

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

WINSTON & EVELYN FLICK

Interviewed by Catherine Jones
17 June 1988
OHRC accession #88-75-1,2

INTRODUCTION

This interview was conducted by Catherine Jones 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.

The reader should bear in mind the fact that this material is a verbatim transcription of an interview, not a written document. Very few persons speak with the precision with which they write. We have done our best to make the transcript easily readable, while remaining faithful to the tape recording.

Short quotations from the transcript may be used, providing the interviewee, interviewer, and the Oral History Research Center are given proper credit. For any photocopy, or for extensive use of the transcript in any publication, permission must be obtained from the Oral History Research Center. Duplicate copies can be made only through the Center, either by writing the office at Memorial Hall West, Room 401, Bloomington, Indiana, 47405, or by calling 812-855-2856.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

DEED OF GIFT AGREEMENT

I, Winston and Evelyn Flick, hereby give
Interviewee (please PRINT)

my oral history interview with Catherine Jones,
Interviewer (please PRINT)

which was conducted on 17 June 1988, to Indiana
Date

University.

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. These rights, title and interest include all presentations and publications which result from the reading of, or use of, quotes or fuller excerpts from this interview. If necessary, indicate in the space below any provisions or restrictions on the use of this interview.

In addition, check off below whether or not a copy of the edited transcript (that is, with all restrictions edited out) may be deposited at the Paoli Public Library, where it will be available to the general public. In addition, a copy may be left at the Orange County Historical Society library, which is in the Museum of Local History.

☒ Yes, a copy may be placed at the Paoli Public Library and the Orange County Historical Society library.

☐ No, a copy may not be placed at these two locations.

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

Winston & Evelyn Flick 4/11/91
DONOR DATE
Catherine Jones 4/3/91
INTERVIEWER DATE

PAOLI PROJECT
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

Biographical Data Sheet

I. INTERVIEWEE/NARRATOR DATA

Full Name: Winston and Evelyn Flick
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: Rt. 2, Box 76, French Lick, IN 47432

Phone: 936-4462
Date of Birth: Winston-1919 Winston--French Lick
Evelyn--1921 Place of Birth: Evelyn--Paoli

Sex: M and F; husband & wife Ethnic Origin: _____

Education: Paoli High Schhol and French Lick High School

Occupational History: part-time cattle farmers and both have always worked
out of the home also: she, Plemmon's Drugstore, Turner Creamery, AFC, and
bookkeeper for a contractor and for Kemple's Hardware; he, construction with
various firms

Special interests, hobbies, etc.: outdoors

Father's Name and occupation: _____

Mother's Name and occupation: Evelyn--Hall

II. INTERVIEWER DATA

Full Name: Catherine Anne Jones
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Local address: 211 S. Grant 47401 331-0158
and phone

Permanent Address: 11705 Eden Glenn Dr., Carmel, IN 46032 317-844-7935
and phone

Date of Birth: 8/59 Place of Birth: NY

Association with the Paoli Project: graduate assistant

Subject of interview: farming; differences between town and country and
changes in attitudes today; festivals and thesquare ; growing up

Number of Tapes: 3

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Flick

ANCESTORS	1
The rebuilt schoolhouse	2
THEIR MEETING AND FIRST DATE	3
THEIR BACKGROUND	5
Houses	6
The ice cream store	7
Siblings	7
EVELYN	
Her farm work	8
Childhood	8
Sewing	9
Singing	10
Mom	11
Women, work, and her jobs	11
Farm work	14
WINSTON	
His work history	15
On farming and livestock	16
The car/truck accident	18
LIFE IN 1949; HORSES	18
A CLOSE FAMILY	21
PAOLI SQUARE 50 YEARS AGO	23
French Lick etc.	31
RELAXATION NOW; TV	33
PAOLI VS. FRENCH LICK	34
LIVESTOCK FARMING TODAY	36
Rich lifestyle, boats etc.	38
Hard to farm today	40
TOWN VS. COUNTRY THEN	42
Cars: Then and now	47
QUAKER LIFE	
Sundays as a child	48
Being a Quaker then	50

FLICK

ON WOMEN AND WORK	51
Baby-sitters	52
CLOSING THOUGHTS	53
Politics	54

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

INTERVIEWEES: Evelyn and Winston Flick

INTERVIEWER: Cathy Jones

SUBJECT: Paoli Project

DATE: June 17, 1988

TRANSCRIBER: Paul Russell

Jones: I'm here with Evelyn and Winston Flick, at their home outside Paoli, and today's June 17. And I'm Cathy Jones and we're working on the Paoli Project, I guess.

It's probably just as well to start at the beginning. Where are your parents from.

Winston Flick (W): They're from near Lawrence County _____. You go halfway down.

J: Did they...were their families from here?

W: Yes.

J: How long has your families, you know, your ancestors and whatnot...?

W: Well, I couldn't tell you. [laughs] Ancestors have _____ long time.

Evelyn Winston (E): Well, your great-grandfather and grandmother came here from Germany.

J: Oh, they did! Oh.

E: And settled this place. What is it you call it when you get it from the...

W: ...Homesteaded.

E: ...homesteaded this place. His great-, great-grandfather. And that's the reason we'd like to keep this place.

J: They came to this actual...

E: This...this farm here.

FLICK

J: This farm! So, when you said it was home, the homeplace...

E: You could tell her about the school--about this house, Win.

W: This was a schoolhouse. Built in 1850, by my grandfather.

J: Wow!

W: It set over across the road and we moved it over here in 19 and...about 1947, or around something like that.

J: Was it...have you changed the building a lot? Was it...?

W: Yeah, we put partitions, put partitions in.

E: It's all, it's all the same.

J: So, before it was this room and that room there.

W: One room. You _____, the back was built on.

E: She probably doesn't know what a country school's like.

W: It was one big room.

J: Well you know, you know Ben Mitton?

Both: Yeah.

J: OK. I went and talked with him one day. But isn't his house two story? Or is it one?

E: This could be two-story.

J: You're right. This seems a lot longer than I thought.

E: This could be two-story, but this was a school house just like his was. At the same time.

W: My mother went to school here and my aunt taught.

J: Wow! That is really something.

E: And you went to school here.

W: Yeah.

J: Why, do you know why they came from Germany to here?

FLICK

E: No, I don't.

J: You don't. OK. Were there many other people from...I mean, do you know if they came out with a group of people or were they the only Germans around? Or...?

E: I don't think there were too many other Germans around, because I've heard his mother say that her--it would be her, it would be her mother and her grandmother--said when they would get together they would talk German and she didn't know what they were talking about. So, I don't think there were very many other Germans around at that time, around here.

J: And now, where are your folks from? Your family, your people?

E: Ireland and England. And I was raised a quaker. In the Beech Grove neighborhood, which is about two miles south of Paoli. So, that's the reason I don't...all I know about his family is what I've heard his family say--his mother lived with us for about 23 years--is what I've heard her say.

J: Oh, OK. You mean, that, after you two got married. OK. And how did you all meet? Because you were, you lived out here and you lived...did you live, well you lived around Beech Grove more, yeah. How'd you all meet?

E: You got time? [J laughs]

W: You tell her. [all laugh]

J: Oh, so no one wants to tell me.

E: Well, I don't know. I always...I knew him a long time before he knew me, I always thought he was a cute little guy. [J laughs] Had pretty blue eyes.

