, a few miles out of Orleans, Indiana, in Orange County. My father--his name was Alvin Hovey Webb, my mother's name was Lizzie Brock. They had a family of nine. He was a farmer by occupation. We lived on a small farm, and he did outside work, outside farm work, when could [and was township assessor for a number of years].

H: What year were you born?

B: I was born May 11, 1899. Before the turn of the century.
[Both H and B laugh.]

H: What child were you?

B: I was number three. They had six girls--they wanted a boy so badly, they had six girls before they got a boy.

H: In a row? They had six girls in a row?

B: That's right. They were determined, weren't they?

H: I bet that seventh child was a little bit spoiled at first.

B: Oh, yes, he was. He lives near Orleans, Indiana. He's 84 years old now. Of that nine, there are four of us left. A brother in Palo Alto; [deletion] a sister in Winchester, Indiana; a brother in Orleans; and myself. All the rest are gone.

H: Can you tell me a little bit about the house you lived; what was it like?

B: When my father and mother were married, my grandmother was a widow, so they moved in with her, in order to take care of her, and that was their home after she passed away. It was a log house, made exclusively of logs. Had an upstairs to it. We had ample room, because it was just all one room [on the second

floor] [deletion]. We had three beds in that upstairs, and two bedrooms downstairs, so that gave us plenty of room by sleeping together. Each child didn't have a room. Didn't even have a bed alone, because we [couldn't afford the luxury of a home that large. It would have been as large as a small hotel].

H: Modern invention, huh?

B: Yes, that's right. And after so many years [deletion] this house became almost unlivable, and my father bought 25 more acres out to the county highway, that had a rather [deletion] new house on it. So we moved over there.

H: What made you move to the bigger house?

B: [As I related before, our log house was unlivable, and we needed the extra room for the large family.] It was in 1918, the year I graduated from high school.

H: So, basically, you lived all your childhood in that one house. How did you, your mother cook and do the laundry, and...?

B: My mother had a wood cook stove. We never, of course, know what electricity was way back then. She cooked on this wood stove, and as far as the laundry was concerned, she did have a washing machine. It was a hand-powered machine, but it was better than the washboards. We had a lot of laundry to do for eleven people.

H: I bet.

B: [deletion]

H: Just basically...

B: [deletion]

H: ...the cooking and the _____.

B: [deletion] A lot of our food was raised there on the farm. We always had a large garden. We always canned a lot of fruit and always raised beans to dry. People didn't know in my early days [deletion] what canning beans was.

H: You dried them? This was before canning.

B: Yes. We would plant row after row of navy beans, or brown beans--we called them brown beans at that time. [deletion] We'd

have a great big bag of those in the fall, and they would [last all winter]. Tomatoes, yes, we canned those, and fruits. [deletion] We made sauerkraut out of the cabbage; great big jars of sauerkraut. We would just [deletion] take some out as needed. We never canned kraut, we just left it in a jar in the cellar [deletion]. We had no basements, they were all cellars at that time. No refrigeration, but those old cellars had dirt floors, and you can't imagine how cool they were. [deletion] We had cows, so we had butter and milk that we'd keep down in that cellar. She always [strained the milk and poured it in earthen crocks or small jars].

H: And it would keep a couple of days.

B: Oh, yes. [deletion] It was so cool when you'd go down there. She had a board that she'd lay on that dirt floor, and set her crocks of milk and her butter--she would have it wrapped [in waxed paper] [deletion], and it stayed solid and fresh. [deletion] When the milk finally did go to what we call clabber, she would take the cream off of the top, and churn that and make butter. We would make cottage cheese out of the clabber [curd separated from] the whey. We'd take the whey away from it by heat, heating it on a stove. We kept ourselves in butter and cheese about all the time.

H: So what did your father raise, then, or what did he grow?

B: My father would raise [grain and animals]. He had hogs, [horses and cows]. He would raise corn and hay for [the horses and cows], corn for the hogs; he'd grind the corn...he had a hand grinder, and he'd grind that for the cows. [deletion] That was about the only grains that he raised, sometimes wheat, and some oats. If he did raise wheat, he would thrash the wheat; how well I remember carrying water to the men that were thrashing the wheat. And those thrashing machines weren't electric, they were steam driven [deletion]. It would be so hot, we kids would have to carry water to them [to drink]. My father would clean that wheat after it was thrashed and take it into the grist mill in Orleans, and exchange it for flour. And he'd bring home one hundred pound bags of flour. He would do the same for corn. He would bag corn, take it in and bring back meal. We had cornbread, [deletion] also bread made of flour, yeast bread [or just baking powder biscuits].

H: A lot of cooking from scratch?

B: Oh, yes, all of it. All of it. We didn't go to the store for anything, I mean, as far as vegetables. We never bought any.

I don't know whether there were canned vegetables on the store shelves in my early days. [deletion] Very doubtful. [We had potatoes and sweet potatoes which we raised that lasted all winter.]

H: What kind of animals did you have?

B: We had, as I said, hogs and cattle, also horses. My dad drove a school bus--that was another occupation he had [deletion]. He drove horses to this school bus--we just had two--and he'd get up early morning--four o'clock [deletion], go to the barn, curry those horses, put the harness on, and would fix foot warmers for all the kids on the school bus, because it took a long time to even drive three miles when the snow was on and the horses had to go so slow.

H: I guess I don't understand what kind of school bus was it?

B: Well, it was similar in a way to the buses they have now, only horse driven and not so large. Shaped similar to the ones they have now. [deletion]

H: No kidding. And that's the way you got to school in the country or the town?

B: [deletion] I went to a one-room country school to begin with. We walked a mile and a half to get to the school [deletion], until I was in the sixth grade. We entered the Orleans school [in 1911]. [deletion] Orleans schools were consolidated [that year], and I entered that school in the sixth grade. We were, of course, bussed in there. [deletion]

H: What happened before the buses started? How did people get to the town schools?

B: [deletion] [Those students that attended the high school before consolidation either boarded in town or either rode horseback or used a buggy daily.] [deletion] We didn't pay any attention to the weather, we went to school if the [weather was bad]. [deletion] When the snow [deletion] deep, father would [deletion] hitcha horse to a log and drag it [to make a path], and we would follow in that little groove [deletion] [one behind the other like ducks].

H: He would make a path for you.

B: [deletion]

H: Before the phone rang, we were talking about how you'd walk to school, and your father would make a path using a log tied to a horse. And so, then you told me that later, when you were in the sixth grade, the town schools all became consolidated, and you would be bussed by a bus driven by horses. Can...I've never seen one, can you describe that a little bit to me?

B: [deletion]

H: There were seats on it? Was it covered?

B: [deletion]

H: Was there a roof on top of this?

B: [deletion]

H: And what were these feet warmers you were telling me about?

B: Well, he'd put, I believe it was coke that he used. They were about a foot or maybe a little longer, seven or eight inches wide, and you could open them up [deletion]. [The coke] was in sticks, black sticks, and he would put that in the fire [to heat them] and slip them inside those foot warmers. They would stay [red hot, but] they wouldn't blaze. They just stayed red hot, until we got all the way to school.

H: And you would just put your foot on it.

B: [deletion] [That's right, to] keep our feet warm. We would have gotten awfully cold, because we had to go close to three miles [deletion] to get to school. But when we got there [deletion]...there was a furnace in the school [deletion], and we would always stand in the hallway where they had a great big register. The ones that were coldest would stand right over that register until they got warm. [deletion]

H: What was the difference between the country school and the town school?

B: We had all eight grades in the country school, [deletion] a big pot-bellied stove was right in the center of the room. They burned wood or coal, and the seats were placed all around [the stove]. If we got real cold, we'd come closer to the stove. But, of course, in the town schools, [deletion] they had a furnace for heat, and we would have as many as 30, maybe 35 in each classroom. [Just one grade to the room as today].

H: And how many did you have in the country school?

B: I think there would be maybe twenty-five or thirty. All eight grades. Sometimes, [when there was just one student in a certain grade, they were placed in another grade according to their ability.]

H: All together?

B: [deletion] That one would listen, [deletion] [the younger children would learn by listening to the older classes].

H: Sure, peer tutoring is very popular.

B: Yes, that's right.

H: What year was when you went to school?

B: I started school in 1906.

H: And you were seven?

B: Yes.

H: And you were in the first grade?

B: At that time, parents could wait until [the child was] seven years old. Most children did wait until they were seven years old. The [idea] [deletion] then was that their mind should grow up with their body. [deletion]

H: You got to play a lot before you started school?

B: Oh, yes.

H: And how many were in your first grade?

