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ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

LUCILLE DILLARD

Interviewed by Catherine Jones  
11 August 1988  
OHRC accession #88-67-4,5

## INTRODUCTION

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DEED OF GIFT AGREEMENT

I, Lucille Dillard, hereby give  
Interviewee (please PRINT)  
my oral history interview with Cathy Jones,  
Interviewer (please PRINT)  
which was conducted on August 11, 1988, to Indiana University.  
Date

It is hereby agreed between myself and the Indiana University Oral History Research Center that all rights, title, and interest in the transcript (verbatim and edited) and/or tape recording belong to Indiana University.

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You may have a problem with this! Many of the stories I have told here were used in my autobiography, REACHED FOR A STAR. The book was written before the tapes were made, and I was never told there were restrictions. Also, I hope one day soon to do a sequel to REACH FOR A STAR, and some of the same stories could show up there, for I have no idea of all the topics we discussed.

If this does not bother you, then use it wherever you  
can. MLD

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

Myrna Lucille Dillard Oct 8 1990  
Donor Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donor Date

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ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

INTERVIEWEE: Lucille Dillard  
INTERVIEWER: Catherine A. Jones  
SUBJECT: History of Paoli, Indiana  
DATE: August 11, 1988  
TRANSCRIBER: Norma Olmer

[Second interview; first interview, January 12, 1988]

Jones: ...I'm with Lucille Dillard, at her home in Paoli. Today is August 10th, and I'm Cathy Jones. And we're continuing on with our talk about Paoli and growing up and all that. OK?  
So, one of the things I wanted to ask you about was your mom. You know, how she was such a great traditionalist. Can you tell me more about that?

Dillard: Well, did I tell you about New Years?

J: How she would always....

D: Wake us up and dress us.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: Well, and I'd think, "Oh, on holidays, we always do exactly the same thing every year."

J: That... you'd get new dresses.

D: Yes, new dresses and we had our 15-cents to spend. And that came to \_\_\_\_\_; you got a candy bar for a nickle and you got a Coke for a nickle and...

J: Yes.

D: ...crackerjacks, we always had our box of crackerjacks. I suppose that was on account of we \_\_\_\_\_ holiday; but.... And Christmas, of course, was always celebrated exactly the same way every year.

J: The same way as the other holidays, with the....

D: I don't think I talked about Christmas, did I?

J: Go ahead.

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\*D: About Santie Claus coming to see us?

J: Tell me.

D: Well, we...when Christmas Eve was...as soon as we got supper dishes done, then Mom and Dad would tell us that it was time for us to go to the basement because Santie Claus ought to be there pretty soon. And we'd get on the outside of the basement there; we could hear somebody knock on the door, and they'd go let Santie Claus in. And we could hear them. But Mother had a lot of...oh, an awful lot of real old dishes--very old ones...

J: Yes.

D: ...and when we'd come back into the room, after we heard Santie Claus leave then, why they'd come and tell us...that way we could come back in. And there the table would be literally stacked, and sometimes there would even be some out on the sewing machine too. And there would be apples, and oranges, and bananas, and tangerines, and nuts--every kind you could think of. And every kind of candy; I mean, she didn't make the candy, but she bought it. I think she had probably two big grocery bags full of candy, and \_\_\_\_\_. You know, after our eyes fell on all that, then over on one side would be all of the toys.

J: Oh!

D: And we had a great time on Christmas.

J: I remember saying your brother would \_\_\_\_\_

D: My brother what?

J: Your brother would get what kind of stuff now?

D: Oh, he would get things like mechanical toys, and maybe basketball...baseball bats or something. \_\_\_\_\_. I know he had a BB gun; he had an air rifle and all that stuff that kids don't get nowadays. Dangerous. They shouldn't get.

J: Yes. Right.

D: But, see, my mother was raised on a farm where little boys had to learn to shoot because by the time they were teen-agers, they went out and got rabbits, and squirrels, and possums and things, and that's where meals were out of until it got cold enough they could butcher.

J: Yes.

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D: You couldn't butcher then until winter because everything had to freeze. Now...we didn't have freezers; now you go ahead and put it in the freezer any time of the year, but then, why, you had to wait until it was cold enough so that meat would freeze.

J: So people wouldn't butcher anything?

D: Not until oh, like, December; whenever time it got cold enough to do that.

J: I thought that during...I mean, what would they do for meat, then, during the...

D: I said, well, they canned. They canned things like spare ribs, and sometimes pork chops...you know, you cut meat in a different way to get spare ribs or pork chops. And they would can meat. And tenderloins and...oh, stuff like the sausage; they would always can all the sausage.

J: I never knew that.

D: And you could eat that after the other. We would say it wasn't safe now; canned, you know, without.... But they did it then.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: They probably died and didn't know why, too.

J: (laughs)

D: And then I \_\_\_\_\_, there was no season there on the farm. They went and hunted rabbits, and squirrels, and things like that. Of course there was always chickens that they could kill, but it had to be something they had to eat up. Remember, at the end of this meal we had no ice to keep the food. Either it was eaten at the end of this meal or you could put it in the cellar and probably keep it until the next meal, but...

J: Yes. Yes.

D: Well, we had this...the cellar that they had was a big dug-out place like a cave with a door to it. And there's where all the canned fruits stayed and the big jars of sauerkraut, apples and things like that that they would keep. And whatever milk and fruit they had.

J: Yes.



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D: Now, a lot of places had a spring house, but they didn't have.

J: What was a spring house?

D: Well, it was built over a spring out in the woods or wherever you had a spring on your farm, see. And this little spring house built over...and they kept it real cold from the...that moving water helped cool the place.

J: Right. Right.

D: And, of course, there were places--I read about but I never heard about it until I was grown-- where they would go out and saw these blocks of ice up off the ponds in the winter. And they had this ice house that were real thick walls that were insulated, see, where they could keep the ice until...but I never heard of anybody that had that. I don't think it was...away from here.

J: Right. Right.

D: They didn't know about southern Indiana then. (laughs)

J: Well, you know...you mentioned that your mom was a real...a great traditionalist, and that she...was there something very uniquely your mom's or...

D: Very. I mean, I knew a lot of people that were like that, you know. I don't.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: I have the...I really appreciate my mother today because she made a lot of things seem important to us. You know, down in the country...why, they didn't have that kind of thing. And she has often reminded us: "Well, we never got oranges, but once a year when she was little, and that was at Christmas." What she didn't realize is, is that other people didn't get oranges up here either because we didn't get that kind of stuff till we had refrigerated trucks. I mean, where we could have them all the time. I can remember when you first found tomatoes or something in winter...shelves in the winter in the stores. And that's a big \_\_\_\_\_ with me because I can't live without them.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: I was going to tell you about the one time that Santa Claus came and instead of going away, why, they knocked at the door and opened the basement door and said, "There's somebody here that

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wants to see you." And there stood Santie Claus \_\_\_\_\_ really. Really and truly, and I \_\_\_\_\_ but he was really there. And he talked to us. I remember one thing we got that Christmas was little printing sets, all of us. We always got a doll, every Christmas. And there was another tradition. Mary always got pink and I always got blue.

J: That \_\_\_\_\_. And you said, that by this time, that you each hate those colors.

D: I hate blue today. No, I'm finally getting some place...I think once I start talking about it that I'm finally getting some place that maybe blue is not so bad. I would always wear blue dresses. But a blue room. I used to be so miserable in a blue room; I was very miserable. And I told my sister about it and she said, "Oh it didn't bother me." And the next time I saw her she said, "You know, I've been thinking about what you said." And she said, "I don't like pink as well as I do blue." (laughs)  
And so you see, it did make...I mean, absolutely everything; if we got dishes, if we got doll dresses, everything was blue--and hers was pink.

J: You mentioned that your brother would get, you know, the guns and the mechanical toys and stuff like that. What kind of stuff did you and your sister Mary \_\_\_\_\_ have.

D: Well, every Christmas we got this doll, and it was always a beautiful doll, too. Because, you see, mother got for us what she really wanted. Now, she hadn't had much \_\_\_\_\_

J: Right.

D: I told you, she never had but the one doll.

J: OK.

D: And then...did I tell you the story of how her doll got broken?

J: Oh...go ahead and tell it.

D: Well, shall we finish the Christmas about Bertha's doll \_\_\_\_\_ first.

J: Sure.

D: And...oh, let's see. One year, I remember, she \_\_\_\_\_ and made little table cloths and napkins for our toy table, and embroidered them in pink and blue. We got dishes; we got little toy kettles and things like that. We got roller skates all three

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of us one Christmas. And we got the writing sets. One Christmas she got all three of us cameras. And one year at Christmas...

J: Gee.