J: He does, he does. I noticed those straight off.

W: I got one blackened eye. (?)

E: And I didn't black it either. But we don't know what happened. But anyway, he got to going with my girlfriend and she was forever borrowing money off of me. But she always paid me back. And this one time, she borrowed some money and--I think two dollars and eighty sense or seventy-five cents or something--and she was, she worked for the County Agent and I worked at a creamery at Paoli. And so she was going to go to Purdue that weekend and she said to me when she got ready to leave--now, she still was owing me this when she got ready to leave--she said, "Well", she said, "would you take care of my boy friends while I'm

FLICK

gone?"

And I said, "I sure will."

And so, I went with Winston while she was gone, I guess. I think I asked her, maybe, before she left. I said, "Do you care anything particular about him?"

She said, "Naw," said "he's just like all the rest of the boys."

And when she come back, I told her that I had gone out with him. And so, I never did get my money.

J: Well, but I guess you figured he was probably worth it. [E and J laugh]

E: But _____ always said I bought him.

W: Reckon she paid too much?

J: [laughing] I don't think so. I don't know about her, but I don't think so. There's probably days when she wonders about it.

W: Two seventy-five. That was a lot of money back then.

J: Yes. Back then, back then.

E: Well, I've stayed with him almost 45 years, so... [laughs] Be 45 years the fifth day of March.

J: Congratulations.

E: Well, that's, that's how we met. Well, really, the first date he asked me, I sang in a choir.

J: Was this at the Beech Grove community?

E: I sang in a choir at Beech Grove but our choir came out to his church out here at Morris Ridge to sing and he asked me for the date out here...on Sunday afternoon, he asked me to go with him on Thursday night, Tuesday night, and we had to hurry it up because Lois was going to be back on Thursday. [J laughs, E joins in] So, that's, that's the first date I had with him.

J: What'd y'all do? On that Tuesday night? Do you remember?

E: I'm supposed to went to the show then. That's what everybody did at that time.

FLICK

J: What, what show was that? Was that...?

E: It was in a theater, in...

J: In...

W: ...Paoli.

E: ...in Paoli, on the square. It...in...years later it burned down. And then, I think the radio station, maybe, is part of where it is, is part of where the show was at that time. And Farlow's Insurance...

J: Insurance place, yeah.

E: ...is part of it, I think.

J: OK. You mentioned Morris Ridge. Now, is that what this area is called.

W: Yes.

E: Yes, that's a church on out the road here and this whole area in here is known as Moore's Ridge.

J: OK. OK. And technically, it's really part of French Lick, right? Or, it's in the French Lick township?

W: Yes.

J: OK. OK. You mentioned that you lived in Beech Grove. I've not been there yet. I keep wanting to go to the meeting place there. Was that a rural...were you in the rural area there? Were your families farmers, then?

E: Yes, farmers.

J: And how many children were in your family?

E: I have a brother and a sister.

J: I guess I should get your maiden name, would have been?

E: Hall. OK. So, you grew up on a farm, then?

E: That's right.

J: What year, what year were you born? If I can ask?

E: What year was I born? '21.

FLICK

J: In '21. And then, you, Winston.

W: '19.

J: In '19

E: In other words, he's two years older than me.

J: He's two years older, yeah. Well, what was it like...and you lived here...

W: I was born just out the road here about a quarter of a mile and I've never been any place else. [laughs]

J: Wow!

E: Neither one of us have ever been anywhere.

J: Have you ever had the urge? Or...?

W: No.

J: Just don't want to. Yeah.

E: He's just lucky he got me, because I don't care _____ either.

W: I was born out there in a house, and then, when I was eight years old, moved to a adjoining farm over there, and then, when I was about 18, we moved back to where I was born, but in a different house. And then, I moved out here. In '49, been here ever since.

J: Where was it that you were living before? Was it very far from here? Or just...?

W: No, no, just the second place, the second house up the road.

J: OK. Alright. Wow, so you really just have lived right around here. What was it like...what was it like here when you were younger? Were there, you know, were there neighbors close by? Or...?

W: Just about like it is here now. Yeah, yeah.

E: Well, this place was all growed up in bushes...

W: Well, yeah. This farm here, the house, the big one, was a log house. The rest is down here a piece, was a log house. Then, I bought it, and I bought the schoolhouse that set across the road

FLICK

and I moved it over here.

E: And we cleared land. We cleared land.

W: Well, it was grewed up in bushes pretty well, yeah.

E: Bushes _____

J: Was that when you all were first married?

E: Yeah. We had, let's see, the girls were two and four when we moved out here. You should tell her about the ice cream stand that was here.

J: There was an ice cream stand here?

W: Yeah, there used to be fellow, a lot of years before I did, way back then, he had a little building here along the road. This was, when they were building the highway from French Lick to Paoli, this was what we called the detour. And all the guests, the hotel and everybody went through here to go to Paoli, _____.

And he had a little shack down there and on Sundays, he'd sell ice cream and pop and watermelons along the road here, and the young people then, they'd come in and get in and play ball, and have...drink a bottle of pop...

J: ...maybe an ice cream cone, yeah, yeah. And that was when, then?

W: That was...be in the '30s. Yeah, in the '30s.

J: What kind of memories do you have of, you know, when you were younger here?

W: Well, I don't know what...

J: That's probably...like...OK, how big was your family?

W: Well, I had, two sisters and one brother. 'Course, I had one more but he passed away before I was...

J: OK.

W: Well, I don't remember them, but, as I remember, there are two sisters and a brother.

J: And your folks were farmers then too?

W: Yes.

FLICK

J: Yeah, I remember you saying, you were telling me, we were talking on the phone, that you're not able to work, now you're not able to work outside as much.

E: I don't work out like I did.

J: And how much...have you missed it?

E: I do. I miss it. I like to work outside. I got to have some sun, though, that's where I got my tan.

J: I was going to say, you know, that's what I thought when you _____.

E: Some of the hired hands didn't show up, so I had to...or I did get to drive--I'll say that way--I did get to drive the tractor for him, I think two or three afternoons. And I enjoy it. 'Cause I always worked out. My dad wasn't very well, and so I always worked out when I was a girl. All kinds of farm work.

J: Was that unusual for a girl, then? Or...?

E: Not really. But the thing that I think about is we were Quakers and they weren't allowed to wear slacks or anything like that. And all the farm work that I did, like cut corn by hand and--you probably don't know what this is--and shock it like the Amish do, and then, shock wheat, and all of that, I did with a dress on. We weren't allowed to wear slacks.

J: Does it seem funny now that you were doing all that stuff wearing, you know, wearing a dress?

E: But another day, I went to wearing overalls, must have been my overalls bought 'fore we was married, I think a pair of overalls. But, I mean, they never did say anything about me wearing them. I don't know how they felt about it, but..._____

J: Are you...you're not a Quaker, then?

W: Methodist.

J: Oh, that's right, you said, Amos or Ames...

W: No, Moore's Ridge. OK. I think I know where I am now. Well, when you all were growing up, did it seem to you that your parents had to kind of struggle to make ends meet?

E: No. I never...

FLICK

J: ...it just seemed perfectly...?

E: I never heard anything like that. I mean, they never discussed anything like that before us children. And we, my sister and I've talked about that different times. We never knew whether they had a dollar or ten dollars. We never, they didn't discuss anything like that before us. I know that they, I know that they must have had a pretty hard time, but we didn't hear anything about it.