B: In the country school? I believe, if I remember rightly...that's been a long time ago. You see, I'm ninety, that would have been 84 years ago. I think three or four, [sometimes a smaller number].

H: And you knew who they were? They were your neighbor kids.

B: Oh, yes. All neighbor kids, [deletion] [in walking distance of] the school building.

H: So, you knew everybody in the country school, because they

were all from your little township area.

B: Oh, yes. The teacher would even walk to school.

H: And so you had one teacher for all the...?

B: One teacher. She had all eight grades, and [deletion] she would allow ten minutes for each class. [I have often wondered how we covered the required material in such short classes, but we made every minute count for something.]

B: And she would get through the day, have all the classes, and all those, every one of them were ten minutes long.

H: You mean she would take ten minutes of math for the eighth graders...

B: Yes.

H: Ten minutes of math for the seventh grade.

B: Yes.

H: And then she'd do the same thing with English?

B: That's right.

H: My gosh, that's a lot of _____ time.

B: She was a busy teacher. But we got things done. We, I believe, I kinda hesitate on saying this, but I believe we were more attentive, and we were more apt to learn. We were listening better, you know, back then than maybe they do now.

H: I think you had to, because you had to listen--you were all in one big room, weren't you?

B: Oh, yes, yes.

H: You didn't have separate classrooms for the different grades.

B: You see, the first grade would even learn from the eighth grade, and kids in the first grade, they remember things. And then we had all of the grades in between, you know, everybody would go to the recitation bench up front. Each class, there was a long bench. The teacher would call us to the front of the room, you know, and we'd sit on that recitation bench, and if we weren't having something else to do, we would listen to what was going on up front.

H: What would you be reciting?

B: Well, we'd, the teacher--just the talk between the teacher and us. She would question, and we would answer.

H: About the material.

B: Yes. About the material that we had read about in our books. Real interesting, it was.

H: So it was the kind of thing like plays _____?

B: Oh, yes.

H: Was school fun for you?

B: Oh, yes, always. Yes. I never felt like that it was boring. I never felt like that school was boring. I was anxious to go. When Friday afternoon came, I would be so glad when Monday morning came. And I think all the kids were, because we didn't get to go very many places. When school started, that was something to go to every day, you know, of the week, and then we got to go to Sunday...or on Sunday we'd go to church and Sunday school.

H: That was a big part of your social life.

B: Oh, yes.

H: Tell me what kind of subjects that you learned in the town school, besides reading and arithmetic.

B: Well, we had just about all that, uh, we had from the sixth grade. We had, now they began, we had geographical readers, that was of kind of like these social studies now. And we had math and--we called it physiology instead of health--we had spelling. We learned how to spell, too. And we had a writing class. And people learned how to write. We had to practice writing. We had a, the whole school would do that at the same time. The teacher would have us, everybody, we had a copybook, she called it.

H: You mean handwriting?

B: Yes.

H: Like you had, so your handwriting was legible?

B: Yes. There would be a sentence up at the top of the page, you know, and we would have to copy that, make it as near the copy, and that taught us to make our letters more correctly, you know, than if we just wrote on our own.

H: What about composition?

B: We had that. We had to do that, too. Certain days of the week we had to come forth with some--she'd give us a subject to write on. And we would have to develop that and turn it in to

her. And we'd get grades.

H: And how did you learn to read?

B: Well, we didn't have phonics. That's one thing. I think, well, to go back to the very first grade, I just don't remember. I think just by listening and watching the teacher writing letters on the board, you know, writing words on the board, and just sight-reading more than anything else. We just learned. It's been so long ago, honey, I just...It's hard to remember some of things. But I believe that was it more than anything else.

H: You know, nowadays in schools they have lots of special different kinds of classes. What happened to the kids that were brighter or the kids that had more problems? How did they deal with that in your country school? What about the kid that was really slow? What happened to him?

B: Well, the teacher gave them extra help, maybe at recess. Hold them in and wouldn't let them go out to play, you know. Twice, once in the morning, once in the afternoon, we had fifteen or twenty-minute recesses, you know. And at noon, at the noon recess, after we had our lunch. Of course there weren't any lunches furnished. We took our lunches, too. And after we had our lunches, the teacher--if someone needed help, she would retain them and teach them.

H: Okay, so basically you had this physiology was what we call health today?

B: Yes, yes. It's called health today.

H: Okay, and you had--did you have music and art or anything like that?

B: Just, no, no. Just music and no art to speak of, you know, we'd sing. We'd sing songs that we knew. We'd sing "America," you know, and things of that sort.

H: All the grades together would sing.

B: Yes. All together. But she did not teach music, see.

H: What was recess like--what'd you do for recess?

B: Oh, played ball and played hide-and-seek, and the boys would maybe find a stick and ride stick horses, the little boys, you know, and stuff like that. Some of them would pitch horseshoes,

the older boys, you know. They would be great big boys go to the eighth grade...

H: Oh, sure. They'd be fifteen years old.

B: Yes. They were big as, large as their dads.

H: In country school?

B: Oh, yes.

H: So what was it like in the sixth grade--you were about eleven?

B: I believe so. To be twelve.

H: To be twelve. When you moved to the town school in Orleans?

B: That's right, isn't it? I graduated in '18. I would have been twelve.

H: I'm kind of guessing. Around eleven, twelve. Well if you started first grade when you seven...

B: Well you see, I started in the fall, and then I was--my birthday was in May after that, you see.

H: So you were like around twelve. And how big was Orleans when you moved there, when you moved to school?

B: Well I imagine the population would have probably been, oh, maybe thirteen hundred or something like that. But now I think it's twenty-five or six hundred. No more than that, I don't think. Now I haven't heard the census, you know, lately, but I don't imagine it's any larger.

H: Well, there's one coming up next year.

B: Yes, yes, that's right. So we'll find out.

H: Well, how was that school different? Can you recollect?

B: You mean from the country school? Oh, well, we didn't have running water in the school.

H: You went to an outhouse.

B: We went to an outhouse, and we had, well, as far as that is

concerned we did have water to drink. Had fountains in the school building.

H: Spring water?

B: No, it was wells. They drilled wells, you know. We had well water. But as far as plumbing is concerned, there was nothing like that. And that was kind of like in the country schools, too, you know. But we got along all right in either school. We thought it was great.

H: Okay, I didn't understand. The town school also did not have plumbing, or it did have plumbing?

B: They did not have plumbing.

H: Oh, so it was similar in that way.

B: Yes. In that way.

H: Okay, and what school had the water? The country school or both schools?

B: In the country we had a water bucket. And believe it or not, everybody drank out of the same dipper, all the students. And they would send the two older boys to a well that was up on the highway somewhere, bring a bucket of water, and we'd all go and get us a good drink of water, you know. But in, when we moved to the Orleans schools, when they consolidated, they did have fountains in the building.

H: In the country school, how often did you have the water breaks?

B: Just at recess.

H: So once in the morning and once in the afternoon.

B: And at noon.

H: So your day was like a six-hour day or something like that? And at noon, you had water three times.

B: Yes. School would convene at 8:30, and we would get out at four.

H: That's a long day.

B: Yes. Two recesses and a noon recess. I think we had an hour, I believe, at noon.

H: You probably had to play. _____.

B: Oh, yes.

H: Okay, and the day was that long in the town, too?

B: No, we got out around 3:30, I think, a little, oh some earlier in the town school than we did in the country.

H: And, but you had a furnace in the town school.

B: In the town school, yes.

H: And you had different teachers for different grades?

B: Oh, yes. They had departmentals.

H: Was that, do you remember, was that a little strange or different?

B: Well, it was to begin with, but after a while you just got accustomed to it. And I thought that was something, you know. Think of what that country teacher had to do. She had to have everything, she had to know every subject for every, for each grade, you know. That was a bigger job than, uh, just walk into a town school with just one class. Math or health or whatever, you know. Sometimes one teacher would teach health, and they would teach spelling, see.

H: So, and what kind of subjects did you have in the town school?

B: Well, about the same as we had in the country, yes.

H: And you went to that same school until the twelfth grade, or did you go to a different school?

B: No. I was there in Orleans schools until I graduated from high school.

H: Was it the same building for high school?

B: Yes. They built a new building. The building had been smaller, you know, and they built a new building in a different location of the town. And they consolidated the new school

building in 1911. And that's when we started to school there, right from the country.

H: Did you bring your lunch then, too?

B: Yes. Yes. Later, in later years they served lunches, but for a long time we took our lunches just like we did at, in the country school.

H: What, did you know a lot of the kids then, in the town school? You couldn't have known all those children?