D: ...we all three got \_\_\_\_\_. I mean, at Christmas we were spoiled. We had a lot more than our neighbors' kids did. You know, maybe ten or twelve things like that on Christmas. But many of them get toys; we didn't get toys between times.

J: But ten or twelve...

D: Yes.

J: ...each?

D: Easily. Easily.

J Geez!

D: I mean, mother went all out for Christmas because, I think, she had had so little of that kind of stuff. You know, in a family of nine kids you're not going to buy all the stuff you can for three. And I said that she and dad had enough income that we didn't know... but we did have more than our neighbors had.

J: Yes. Right.

D: And they really went all out. But then we didn't get toys. Nobody ever dared take their doll like they have, or go out, anything like that between times.

J: Right. Yes.

D: The one exception would be on birthdays. And each of us kids spent 10-cents apiece on the other one on their birthday, beside what mother and daddy got.

J: Well, did your mom...did she grow up real poor? or did she just grow up in the country at a time when...

D: Yes, she wasn't really poor. I told you that when she was born, there was six of them in the house before...she made the seventh --besides her mother and daddy-- in a two-room house. When she was two-years old, they built the bigger house which was still not big by today's standards. But there was probably...I mean, altogether they had beds in about four rooms by then.

J: Yes. Yes.

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D: But, you know, on the farm they made their clothing, they...all the food they had was raised. Oh, with the exception, like, of sugar-- and very little sugar did they buy. What they bought was brown sugar. But they raised sugar cane and they had sorghum, and they had maple syrup and stuff like that. And they, you know, it was stuff that they...

J: And her parents were farmers? or...?

D: Farmers. Well, her daddy was, what they called...he always farmed. But up until, I guess, they got enough money saved to build this house, the Smith house, they had...he was a country peddler too. I still've got a little piece of lace that he carried on his wagon when he went around the country. And in the winter, he had to take the sleigh instead of the wagon.

J: I'll be darned. Would he go away for a couple of nights or would he just...?

D: No, I think he came back each night. But, now, I may be wrong. We're talking about something that happened before 1900.

J: Right. Right. Just \_\_\_\_\_

D: A wee bit further than I expect, but I have the impression he came back at night and then went out the next day. And you know, the wives did have to have sugar, and cloth, and things...calico and things like that. And he would buy their eggs and give them stuff like that.

J: I remember you mentioning, you know...your mom used to sew shirts during the...

D: During the war.

J: ...during the war.

D: They were in bundles of eight.

J: How did she get that job, you know...?

D: Oh, they called it "deepot." I think the correct thing for a place like that is "depot," and I think it still exists--a great, big, old building at Jeffersonville. And they would have to take the horse and wagon, and go in there and take the shirts that were finished, and get...they'd get two bundles apiece, each one of them, and brought them back and finished them the next week. And took them back; one day a week they took them in there. You know, that was sixteen, each one of them, and there were four of

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them that did...there were sixty-four shirts made a week in that one little patch.

J: Wow.

D: So there'd be hundreds. Of course, they had all their clothing...I suppose, their underclothes were made that way. And their pants and everything. But all of mother's family made shirts.

J: Well, this was something that was done just during the wartime?

D: Yes.

J Were they trying to make some extra money because...?

D: They made their money...they bought their sewing machines. Grandma had a sewing machine; she had a sewing machine when mother was little. She had one of the first \_\_\_\_\_ in that part of the country. But all three girls bought their sewing machines during the World War; paid for it out of money that they made sewing.

J: Wow. I guess what I'm wondering...is this something that they were doing just at that time--to make money--or did they always sew and make money from that?

D: No, they did not. No, in later years than that, my grandmother and mother's older sister...have you seen these big blazing-stars or lone-star quilts that are made up of little teeny diamonds all over?

J: I can't remember it.

D: I think what she pieced was blazing stars; it was one huge star made up of little tiny stars and diamonds.

J: Oh, yes.

D: And in a big blaze clear around it. And Aunt Letia pieced those, and shipped them all over the United States; quilted \_\_\_\_\_ stuff.

J: Wow.

D: And after we came up here, mother used to quilt for people, but...

J: So I guess, I mean I'm wondering, like I said, it wasn't

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J: Or at least, part of the....

D: But more than that, with me it was a financial question whether I would be able to manage alone.

J: Did it take...how long did it take before you...?

D: About five years. I told the doctor once, that after five years I realized for the first time in my life I was my own boss.

J: Yes.

D: If you didn't get married till you were 50, as long as you were...you didn't leave home, you stayed at home and you were under your daddy's roof, he told you what to do.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: And then when I married, then he told me what to do. The first decision I ever made--and I'm not kidding you--the first decision big enough even to decide for myself, was the night he died. And they asked me at the hospital what undertaker should they call. And I had to decide; there was nobody there to help me.

J: Was it hard to decide or...?

D: Yes. Because....

J: Could you call someone else and ask for their advice?

D: No. At 11:30 at night you don't call somebody else. My daughter was on the way from Indianapolis, but I had to call somebody before she got here. Actually, Hunters' at Hardinsburg had buried his father and mother and both sisters...

J: Yes.

D: ...and Ed Ellis, the old Ed Ellis, had died and we had young Edgar Ellis here. And not too long before that, he had told me that he liked young Edgar. Well, just about a week before he died, the \_\_\_\_\_ gentleman who is here now had been here just a few months maybe.

J: Yes.

D: And I had read something about him, and I think I was fishing but I didn't get any answers. I said to him, "If I were to die, I'd just as soon you called this new undertaker. I mean,

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ever dare cross a man; the man was absolute authority. And another thing, if a woman, you know...you just took anything and, like, it was his power to do that. Well, I know some people like that today. In fact, I can't say that my marriage was much different.

J: Yes.

D: I did whatever he said. And I said I would not do it now, I think, since I've had a taste of being my own boss...but I don't know if I would. Of course, I'll never find out.

J: But, if you were to marry now? Because your \_\_\_\_\_

D: I don't know. I don't know; that's funny.

J: If you were, though, you would marry someone \_\_\_\_\_

D: I talked to somebody not so long ago, that when my husband was alive... I had money in my purse that I had earned myself, and yet I would ask him was it alright to go buy a dress before I bought it.

J: Yes.

D: And thats...he's only been dead less than twenty years.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: I think I was a little bit exceptional along that line... but it was the only kind of life I knew about.

J: Yes.

D: But my idea of once I was married was: I didn't know if I was capable of living alone. I was so devastated when he died, I didn't know if I would be able to exist alone. Would I be able to...and especially as long as you had kids at home, why you just didn't know how you would make a living for those kids. There wasn't any such thing as welfare to help you with those kids. You made it or else; or if you didn't...the only other thing that you could do was to give the kids up to the orphan's home.

J: Yes. Or a relative or something. Oh, that must have been very scary then, when your husband died. And to have....

D: It was to me. I was terrified. You're always terrified because you're living...you're going to live the rest of your life alone--or at least, most of us do.

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D: ...and that's just south of Louisville. And then, coming back they missed the train and (laughs) she tells about running a half block and how they were trying.... And they told them that if they got to this other place they could catch it. They finally got their train home, but they had a horrible time getting home from down there. Can't you see these people...young people that had never been out in the world, making a trip like that, anyhow. You see, her brother was so important that they would have done it.

J: Yes. Yes. Gosh, that was an awfully short courtship, it sounds like.

D: Well, they were married nearly 50 years. He died in '65 and they were married...no I guess they weren't married that many years. They were married in 19...in January of 1918, and they were...let's see, 20 to 65, it'll be 45, they were married 47 years--a little over that.

J: Wow.

D: So it went pretty well. (laughs)

J: I guess they got \_\_\_\_\_.

D: Yes, but the thing was that, in those days, you took a lot of things that you wouldn't take now, too.

J: Like..?

D: Girls know that they don't have...you know, when anything goes wrong, why they get a divorce now. Where...I can remember when I was young, we had somebody move onto our street; a woman once who was divorced. They wouldn't even say the word before us kids; there was this...

J: Really?

D: The women would whisper behind their hands to their neighbors, "She's divorced, you know."

J: Really?

D: Divorce was really a scandalous thing when I was a little girl.

J: I wonder why it was so scandalous. I mean, because it meant that the fam...?

D: I don't know, you.... Well, for one thing, no one would



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J: Yes.

D: ...like she used to wear. And that was another thing; my mother always made a country bonnet like that for every kid she ever knew.

J: Oh really?

D: Because, to her, that's what kids wore.

J: Well, did the doll mean so much, I mean..? She married your father and moved to Paoli, and that must have been...? What did you say, 46 miles or 40 miles away.

D: 46. Well, that was a long way in that day. Understand, she had never seen Paoli but once in her life.