J: Do you think, looking back, do you have any idea of whether they were having a hard time, or you probably guessed that they probably were?

E: No. We had a happy time. Mother was a...she quit, she was a schoolteacher, she quit teaching when...well, I think maybe she taught maybe a year after she was married. And Daddy had been in the army, and he recieved a small pension from them, so we probably weren't hurting as bad as a lot people. But Mother taught us to be saving, Mother and Daddy both did. I mean, she made all of her clothes. That could be going back to living like they always lived or something, you know.

J: Yeah, well, that's a good point, actually, yeah.

E: She made all of her clothes. And she was careful about what she, how she cooked and everything like that.

J: Was that from going through the Depression, you think? Or...?

E: Probably. And then Mother, her father died when she was 16 years old, so she knew what it was to have a little bit of hardship.

J: Yeah, right, and have to be real responsible. Did you want to say something?

W: She made our girls clothes, too, all the time.

J: You did? Yeah, I was going to ask you. Yeah.

E: The girls never had bought clothes 'til...a lot of girls, I guess, was in the seventh or eighth grade before she ever had any bought clothes.

J: Well, you know, I've been talking to different women and it seems to me all of them learned to sew and sewed their own clothes and some of them made money, you know when they were young, like selling doll clothes or children's clothes, or dresses or things like that. Did anyone ever buy storebought clothes? Would only

FLICK

like really rich people have been able to afford that?

E: I did it mostly because, well, I felt like I needed to, but I enjoyed it. I worked out all the time; I worked in an office, for about, the biggest part of the time, for about 31 years. But, always, when I'd come home, I'd help him do whatever he needed to do and we'd do our chores in the evening, and then, I would sew at night. Or sometimes, I would take whatever I was sewing on with me to work and I'd do that at my lunch hour. Something like that.

J: Do you still sew?

E: Yes, but not near as much as I did, because all my grandchildren have grown up and the girls--we just had two girls--and I don't sew near as much as I did. I do a lot of repair work for them. But I don't sew near as much as I did. I do a lot of hand work, embroidery and crocheting.

J: Oh, you do! You said, looking back, though, it was a happy time, your childhood?

E: Yes...we all sang together.

J: As a family or at the church?

E: As a family. The next door neighbor said he could hear us. I guess we was kind of noisy. [laughs]

J: Like on certain occasions or just at nights?

E: No, no, just for our own pleasure. Our next door neighbor was...oh, he wasn't very far from us, was that house down there at the bottom, wasn't very far from us. He'd say he sit out on the porch at night and listen to us sing. We were no specialists, nothing like that. We just did it for our own pleasure. It was a happy time. My brother'd get kind of mean once in a while and Daddy'd have to set him down. I said he spent more time away from the table than he did at the table. [E and J laugh] When you didn't...when you come to the table and you weren't quiet, you didn't fuss and go on, like kids do at the table now. And you weren't quiet, you had to sit back from the table.

J: Was that more from being a Quaker, do you think, or do you think, just in general, parents would probably just take a lot less.

E: I don't know. I don't really know. I just know that he had to sit back from the table and watch the rest of us eat.

J: And you said your mom was a schoolteacher? Now...?

FLICK

E: Grade schools.

J: Did she, when you were going through school, then, would she like...

E: No, she was home all the time, when I was...after I was born. Before I was born, I had a sister that just lived a few weeks. She quit teaching before she was born. So, I don't remember of her ever teaching. I just know she ____

J: Would she like correct your English and stuff like that?

E: Yes. Very much so. She sure did.

J: Did you like then working outside like you do now? Is that why you started? I mean, did you ever think that you wanted to do anything else? Like become a schoolteacher? Or...?

E: No, [laughs] no, Mother used to say, "I wished you would go ahead to college." I loved children; I still love them. I just loved children and she'd say, "I wished you would go ahead to college and be..."--they called them primary teachers, then, first, second grade, you know--"...and be a primary teacher."

I said, "I don't want to, Mother." I said, "Just leave me alone. I just want to marry a farmer."

J: Really? [laughs] And how did she react?

E: She never said anything. I guess she thought she might as well leave me alone.

J: Or maybe she knew that your mind was made up and she wasn't going to talk you out of it.

E: All, all...none of us three went to college.

J: Well, you know, I was just thinking at that time, I mean, I guess if a woman wanted to go out and work and have a career, I mean, the chances are she probably just wanted to teach because there wasn't that many opportunities for a woman.

E: Most of the women back at that time, their place was in the home. You know, they, I can remember during World War II, it really felt to be something for a woman to go out in public and work. Most women were around home. I mean, that was just, a woman's career was to be at home. Not out in public, but home. So, then, there were some, well, basket factory workers and things like that. People begin to working outdoors, women did more,

FLICK

then. And from then on, people's always worked out, women's worked out much more.

J: That was around World War II, you think?

E: That's when it started the most. Before that, there was working out in public, but then, that's when it was really a lot of them, starting.... About World War II, I'd say.

J: Was that the same for being a schoolteacher, you know, that she should.... It seems to me that most of the women schoolteachers didn't marry. I mean, that's my impression.

E: They didn't.

J: They didn't.

E: Mother was 30 when she was married.

J: I guess that's why she had to stop, then, yeah, yeah. Well, how about you? Did you ever think you wanted to do anything else?

W: No.

J: I didn't think so.

W: I did. I worked out too a long time.

J: Oh, you did! When? Like before you all got married or after?

W: No, after we got married.

J: Where were you working, Mrs. Flick?

E: I worked...let's see...I worked for the same contractor he did.

W: Well, finally, but you started out at the dimestore, and...

E: Yeah, the first job I had, I guess I worked in the dimestore and then, when he and I were married, I was...

W: Tell her about your wages. [laughs]

E: Well, yes, in the dimestore, I made a dollar a day and on Saturday, I made a dollar and a half and I went to work at seven or seven-thirty in the morning, I forget which, and we worked on Saturday nights, you didn't have closing hours. You worked 'til people quit coming. And then, you stocked your shelves after that (flick2)

FLICK

over at seven or seven-thirty and that night I quit at one-thirty.

J: Oh, my God!

E: For a dollar and...

J: For a dollar and a half. Wow! That would be like ten cents an hour or something like that. Wow! Was this, was this at the square in Paoli? At Wilson Robert's?

E: No, it's where Clemmon's Drugstore is now, I guess, is where I worked then. Clemmon's Drugstore is...that was...right in there somewhere and I believe that's where the dimestore was.

J: What was it called, the dimestore?

E: Five and Ten-cent Store.

J: OK. Alright. OK. Wow, that is something.

W: And then you, tell her where else you worked. [J laughs]

E: Well, then I worked for Turners (?) Creamery for three or four years. And then, I worked at the AFC office.

J: What's the AFC?

E: That's an agricultural office; it's a government office.

J: Where was that located? Was that in Paoli? Or...?

E: Yeah, at Paoli, Paoli. I worked two or three different places. I mean, it was located in two or three different places in the time that I worked there. And then, I went to work for Bill Eledge (?), a contractor. Was his bookkeeper. I worked for him for eight years, and he got sick and wasn't able to contract and so I went to Orleans and put my application in at a factory up there. And he just about cried. He said he didn't want to lose me as bookkeeper. And I said, "Well"--I had heard he had cancer of the lungs--and I said, "Well, when you get able to go back to contracting, I promise you I'll quit and come back." But he never did get able. He passed away. So, I worked in the factory for about a year, and then I went to work at Kemple's Hardware, and I worked there for eight years or a little over as bookkeeper. And that was my last job.