B: Oh, no, we didn't know but just a few. And we made closer friends, some of them would be closer to you than some of the others, you know. We knew all of them in our grade especially, you know. But some of us were closer--the girls that came in from the country. Course the girls that lived in town were already there. Well, they were very kind and accepted us, you know. We got along all right. But we did have closer, some of them would be closer to us than others.

H: Were the country kids treated any differently than the town kids?

B: I don't think so. No, we just fit right in with them. We never noticed that, if we were treated differently, we didn't notice it.

H: What did the town kids' parents do?

B: You mean occupation? Well, some of them were in the mercantile business, clothing, grocery stores, just about everything that you would find in the towns now. Blacksmith. Some of them were blacksmiths. And lawyers. And just about what we have today, only on smaller scale. Undertakers.

H: A little bit later we'll go back to the _____, but I wanted to go back a little bit to your home and what kinds of things you did in the home. And you had mentioned to me that you didn't have refrigeration, and then your mom had a washer--not a very fancy one. Can you tell me what kind of chores you helped with at home?

B: Well, I myself, I would rather work in the house. And I would help my mother with the cooking. And my other sisters would do the milking, the cows, you know, and feed the chickens, and things of that sort. But when it came to the garden work, we all worked in the garden. We all hoed in the garden, everything

like that. But at night I would generally make a cake or cookies to have in our lunch the next day, you know. And we just divided the work up, the one, whoever would like to do this did it and so on. We chose our own work.

H: What did the boys do?

B: Well, they were smaller, of course, so they would get in the wood for the stove at night and things of that sort. The cookstove and also the heating stove. And things of that sort. And then help my father down at the barn, too, with the feeding, and feeding the cows and the horses and the pigs--things of that sort.

H: There was a lot of work to be done for a family of eleven.

B: Oh, yes. We were all busy. We were all busy, and we always had a big garden. And that took a lot of time, too.

H: How long would it, say, take to prepare the evening meal?

B: Well, of course, it would be according to what we would have. As a general rule, if my mother was...

[End Tape 1, Side 1]

H: Okay, Mrs. Bosley, before the tape stopped we were talking about your evening meal, kind of how long it would take to prepare it in the days before all these modern conveniences.

B: Well, if my mother, I think she cooked beans in the morning or anything that could be held over. She would cook enough for the noon meal and also the evening meal. We would call it dinner now, we called it supper then. It was dinner at noon and supper in the evening. And lots of times, I can remember--and all vegetables. If she could cook enough at noon, you know, we'd have the same at suppertime. And I remember certain evenings, you know, if she didn't have enough of the vegetables, I can remember very well that she would make a great big pan of cornbread, especially on Sunday evening now. She would always make pie on Saturday. And make several pies, and we'd eat on them on Sunday, you know, and she wouldn't have to cook. And Sunday afternoon, at the right time, she would put a big pan of cornbread in the oven. And we would eat hot cornbread and milk right from the cow. It wasn't even processed. And then we would have pie. That would be our evening meal on Sunday at times, you know.

H: How many cows did you have?

B: I think, oh, we didn't have only enough--we sold cream, you know. We separated the milk and sold the cream. I think eight or ten was the biggest number we ever had. And my sisters, as I said a while ago, I think, they were the ones that liked to get out and do that. They liked to milk the cows before we went to school in the mornings.

H: They did them twice, once in the morning, once at night?

B: Twice. That's right.

H: And what did you do in the mornings before you went to school?

B: I got the lunches ready and helped my mother get breakfast. They would go to the barn and do the milking while we were preparing the morning meal. And I would help her.

H: Did you share your room with your two older sisters?

B: Yeah, I sure did.

H: And you _____ the same bed with them, you told me?

B: We sure did--three in a bed. And we didn't mind.

H: Probably warmer in the wintertime.

B: Oh, yes. Yes.

H: I bet there was many a night when you told great stories at nighttime with that many people.

B: Well, it's so long ago, I just don't remember whether we did or not. As I told you, upstairs we had three beds. It was just one great big room. And then there were two bedrooms downstairs, one was for my father and mother, and the other were for the smaller children.

H: So the six bigger, the six girls, all slept upstairs.

B: Yes. Well, as I remember now. It's been so long ago, it's, some of those things, you know, get away from you. But we didn't have a single bed all by ourselves like they have today.

H: Luxury.

B: Yes. Sometimes I think it's kind of foolish for people to say, oh, that's Johnny's room, or this is Mary's room, you know. I think, I just feel like that they would, that sounds selfish.

H: Things change a lot.

B: They could give and take a little more than that. But then, it isn't done that way now. So I guess it'll have to be, you don't tell them what to do anymore. They do what they want to.

H: What time did you have to get up in the morning, then?

B: My father and mother got up at four o'clock. They got up at four o'clock, and we children generally got up in just a few minutes. Of course we had to clean up and dress, had to get breakfast, and driving that distance, you see, with the horses--they didn't go like these cars do, so we had to leave home--I don't remember just exactly what time we left home. But my father would have to go several miles, three or four miles south, and then come back, pick us up, and then drive three miles. So you see, that took time. And he couldn't leave home late in the morning and get to school on time. So it was early morning when we would get on that bus.

H: And you had quite a few chores before school.

B: Oh, yes, yes. And we had to get up at four o'clock.

H: What time did you go to bed?

B: To bed? Oh, 8:30, something like that. Early to bed and early to rise, you know. I guess that's what we lived by. Just not on purpose, but that's what we did anyway.

H: Well, in those days, there wasn't very much to do late at night.

B: No, no radio and no television or anything, you know. And after we had our chores done and our evening meal over and the dishes all washed--my mother would never let a dirty dish lay overnight. She would--I can remember--she would say, "now girls, get all the dishes cleaned up. Somebody might get sick during the night." Which was, could have been, you know.

H: How did you wash the dishes?

B: We had a wood range, had a great big reservoir on the end,

you know, that heated the water. And we would have two big dishpans, one over on the reservoir, and one on the stove part, so the water would keep just almost boiling, you know. And we would wash the dishes in the one, and put them over in the boiling water and always, after we rinsed them in the boiling water we would dry them. Never let them drip dry. We'd always dry them with a cloth.

H: So after, when you came home from school, you had chores and homework to do?

B: Oh, yes.

H: And then by that time _____ entertain yourselves a little before you went to bed?

B: Well, sometimes we would read. My father would read the Bible, my mother would read the Bible, one of the two of them would, you know. As a general rule, that was a rule of the house.

H: What kind of light did you use at night?

B: Coal oil. We had coal oil lamps. And not too many of those, either. And I know we had a little one that we would take upstairs, you know, with us. But we were always a little uneasy about coal oil lamps. They were dangerous in a way, you know. But no electricity until years later, when _____ came up here.

H: In the middle of the night, if you had to go to the bathroom you'd go outside?

B: That's right. Well, we had accommodations that we brought inside, you know.

H: I would think so.

B: Yes. And it's terrible to have to say that, but we did.

H: No, that seems to make sense.

B: But that would have been terrible, had to get up on a snowy night and go out back, you know. Yes. So we had accommodation.

H: Tell me about your evening meal, what was it like?

B: You mean what we ate?

H: What you ate and did you cook or were you quiet?

B: Oh, yes, we talked over what had happened that day, you know, and my parents would ask us how school went and things of that sort. If we were in school. My mother and father would talk over what they were going to do the next day or what their plans were for the next day and things like that. And if there had been anything that had come up, you know, that would be interesting for them to know, we kids would tell them. Things of that sort. Good or bad. Good or bad.

H: And your evening meal was basically...

B: Just a plain simple food. We'd always have vegetables and beans. But sometimes at night we wouldn't have meat. Some of the vegetables would have meat cooked in them, you know, and maybe my mother wouldn't have a, say a roast or whatever per se. But we always had, for breakfast we didn't think we had any breakfast unless we had meat and gravy, hot biscuits, apple sauce or stewed apples we called them then, hot biscuits with a lot of butter. And my father would through the summer months, he would plant what we call a patch of cane. And at a certain time, when it got to the right stage, you know, we kids would have to get out there and strip all those blades off that, like taking the blades off of corn, if you know what I mean. And then he would cut the seeds off of the top of that cane, cut it, and we would take it to a mill, and they would take great big jars--maybe ten or twelve-gallon jars, you know--and this man would grind that cane and boil it down to sorghum molasses. And we would have sorghum molasses all winter long. My mother would first put a paper over the, or a cloth over the jar, and then she'd put paper and wind strings around there to keep it nice, you know. And we would have pancakes, or we would make cookies, and I remember that I used to put sorghum molasses in cakes and cookies that we would take to school.

H: I think you probably had to have a really hearty breakfast if you were only taking a little lunch with you.