J: Yes.

D: And, to my knowledge...yes, she had been to Louisville a few times. But to my knowledge, the only other place that she had ever been, except this. When she was a late teen-ager, shortly before she was married, shortly before World War I, her brother and his girlfriend and mother and her boyfriend took the horse and buggy and came to French Lick from down there. And I think they stayed overnight, one night, and went back. That was the only time she was ever through Paoli until dad was back from the army.

J: I think you remember...I think I remember...well, I mean, if \_\_\_\_\_ was the big city, and it was very different...it had different ways...?

D: Did I tell you about the time they went to...now, this wasn't Paoli, of course, this was Borden. But my dad...when the war started, my dad was drafted from Orange County and sent to Camp Taylor in Kentucky.

J: Yes.

D: My mother's brother was drafted and was sent to Camp Taylor from Borden...from Washington County. And she goes down to see her brother and she meets dad, and marries him before he's sent overseas. But one time--I can see this happening--they took the horse and buggy as far as New Albany, and there they boarded a train for Camp Taylor...

J: Yes.

a little \_\_\_\_\_ for about four of us.

J: Yes. Enterprising.

D: Yes. And I was going to tell you about mother's doll. You see that one up there, the china head doll.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: When she was a girl, she got one doll like that--and she got broken. And the next Christmas, they used the same body and bought a new head for it. And that was the only doll she ever had--till she was grown. That was the only doll she ever had \_\_\_\_\_. And when she was married, she brought that doll to Paoli with her. She always kept it in...I can remember when this happened. I was about 4-years old, because we lived in the old house. My little sister took a hammer to the doll head...

J: Oh no!

D: ...and mother...it really did. We couldn't mend it. It would break your heart.

J: Oh dear.

D: And all of her life, my mother talked about the hammer... the doll head gets broken, the only one she ever had. So, it was about 1970--and it could have been '69--I ordered the doll head and arms and things, and I was going to make her this doll for Christmas. And Christmas Eve, it had not come yet so I go out and buy her another present. And Christmas Eve, in the afternoon, the mailman brings this doll; and when I open it, it's broken. I sat and glued it together that night, and made the body, and dressed that doll for her. And I think it was probably...not exactly never out \_\_\_\_\_, because she still walked to town a few years after that. But it was always in her living room. And when she got sick, it went with her to the nursing home and stayed with her. This is the doll I made for her.

J: Wow.

D: And now, after she died I took that doll and threw away the old clothes and made it some fancy silk ones, you know, like southern styles and everything. And I...at the time, I can imagine my mother saying to me: "You never did this when I was alive." And then as time went on, it started palling me. I thought: My mother wouldn't even like that fancy outfit because she never saw an outfit like that when she was growing up." So I got some more calico and made her a calico bonnet and dress...

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handle over it, and you carried this over your arm, and you picked. And you got down on your hands and knees, and you got sunburned, and you got your backache. And, I know, because when we were kids, we would go to grandma's and they would take us out to a strawberry field that had already been picked, you see, and they let us...they would pay us for what we picked. And, like, sometimes maybe we'd make 17-cents in a day, or something. (laughs) We thought it was great.

J: Yes. Especially for Christmas almost.

D: Yes, but....

J: So, everyone grew strawberries? or...?

D: Oh, I think...I think everybody there had strawberries outside. I mean, you would come nearer growing strawberries than you would corn down there. You only grew that stuff for your own use.

J: The corn and stuff like that, yes.

D: I think probably they didn't ship out anything, except for their own use. And, you know, the chickens for the eggs...and they would be sold to the people that have the things.

J: So strawberries, like you said, were the cash crop?

D: Like, my granddad would go to town, and he would bring home a treat; he'd bring home a nickle's worth of cheese, or a nickle's worth of bologna. That was a treat.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: But, you know, I can remember when I was working at the store back in the 1930s. Other girls would come to the store at their break...we didn't call it "break" then, but in the middle of the afternoon, they'd come to the store and get a nickle's worth of candy, and take it back and eat it--to the office.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: But we would take our...pool our nickles and we'd get a good...meat market, and we'd get a nickle's worth of cheese, and a nickle's worth of bologna, and a nickle's worth of crackers. Sometimes a nickle dill pickle.

J: Oh.

D: And take it back, and we'd all eat off of it. That would be

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D: Maybe small amounts, but this was the big strawberry around Borden. It was the biggest strawberry thing in the world.

J: How far is Borden from here?

D: I think it's...don't quote me, maybe 46 miles.

J: Is it that far?

D: It's about 45 miles, anyhow.

J: And that's where your..?

D: You know, they've changed roads since I was a child.

J: Yes. And that's where your mother...?

D: Worked. And that's where I was born.

J: And that's where you were born. Until your dad came back from the war, and then you came here?

D: Yes.

J: So, all the women...was it mainly women who picked strawberries, or would men too?

D: No, no. Men picked them; everybody picked strawberries in strawberry season. And, like, they would come to grandpa's \_\_\_\_\_ morning, and if they finished the field that was ready to pick that day, then they would go on to Bywater's that afternoon, and Jackson's in the morning and stuff, and by that time the field would be ready to pick, or another field of theirs. They picked however many fields they had to. Oh, it was quite an honor to be the one that could pick the most strawberries in a day.

J: Would people kind of like compete? I mean, were there...?

D: Oh, yes, certainly. They had a little wooden affair that held 4-quart cups; you know what strawberry cups look like that you buy strawberries in?

J: Oh, you mean the green...?

D: The little...well, they're not green any...they're plastic now. See, they were in wood in those days...

J: Oh yes, yes, yes.

D: ...and four of them fit, you know, on with this thing with a

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something they just did at the time? but the women have always, you know, worked to bring money in.

D: Well, most of their work was farm work, because they made their biggest amount of money in the spring with strawberries. That was their money crop that they had for all year. Grandpa would raise enough corn--wheat did not grow well there--and he raised enough corn to feed the...whatever they fed on the farm; the cows, and I suppose pigs, maybe, and chickens and so forth. And \_\_\_\_\_ made for their own bread, plus enough to trade at the mill to get wheat for their wheat bread.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: Biscuits and things.

J: And where did the strawberries...how did the strawberries fit into all that?

D: Well, they were shipped out from Borden. And at that time, Borden was called the strawberry capital of the world. They were shipped everywhere during strawberry season. Oh, every farmer had field after field after field of strawberries.

J: Oh!

D: It was...when I was a little girl, why I used to... Listen, Paoli back 150 years ago had quite a strawberry market. I told you, the first job I ever had was secretary to the Strawberry Association.

J: Right. Well, OK, back to where your mother and, I guess, grandmother and aunts were picking. Were these...were they picking for...

D: Themselves?

J: ...a big company? or would they go pick...?

D: No. The Strawberry Association shipped them to whoever wanted them.

J: Oh.

D: But they shipped them to markets, you know, like New York and Chicago and like that. I really think the strawberries were not shipped...grown that much except right here.

J: Around Paoli and...?

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he was in with Edgar Ellis."

J: Yes.

D: And he didn't even answer me. I could have...if he'd answered me then, I could remember what he wanted.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: But in the end, I did call Ellis', because...and the new undertaker. I just thought it would be better here in town than try to go to Hardensburg where the Hunters were. And I've never been sorry I did it.

J: Yes. Great.

D: But still it is...now my daughter says I'm Libra, and Libras cannot make decisions.

J: Yes, right. Right.

D: And I just worry and worry about it. But there I had to make a decision.

J: Did they get...I assume it got easier as time went on and you got more used to it?

D: Well, I can still flounder around \_\_\_\_\_ a decision but...

J: Yes, but you are a Libra.

D: ...but now, like, when I moved over here, I didn't even tell my daughter. Nobody knew that I...except that I had sent in an application for an apartment. Nobody knew it until Mary Lou came down Mother's Day and I told her that I had sent in an application already.

J: Yes. (pause) You know, during the time you were married, were there ever any times when you, you know, in any way thought that the way it was wasn't...that you didn't like the way it was? Or was it just in your mind that \_\_\_\_\_ between a husband and wife?

D: Can we skip that?

J: Yes. OK. I was going to say that....

D: Because.... Yes, I would not live now...if he were back today, I would be tickled to death to see him; and I would not marry him again. But, I've got two daughters alive, and I would

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never have said anything to them that would tarnish their memories.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: So...

J: OK.

D: I think that's what you meant, but I really would rather not discuss it.

J: Well, I actually.... Yes, I thought it might be too personal. (long pause) I know...and this looks back again; let's change subjects here to the strawberries. I was wondering, was there also some kind of strawberry festival along with that?

D: No, I don't think so.

J: OK.