J: And that was 31 total, you said? Working?

E: It all totals out to about 31 years.

FLICK

J: And were you working full time?

E: No, every place I worked...at the factory, I was off on Saturdays, and when I worked for Eledge, I was always off on, about always off on Tuesdays and Saturdays. And the AFC office, I was off on Saturdays.

J: But we're still talking four or five days a week.

E: Oh yes.

J: From morning 'til you know, yeah. That's pretty full time in my book.

E: And I'd work...we'd do our chores together, milking and feeding and all that kind of stuff.

J: Were the girls much help to y'all?

W: Not outside.

E: No.

J: Did they not cotton to it or did they not like it very much?

E: They didn't like it and they still don't like it. [W laughs]

J: Do...would you've like it that they did? I mean, did it...do you know what I mean?

E: No. I enjoy being out with him.

J: Well, so, like what kind of chores would you do when you came home? Milking the cows, you said.

E: Well, we milked cows, we fed sheep and hogs,...

W: We had sheep and hogs and milkcows, then finally, we sold our milkcows and went to beef. And didn't have to milk.

J: Yeah, I guess that that would be the time that refrigerated milk became real...is that why stopped?

W: No. We, I don't know, she was working out then, and it was too much, you know, milking and working out too, so...

E: You know you had to wash your milkers and keep them clean, you know, and it was too much; I couldn't keep up with everything.

J: How many cows, milkcows, were you...?

FLICK

E: The most we ever milked was--what?--eleven?

W: Oh, something like that.

E: Not a whole lot but it still was a lot of work.

J: Yeah, yeah, [laughs] I tried a couple of times to milk a cow. It looks so easy when you see it on TV or something like that, or when you see someone else do it, but you really have to have strong hands to do that. It's incredible.

E: That's probably what's wrong with that hand _____. They said it was.

J: Really. A lifetime of...or just a long time of.... And then, how about you, Winston, where were you working at?

W: Well, I started working for--the farmer that owned it--you see, my dad sold the home place out there, and after he passed away, and I worked for the guy who bought the farm. Before I was married. I started working for him. At 20 dollars a month. And I had my, but I had--me and my mother lived together, then, and we had two or three cows and had a sow, and sells pigs, and then, but, money, I just got 20 dollars a month. And I bought a car, _____ car, and I paid 15 dollars a month.

J: On the car?

W: And I never missed a payment. [W and J laugh] Bought that from poor Eddie Gilstrap (?), the salesman in Paoli now.

J: Wow! You must have wanted that car pretty much.

W: [laughing] It was a '37 Ford. No, I believe...no, '35, '35 Ford, I believe.

J: And like, and how old were you at the time?

W: Oh, I was about, I was just out of high school. Eighteen. And I worked for him...I got married, then, in '44, and still worked out there on the farm. And then, I bought this place out here. And we moved out here in '49. And then, I still worked out on construction for...I worked the sandstone, in French Lick, where they used to do sandstone work. Back then, they hewed it out by hand. They didn't have a lot of bulldozers and things that they have now. We'd haul it out, out of the ground, and put it in an old truck to, winchtruck to load it and things. I worked there I don't know how many years, and then, I went on my construction contractor, and built school houses. I worked on the town hall of

FLICK

Paoli and a lot of school houses: French Lick, and Bird's Eye (?), and I don't know where all we built schoolhouses and _____.

Then, after he passed away, his son-in-law took over and finally went into blacktopping roads. And _____, I worked for him for a long time. And then, I finally quit and stayed home.

J: OK, so now you're just full-time here? Yeah, yeah. And yourself, too. Yeah. Yeah.

[END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE]

E: ..."you promised me you'd quit work", and so he finally did.

J: He was probably glad...were you glad that she held you to it?

W: I guess, yeah.

J: So, you both then worked full-time and then did farming when you could. Would you have, would it have been hard to like just farm full-time? Is that why you were both working outside jobs, too? Or...?

W: Well, we, I never raised corn or...I always just raised grass and livestock, you know. And so, you had to have a little extra money coming in besides what you made on the farm, you know, to keep going.

J: You mean, like someone who's raising corn can do it full-time without...?

W: Not too many of them, 'cause they have a hard time, too.

J: Well, probably, around, around here, I guess, because...

W: They, they're not too many full-time farmers that just farm and don't do nothing else. A lot of them have second jobs. They keep the farm going.

J: OK. Yeah. Right. Because I guess it's so expensive now to farm.

W: Yeah.

J: It's not like when you were young, your parents probably both were just full-time.... OK.

W: I remember my first livestock __ home and my dad had a sow and

FLICK

she just had two pigs, had a little sow pig and a male pig and the little sow pig was a runt and I bought it from my dad--I don't know what I give for it, maybe two dollars or something--and I kept that sow and bred her and the first litter, she had nine pigs.

J: Wow! You were glad about that.

W: Yeah, that's the way I got started in the livestock...

J: Yeah, really? Really? Well, it sounds like you got off to a good start. Have you all started working, farming anymore since you're here full-time? [retired] Or...? Do you know what I mean?

W: Well, yes, we first started out we just owned this 80 acres. Then, when I was working out in in the factory, I bought another 80 acres out the road there. Then, in, sometime in the '60s, I bought another farm, 160 acres, out the road there, and more cattle than I did then, so...

J: So, you've just been steadily increasing. Yeah, yeah, yeah, as it goes on.

W: Now, got about 100 cows now. All three places. Got them divided up in three different herds.

J: How long does it take you to drive to these places? Are they...?

W: Oh, they're just _____, about quarter of a mile.

J: OK. That's what I thought. Did you all--this is a technical question--did you all have two cars, then, if you were both driving....

E: Yes.

J: OK. Alright.

E: He had a truck. I had a car.

W: One time, it rained us out and I come home early from work, and I was going back, I thought I'd go back out to the other farm to check the cows, and it was about time for her to come home, about four o'clock, and at a curve...

E: Five.

W: Five? Well, what time that it was. I was going out there and I look and I thought, well, it's about time for her to come home,

FLICK

_____. And sure enough, on that curve out there, we met and she run into me. [laughs]

E: No, you ran into me. [everybody laughs]

J: You mean...really?

E: We really did. Knocked me out of the front seat. It damaged our...we had to have a new fender and door and I don't know what all put on the truck. And our insurance wasn't any good, because it was husband and wife.

J: Oh, I see what you're saying. Oh, so if husband and wife hit each other...I see.

E: They said too many people--back at that time--they said too many people would do those kind of things on purpose. Maybe hated each other or something, you know, and they do those things on purpose. It ruined the fender on my car, knocked me out the seat clear on the other side, and...

J: I shouldn't be laughing. I mean, you really could've been hurt, but it's a funny story.

W: Yeah, I was just saying, it was about time for her to come home when around that curve she come, and kebeck!...

J: Well, what was it like, you know, like, OK, you all came out here in about '49, you said? What was it like, you know, life like then, for you all? Do you know what I mean?