B: That's right.

H: What did you usually take in your lunch to school?

B: We had an assortment. It would be the kind of sandwich that we had on the hand. It would either be a meat sandwich or a peanut butter sandwich or something else, cheese sandwich, something like that, you know. And as I said a while ago, I

generally had to make a cake every night so that would have cake, and I would ice it, and we would take a piece of that cake. And if we had fruit, we would put fruit in there.

H: You made a cake every night?

B: I made a cake every evening that school was in session.

H: _____ so the children would have cake.

B: Yes.

H: And what did you do after supper?

B: Well, as I said, my father or my mother would read from the Bible or sometimes he would read interesting things that would come in one of the farm papers that'd be interesting for the whole family. Maybe it would bring in children in that story and things of that sort. But it would generally be, as a general rule it would be dark, and we wouldn't get outside to play at that time.

H: What kind of playing did you do? _____ before you even went to school? When you were four or five?

B: Well, jump the rope and hide-and-go-seek. Horseshoes--even the girls used to throw horseshoes. And we had, we played rook, if you remember what? Well, rook is a card game. It's a very simple game. And just matching up numbers, you know. There were four numbers, four cards, like four twos, you know, and when we had four twos gathered in our hand that was a book, you know. And that was a game that everybody played back then. Rook.

H: Like book with an "r"?

B: And oh, sometimes my mother would sew at night, you know. And she made all of our dresses. So we would have to stand and let her fit the pattern or the whatever she was making to us, you know. And we did that lots of nights, too. Even by coal oil lamp. So she would be able to do, to finish up the garment, whatever she was making. She even made my brothers' shirts that they wore to school. Most women did, most mothers made their boys' shirts when they went to school.

H: Was it possible to buy shirts then?

B: Now my dad could buy, it was blue chambray, if you know what I'm talking about--c-h-a-m-b-r-a-y. You can get them now, I

think, but they're very, oh, you hardly ever hear them spoken about. But that's what, for a farmer, that blue chambray shirts, you know. But...

H: Was it really thick material?

B: No, it was just like a cotton material. Just kind of like this. Only blue, medium blue. And I can remember that my mother took the pattern off of one of his chambray shirts. And she had other material there that she could make, a kind of a tan material, and she made some of his shirts out of that for everyday wear. Of course, for to go to church, they always bought shirts for that. But for everyday wear, she made his shirts all the time.

H: Well, you think that you could buy them, but most people didn't?

B: Yes.

H: What was your day like on Friday night? You know, when you didn't have school the next day? Or on the weekends? Friday night was probably the same, because you...

B: Generally speaking, yes.

H: What was your Saturday like?

B: We always felt a little bit relieved, you know. We had a couple of days to do what we wanted to do. Saturday we caught up on all these things that we hadn't been able to do through the week. Like cleaning the house. You know, we, what my mother didn't get done through the week. We girls would clean the house, you know, mop the floors. We had linoleum on the floors, you know, and on the kitchen floor and dining room. And we had to mop the floors. A lot of times we'd change the beds and do the bedding washing, you know, on Saturday. Always something to do.

H: Did you go into town very often?

B: No, my father did the biggest part. My mother didn't, well, she went into town, but not that often. She always had a job to do. And I can, this is a story that you'll get a kick out of. I know one time there were five or six of us, we were getting ready to go to school in the fall. And through the summer months we would go barefoot. My father went out in the yard, and he got sticks, and he would make sticks about a half an inch longer than

my foot, and five or six of the other children. He would go into town to the shoe store, and he would slip those sticks, he and the merchant, would slip them down in the shoes, and that's the way we fitted our shoes. We were never taken...well, sometimes, but not that often would we be taken to the store to have our shoes fitted.

H: I see.

B: That's right.

H: Did the shoes fit?

B: Yes. Felt good. You see, he'd always make the stick about a half an inch longer to give our toes room. And he'd always get a wide shoe. They fit.

H: Was there a reason why you didn't go with him to town? Were there too many?

B: It was just too big a job for my mother to get us all ready, and there wasn't any point in all of us going, you know. And we, maybe that day he was going to take grain in to bring flour back or meal or something instead of going in what we would call a surrey or a carriage, you know, two-seated outfit. And we just wouldn't go; he would just, he was glad to do it. Well, maybe some of the boys might go with him, you know.

H: Would they go on horseback?

B: No, no. They would go in the wagon.

H: In the wagon.

B: Yes. He would generally take some kind of grain in, only to bring flour and meal back. And he would go hitch the horses to the wagon and bring that food back. And then he would grocery shop for my mother. She'd write down everything she wanted and needed, and that wasn't too awful much, you know, because we raised most of it at home.

H: What kinds of things besides shoes _____ need at the store?

B: From the grocery store? We would have to buy sugar, and they'd buy coffee and spices of course, things of that sort. We'd have most of the vegetables, and maybe we would need rice or some kind of cereal, or rice--I remember they used a lot of rice and loved it, you know. They'd cook the rice and use that

separated cream, real thick cream over it and some sugar. Sometimes put a little cinnamon in it. And what else was there? We would buy fruit now and then, when they'd have bananas. They didn't always have bananas there, didn't always have a stalk of bananas in the store. But that was a treat for us, because we didn't get to have bananas just every time they went to town. Believe it or not, we couldn't afford them. We used fruit that we raised on the farm--peaches and apples, you know. And we picked blackberries, things of that sort. Had strawberries.

H: So basically most of the clothing and most of the food you made or grew yourself?

B: That's right.

H: You slaughtered your own hogs.

B: That's right.

H: What about your beef?

B: We did not raise beef. If we wanted beef, we bought it. We used pork mainly and chicken. We had chickens, you see. But if we took a notion we wanted a beef roast, why we bought that at the store, and that would be for the Sunday meal.

H: The Sunday meal was more special?

B: Yes. When my mother would...Now sometimes she would do most of it on Saturday, so she wouldn't have to hold over, have to work on Sunday.

H: Tell me about your Sunday meal. What was a typical Sunday meal?

B: Well, as a general rule, she would try to plan so she, she would always make pies on Saturday, and they would keep, you know, have good fruit pies. And she would always manage to get up early enough in the morning that she would get all this cooking done before we went to church. Then all we had to do when we came home would be to warm it and eat it, you know. Just a simple meal on Sunday especially. Maybe not...[telephone rings--tape off].

H: You were telling me what the simple Sunday meal was like, besides the pies, which were special.

B: It wasn't as elaborate. We didn't have as many, much of a

variety on Sunday because my mother did not like to cook too much on _____. There was a thought in their minds that, you know, we'd do just as well as we can on Sunday, because you are to rest on Sunday, according to the Bible. Work six days, rest the seventh. And they, they really went by that. But there are certain things that you have to do, you know. Like feeding the stock and things of that sort.

H: Was church in town for you?

B: No, it was in the country. The church was in the corner of my grandmother's farm. Where my grandmother lived when my father and mother married was down through the field on the county road. And when we came up from that house to the county road, she had donated certain acreage to the church way years ago, and the church, there's where we went to church, just at the end of our lane.

H: And what church was that?

B: Old Union. It's a United Methodist church now. Do you know where the Walker plant is, out north of town? Well...

H: Was it a Methodist church then?

B: No. It was a United Brethren. And then they joined, you know, Methodist. United Brethren. And it's United Methodist now.

H: Did you go to Sunday school?

B: Yes. We went to Sunday school and church. My mother and father would generally have the children ready, and we would go to Sunday school, and they would bring the smaller children they couldn't send with us, you know. And they would come to church. And we would all walk. It was, oh, it was about a half a mile from the house up to the church, and we would always walk.

H: What was the age difference between your oldest sister and the youngest brother?

B: Well, let's see, I'll have to figure that. Let's see, I'm 90. 93. 95. My oldest sister would be, if she were living, she'd be 95, and my youngest brother, I think we figured up the other day he'd be 76.

H: Almost a nineteen year difference. That's a big difference.

B: But there were nine of us.

H: Right. But that's a lot of...

B: What'd I say, 76? No, now wait a minute. I have that wrong. Dorothy is, little Matthew, he died when he was fourteen years old. If he would be, 84, 82, 80--he'd be 78. [deletion]

H: Yes.

B: [deletion]

H: Yes.

B: [deletion]

H: You said 76 before. That's still a lot. So, Saturday was the day of doing of a lot of chores, and a lot of cleaning and cooking for the next day. What would you be doing Saturday evening?

B: [My mother generally prepared extra food for Sunday late Saturday.] Well, my father played the violin. We called it a fiddle then. And we would all sing. I can remember he would play the fiddle [selections], like "Red River Valley," did you ever hear that?