D: The only thing that I have ever heard of is the thing I told you about at Pekin and at the 4th of July: the great big celebration. And it is definitely the oldest ongoing--that has never skipped a year--in the, I think, in the whole world.

J: Yes. Yes. You know, reading through your transcript again, I was kind of struck by how many celebrations and festivals there seems to have been. Peakin and then here at Paoli at the Memorial Day, the Decoration Day.

D: Well, remember, we didn't have any...we didn't hear world news except vaguely in the newspapers. We didn't have television, you know. We didn't have the....

END OF TAPE FOUR, SIDE ONE

D: ...in the late '30s...

J: Yes.

D: You could have a date for a quarter.

J: You got, like, a \_\_\_\_\_ stuff, or something.

D: No. No. Well, you know, during the Depression, why, show tickets...I think they were, like, 30-cents on weekends. You

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know, they cost you a fortune to have today, but on one night a week, they had 10-cent night. Another night they had dish night when they give away dishes and things.

J: Yes.

D: But one night a week it was 10-cent night, and two people...there was this one guy, and I would have married him if he'd have asked me. And I think he would have married me, but he was afraid to ask me, but... He was really nice; his father had been a preacher and he was dead. And Johnny had to work to support his mother.

J: Yes.

D: But every girl in town...no, not every girl, cause there were girls that didn't know him. But most of us...everybody that knew Johnny was crazy about him. And he would walk to the house....

J: And you would...?

D: I had but a few dates with him, but I would have gone if he asked me. I think he was sort of afraid to. And he would walk to the house...we would walk to the show on 10-cent night, and go over to Huberts and get two Cokes for a nickle-a-piece. So, it cost us 30-cents. But I have known people that got one Coke with two straws.

J: Oh!

D: And then we walked home.

J: So that was, what? 25....

D: And listen, I wouldn't trade a date like...with him for a lot of those I went on.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: So, for a quarter.

J: Isn't that something. God.

D: And now, why...look what kind of money you have to have to take a girl out now? \_\_\_\_\_ and daddy has to furnish a lot of it.

J: Oh yes. Even if you just go to the movies, I mean,.... and you just go get pizza.



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D: Four or five dollars now?

J: Something like that. If you go to get pizza, that's twenty-or twenty-five bucks right there. Ridiculous.

D: Yes, and don't forget the gasoline.

J: Right. Right.

D: We have to have a car now. Well, he was the only boy I ever went with that didn't have a car.

J: Oh really?

D: But, you know, they weren't like they have now, but.... I went with this one boy that owned a brand-new car, but he and his daddy, they were brick layers; they made a lot of money. A lot of money for that day. Maybe 18-dollars a week. But he and his daddy bought the car together; and they shared it. On Sundays we usually got it. (long pause)

J: Do you remember the poem in the story you sent me about Decoration Day?

D: Yes.

J: OK. Well, one thing I was wondering is.... OK, we talked about it in the interview and then you sort of \_\_\_\_\_ about it and a short story...a short piece. I guess I wondered why that particular event.

D: Why...?

J: Why bother, you know, writing a poem about it; writing a short story about it?

D: Oh, just...why bother...? You haven't read all my poems; I've got poems about everything.

J: No. OK, I meant...yes. This is what I meant. Was there something special about it that makes you remember...?

D: Oh yes. We looked forward to that, because after...there was this little parade where everybody marched and carried their flowers to the cemetery. And the speakers... I mean, they called them "speak-ins" then. And everybody gathered around the bandstand and listened to it.

J: So, was it, you know, a really enjoyable day? memorable

or...?

D: Oh, I think we enjoyed it, yes. You wouldn't today, probably,, but I think kids might. It's different; don't they really enjoy just what's different? And then on Armistice Day, we used to come down and they'd have this special program. But then it would be during school year, and they would march all kids in this long parade from the schools down town.

J: For Armistice Day.

D: Yes.

J: Did they do that for Memorial Day too? Is that what...?

D: No, there wasn't any school. But then school was out.

J: Oh, OK. OK.

D: And we just went to town; we carried all the flowers. And I know we got up early, and mother would have every flower on the place. I don't think there was a flower left in town in the yards.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: And she'd have them soaking in a big tub on the front porch. And then we'd gather them all up in bundles and carry them to town. And they would sort them out into bundles so that everybody, together, could make little bundles. And everybody carried the flowers to the cemetery.

J: Yes.

D: But it was these old Civil War soldiers that I remembered, and some of them had real long beards down to their waist and.... One of our neighbors was a Civil War soldier.

J: Yes, right. OK. Yes, I was thinking about that, and I think you mentioned carnivals? Did you ever go to a carnival?

D: Yes, I did. Let me ask you one more thing about Civil War soldiers.

J: Yes.

D: Did I tell you the story of my great grandfather?

J: I don't think you did, no.

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D: Whether you have heard this story or not...in the Civil War, when a soldier was drafted, if he didn't want to go or had a reason not--like, you know, they had a family--he could pay somebody to go in his stead. So when my great...and that was legal. When my great grandfather was drafted, he paid his brother 50-dollars to go in his stead.

J: Wow.

D: And the day he was supposed to leave...well, 50-dollars was a lot of money.

J: Yes, that's what I'm saying. Yes.

D: And the day he was supposed to go to where they met, his brother had to skip the country; and he had to go anyhow--after he paid the money. So my mother was about two-years old there, and she was about four when he came back. So, actually, he... and his wife lived only...let's see, mother was four, she would have lived about 6 years after he came back and then she died. Grandma quit school when she was ten-years old to raise the family left.

J: Yes.

D: I'm sorry; I interrupted but I thought that that....

J: No. No.

D: A lot of people never dreamed that that was legal.

J: That you could pay...well, yes, one was the problem of buying someone \_\_\_\_\_ if you could find someone to go like that. Yes.

D: Well, somebody that was younger and not married and...

J: Right. And wanted to fight. Yes. Oh, we were talking about festivals and celebrations.

D: And you said carnivals.

J: And carnivals. I wondered if you'd ever....

D: Well, in those days, up until I would say, the late '30s.... I know, when I was working at the store... I would say at least till the late '30s. When the carnival came to town, it was all around the square. And it just left one little lane of traffic that could get around the square, cause it was the state highway and had to be open.

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J: OK, so one little lane would \_\_\_\_\_.

D: And we had, oh maybe, three or four rides would be... A whip, usually. A ferris wheel, and a chair plane, and a merry-go-round; those were the four, generally.

J: Yes.

D: And, oh, there would be all sorts of concessions \_\_\_\_\_. Did I tell you about the fortune tellers?

J: No, I don't think so.

D: Well, up until...I would say I would have been twelve in 1930, so it was long past then...it was past then. The workers for the carnival used to come in covered wagons and live in a covered wagon, see. And they would park where the Lithia Well Park is now, the \_\_\_\_\_ Park.

J: Where the...which park is that?

D: Marea Radcliffe Park; it's down...along the creek bank.

J: Along the creek? Yes.

D: And they would park down there. Then they got to...when trucks became popular they would, you know, have covered ones with the...like a covered wagon really, where they could open up the back door and...

J: Yes.

D: But one time...the creek was so low then; it wasn't dammed up like it is now, that we could cross the creek down there at the foot of our street and get across the creek, and come up Josephine Street without walking clear around and back.

J: Yes.

D: It saved about three blocks. And I had an aunt that lived on Josephine Street, and what we did, why, you'd walk on these stones in the creeks,...

J: Right.

D: ...stepping stones, to get across. Well, we started to Aunt Molly's one day and we got clear across the street and looked down, and here were all those carnival workers down there. I would have gone home; I would have gone around; I'm not that

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bold. But my mother said, "We've got just as much right there as they have." So we started across down the valley and across the creek. We got down there where all these carnival workers were, and here one fortune teller stuck her head out of the back of the truck...wagon. She started telling mother things that had happened in her life when she was young.

J: Huh.

D: Mother said that...mother listened to her, and they were things that really had happened. And after a while she told mother...she said, "Now honey, if you will give me 50-cents..." ;she says, "...I'll tell you a lot more about what's going to happen to you."

Mother says, "I don't have 50-cents." And she says, "Well, you bake me two blackberry pies and bring them down here tomorrow, and I'll tell you a lot of things."

Mother says, "I don't have any way to get blackberries to make you blackberry pies." She says, "Oh, honey." She says, "Think who you're talking to. Don't lie to me." She says, "Your husband was out drinking yesterday and he came in with 8 gallons of blackberries." And he had. He'd been down to his brother's and he brought home 8 gallons of blackberries the night before.(laughs) How...I mean....

J: Wow!

D: And this is not the only experience I've had with a fortune teller. They do know. I don't know where they get it, but they....