W: Well, this was a gravel road, then. It was dusty and it wasn't much traveled then, because we didn't...we got a lake back down here now.

J: Is that...?

W: Tucker Lake.

J: Tucker? Alright.

E: Well, a lot of people go through here to Patoka Lake, too.

W: Well, not as much as they go to Tucker. Just about a mile and a half out that a way. A lot of travelers now. Back then, it wasn't...you could, well, I used to have ponies and cart right up and down the road and ride a horse up and down the road. I wouldn't care about doing that now. Too much travel on it. They used to go through my fence there all the time, and...

FLICK

J: What? You mean...?

W: [laughs] These cars, they wouldn't stop. Yeah.

J: Because they'd come round your _____ or something? Oh, at the stop.

W: Yeah. I don't know how many times they went through that fence. But got up more signs there now. And they haven't nobody went through for a while. Better peck on wood, but...

E: Probably go through tonight.

J: [laughs] Knock on wood. Were you, you mentioned horses, were you still using horses at that time?

W: Yeah.

J: For the farming that you did? Or...?

W: Yeah, I had a team after we moved out here.

J: I remember when we at Owen's and you and I were talking, and I said something like, you know, "Do you miss the horses?" And your eyes kind of lit up.

W: Yeah. [both laugh]

J: And I could tell...

W: Yeah, I always liked horses. Yeah, used to always have a riding horse and ride in parades and everything.

J: Oh, yeah?

W: We moved from Salem, north of Palomar to Salem, in what do we call it, Centennial thing was it?

E: Something. I don't remember. Know you rode all day down.

W: That was the longest ride at a _____ parade.

E: And then, you had the pony and the carts from French Lick to Orleans.

W: Yeah, French Lick to Orleans, in the pony cart.

J: Just going like for rides?

W: No, it parades.

FLICK

J: In parades. Oh, alright.

W: It was a Centennial of Orleans, it was, and they had...

J: Were you going just as yourself? Or...?

W: No, I was in a group.

J: Like a group of farmers, together? Or...?

W: Yeah, horse people and...yeah.

J: Would you use horses for farming?

W: You mean, did I?

J: Yeah.

W: Well, not too much, no.

J: OK, so it was more just for riding them. Did you keep one for a while after you had the car?

W: Oh, yeah. Hadn't been too many years since I got rid of last one.

J: Oh, really. OK. Yeah.

W: Still got a saddle same as new. She bought me, when she worked the hardware, she bought me a new saddle for Christmas and I've still got it.

J: But no horse now.

W: But no horse.

J: At the time you were working, I guess you said it wasn't so uncommon then for women to be working.

E: Not when I was working.

J: OK. Would you then like come home at four o'clock and get started on making--well, first you had chores and then...

E: Did all my chores and then I'd work on our clothes or can lots--I remember one time I was canning about one or one-thirty.

J: I was going to say...God.

FLICK

W: When my mother was with us, well, she done the cooking.

E: Yeah, she did...

J: Oh, that's...that's...oh, yeah.

E: You might say she baby-sat for...I would've never worked out if I'd had to leave the girls. Because I think a mother should stay home with the children. But when she was here anyway, well, I took advantage of it and I worked out.

W: She was home some, but she worked out some too.

E: No, she worked out some too.

W: Most of the time.

E: Most of the time, she was here. But when she wasn't, why...the girls were older when she wasn't here, I guess. The girls were good to help in the house when they were little.

J: Do they live around here still? Or...?

W: One of them lives about five miles north and the other one lives about a mile up the road.

J: Really. Well, that's good. That's good. They're both real close, then. Do you still go to the Quaker church?

E: I go with him. I joined....

W: I made a Methodist out of her.

E: He just thinks he did. I still got the Quaker principles. [laughs] No, it was bothering my girls because Daddy was a Methodist and Mother was a Quaker. And I didn't want it to bother them, so I joined down here.

J: Umm, having one...not having parents be...yeah.

E: I didn't think that was a good idea for a family.

J: And are your girls both married now.

E: Girls are both married and they go out, they both go out here at church. Their husbands and all of our grand-children...

W: We have five grand-children.

J: Wow!

FLICK

E: One grand-daughter got married, it'll be two weeks tomorrow.

J: Oh, really. Oh, gosh.

E: And her husband comes out here too.

J: Well, the family has really stayed very close, then, it seems, yeah.

E: We're a close family.

J: Yeah. Do you think part of that is, you know, I mean, there aren't a lot of diversions out there...do you know what I mean? Was that part of how you all got to be close, do you think? I mean, you know, you're out together...

E: I don't know. Could be the way we was raised, maybe, I don't know.

J: What was...what do you mean?

E: I was raised as close family. My family was close family and still are. I can just go so long without back to see my brother and sister.

J: Really. That's good.

E: We're going to all get together Saturday night. And we don't usually have these get-togethers until all of their children and my children can all come. So, we all be together.

J: Is the family getting pretty big now, with the kids getting married and stuff?

E: There's around 30, I think, in there.

W: Thereabouts, some of them in Indianapolis.

E: And some of them's in Ireland (?). We're getting scattered out more.

W: We're going to make homemade ice cream.

J: Well, that's a good enough reason for anyone to drive from Indy. [laughs]

E: But we usually make like...I think the last time, we had seven gallon of homemade, there were seven or eight gallon of homemade ice cream. But this girl that lives in Indianapolis, she's coming

FLICK

home for Father's Day anyway, you see. So, he's taking advantage of it and we're all going to get together.

J: [pause] What was Paoli like?

E: It sure wasn't like it is now. [laughs]

J: How's it now, how was then, how's it different?

E: Well, on Saturday night, there are two or three things that's a lot, I could tell you, it's a lot different. On Saturday night, you could hardly get through, there was just.

W: How about Andy's Restaurant, huh?

E: Well, yeah, there was a restaurant down about a block off the square and that's where all the young people met. Aw, there'd just be lots of young people would meet there on Saturday night. You'd just have a lot of fun, talking and drinking a Coke or what was that other we always drank? You know, we got them when we went to Nashville, we hardly ever bought them--and Marilyn had them. Sodas? Sodas?

W: Soda fountain (?).

E: You don't get them too much around here now. And well, everybody met there and that was just the meeting place for teenagers, was what it was. And you could get cones, like three dips for a nickel. On Saturday night, there would be such a crowd all around the square, that you couldn't even walk hardly.

J: Really?

E: Old farmers and everybody would come into town on Saturday night and they'd stand there on the square and visit. Farmers would come in and visit, it was something else. They'd bring in eggs and cream. And sell. And then, they'd go buy their groceries, or whatever they wanted to with the money. And it was a big crowd. And then, the thing that my kids have got a kick out of, they would block off that square and make a one-way traffic around it...

W: When they had carnival.

E: Yeah. Well, I don't think, they didn't even one, did they have one-way traffic.

W: No.

E: No. The square was completely blocked off, wasn't it? And

FLICK

had a carnival.

W: Yeah. And have all the stands and everybody right around it.

E: Around the square.

W: And you'd just go around that thing.

E: Around and 'round and 'round. and that would be full of people. Now, now, it would be against the law. To stop...

W: ...they couldn't...

E: ...well, you couldn't do it. See, that's...

J: To block off the traffic, then?

E: ...to block--that's a state road! You see, there's two or three state roads comes into that square; there's 37, 56, and then, _____. That would be against the, that would be against the law.