H: Oh, yes.

B: "Tie Me to Your Apron String Again" [was another favorite]. And songs like that. And then some religious pieces. Like "When the Role Is Called Up Yonder." And ["Church in the Wildwood"]. [deletion] Sometimes he would just play the pieces and we would listen. [deletion] We would go out on the porch. No electricity, but we'd sit out there in the moonlight. And some of us just sat on the edge of the porch. Couldn't have that many chairs [deletion]. My mother and dad would sit on the porch [in chairs or in the porch swing].

H: Was your house big?

B: Big? Big? Did you say "Big"?

H: Big.

B: [deletion]

H: Well, wasn't that a very big houses for that many people?

B: [deletion]

H: So how did a child find privacy, or that wasn't very important then.

B: [deletion]

H: It's a different concept, then.

B: [deletion]

H: I understand. Did you have company over very often?

B: Oh, yes. I remember one time we had a revival service at the church, and how we managed, [I don't know]. This minister and his wife had two daughters. They came and stayed at our house overnight for two weeks.

H: Where?

B: That took two beds for them. We were [still] in the old house.

H: Where did they sleep?

B: Well, we gave them [two] each a bed. The two daughters had a bed, the minister and his wife had a bed. I imagine that we made pallets on the floor upstairs [for myself and the other children in our family]. That's too far back for me to remember. [deletion] They left their suitcases there at our house, and during the day, they would go to different places and visit and eat their lunch, and maybe eat supper, but they'd come back to our house and stay all night. [We enjoyed every minute of their stay. Of course they would have breakfast with us.]

H: Did you have other relatives in the area?

B: Yes. They were a couple of miles away. My father had a brother and wife who did not have children. They lived in Orleans; that was about 3 miles from where we lived. Most of my father's people had passed away. [deletion]

H: Where did your father's people come from?

B: North Carolina.

H: North Carolina.

B: [deletion]

H: Do you know when they came here?

B: They were Dutch-Irish. [deletion] [I think in the middle 1830s. They were here during the Civil War. My father was born in 1864 during the war.]

H: And your mother's people.

B: My mother's people, they came from Kentucky. Their name was Brock. I had some uncles on that side of the family that

lived in a few miles of us.

H: You don't know when they came here either?

B: No. No, I don't

H: You were talking about your mother's uncles, I'm sorry.

B: I am sorry that we didn't go deeper and find out more about [the families'] history. We didn't talk about where we came from to amount to anything at all. Or where they originated to begin with. I wish we knew more about that.
[deletion]

H: Well, genealogy started out much stronger recently.

B: Yes. Oh, yes. Just the other day, I got a card from somewhere in Missouri, on the Bosley family, that I married into. And they wanted to know if I didn't want to order a genealogy...they said they had chased us down to 2006 people all over the United States, Bosley name. They wanted to know if I would like to have that book. I didn't order it. I wouldn't know, only the ones here, and I know them well enough, you know.
[laughs] So, I didn't order it.

H: So, you have some relatives in town, but they were far--three miles away was far for a child--and you didn't see them that often?

B: No. My uncle and aunt that lived in Orleans didn't have a vehicle of any kind. On Sunday, he would walk out to our house, and spend the day with us.

H: Three miles?

B: Three miles, yes. And she very seldom came. We'd go in there to see her, but she never did walk out to our house.
[When she came, my father would go for the two on Sundays.]

H: How often did you get to see her?

B: Oh, once a week. Sometime during the week, we would be in there. We would walk! [deletion] If my mother needed something through the week, like spices, or some--vinegar--or if she ran out of sugar and was canning, we kids would take eggs, or we'd even take butter and exchange those products for what we needed [and pay the balance in cash].

H: You traded.

B: Yes, and generally, we'd go up to see our aunt, for a few minutes.

H: So, Sunday church was a pretty important...?

B: [That was the day we looked forward to--went very little other days.]

H: And then, after church, you had your dinner. And then, what would you do?

B: Lots of times there would be company come, or maybe we would walk over to a neighbor's house. We generally were with somebody sometime during the day. [deletion]

H: How far was your closest neighbor?

B: Less than half a mile. Just a short distance.

H: Not nowadays [laughs], but then it was a real short distance.

B: That's right. You see, we're just next to one another. But, oh, I'd say, less than half a mile. [None of us walk enough nowadays. We need to for good health.]

H: Was religion an important part of your growing up?

B: Oh, yes, it sure was. We had to walk the straight and narrow. We had supervision with that all the time. And, as I said a while ago, that was the main place that we went. We looked forward all week. Maybe we wouldn't off of that farm all week, but we'd look forward to Sunday morning services. [deletion] [My grandmother who lived with us would always go to Sunday school with my brothers and sisters and myself, and my father and mother would come later for church service.]

END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO

B: Yes. [We had the Lick Creek Extension Club for over 50 years. Most of the ladies in the neighborhood belonged.] We would plan [programs for] books that would last a full year. We would have a certain meeting to plan this book, [designating] the meeting place, who would have devotions, who would have the lesson, and the different sections of the work that we would do. We had a secretary and treasurer, and everything just worked like clockwork [and we all enjoyed every meeting. The time came when most all of the members were elderly, and we dropped the Extension].

H: And you, you, when your Lick Creek (?) Friendship Club decided to, you know, go out on their own, does that happen to other clubs as well? Do you know?

B: We understand...I don't know whether it's because we have done it or not, but I heard the other day that there are others thinking about the same thing. [So many are getting old and many younger women work and don't attend.]

H: So, you might be a pioneer around here, you're telling me.

B: [deletion]

H: Well, maybe I'll say your club has just changed its needs.

B: It may have.

H: And you know each other, you know, well enough that you have a different kind of need.

B: That may very well be.

H: But, so, you've heard that others have formed their own...

B: I don't know whether they have yet or not, but they're thinking about it.

H: But prior to this year, you were formally a part of an extension?

B: Yes. Yes.

H: And there was an office in town that...

B: [deletion]

H: Mrs. Bosley, can you just sum up for me, then, the influence

that homemakers had on your life and other people--other women's life--in this community?

B: Well, I would say that it has kept us going in a get together sense of fashion. If we didn't belong to that club, we wouldn't see each other for no telling how long, and we do so many things for the sick and people that are in need of different things, if somebody has a house burn, we have at times--we haven't for a while--but I know there for several years, we would make bed clothing, or we would have a time when we would bring things to the club and present them to these people that were in need of whatever we had that we could spare, in general, just do things for people [in need and visit the sick].

H: Well, it gave you an opportunity to channel and structure your energy...

B: ...yes...

H: ...together for good. And it also gave you a social outlet at the same time.

B: That's right.

H: Seventeen women in this living room, now that was pretty much of a...

B: Well, when they come here--I live in a mobile home, and my living room, I think, is 12 x 14--I always tell them that we have to believe in togetherness because we really are together when we are in my living room. This room was just lined with chairs around here the other afternoon.

H: I bet they had to bring some chairs in, didn't they?

B: No. My daughter-in-law brought her four folding chairs down. We used three of them. [I had the others.]

H: I bet you _____. OK. Let's get back to your quilting, now. You've shown me this beautiful quilt that you're planning on working on real soon. And that you've quilted an awful lot through the years. Tell me how you started quilting, and...?

B: Well, I think my love for quilting began when I was a little girl. My mother had a large family and she always had either a quilt or a comforter in her hands, because of the size of the family. She had to prepare to keep us warm. I am one of six girls in the family, but I am the only one that went the ways of

my mother as far as quilting is concerned. And it's just the love of my life now! That's about the only thing I'm fitted for now. This quilt that I have that you mentioned, I've been quilting for that for--well, I would say a month. I get up mornings, I'm not physically able to get around and do things. My daughter comes each Wednesday and cleans my house for me. Things of that sort I cannot do, I'm sorry to say. But I can sit there and quilt, thoroughly enjoy it, and then, in mornings when I get up, it's get breakfast over, and I have something to look forward to. [deletion] You have to have something to look forward to in the day, or you're sunk. Life is miserable. Even at this age.

H: Well, it gives you something to get up for.

B: Oh, yes. And I have quilted...I wouldn't even begin to try to say how many quilts I have quilted...a lady in Paoli appliques [Mrs. Opal Taylor]...we get the quilt kit, and she does the appliqueing on the quilt. I do the quilting for a doctor's wife in Madison, Indiana. I don't know how many quilts I have quilted for her. And pretty soon, she's going to have some more ready for me. Even at 90, I'm going to try to quilt some. Because it will be good for me to do that.

H: I don't know very much about quilting. Can we go over the steps a little bit? What does the appliqueing part?