J: So, what did your mom do about this?

D: (laughs) She told her: No, she wasn't interested---and went on. She never did find out what the woman had to say, but....

J: Was she shaken that she knew that much? I mean....

D: Oh, I don't really think it bothered her that much.

J: OK.

D: Back in 1977, I had a granddaughter that ran away from home. She was only 15.

J: Yes.

D: And...I don't think I told you about this fortune teller then.

J: No. No.

D: Well, Mary Lou...we tried, you know, everything. I was up there at the time, and the police didn't seem to be making any effort. "She ran away of her own accord and we've got hundreds of them that do that." They really were not that interested; I think now they make more of a point of it than they did then.

J: Yes.

D: And Mary Lou went to a fortune teller who told her a horrible story. And I said, "Mary Lou." I said, "Do you mind if I go to a fortune teller?" I'd never been to one; I was 60-years old and I'd never been to a for...yes, sixty. And...maybe it was 59. Anyway, a friend and I went to a fortune teller. Now, this was a man out on the east side of Indianapolis. And I told my friend...I said, "I'm going to keep my wedding ring where he can see it and maybe he won't know that I'm alone, say." And so I keep my ring up this way, you know, and after a while...and he would just keep telling me things. And I'd say, "I don't want to know anything about myself; I just want to know about a problem I have."

"Don't tell me your problem; let's see if I can figure it out." After a while he says, "Was your problem a runaway boy?"

And I said, "No." But when Jennifer left home, she had on blue jeans, a plaid shirt, one of these caps with a bill to them, don't you know.

J: Yes.

D: And she had real short hair. I said...and he said, "A runaway girl." And I said, "Yes."

And he said, "Well, she's somewhere around Nashville."

I said, "No way. She doesn't know a soul down that way."

"Well," he said, "it has to be." He just kept coming back and back. He said, "This girl has to be around Nashville." He said, "I hear country music all around her."

J: Hmm.

D: I said, "She doesn't like country music. She hates country music."

He said, "I can't help it." He said, "I would say that she was with a truck driver because I see two vehicles, one is silver-colored and one is red."

Jennifer came back a month later. She had been with a man and his two boys and two girls to Florida. They had stopped at Nashville on the way down, because this man had sold him a song once before and he wanted to sell him a song. But all four of his kids took their guitars with them and they had country music

morning, noon and night...

J: Oh dear.

D: ...until they came back, and then they stopped at Nashville again on the way back.

J: Wow! \_\_\_\_\_

D: Yes, it is. And they took two cars when they went, and they got so poor while they were in Florida they sold one of them. I've always wondered but Mary won't ask her; I've always wondered if one was gray and one was red--wouldn't you? (laughs) because he just talked about that.

J: Wow.

D: But then he was telling me things that I didn't want to hear. He told me...he says, "I see a great change in your life in 1975." And all of a sudden he looked right straight at that ring. He said, "Did your husband die in 1975?" And I said, "No." But I had a stroke that year and had to retire. (laughs) It did make a great change in my life. So then...oh, all of this could have been about 1982 when they told me I was going to die. (laughs)

And after I...after I got out of the hospital, before I came back to Paoli I went to see another fortune teller. And she told me...she says, "I can't tell you that you're going to die." She says, "We're not supposed to tell people that. But," she says, "I really don't think you are." "But," she says, "I can't tell you. But, anyhow,..." she told me...she says, "...but your mother in heaven is worrying about you. And she thinks," she went on, and she says, "I'll tell you something else." She says, "Once you had a little black dog and..." She says, "...that dog is taking good care of your life. He just watches you every move you make."

J: Oh.

D: I said, "I'm sorry." I said, "We've had dogs ever since I was married but we never had a little black dog."

J: Huh.

D: I told Mary Lou about that on the way home and she just laughed and laughed at that little black dog. After supper that night, all of a sudden she looked up at me. She said, "Mother." She said, "What about Butch."

And when we lived in Alabama, a man down there had a little black toy...Manchester toy...toy Manchester. And he weighed 3

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pounds and was four-years old. And he was so tiny that he said the stock was going to step on him and crush him-- and he gave him to us. Well, we brought him back here and gave him to Major's parents...

J: Yes.

D: ...and they kept that dog till the day they died, and after he died we wondered because he always did everything with Mr. Dillard. And we wondered what had happened. When it came time to go upstairs to bed that night, he followed Mary Lou upstairs and slept on the foot of her bed. But eventually the dog...I think he went out one day, and when he knocked that he wanted back in, I just couldn't get to him. And when I got to the door, he was gone.

J: Oh.

D: And we drove up and down on every block in Indianapolis for hours...for days after that. We never did find the dog. I think somebody put him in a car and took him away because if he'd got killed, somebody...we asked everybody we saw.

J: Yes.

D: Somebody would have seen it; some kid would...every kid was crazy about him. (laughs) But we did have a little black dog. But, it's a little weird.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: Well, one other thing that happened, and this happened to me. I \_\_\_\_\_ it's frightening. One afternoon I was sitting in a chair and just...at Indianapolis. We had a neighbor behind us; she was a widow but... She had three kids: a son that was about my age --he was in his late 40s-- lived with her. And she had two daughters, one that was really good and the other was just as mean...not mean, but nasty as she could be.

J: Yes.

D: And I was sitting there one night...one afternoon, and I think it was more a vision than a dream but, you know, just for a minute you see something. And I went to her mother and told her; I said, "I wish you would tell Margaret" --that was the bad daughter-- "to be careful because," I said, "I just saw Margaret in...she was lying in front of a clump of bushes and behind a hedge, and she was all spread out dead."

J: Oh.



D: It was on Thursday. I told her; I told my husband; I told Mary and Lowell, probably some other neighbors, but I know all of them knew it. On Sunday morning we were sitting on our porch; we were playing with \_\_\_\_\_ back where we lived. And she said, "James never did come in last night."

I said, "What do you mean?"

"Well, he just didn't come home."

"Did he ever do this before?"

"Well, not since he was a young man and I told him how it worried me. He never had."

Well, she would go home and she was back to our house three times that morning. And about 11:30 I saw a police car coming down the street--real slow. And I said, "He's looking for something." He parked and started getting out. And I thought...what I thought couldn't have happened. I thought: "He's coming to tell her they've got him in jail." Well, they wouldn't have; they might have let him call her but they wouldn't have come to tell her, I'm sure of that. But he started up our walk and he said, "Does Jim Parks live around here?"

And Major said, "Yes." And he'd start to tell him how to get to where they lived. And Major says, "But this is his mother sitting here." She had her back to him... to the police. And the police started making motions that he was dead. And they had picked him up, oh, 6 or 7 blocks from our house. Spread just in the identical way I had described; he had been stabbed 17 times... with a rosebush behind him and a little hedge in front. A newspaper boy had started across the lawn, and they probably wouldn't have ever found him...I mean, goodness knows... I mean, at least not right then. But early in the morning the newsboy had started across the lawn...

J: Wow.

D: ...and found him there just the way I had described Margaret. I was that close; it was the boy instead of the girl. Now, that is weird. And I said, "I didn't make up the story. Everybody heard it long before it happened."

J: Yes. Yes.

D: So those things kind of frighten you.

J: Did that ever happen again?

D: Vaguely. No, not really. One other time, I had this thing...and this was before that however. I lived at Indianapolis and was down here on weekends, and we knew that Claude Melton, real good friends of ours, was awfully bad sick.

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So we went back home, and on Monday I heard nothing. And on Tuesday morning, after Major went to work, I was on the sofa and fell asleep. And the mailman woke me up. What I was dreaming...it wasn't a dream; I'd see just this one thing. I don't see him doing anything; I just see this \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. I saw this friend of mine who is...who lives here in town...no, she lives in the country. And she was holding her suitcase in one hand and her baby up in her arms in the other arm. Just like that-- but that was all I saw. And when I took the mail in, mother told me that Claude had died the night before.... No; well, yes, because she wrote it on Monday but I didn't get it until Tuesday. And that Mabel was out of town; they couldn't find her. When they did find her, she was at Anderson visiting her husband's family. And her other daughter had gone west on a vacation and they had to keep him until they got back because they didn't know how to get ahold of her.

J: Wow.

D: So I did see that. But then, this is funny. I told you it was six years ago when I was so terribly sick...about three days before I went to the hospital. I was sitting in my living room and all of a sudden I saw my husband walking towards me--in the dining room.

J: Yes.

D: And I got up and started to go to meet him in this dream.

J: Yes.

D: And he hooked his arms through mine. He said, "Quit worrying about this house." He said, "I have a place already for you; you don't have to do a thing." And I just turned around and started with him; and that's when the dream ended. I was, you know...