W: They...that whole thing would just be packed full of people. You couldn't hardly get around there.

E: No, you couldn't hardly move.

W: On Saturday night, you just, bumper to bumper. [laughs]

E: And us kids, we lived close to town. About...the backside of our farm was about a half a mile from the city limits and when the carnival was going on, especially if the wind was from the north like this, we could hear the merry-go-round, the Ferris wheel and all that. It was so hard on Bud and I, 'cause we'd be putting up hay late in the evening and we'd hear all that carnival stuff, we'd want to go to the carnival. [laughs] But usually when we did get to go, Daddy'd give us a quarter apiece.

J: Was that plenty to take care of, yeah, I guess if you could get three ice creams for just a nickel...

E: We could buy ice cream sandwiches and we could buy ice cream. I never liked to ride anything and he didn't either. But we could buy a lot of things for a quarter.

J: And this was carnival that came, that came once a year.

E: Must have been, it's been over fifty, fifty years ago. Well, its been over fifty years ago!--I forget how old I am.

FLICK

J: And would you all also go in on Saturdays for trading and...?

E: And on Thursday nights, they had band concert. And there was a big, a big kind of a brick building on the lower side of the square up there. And the band would be in there, and they'd play, and when they'd get done playing, well, people was all around the square and they'd all blow their horns, many of them, you know, to show them they appreciated the music.

J: Would you all go in on Thursday night or would you just listen from your farm, if the wind was blowing right?

E: We usually went in on Thursday night and Saturday night both.

J: OK. OK. Could you walk in from where you lived or would you take...?

E: Mother and Daddy wouldn't let us. We could've but they wouldn't let us.

J: Oh, why not?

E: It was two miles from where we lived. It was the backside of our place, where we was putting up hay that I said was a half a mile. But...where our house was, was about two miles into town. They wouldn't let us get out and walk at night. That detour, like

I was talking about--like he was talking about while ago, also came past where I lived. And then, they were over-protective, anyway, of us. Wouldn't let us out too much.

J: Would your family go in, too, for the Saturday nights?

W: No. Well, we went to French Lick.

J: OK. You went to French Lick. Well, 'cause part of time, 'cause part of the time, when you worked, you know, after you got married, part of the time, you worked in Paoli, part of the time in French Lick?

W: Well, worked out of French Lick. Traveling contractors were from French Lick. But we worked in places that...

J: Oh, but the company...Oh! So, really, all the time that you worked out, it was based in French Lick. And you went to high school, did, you went to French Lick?

W: ...French Lick.

J: And your kids have gone...?

W: French Lick.

J: ...French Lick. Yet you've lived in...

E: _____ Paoli.

J: And where do you all like do your shopping and stuff, now?

E: Well, I'm kind of disgusted at French Lick and can't buy much in Paoli. I guess Jasper, _____ .

W: Yes. Groceries, we, go to Franklin (?) and Terre Haute.

J: Both? Just depending on...?

E: In French Lick, we did have a nice grocery store, and I guess they couldn't make it, so they've closed, and there's only...well, there's one locally owned, down there. I don't like that one too well. And then, the JC store. Then over in Prospect, there's another store, but that's seems so far away.

J: Well, in French Lick, your folks would go in on Saturdays for the...and...does French Lick have a square?

W: No.

J: It doesn't. But would it have the same type of things...stores?

W: Yeah.

J: OK. Alright.

W: They never had a carnival in the town.

J: Oh no?

W: Like Paoli, no. Well, they had the Fourth of July thing, but they wouldn't have it in town, they'd have it over on the grounds...they had the grounds for a park. They'd have the Fourth of July things there.

J: Is that Saturday night stuff, is that something that you miss or...?

E: Not now.

J: Not now?

E: They don't do that anymore. The town's dead now, just barely (?).

J: Was it something you enjoyed at the time?

E: I suppose I did when I was a girl.

W: Oh, yeah. That was a big thing back then, Saturday night.

E: It was a big thing. You'd go to town, see all the boys and all the girls.

J: But looking back now, it's not...I mean, you wouldn't go in, would you go in on Saturday nights now, just to be able to socialize like that?

E: I wouldn't.

J: [simultaneous] Just too tired and you just see people enough?

E: I don't care to go anywhere. I just like to go to the front porch. [all laugh] Set and embroider and _____

W: Watch television, we like...'Hee Haw' on Saturday nights. [laughs]

E: We don't watch much television.

J: Yeah, yeah.

W: We watch...more on Saturday night than any time.

E: Yeah, and very little then.

W: Just 'Hee Haw'.

E: 'Amen', once in a while 'cause we like that old colored preacher that gets in trouble all the time.

J: I don't think I know that one.

E: I don't even know what his name is, I don't watch television enough to know what his name is. Program's called "Amen", but I don't know.

J: But you're just as soon satisfied just to stay put where you are and sit back and relax.

E: That's what I said, he's lucky to get me, 'cause a lot of women wouldn't enjoy that, but I do. [laughs] I enjoy it. Once in a while, I like to...now last Saturday night, we went out to eat, but as a rule, I'd just rather stay at home. I never did care to go.

W: How about you? Do you miss any of that? Well, the reason I'm asking this is because I've had, you know, some people round y'all's age who grew up having this Saturday night thing when everyone would come in and socialize and talk. You know, some people talk about it like it's something that they really miss. You know, the way people used to really talk and socialize and how it seems real different now.

W: No, I don't miss it too much myself. I'd rather...

E: Well, one thing was that we're busy. We're busy in a lot of activities. Like last night. His sister and his nephew...great-nephew and great-great-nephew were here and we made ice cream. Last night. Tonight we're going out to the church house to a weenie roast. Tomorrow night, we're going to my brother's to make ice cream. Sunday night, we're going to our daughter's for a cook-out. See, we're...if we ever get to the front porch, it's a vacation.

J: Yeah, yeah--so you're saying you do plenty of socializing, thank you.

E: We do a lot of socializing...

J: You don't need to go down to the square, anymore.

E: ...you know, without--making it. There's just something to do all the time.

J: Right, right, right. OK.

E: And he's in the Cattleman's Association and I work with the...out at the church a lot. I work with Home Ec. Not near as much as I used to but...you know, we're just in a lot things.

J: Do you feel that same way?

W: Yes.

J: Well, I guess some people will always just kind of go on about the good old days anyway. Well, when do you all think were the good old days. I mean, are they now? were they then or something?

W: Oh, I enjoyed them both. [J and W laugh] Just a difference.

J: Have you seen any other changes? In...well, I mean, where do you consider yourself a part of? Like French Lick or Paoli? Or both? Or...?

W: Well, I cons--French Lick.

J: French Lick. Now, is that true for you too, Mrs. Flick, now, or...?

E: Well, I guess, because I was talking to a girl the other day--or a lady that I graduated with--and one of our schoolmates had passed away, and she said, "Did anybody call you when Eddy passed away?"

And I said, "No."

"Well, did anybody call you when somebody else's mother had passed away" that was in my class.

I said, "No."

She said, "Well, you're just stuck a-way back down there."

So, I guess I just a-way back down here somewhere! But I don't know. I just never thought anything about it. I'm just out here. When I was first married, I thought I was a long ways from town. Seemed like it was a long ways from Paoli. But I don't think anything about it now.

J: Did you ever feel like isolated or just stuck out?