B: Well, when we get a quilt kit, [deletion] the flowers that are to be [appliqued to a plain backing], they come printed on a solid piece of material. They have to be cut out, and I think she first bastes them on the designated spot on that plain backing. You might call it just a big [piece of material] like a bedsheet. [deletion] And she--I would call it--whips it down; they call it appliqueing, that's a little more sophisticated word for it.

H: Can you tell me how you spell 'appliqueing'?

B: A-P-P-L-I-Q-U-E.

H: That's what I thought.

B: When she gets the appliqueing done, [my work begins]. Now the quilting design is printed on the big background with little blue dots. And that's where I do my work. When we get a quilt, like I have here, we have the backing, or the lining, we would call it, and I generally plan to...I always have to go up to my son's, to their big living room...my floor isn't big enough. I

spread that lining out on the floor, and then place the padding. I always get Mountain Mist because that's my favorite of the paddings for the quilt.

H: That's what Mr. Roberts was telling me that he had stocked in his dime store, and how the women always asked for Mountain Mist.

B: Oh, Mountain Mist, it's the best!

H: And the cheaper dime stores tried to carry something differently, but the quilting women, they know their Mountain...

B: Mountain Mist is what I always use. Yes. And then you spread this Mountain Mist over the lining on the floor, smooth it out real smooth and then, the third layer is the top of the quilt, that has been appliqued or cross-stitched or pieced--by little pieces--spread that all over and pin it together ever so often across the quilt, then roll it, pin across the quilt again and roll it. Until you get all that roll pinned together. Instead of using the old-time quilting frames which sometimes would be seven feet long, that you would put the quilt in the frame and stretch it to quilt, I have had a hoop on a stand, and I like it very much. And it doesn't take so much room in my mobile home, I couldn't have this other old time quilting frame.

H: They have these big frames that you're talking about. It was like a big frame with the whole thing would stretch. OK.
[tape off] Not the whole thing?

B: Not the whole thing, no. Just about the width of the quilting frame, as I said, is about seven feet long, and it would be about 30 inches wide, the pieces that you would roll or attach to each edge of the quilt frame, and then, the part that you quilt would be about 30 inches wide at a time, you'd roll it again, in order to have more space to quilt.

H: And what about the hoop that you used, how big is that?

B: That hoop is about 27 inches the long way, and I would say 18 inches across. The working space...you couldn't reach any farther than that, anyway. And it's made so you can put it at an angle, or you can have it flat. I always have mine at an angle, so you can look down on your work.

H: So, it's kind of a portable thing?

B: Yes. And when you quilt, you start right in the center of the quilt.

H: With the hoop?

B: Yes. [deletion] When I put this quilt in now, in the next few days, I will put the very center of the quilt in the hoop. And make it so there's no wrinkles underneath or on top, and I'll quilt that section that's on the face of the hoop. I will take [the hoop apart] and [move the quilt] either to the left or to the right, so that I have another space to quilt. You quilt clear to the edge [deletion] and then you come back to the center and go to the edge on the other side. You're ready to roll the quilt, or put it farther into the hoop. It's simple, if I could just only make you see.

H: I got it. Now, on the old kind, you started at the edge though.

B: Yes.

H: Can you tell, the one that you're working on, is that applique or cross-stitch? _____ a few minutes ago.

B: This one is cross-stitch.

H: Which one is more popular?

B: Well, I believe the applique is.

H: The tradition kind.

B: Yes. But some people just love cross-stitching. It's a terribly slow process.

H: The cross-stitching?

B: Oh, yes! Now, this granddaughter of mine, this one belongs to her, and she has had that quilt--of course, she hasn't worked on it all the time, but at times when she could--but she got that when her little boy was two years old. He's 11 now! And she finally had to have her mother finish it up, because she's so busy, and I was pushing her to get it done so I could have something to do [deletion].

H: It sure is beautiful though; I really enjoyed it when you showed it to me.

B: It is a beautiful thing. She used heavy thread, three strands of embroidery thread, and that made her colors so much

more brilliant.

H: And plus, there's a lot of red in there, and I wanted the red. Well, how long--if you work at a quilt a couple hours a day--what's the average length it takes to do that?

B: I never work just a couple of hours a day. I start in soon after breakfast. I like to do it so well, it's hard for me to even realize lunchtime is here. And then, I will quilt until sundown. And I have been known, after supper, to [work way into the night]. I have a goose-neck lamp, if that's what you call it; it throws the light onto the quilt, and I have been known to quilt until midnight. [deletion] That's too long; I'll not do that anymore [deletion]. This quilt, I'm going to quilt daylight hours, and forget the evenings.

H: Well, if it takes a couple months to do a quilt....

B: I think, if I have good luck and can work at it most of the time, through the day, I can do a quilt in six weeks.

H: Using daylight hours only?

B: Yes.

H: That's pretty good. And when you used to do it, when you were younger, did you quilt more, like only in the evenings? You know, when you were working, or you were working hard on the farm?

B: Well, I didn't...really and truly, I didn't make so many quilts, I just made quilts for myself back then. Mostly, I made comforters, because they were warmer in the wintertime, when we needed the covers. I made a few quilts, but not nearly so many as I have in the last few years since I retired from teaching. Since '65 I've done my biggest job of quilting.

H: And just give me a ball-park estimate how many quilts you think you've made since 1965.

B: Oh, my! Somebody asked that to me the other day, and one of these days when I get time, I'm going to sit down and try [to count them]. I know I'll forget some of them, because two here or one there, you're apt to forget them. But just guessing at it, I imagine I've done better than a hundred. I wouldn't say how many.

H: That's a lot of quilts.

B: I have made [for all my relatives]; I have 12 grandchildren. Each one of them has a handmade quilt and I judge my children have eight or nine each. [deletion] I didn't mean to make a preference of anybody, but I did make quilts and give to my two brothers and my sister, who are living, and to four or five of the others that their parents are dead. And [I have made a large number for different people and sold to people who live in different states].

H: What, five of the children?

B: [deletion]

H: Your sister's daughter?

B: [deletion]

H: Did any of your sisters ever quilt at all?

B: No. I don't know why. They just didn't like to sew. They didn't make their clothing, and they didn't make anything. [They liked to crochet and knit.]

H: You learned that from your mother?

B: Yes.

H: Did you pass that down to your daughter?

B: My daughter has never made a quilt. And there was a little funny thing. I told them one time, something was said about these great-grandchildren, who would be the grandchildren of my children. So, I told my daughter and one of my daughters-in-law--we were all three together one day--and we were talking about this thing, me giving the grandchildren all the quilts, and "Now," I said, "Girls, I want to tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to pass on to you the [making of] quilts you need to make for your grandchildren, [deletion] because I couldn't start in to that. I would not last long enough to get them all made, and it wouldn't do for me to make a quilt for a few and [not be able to make for all]."

H: And how many great-grandchildren do you have?

B: Oh, my! The last count I had, I think there were 22.

H: Oh, wow! And growing?

B: Yes! And I don't know how many more there will be.

H: Did a lot of women do quilting when you were a young woman?

B: No, they didn't. It was a lost art then for years and years and just in the last few years--well, I would say--10 or 12 years, it's been picked up again. And [ladies are having classes to learn the art].

H: Is that right?

B: Oh, yes!

H: Do you think it's that the women retire and start getting into it more or...?

B: Well, I don't know why. I just don't know why. People just got interested in quilts all of a sudden. And I guess it's everywhere. [Young ladies as well as the retired. I am glad ladies are taking up what was a lost art.]

H: It sure is. Do you ever...is quilting something that you always do by yourself? Or do you sometimes do it with other people?

B: Oh, I wouldn't want somebody working on a quilt unless they had a quilt of their own, because no two quilters quilt alike. I know one time, my mother was a member of a ladies aid society at the church, and they were quilting. So, some of the ladies would get on one side of the quilt frame and some on the other. Maybe five ladies on a side. And you should have seen [the quilting]. Some of them took tiny stitches, others took great big stitches, and some of the work--they couldn't let it be known--they had to take it out [and do it again]. They were quilting for people, so they wanted it uniform. Now, I have read in my quilt books that it doesn't make any difference about the length of the stitch, just so they are equal [in length]. I was shown a quilt made by one of my neighbors, she had quilted this quilt in a color, in a light brown. She had those quilting stitches about an eighth of an inch long, just as even as could be, the same length all the way through, and that was a beautiful quilt. Some people think the smaller the stitch, is the better way of doing it, and that's the way they did it years and years ago. [deletion] You don't want a long stitch and then a small one.

H: Well, do you learn from other quilters? Do you talk to other women that have quilts, and look at each other and get ideas,

or...?