J: Yes.

D: And so I said... Then when they tell you that you might live two years, that's the reason I went to the fortune teller before I came home. (laughs) But I didn't find out any more--and I'm still alive. So that one didn't work out, but the other two.... I mean, it's enough to frighten you.

J: Yes. Gets....

D: I don't know what makes us do things like that.

J: Yes.

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D: If you go tell the preacher, he'll disown me.

J: (laughs) OK. Well, you know, we got off on to what we're talking about--I guess it was the carnival or...

D: Yes, I did.

J: ...when the carnival was in town. I guess I'm wondering...when you came back after you had all moved away and you came back in...was it '6-...?

D: '65; it was '66 when we moved back.

J: ...when you moved back. Of course, you probably were not as much in the mood to go to carnivals given what you came back for. But I'm wondering if you know... did it seem like...Decoration Day wasn't done as much? Was it done when you came back?

D: I've never been to one [carnival] since. I used to live a block too.... They have them down to the Jay C park now. I used to live a block from there, and I never went to one. Of course, by that time I wasn't getting around too much.

J: Oh wait, it's the carnival they have at Jay C park. Right. Right.

D: But I wasn't getting around that well, though.

J: Well, I thought I....

D: Oh, they haven't had.... I don't think...as far as I know, that they've had Memorial Day or anything like that probably in...oh, I bet they haven't had it that way for close to 50 years.

J: And then, how about the...?

D: Armistice Day?

J: Right. Right.

D: I gathered; I don't remember hearing of it. You know, I'll tell you the difference is.... Those were our speaking experiences, and nowadays they have all these speech contests where they go all over the country, you know, in schools, and they compete with other school kids, where she just competed... two or three of us. Teacher would pick one kid out of each class to make a speech, see. And we'd just compete. They would have first, second and third prizes, something like that.

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J: Also, on those days, kids from the schools-- yes, like you mentioned-- would make a speech. And that was one of the main places that they'd have to kind of....

D: Yes, that was a contest; they would usually have a big speaker or two, like...oh, I can imagine Ray Robertson was one because he was.... Later on, after that, Ray was the Commander at the Soldiers and Sailors Home for years.

J: Yes.

D: But he was always a big World War I veteran.

J: Yes. OK. And then carnival, like you said, was moved out

D: They're down there, and I'm not sure if they have any down there anymore. They have them out at the 4H ground now.

J: I think it's the 4H. Do you think...?

D: But I've never been there.

J: And again, I know you've never been there. Do you have any idea whether it's such a big thing? like it used to be, or...?

D: You mean that it used to be a lot bigger than it is now?

J: Well, I mean....

D: No, I think they have huge crowds now. It's just that I never.... I said: it was hard for me to walk by the time I came back down here.

J: Right. Right.

D: I remember one time after we moved back down here, before my husband died, I was summoned for jury duty. And at the time... the sheriff in those days, they delivered the summons. When he brought this to me, I was in a chair; I couldn't get out of a chair without someone helping me out of the chair--or help me to the bed.

J: Yes.

D: Fortunately, they didn't get to me and I didn't have to go. But he said, "Well, you'll just have to call your doctor." There was no way I could....

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J: Right. Right. I guess what I was wondering is...cause it seems like there weren't as many, you know, big get-togethers at the \_\_\_\_\_

D: Yes, but there's other things instead. I mean, 4H...we had our 4H clubs; oh, maybe a dozen in town when I was little. Now it's entirely different--and it's big. Everything you compete for is big now. Like, you know, our school kids over here, well, we send science representatives all over the United States. And our band goes every where. And...

J: Yes. Yes.

D: ...like that. Now, when I was a senior, I had third-highest shorthand paper in the state. And then, our class got to send a team --once we placed about sixteenth in the state, or something \_\_\_\_\_ that-- to Muncie. That's the only thing I can remember going to out-of-town was to the state commercial contest.

J: But now, you're saying, there's other things, because...for students anyways, they can go.... There's \_\_\_\_\_

D: Well, on their Class Day... when I graduated, I think there were about 3 or 4 prizes awarded. Now...I mean, there were 5 prize-winners, I guess there were, on Class Day because I have a picture of the five of us that won prizes on Class Day in our caps and gowns. And now, why, when they have maybe 75 or...50 or 75 prize-winners over here on Class Day.

J: Well, how about like for, maybe, you know, people who aren't.... I guess I'm thinking that those were occasions when people would see each other too?

D: You mean just visiting?

J: Oh, the festival, the Memorial Day, and....

D: Oh, honey, Saturday afternoons were the great day in those days. Everybody came to town. I mean, all the townspeople went; all the country people came; the stores stayed open. I have....

J: The townspeople went...?

D: Oh, sure, everybody came uptown; you met everybody else. Like, when I was working, why it was midnight lots of Saturday nights where we'd get away from the store.

J: Yes. Well, I guess what I wonder is... you know, it sounds

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like there were a lot of things that brought people together.

D: Yes.

J: ...and it doesn't sound like there are as many now. I guess, I wonder...

D: No, we have our own special groups of friends, but nothing like....

J: I wonder if there are more clubs now like...?

D: Oh, most certainly.

J: Yes.

D: Tri Kappa and Phi Bete were about the only thing that I know of then, except church and, you know, things like that. We had Ladies Aid [a quilting group]; I guess most churches don't have now.

J: Right. And you have....

D: And of course, there wasn't any such thing as senior citizens, because few people got that old then.

J: Right.

D: But the farmer had to come to town on Saturday to get his groceries that he didn't raise and.... And just everybody went to town, I mean, that's what you did. I remember my dad used to come in; he would work through the week and then he'd come in and go to his favorite bootlegger on Saturdays--Friday nights and Saturdays, you know. But he'd always bring my mother...I would have guessed he paid a dime for it...a bag of peanuts... chocolate-covered peanuts, cause that was what she liked.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: It would always be in a white bag.

J: Well, wouldn't your mom go in town too? on Saturdays or...?

D: Yes, but she walked.

J: And your dad would drive in?

D: Oh yes.

J: OK.

DILLARD2

D: Oh, he had a car from, I would say, the early '20s, because it was 1923 when we moved into the new house and he was... I know a long before that. So, even during the Depression, I know, he got a new... was that in the other tape?

J: Well, yes, that stuck out just because I remember...

D: A new Pontiac during the Depression.

J: ...him saying to you-all, and then don't\_\_\_\_\_

D: Yes, well, we didn't put it in exactly the words he said then.

J: Yes. Right. (both laugh) "Keep your damn mouth shut."

D: That's right. "I don't want a damn one of you going to strike [going to school and telling this]." I remember that. He never said anything about this tomorrow. But....

J: (laughs) Well so, I mean... and this is just a small point, but I guess I'm intrigued: Why didn't your mom...did your mom prefer to walk or did she just not want to go in the car?

D: She wasn't asked.

J: I see.

D: I mean, Dad would take us all for a ride on a Sunday afternoon or something. But usually he rode, and I said...I can remember once or twice he would come by and pick us kids up and bring us home at noon from school. But no...not, you didn't... we walked a mile four times a day. And it wasn't...I mean.... On the first day of school when we had to take our new books...in those days you bought your books...

J: Yes.

D: ...and he would come and take us just...we'd go to town. Mother would go to town with us and we'd buy our books; sometimes he went. And then he would take us back to school with our books.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: But no...it was...nobody...that wasn't unusual, it was just a woman's lot that.... Now, understand, there were a few wives who were more independent then.

DILLARD2

J: Yes.

D: I could name a few. Probably a little more educated ones.

J: But more... but for more, it sounds like, the car was kind of... you know,....

D: It was his.

J: Yes, it was his. Right.

D: We rode in it but...I said, sometimes he would take us for a long ride out in the country in an afternoon or something like that, but...

J: Yes. Yes.

D: Of course... Now, this is one thing: after dinner in the evening, we didn't go out... I told you I had...

J: That's what I wanted to ask.

D: ...been to one show in my life...

J: Yes.

D: ...when I was graduated. But after dinner, we would clean up the table... dad would read while we cleaned up the table and washed the dishes. And then we would all get around the table...mostly what we played were dominoes; and we had sets of double-nines, you know, and... have you ever played dominoes?

J: Yes.

D: You know, where you count what's \_\_\_\_\_ along the edge. That's how we all learned to count; we had to count our own scores.

J: Oh, wow.

D: And even...I taught my grandkids that way. I mean, it's fun counting that way. By the time I was...after I graduated from school, when I went to work, we finally convinced mother that playing cards were not a cardinal sin.

J: She thought they were?

D: Oh yes, they were horrible. No decent person would touch a playing card.



DILLARD2

J: Is that because she was...was she Quaker or was that...?