E: No...I just felt it was a long ways to town. But after I worked, I drove to work, why I got, I make it in ten, fifteen minutes, easy, you know. So, I didn't think so much about it, then.

J: And why did you go ahead and work in Paoli versus French Lick? If he was in French Lick?

E: I worked both places.

J: You worked both places, right.

E: When I worked for Eledge, when I worked for Eledge--he was the contractor he worked for--I worked in Shoals for three years in his office. And then, the other five years, I worked in French Lick in his office. But at Paoli, it was just about everywhere I'd look, I'd see some of my relatives, 'cause I've got a lot of relatives. I don't know, I just felt more at home at Fren--at Paoli.

J: At Paoli. Well, now when you go into town, you know, are there many faces that you know or is it...?

Flick

E: Not like there was. Lot of people moved away and passed away and...all those kind of things.

J: Do you think Paoli or French Lick are going to change very much?

W: Well, I think they're slick if they get that Tillary Hill going. I think it'll be something.

J: I guess, I mean, if they got that, that would even effect Paoli with all the, you know, more people coming through and stuff like that.

W: They think it's going to go, so...

J: I guess they still have to get the...work out the state road, building the highway through and stuff like that. Well, I know what I wanted to ask you about and that is farming and how has that changed...like I said, you know, I really don't know that much about it and I wondered how's it changed since either one of you were...?

W: Well, any more they have to use so much spray and things, to kill the weeds and everything like that, and they didn't used to. You just plowed your corn and then, used a hoe and chopped out the weeds and now, in the...there's a lot of them, they just spray and don't even plow the corn. And it costs you a lot more to lay the crop than it did then.

J: Has that made it--if it hadn't been so expensive to go into farming, would you rather have been able to do that? Was it...?

W: No, I think this round here, this is mostly grass country. I think a lot of it shouldn't be farm plowed...

J: Oh, right. Right.

W: ..corn..._____ need to be kept in grass.

J: Well, has it changed very much for cattle farmers? Sorry, livestock...

W: Well, yes, they have feeder sales for your cattle, your calves. Didn't used to have that. Now, they have co-op and they take them in, you know, and sell them in feeder sales. Makes a better market than they used to have.

J: Any other kinds of changes? Do you think it's made it better or worse or harder or easier or something...?

W: Well, yeah, I think it's better, easier, yeah. [pause] Bigger

machineries to gather in the crops with.

J: Well, I remember when we were on the phone talking about baling hay and how you said most of your neighbors, I guess, used the...

W: ...round bales.

J: Yeah, but you didn't like those, because it rots in the center and you can't move it the way.

W: Yes.

J: Does it cost very much to get the hired help?

W: Yeah, it costs more than it used to. [laughs]

J: Would you cook them lunch or dinner, I guess? Isn't that...?

E: Sometimes I do, but usually if I have them, we just have sandwiches or something like that. I've just done that once this year. So, I usually make cookies for the boys. In fact, they'll work the field, they'll holler "Where's the cookies?" But...

W: Most times, putting up hay, you don't start 'til afternoon to baling...

E: About one o'clock.

W: ...you know, 'til it gets dry, especially if you have a heavy dew and things and a lot of times, it's up towards noon before we can start.

J: I'm sorry because in the morning, you have to do other kinds of stuff or...?

W: No, you have to let the dew dry until it's all off. It's wet from the dew. And you got to have it dry before you can start baling.

J: Ohh, alright. That makes sense. Actually, I had wondered that, why you always waited to afternoon.

W: Now, sometimes lately....

[END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO]

J: ...be able to start at nine o'clock in the morning. Are as many people going into farming, do you think? As they used to?

W: No, no, less all the time.

J: And why is that?

W: Well, it's just...it's hard to make a good living in it. The way people wants to live nowadays, they can't hardly make it on just farming.

J: Is that because getting set up and everything is so expensive?

W: Gas is expensive and machinery. Used to have a neighbor that used to live up the road there, and they talk about \$50,000 it costs, you know, to start from, and he said, "If I had \$50,000, I wouldn't need to farm." [W and J laugh] He had it about right, you know.

J: Well, you said that for people to live the way they want to, it's hard. Do you think that people like have different ideas about, you know, the things that they need to have.

W: Oh, yeah, yeah.

J: Like...?

W: Everybody has to...think they have to have a boat.

J: Really? Do you all have a boat?

W: No.

E: Our daughter.

W: Don't want one.

E: Both our daughters did. One daughter had a pontoon. Traded in for a boat. Traded the boat for...or sold the boat and bought a pool [laughs] I think that's...I think she's finally calmed down now with a pool. But we never cared anything. I don't like water.

J: Well, I guess with Patoka Lake close by and...where else do people take them?

W: Well, Monroe, used to.

J: Oh, really?

W: Yeah, used to. Yeah.

E: That's where _____ used to go to _____.

W: Well, that's before they had Patoka, but.... They go different places now and...a lot of fishing down here at Tucker.

J: Do you fish at all?

W: No. Never caught a fish in my life. [J laughs, W joins in]

J: Have you tried?

W: Yes, just about half-way. [everybody laughs]

E: Greg...Greg here's the one who got you...

W: This year they bought me a fishing pole for Father's Day or something.

J: Oh, did they?

W: Yeah, wanted me to fish, you know, and to go there and throw it in, the poor thing, fish just take the worm off and then you have to bait it again and throw it in, they eat the worm again--said that's enough for me. So...

J: You probably thought you were just feeding their fish and not catching them.

W: Yeah. I gave the fishing pole to some kids _____

J: So, people feel like they have to have a boat, and I guess, what else? what other kind of...?

W: And color television. And now then, a...

E: VCR.

J: VCRs. Are those pretty...yeah, I guess everyone's got to have their own cars. Yeah, it's probably changed since you all were young.

E: We started out, we just had what you had to have, you know.

J: Which was what? Because this is stuff that those people think you have to have.

E: Well, we didn't have television for a long time. We didn't have telephones. We carried our water. Just lots of things. You know, we did everything the hard way. But people, young

people don't do that now.

J: Did you...when you did start out and you didn't have this stuff, did it seem...I mean, did it just seem normal that that's the way it was or did it...?

E: It didn't bother me any. It didn't hurt me any.

W: We wouldn't used to them.

E: No, we weren't used to them.

J: Yeah, no, I mean, I, that's...

E: We had friends that had those kind of things, but it never bothered me.

J: What there electricity out in this part, when y'all first started out?

E: There was when we got married.

J: OK. And you said before that more and more people going into farming have to do it like you all are doing, which is you just don't farm, but you have something else.

W: Thinking, John _____

E: Well, there's been several peo--young people right around us that has gone broke.

J: Really?

E: You know, trying to farm. There's a real pretty home right out here, but he lost his farm. You came past one up this other way, he lost...

J: Is that that Wayne Short? There's some old house that's been deserted. No, forget it, actually, it was a real small house. Do you know that one?

E: No, where I'm thinking about, there's a house back up this way and it's shaped a lot like a barn. And he was supposed to have lost, well, he did lose all his machinery and things. I don't know what else he's lost. But there's just, well, he could hardly make it, this, I guess, he tried farming. This other guy out here, I know he lost everything out there and he finally moved to town, took another job. He owes thousands and thousands of dollars and he just can't make it.