B: Well, I guess we do and really don't realize it. I think that I just took it up from my mother and just went on from there. You learn from experience.

H: I mean, do you know other women in town that quilt right now?

B: Oh, yes, there's two or three...the champion of the fair that we had here lives in Paoli right now. And she's a beautiful quilter. Clarice Cline is her name. There are others too, but she's the most outstanding because she has won so many blue ribbons at the fair. [But for all ladies when they do their best that is all that's expected of them. The quilt is a prized possession.]

H: Do you ever, like, show each other each other's quilts and kind of give each other ideas?

B: Yes, we do.

H: I got the idea that you might have done that.

B: In fact, in my home extension club, or Lick Creek Friendship Club, now, I don't think there's but one or two other people that do quilting. The others have other interests. And some of them just plain don't like to quilt [deletion]. But I think there are maybe three or four. [deletion]

H: So, quilting might be, actually, your first love.

B: Oh, yes! At ninety years old, of course. [H laughs]

H: You know, one thing I forgot to ask you about your homemakers, your friendship club, are most of the women in your friendship club have been there since the beginning, or off and on since the beginning?

B: Well, they have joined off and on, down through the years. The club has just [grown by new members joining. We organized the club in 1939 with twenty or more members.]

H: Is there something else that you want to tell me about quilting?

B: [deletion] There are just three of the charter members living. I'm the oldest of the three. And all the [deletion] other ladies have joined different years, came in as they saw

fit.

H: I realize that when you were on the farm, your life was very, very hectic, but let's just go back to world events a little bit more. We talked a little bit about World War I, a couple of tapes ago. Are there any other ones that stand out for you that we can talk about, that you can particularly remember?

B: Well, there was one thing. We were talking about...I gave you an account of my grandmother...having that experience with that large group of men? And I didn't give you all the details of that at that time. She was...this Morgan was with the Confederate Army, and he, with a large contingency of men--I think from the history findings--went against the wishes of his general, and crossed over into Indiana. They were raiding, they were destroying property, they were stealing horses, they were doing everything that they could to destroy. I don't know at what point of the Ohio River they crossed, but while they...after they got across, later on, there came a flood, and they couldn't get back across the river, so they went on to Ohio, cutting across the corner of Indiana. I think it was at that point that they evidently came through or near Paoli. That's when my grandmother--didn't know anything about Morgan's Raid, where they were--and she came upon this large number of men. And the rest of the story I told you the other day. [She was on horseback riding sidesaddle with a child in her arms and one behind the saddle. The horse became frightened, and one of the soldiers led the horse past the group. She had been visiting friends.]

H: And that was called Morgan's Raid.

B: Yes, that was Morgan's Raid.

H: We had talked about World War I a while back, and had I asked you about remembering women's rights? Women getting the vote?

B: [deletion]

H: A little bit. OK.

B: [deletion]

H: OK. Are there any other, like, strong events in the 20s and 30s that jump at you? You know, early in your married life, when you were on that farm?

B: Well, you know, it's so far back, it's many years ago.

Things leave you, you know, and I just can't put my finger on any one thing, because I was so busy with farm work.

H: And so, your daily life was so busy that what was happening elsewhere was not...

B: That's right. Rearing the family and doing the farm work that needed to be done. And I didn't...I didn't enter into things outside the home to any extent.

H: Do you remember prohibition at all?

B: Well, I remember a little bit about it. Of course, again, we weren't connected...[phone rings; tape off]

H: ...you weren't connected to...?

B: Well, to...well, let's say, the outside world. Outside of our farm work, we were so tied up in it, that very little went on that we knew about.

H: What about the Depression? Did that affect you at all? Did you have to _____ anything?

B: Oh, yes. We had to change our method of living. Eats on the table, a lot of things were hard to get. Of course, as I said before, we raised a lot of our food, but the staples that we needed [were rationed and hard to come by].

END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE ONE

B: ...during the Depression, we just had to go back to more simplified living, simpler foods, things that we could raise on the farm, and all things[--clothing and farm machinery--were scarce].

H: So, nothing extra.

B: That's right. And no more expense than you could possibly get by with. We had to, because money was short.

H: Were you better off than the people in town, because you could grow your own food?

B: Well, I would think so, because everything came high when you had to buy it. [deletion]

H: Was one thing particularly scarce in the Depression for you?

B: Well to lay my finger on it, it's been so many years ago. I just can't rememberhings. And in World War II, we...there was a shortage of blankets and things of that nature, that were hard to come by. Food was short. Most anything that you would go to the store: sugar and coffee and all kinds of staples...there was a shortage of that, because they sent to the armed forces. And...but I remember more about World War I than I do World War II, because I guess I was younger and it stuck closer to me, in my thinking. [The day] World War I was over I was teaching in DuBois county, in a country school, and the word came from town--there was no telephone connection to the school, but the superintendent of schools went to all the country schools, said, "Dismiss school immediately, the war is over!" And I know we all came into the town of Jasper, and it was just a jubilee. Everybody was out waving their flags; horns were blowing on cars, and people were...oh, they were just jubilant.

H: That's what _____ in your mind, more than World War II.

B: Yes, it certainly does.

H: Mrs. Bosley, in my historical sheet here, I have that women started the branch of the homemakers in 1949, and I'd just like to firm that up again. Your particular branch started in what year?

B: My _____ club--extention club--started in 1939, October of 1939, and there were already several, several clubs already organized. We weren't the first one organized by any means. There was a lady by the name of Sybil Springer, out north of

town--bless her heart, she's already gone--but she, through Purdue, organized the first club in the county, and then the others organized later on.

H: And she organized it a couple years before 1939?

B: Oh, I have no idea how many. It could have been eight, ten years...I just wouldn't know. I think I have that here someplace, but I can't lay my hands on it right this minute.

H: That's fine. But Lick Creek celebrated its fifty years this year.

B: This year! In fact, it'll be in October, but we already have celebrated in July here at my home.

H: You can do it early. It's a little bit nicer weather in July, isn't it.

B: Yes, yes. And that's the end of the fiscal year, you might say.

H: Sure. Mrs. Bosley, how is the town square, or the town in general changed in the years that you've lived here?

B: When I first came to this neighborhood, Paoli was a booming town around the square, but of course, in later years, they began to have these malls out at the edge of town, and for a short time, a few years, the square began to look a little bit empty, but thank goodness, right now it's coming back. It went to the malls for a while. Not the same businesses are coming back to the square, but other new businesses. So, I think that the square will be filled up again. Way back, several years ago, when we didn't have these outside malls to go to, shopping centers, so to speak, everything was done on the public square.

H: Are new businesses opening up on the square now?

B: Well, I think so, [deletion] and businesses coming in from away, businesses like down West Main, there was a little children's apparel shop, had been down there for several years, close to the Ritz, and they have just recently moved on the square.

H: _____?

B: [deletion]

H: Well, in your children's day, do they go to the square a lot?

B: Yes. Yes. Yes, when they were old enough to branch out by their own selves and go, that was a kind of a meeting place for the young people. [I think Andy's restaurant was the favorite meeting place. He served ice cream and most anything you wanted.]

H: But in your grandchildren's day, is it starting to die out?

B: Well, yes, I would think. They did...their interests went other ways...they would go to the town of Paoli, but it would be at a restaurant or someplace for a musical program or something of that sort. [Also] ballgames.

H: So, they didn't go congregate as much on the square, they went for specific....

B: That's right.

H: There are a couple of things that we had chatted about and I wanted to get back to them. One of them was, you had mentioned to me several times the monied people in Orleans when you were growing up. Who were the monied people?

B: Well, it would be the lawyers and the ones that had factories.

H: The lawyers and the factories owners and...?

B: Yes. And people that had businesses of their own, like mercantile businesses. Or some grocerymen, they did well too.

H: Farmers just generally were not considered to be monied at that time?

B: No, they had money, but it was invested at home, on the farm [instead of in banks or elsewhere].

H: Has farming become much more profitable in your children's day, then?

B: Oh, yes, yes. Because they did it on a larger scale.

H: The other day I wanted you to tell me about, you had mentioned to me that when you were born, how birth certificates were different. Can you tell me about that now?

B: When I was born, there came a time, I can't recall why it was I needed a birth certificate...why, social security! When I applied for social security, they wanted my birth certificate. I went to the lady that has the records down here, and what she found was, whenever a child was born 90 years ago, you did not have to turn a name in for that baby for two weeks. But the doctor recorded it with the county at the time of birth. So, I gave her my date of birth--May 11, 1899--and from that, she found my father's and mother's name on the records and it just says "Girl", born on that date, to my parents.