D: No. No.

J: Was that common then, that...?

D: I told you how we started being Quakers, didn't I?

J: Oh, I forgot that. Right.

D: We went to Quakers because she could send us kids without crossing the main street. That's how we started. And two of us are still Quakers--after 70 years.

J: Was she that terrified of...? I mean...

D: Oh honey, \_\_\_\_\_

J: ...was the city so big or...?

D: Well, \_\_\_\_\_, when I was five-years old, I would go to town and buy the groceries and go home.

END OF TAPE FOUR, SIDE TWO

D: [a car ran over my grandmother] ...no hospital or anything, and then they brought her to our house, and the doctor came there and took care of her.

J: I guess we're lucky that it wasn't anything like a tornado.

D: Yes. I think she has some ribs broken, but...that hurts but she lives.

J: But you live, yes. And they take care of themselves. I guess...OK, I know, I mean, and I can really imagine your mom coming from out in the country with her family all around her. She's coming into this big city, by herself,....

D: (laughs) Yes, it's a big city to her.

J: Oh sure, I can imagine all that but, I mean, was she...did it seem that big that she didn't even want to go to the store? You know what I'm saying?

D: Oh no. No, no, no, no. It was just that I could do that and she stayed home with the kids. On the other hand...

J: Ah.

D: ...when I was three-and-a-half, I was staying home and watching my brother and sister while she went to town.

J: I see what you're saying. OK. Alright.

D: No, no. Oh, no, my mother, till the day that she got so bad that she was not able to get out... Up until I'd say... mother was 82 when she died; I'd say until 80 she was still walking downtown sometimes.

J: OK. Alright. Yes, yes. I remember what you were telling about her looking out the window; I know she had a lively interest in the town.

D: Oh yes.

J: Very, very lively. (pause) One thing, you know the four pages that you sent me of those great stories and things like that?

D: But I don't remember what was on it.

J: Right. And I'm going to tell you \_\_\_\_\_. By the way, would you mind it if I also kind-of made that part of our record of our time together...or what-not?

D: Yes.

J: Made that public along with the transcript. It's \_\_\_\_\_ of the story; they're great.

D: That's all right. Yes, it's all right.

J: And I'll send you a copy just so that you can make sure that they're all fine. But they're just such wonderful stories.

Well, what I was going to say is: one of them was... you remembered, I think it was sometime in the 1920s, when you were sitting on Lomax's porch, or something like that...

D: I think it was in either '28 or '29. Before that it had been...it wasn't the kind of blacktop we have now. It was the kind of oil-crushed stone or something on the highway. And just as we sat out there and watched all this big machinery, you know, as they paved the highways....

J: What...had the highways been there but they were going to pave...?

DILLARD2

D: Oh yes, but they weren't....

J: Do you remember what you-all...I mean, was that really kind of something.

D: Was that...?

J: Was that really something to be getting...?

D: Well, they were the first highways through here.

J: Well, that's what I mean, yes.

D: And then, I don't know how many years later--not too much, maybe three, two or something like that--they built the highway going north. Now, it had already come down as far as the Orange County line before that, because I remember even when I was a teen-ager, the north going north from here to the Orange County line was good. When you got onto the Lawrence County highway, why, it was bad because it was a lot older than this one.

J: Oh! I guess what struck me about that is...well, or when 37, I guess, was opened up. Do you remember at all people's reactions to it like: Oh....

D: No, because I would have still been....

J: You would have been....

D: ...ten- or twelve-years old.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: I don't remember that much about it. The streets were mostly just crushed stones when I was...all of those side streets. But the street we lived on, I said, was five blocks from town and it wasn't even crushed stone until I was, oh, several years old. It was just hard, red clay and great big rocks, because there was a quarry up the street from where I lived.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: And all of these big, old trucks went up and down the street and, you know, we could hear them blasting all day. And when they come out and announce the blast, why, everybody had to run and get inside because the falling stones could hit you.

J: Geez. That's what they had to do: go tell every one in surrounding areas. Wow.

DILLARD2

D: Yes, we always...they would come out and yell: Fire in the hole. And everyone would run for cover.

J: God! Wow.

D: And then all of these trucks.... So, you see, we weren't allowed to get out in the street; we had to keep in our own yards because there was traffic then.

J: Oh.

D: As \_\_\_\_\_ as it was, I mean. But now, like you said, when grandma was hit, I would imagine that maybe the maximum was 20-miles an hour then.

J: Yes.

D: We're talking about when cars were really new here.

J: Right. Right.

D: I think that they had been running around for maybe 20 years by then, but not...you didn't see them here. I've heard my dad tell: the first car he ever saw, he had hitchhiked, I believe it was up to Orleans or somewhere. Hitchhiked or walked; I guess you just walked in those days. You didn't hope to get a ride, did you?

J: Yes.

D: And anyhow, this guy came along with a car and...seems like he had some car trouble and dad helped him fix the tire or something because, you know, you started out then, you might have two or three flat tires to be fixed, and you had to get out and patch that tire and stuff before you went any farther. Anyhow, he brought dad back to Paoli and he was so thrilled--the idea that he got to ride back in a car, you know, before the other kids....

J: Yes. Wow. I remember you saying that when your mom was sick and in the nursing home--or in the hospital, I guess--and she'd call you every night at 6:00 and tell you different stories...

D: Yes.

J: ...were there any...I guess...were there any of those stories that, you know, particularly meant a lot to you, or stuff?

DILLARD2

D: Well, they was just things about \_\_\_\_\_, where she went to school, who her teachers were, what they did when...I remember when.... You know, I would think of questions all day to ask her...

J: Yes.

D: ...and I had two or three notebooks full of things that I made notes for her story.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: And I have promised the library a copy of her story when I get it finished. It will be history.

J: Yes. Well, did that mean...did it mean something special to you because it was your mother's, you know, life?

D: It meant just two things: there weren't that many things that mother and I could talk about, to be honest.

J: Yes.

D: I mean, we really were interested in different things. She was interested in what her neighbors were doing, (laughs) which bored me to death. And the other thing was that I knew I was writing on this book. I'm sorry I didn't get finished before she died, and I had been pretty sick most of the time since she died.

J: Right.

D: But it has to be finished, and I have been working since I have been down this last couple of weeks, I've been working on it.

J: Yes.

D: But I was getting information, because that was one time that I could talk about it because I was interested in it, and she could talk about it because, of course, she was interested in it.

J: So...yes. Yes.

D: It was something that we...we never quarrelled. We never quarrelled but sometimes I would just get angry and just shut up.

J: Yes. Yes.

DILLARD2

D: And we knew that the other was unhappy, but we never quarrelled. Fact is, we were never allowed to quarrel when we were kids. You know, I see kids fighting now...listen, if one of us said a cross word to the other one, immediately one was sent to the bathroom, the other to the basement, "until you can come back and be quiet."

J: Really?

D: We were not allowed to quarrel, and fight...that was something that did not ever happen at our....

J: Was that more usual for kids not to...?

D: I don't know about other kids because I wasn't around that many of them.

J: Yes. Right.

D: We really didn't play with that many.

J: Right.

D: Now, we didn't have a swimming pool in town; the nearest was at Bedford when we were young. But dad got one of those \_\_\_\_\_ sprays, you know, that sent water in all directions, and they'd hook it up in the yard. And we all three had bathing suits, but sometimes when it was very hot mother would let us ask the kids across the street and they'd come over with their clothes on. You know, we'd play in that water.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: And that was how we got cool in the summer.

J: Yes. Yes.

D:; The first swimming pool I was ever in was...oh, I was maybe 18 and I went out with a friend to Bedford, I think, or Bloomington or somewhere.

J: Wow. Yes, and now \_\_\_\_\_ there's one in town. I guess the only other thing that I really wanted to ask you about...cause we have covered a lot here today, is just...when you were telling me about the scamps that you and your husband....

D: The what?

DILLARD2

J: Let's see: when you and your husband were on the road for the construction jobs...

D: Yes.

J: ...and moving around the country more, how you would travel. I don't know if you traveled with, or you would meet up with, people from Paoli...

D: Yes.

J: ...at other places like that. I just wanted...I wondered, you know, were all the young people--young men and women--leaving Paoli at that time to try and find jobs? Did a lot of your friends...?

D: Most of them. Nearly everybody, yes. Because, I said, when my brother was married in 1940, he was managing a Kroger's store at Jasper, at the time, for \$15 a week. And they gave him a dollar raise when he got married because he had a wife to support. (laughs) I mean, you weren't paid by a wage scale or anything; you were paid in...you know, if you had a family, why then you got an extra dollar or two to live on.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: But he was making \$15 and he was manager of the store.