H: Well, you had to record it within two weeks, is that what you said?

B: The parents had to, I think, turn the name in within [that time]; they were given two weeks. I don't know whether they always did it or not, but they always recorded it as a girl or a boy, and you could verify it by the date they were born.

H: Well, I'll be.

B: And that's the way they verified mine. May 11th, 1899.

H: So, your birth certificate says your date and girl.

B: Yes. Yes. [laughs]

H: Well, how interesting. One of the things I'd like to ask you is, what were your goals for yourself when you were growing up?

B: Well, of course, I wanted to do as well as I could. I had to do it, to a certain extent, on my own, because of the large family, but I don't know whether I ever did make a fulfillment of what I would have liked to have been. I strived, but then it was hard going, you know, with the things that we had to deal with.

H: What would you have liked to have been?

B: Well, I always had a liking for nursing...for the nursing profession. I thought it would be nice to take care of people. But, bless his heart, my father talked against it, because at that time, nurses weren't supposed to live as long, on an average life span, as other people in other occupations, or other professions. [deletion] And I, of course, respected his wishes. And I went into teaching, which I enjoyed; in later years more than I did at the first. But if I had had my wishes at the time that I graduated from high school, I would have taken nurses training.

H: What were your parents' aspirations for you?

B: Well, they wanted us to do what we wanted to do, to a certain extent, but they would guide us, too, just like my father did, in that he had a horror of early death. He didn't want me to die earlier than I would if I'd go into something else.

H: Well, that's a big difference. Both your parents at sixty....

B: [deletion]

H: Well, you showed both of them up, didn't you?

B: [deletion]

H: What were your goals for your children? How were they different than your parents goals for you?

B: Well, by the time I had my children, everything was advanced. There were more opportunities, more conveniences, more of everything to do with, more things to do, more things to choose from. But neither boy went through college. They chose farming, with their father. And my daughter, she chose going to this beautician school that I told you about. And it was just another generation that had advanced into something a little bit different than what we'd had in my generation.

H: Before we close, can you tell me your best memory of your life?

B: Well, I think my very best memory and my very first memory would be when I...in my childhood days, at home with all my brothers and sisters. There were nine of us, six girls and three boys, and my father and mother. When we were all there together, we were a happy family. There was a lot of love shown. And everything went along smoothly. I suppose the next phase of my life would be when I was rearing my own children.

H: So, it's being a child, though, _____ that was the most pleasure in terms of memory.

B: That's right.

H: And a while ago, I was admiring these three purple and white flowers and you wanted to tell me about your 70th high school reunion for Orleans High School.

B: That's right. In 1918, we graduated 26 of us from the Orleans High School, and you mentioned these flowers; when we came down to the 70th year out, at that time, we thought there were just three of us living, because we could not contact this one girl. She's living in New York State, but we didn't know that she was living. The other two, besides myself, were two gentlemen, one in New York State with Alzheimer's--real bad with that--and the other one was an Orleans gentleman, and at that time, May of last year, 1988, he was in Bedford Medical Center in Intensive Care, and died two weeks after the Alumni Banquet over there. I was the only one that was physically fit to go. I don't know whether I was or not, but I went. And represented the class. And it was an evening of happiness, in a sense, to me, because I was able to go, but so sad to think that all the other members of my class either were gone or were ready to go.

H: And so, you got these three flowers as a symbol?

B: The table already had flowers on it. They sent me with the _____ of the alumni association. But I felt like that I wanted to represent the three members of our class. Our colors were purple and white. I wore purple and white then. The same formal that I had worn ten years before.

H: We won't tell.

B: [deletion] I was the first one to be on the program that night. And not having made a speech in front of that four or five hundred people, of course, I didn't have to look at them because they weren't down on the gym floor level; they were up around the rim of the gym. Four or five hundred people. And just the current class was out in front of me when I had to get up and make that first speech, first one on the program. I have it recorded. But I was so nervous; I was happy and sad at the same time. I had no idea that that would ever happen to me, that I would be representing my class all alone. It's a sad feeling when you do that.

H: I guess I'm really happy that you could make a 70th reunion.

B: I'll just have to tell you about this little thing; I had received an invitation to my sister's grandson's graduation that same year that I was to be at the 70th. And there was a little motto attached to that invitation that I used in that speech that I made that night. And it's well worth remembering: "Special times and special places, special friends together, the moments pass so fast, but memories go on forever."

H: That's really nice.

B: And then, I closed my speech by telling that life is worth the living [and deserves our very best].

H: That's very nice. I bet you got a strong applause.

B: Oh, I did. You should hear it; I've got it on tape. I let the applause go for a little...half a second and then, I shut it off. [both laugh]

H: Are annual banquets, they celebrate the ten year reunion of...?

B: Yes, this year they had the people in the nines, you see. Mine was ending in eight. [deletion]

H: And that's a regional thing? I never heard of these before. That's...Paoli does that and Orleans does that?

B: Yes.

H: Maybe it's a small town thing.

B: Yes. I don't to what extent it is; I don't know how far spread it is, but at Orleans every ten years, you are honored.

H: Well, let's try to record your speech, and see if it turns out.

B: OK, well, now it'll pop and crack just a little bit before it starts.

[MRS. BOSLEY'S SPEECH TO THE 70TH CLASS REUNION OF THE CLASS OF 1981; DUBBED FROM HER OWN COPY]

B: Hello, everyone. I hope you remember the old adage, "Beauty before age" and that is so appropriate here this evening. Nineteen and eighteen class extends congratulations and best wishes to the class of 1988 with also the other six honored classes that are being honored here tonight. In 1911, the year the schools were consolidated, we entered this building as sixth graders. When we entered the freshman class, there were 38 enrolled, but for one reason or another, twelve dropped out. Some went to the army, some to the navy, some to other schools, and so forth. Twenty-six graduated, and of that 26, three remain. Floyd Elford, one of your townspeople, who is at this

time in Bedford Medical Center, and Harvey Shirley, another Orleans man, in New York State, with Alzheimer's, and myself. I never dreamed that this would happen to me tonight. I never had any thoughts that I would be standing here representing my class. The whole group of us always depended on Lowell Troth, another one of your townspeople. He was here ten years ago. And I do hope that when the year 2058 rolls around, you people at the table will have a better representation than we had tonight, because the classes are larger, and I feel that maybe that will happen; you will have more to be represented. I still cherish the memories of OHS. I honor my colors--the purple and white, which I am wearing tonight. Each class, as you know, has a select motto of their choice. In Winchester, Indiana, my sister has a grandson that graduates this year, and I received an announcement of his graduation. His motto was so fitting for tonight, that I want to read it to you: "Special times and special places, special friends together, the moments pass so fast, but memories go on forever." And then, I want to leave you with this thought: life is worth and deserves our very best. Let me repeat that: life is worth and deserves our very best.

[END OF SPEECH; APPLAUSE]

H: Thank you for sharing that with me. And that was at your...the annual banquet...?

B: My 70th year out of high school. It was held early May last year, 1988.

H: In Orleans?

B: In Orleans.

H: And it's called the Annual Banquet?

B: The Annual Alumni Banquet.

H: OK. Thank you. That sure was a proud moment, and I appreciate your showing me your dress and the flowers and telling me all about that. Well, I'd like to thank you very much for letting me come visit you in your home. And although I can't show this on tape, we have a date, Bosley Farm, where you had spent a lot of your life, and I'm sure that I'll really enjoy seeing the fields, and taking you there. But mostly I just...I've really enjoyed getting to know you and being in your home, and being able to see the country and your life through your eyes. So, I wanted to thank you very much for the opportunity.

B: Well, the pleasure's been mine, too, Chrystyna. It's a pleasure to have met you. I never dreamed that I would meet a young lady such as you from Cleveland, Ohio. And I have appreciated so much you spending the hours that you have with me, and I've enjoyed this immensely. I hope I haven't let you down in any of the interview.

H: Oh, let me down! No way!

B: I have been a little bit nervous, I will have to admit that. But I think that's understandable.

H: Oh, no. I've, I've learned an awful lot and it's been a pleasure.

B: OK, well thank you a lot for hunting me up and spending these hours with me.

H: OK. Thanks.

B: Chrystyna, I must add this. We have talked about the corn fields, and things of that sort on the farm here. And you have suggested you would like to see some of these fields. And it is such a wonderful day, such a beautiful, sun-shiny day, let's go now and do that, before....

H: I think that would be a perfect end. It is a really gorgeous day today, and I think...but I'm fortunate that we had such nice weather.

B: That's what we will do.

H: OK. Let's go out and look at it right now.

B: OK. Thank you.

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