J: Well, you-all left when you were married. I guess I wonder: was it mainly like young men before they got married, you know, might go off and try and find work?

D: Actually, no. The ones that I remember were couples except...I can remember two or three elderly men, I mean. Elderly? (laughs) They were probably 40 then, weren't they, but they seemed old to us. Maybe 45...that lived there, but most of it was couples.

J: And would you all, like...? When you, OK, when you-all left Paoli...I guess I'm thinking of the problem of remembering that day, did you leave with other couples? or did you...?

D: Oh, no, no, no.

J: You just \_\_\_\_\_

D: They sort of gravitated to wherever there was defense building. They were building defense plants, see. And he went to Childersburg(?), Alabama in October. And I went (laughs)...it's funny. Did I tell you the kind of houses we lived in down

there?

J: Yes.

D: In the tent?

J: And I remember...you said that you sometimes put curtains on the walls just to pretend, you know.

D: Yes. Well, I got this letter from him and he said, "Now you can come any time that you want to. I have a place ready for you." So I went immediately, and I got down there on the 11th...no, Armistice Day of 1941, and I got there when I had...I wrote that I would be there that date, see. And they didn't have a place built yet; they were still building the foundation...the wooden part for the tent when I got there. And they had to stretch that, but what we had a place to stay that night.

J: Oh dear. (laughs)

D: I think he had bought a bed from somebody; we had a bed that night. And then we went in and bought this sofa instead of the bed, so that we could make it...have a place to sit.

J: Right. Right. But usually...OK, first of all, what time are we talking about now? I guess, off the top of my head I....

D: 1941.

J: 1941?

D: Just before...we were in Alabama the day of Pearl Harbor. I remember how I found it out. He was working; he went to work about 2:30 in the afternoon, and I went out into camp for something and somebody yelled at me: "Do you know that we're in war?"

J: Oh. And how...you were on the road...?

D: In defense plants?

J: Yes.

D: Well, as soon as they finished one plant, then you would have a half-a-dozen other plants in any part of the country, and you'd have your choice of where you wanted to go.

J: So, was he pretty much working exclusively for the defense \_\_\_\_\_?



DILLARD2

D: Yes. Before he went to Alabama, he worked at Charlestown.

J: Yes.

D: Then he worked there, and then, I believe, the next place we went was to Columbus where they were building Camp Atterbury.

J: Oh.

D: We were over there several times.

J: So that's how...OK, so now, that makes more sense. Because they were a big employer for something like that, and when one site had finished work, then you-all knew that you could go somewhere else.

D: Can you turn that off a minute?

J: Sure.

D: I want to ask you a question. (laughs) (machine off)

J: ...we're both so lazy. We cook, but we're both so lazy. And we try to do \_\_\_\_\_ elaborate.

D: You have that on now?

J: I do, yes.

D: No, I wanted \_\_\_\_\_ to what I was going to say. No, go ahead.

J: OK. All right. No, so it's just one last thing about the camp, because I was trying to figure out if you-all kind of traveled around together or you would just meet up when you were actually at the camps or...?

D: No, we didn't go anywhere. They worked all sorts of hours then.

J: But I guess that when you went from one...

D: See, altogether he worked at...down there; he worked at Columbus; he worked at Clinton, Indiana, at two different hitches; he worked at Decatur, Illinois; he worked in Louisville; he worked in Knoxville, Tennessee. And after the war he had a letter from the government thanking him for his part in developing the atom bomb. And, would you believe, we didn't keep the darn letter.

DILLARD2

J: Hm, it would have been great. Wow.

D: At that time we were young; it wasn't that important. I would like it for my kids now.

J: Yes. Wow. Golly. So, when you were at a camp--you were saying--he was working such long hours. But you-all just pretty much stayed at camp?

D: Well, we always had a boarder wherever we lived because I never liked to cook for two people.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: The more people you cook for, the better cooking you can do. You know that; with one person it's practically impossible.

J: Yes.

D: And so we just had a boarder; they would have their own place to sleep but they would eat with us.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: So, you know, I fixed really nice meals and stuff like that, and \_\_\_\_\_ all the time we had that.

J: Right.

D: Once in a while we'd go into town. Where we lived was half way...it was called mid-way camp. It was called Midway Camp; it was half way between Childersburg and Sylacauga.

J: Yes. Yes. But it would be that when, say, you went to a new camp that there would usually be someone from Paoli there?

D: Well, now that's the only place we lived on camp. Other places we lived in apartments.

J: Oh. So when you were in...OK, cause my impression was that....

D: Oh, a place that...we had a house. I had a house and a garden one year.

J: Yes. Yes.

D: That was at Clinton; and we lived there during the flood when even 9 blocks across the town was completely under water.

DILLARD2

J: Oh, but when you lived in the apartments, you weren't necessarily...? Would someone from Paoli also be in the same place? or maybe...?

D: No, I don't think I ever lived in an apartment where there were...just in that camp there were around five couples of us.

J: OK.

D: But there would usually be somebody else in town--most of the places. No, you know, I don't remember anybody else from Paoli being at Columbus when we were there; there was nobody there at Decatur. But when we lived in Clinton there were a couple of other couples that would come visit us.

J: OK. So some of the places...?

D: Yes.

J: OK.

D: But you just made friends with other people.

J: Right. Right. OK. I guess....

D: One of the first things I always did was sing in the church. And I mean...a few of them had Quaker churches. So I really got an education about churches during the war.

J: So, did you just pick one that was closest or...?

D: Oh, maybe. Mostly I would pick the traditional ones, you know-- the Methodist and the Presbyterian, like that. I think I've been to Methodist, Presybterian, Baptist, and Christian Churches. I've been to Nazarene and Pentacost too. One time I went to a Pentacost church for one time; that one time was enough going there.

J: OK.

D: But you made friends that way. And of course, we didn't have any kids then.

J: Right. Right.

D: But after Mary Lou was born and...kids are the best way in the world to get acquainted with people.

J: Yes. Yes. Great.

DILLARD2

D: I remember the time that Mary Lou...I was going to have a Hallowe'en party for her and I had written out the invitations -- and I always made extra ones because we always... when my brother and sister...I had parties for the kids, we would send some to the other little kids too, although we knew they couldn't come from cross the country. But I gave these to Mary and her little friend across the street. And I had to go to town that afternoon. I said, "Now, if you get home from school, you can deliver these."

And I got home, she came running: "Oh mommy, mommy, mommy, you had too many invitations. So we took them over to the kids on the next block and gave them away over there."

I had kids at that party...when they came to the door, I had no idea whether they were coming to the party or they were trick-or-treaters.

J: Oh. (laughs)

D: And that is how I met my neighbors because those mothers...I felt, well, they won't bring them when they don't know us. The mothers all brought the kids so we met the families. And then, of course, I always belonged to Lodge and, what's the place...? I went to Lodge and I would meet people there.

J: What's Lodge?

D: Rebekah.

J: Rebekah, right. OK. Yes, Bethel Cornwell mentioned that; I guess she's a member also. Was it that one or was it Eastern Star Lodge?

D: Probably Eastern Star.

J: Eastern Star.

D: Oh, I don't know, they haven't had a big membership here; we don't have that many now. Bethel Cornwell was at one time married to my best friend's brother.

J: Well, I'll be darned. Well, is there any...?

D: Fairly recently.

J: Yes. Is there anything else that we should talk about or...?

D: I think we've \_\_\_\_\_ our limit, haven't we?

J: (laughs)

DILLARD2

D: I...just talking straight through, we could have practically covered our whole life in this time.

J: OK. That's good to be the end; it will be good that way. Well, once again, thank you very much.

D: Well, will you sometime be back with \_\_\_\_\_?

J: I hope so; like I said...oh, I haven't told you, I'm starting to.... You know, school starts in two or three weeks. So I'm hoping in the springtime to start back up. But at least for the fall time I'm kind of...I'll be doing....

D: You won't be \_\_\_\_\_ school?

J: I will be...oh, let me explain. School starts; I'll be taking classes and I'll be teaching. So I won't be doing this...

D: Where will you be living?

J: In Bloomington.

D: In the same place?

J: Same thing.

D: If I ever want to call you?

J: Oh sure, sure. Yes.

D: I meant to make a point of finding out... to, you know, that we might see each other again some times.

J: Right. Right.

D: That you could...you could always come down; you could bring your boyfriend down.

J: The infamous boyfriend. OK. Thank you very much and what I was going to say is...what I was trying to say is that I probably won't be back to Paoli until the springtime \_\_\_\_\_, but I'll still be in the Bloomington \_\_\_\_\_.

D: Well, drop me a card....

J: Only a letter away. (laughs)

DILLARD2

END OF TAPE FIVE, SIDE ONE

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