J: Well, I mean, if fewer and fewer people are going into

Flick

farming, what are they doing instead? Just working in town or...?

W: Well, _____, he was driving a truck. And I don't know, and _____, he's just working on construction when he can.

E: There's one fellow out here that lost his home. His family was a family that had to have the best of everything and you can't...and he had four, four girls, I guess, I forget whether it was three or four girls, four girls, I think, and you can't hardly keep up with something like that, you know, when you're just farming.

W: He bought all new machinery. Tractors, combines and...

E: And they all cost thousands of dollars.

J: Well, did he not go about it the right way? Should he have like done it slower or something?

W: Well, yeah, he could have done different. But it'd been hard no matter what. _____

J: Geez.

W: He hired a lot of help and he'd, he'd stay down at the restaurant and play the...oh, what was that thing he played?

J: _____

E: _____

W: No, no.

E: No, no.

W: Like a slot machine, I don't know what they...

J: Oh, oh, like a pinball machine.

E: Yeah, pinball.

J: Oh, those just eat money; those are horrible.

W: What was it he called, they called that one down there?

E: I can't think what they call that now.

W: I forget now. But the restaurant had it in there, you know, and he'd play it all the time, when he ought to been out working

Flick

instead of hiring kids to farm and he's down there doing that.

J: Oh, Geez, those things are bad enough if you have a lot of money, but if you're...oh, dear.

W: Was it 'Bad Net'? Do they have one like that?

J: They probably...I've never taken to those things, at all.

W: I don't know what they called it. But it had a name, and people, they'd talk him a'playing that all the time.

J: Well, they got so many. There's like a million different machines and they all have a different game or something.

W: Yeah.

J: Yeah. Different names. Well, I'm...is that changing...I mean, I guess I'm just thinking...my idea is that, you know, beforehand, more people farmed out around here and is it changing like Orange Country somehow, you know that it's moving from being a place where more people farmed to now, where, you know, it's getting hard to make a living on it.

W: Oh, yes.

J: [pause] When you all were growing up, or I guess, when you all were in high school--you were in high school in what years?

E: I graduated before he graduated.

W: I graduated in '37.

J: In '37. OK. Well, actually, that was kind of around the Depression. Were there many...did people in town have any kind of attitude about, you know, people who farmed? What was that like?

E: I don't know whether he noticed it or not, but they did...in Paoli. I mean, you were just a country kid.

J: Is that just the kids at school or do you mean pretty much everyone in town, just walking around town or something like that?

E: Well, I guess at that time, it was pretty much the general public, because I can remember when they had a big supper at the Presbyterian Church of Paoli and they called it the Town and Country Supper, I believe it was, and they said the idea was to get country people and town people to mix more, to get them better acquainted with each other. So, evidently--I don't remember too much, you know, of the feelings of the town people and country people except the high school children, high school

Flick

children. Except that meeting, I remember hearing them say that. So, I'd say that there much have been a bad feeling between them.

J: Did you ever experience, you yourself though, you know...

E: No...

J: Like did you ever feel any different or...?

E: Not too much, because I didn't mix too much in high school. I had three or four cousins that I ran around with all the time. We had grown up together. Probably if I had mixed with other children, I would've, but I didn't. There was one or two other girls that I ran around with some, but not very much. It was just mostly my first cousins. They had been raised just like I had, so there was not much difference, see? I've been closer to my classmates since I graduated than I did when I went to high school.

J: Well, that's nice.

E: And I don't know about him.

J: How about you? Did you ever notice any of this or think about it or...?

W: Well, I generally picked the boys from the country for my friends.

J: Was that just because you all had more in common?

W: Yes.

J: Well, were country kids different somehow? like in outlook or
(~~flick4~~wp)

W: Well, I guess it was just different interests, different things to talk about.

E: Well, for one thing, country children didn't, at that time, they didn't have electricity and they didn't have running water and they didn't have all the things that town children had. And they were more country hicks. And a town child could just really rub it in if they wanted to. Of course, they didn't have too

much, they didn't get too much of a chance at me, because, like I said, I hung around my cousins. But they could. We didn't have what they had. You know, in town like that. But see, now, country people, they've got as much as town people if not more. And town people realizes that now.

W: We were kidding our grandson that he drives to...got a car and drives to school every day, and the school bus passes right by our door. [laughs]

E: He's got to drive to school. And you know how they punish him? Take his keys away from. If he does something he's not supposed to do, he can't drive to school and gets his keys taken away from him. Seventeen years old.

J: Well, I was just going to say, some people I've talked to said that at...who were probably in high school around the same time you all would, that you all were, some people have said that, you know, because farming kids didn't have a way to get into, back into school for like games or for extra-curricular activities, because they didn't have transportation....

E: Right.

J: And that may have also...yeah.

E: And you was talking about the cars, when I was in high school, there was just two or three boys that drove cars very much to school, and boy, that was really something.

J: Did they have tons of dates?

E: Oh, no, they didn't have to ask for dates, the girls were all after them. [E and J laugh]

W: I belonged to the Hi-Y Club, back then...

E: Tri-Hi-Y.

W: ...and one of the boys over there, that he had a car, and he'd...I'd ride home with him and then, I'd walk home from his house by myself, probably 2 1/2 miles. I think I had walked all the way from town.

J: How far is it from here?

W: Oh, about six miles.

E: We just weren't in activities. We just...well, my brother could drive and he did get the car to drive, but we always were busy because, well, we just carried on the main work at home. I remember on Sunday nights, was kind of our night off and we'd get to go to the young people's meeting at church on Sunday night and Mother and Daddy'd do the milking and do the work, but most of the time, we didn't do much at night. Once in a while, Bud'd get the car and we'd get to go to town.

J: Did it ever seem like you should mind it, like it was something that you minded or did it just seem perfectly fine.

E: I never minded anything about it. At times...the only thing that I can really remember that I thought they were really strict on me...they...I always wanted to go where they were playing ball on Sunday afternoon, and they never wanted me to do that.

J: Who was they?

E: I don't really remember who the cause of it was, whether it was neighborhood kids or...

J: Oh! So you could play yourself?

W: You mean your parents didn't want you to do it.

E: No, my parents wouldn't let me go. And I don't know why. They were so strict about remembering the seventh day, to keep it holy, and I don't know whether that's....

W: They didn't believe in playing on Sunday.

E: I guess they didn't believe in it, but now Mother would get out and play with us on Sunday afternoon, play ball with us.

J: Maybe it was different somehow, keeping it in the family, just playing it versus...huh.

E: I don't know.... Well, that's the only thing that I can really remember. I guess they just didn't believe in it. 'Cause they were, they were...I was raised strict.

J: And I guess I asked--do you think...was that some part of the Quaker thing or do you think that...?

E: Yes, it was.

J: It was.

E: We couldn't...very little cooking we ever done on Sunday. The wood had to be carried in the day before, see we had an old range.

J: So you guys really just did rest.

E: And water had to be carried in the day before. Once in a while we would do those things on Sunday, but not very often. I mean, if we got in a tight place. And if we had company for dinner, you didn't buy your bread sliced, you had to slice that yourself. And those kind of things you did on Saturday. I

Flick

remember Mother had a pretty white towel she, we'd wrap that all up after we'd sliced the bread dough to keep it fresh. And those kind of things all had to be done on Saturday, you didn't do anymore on Sunday than you just had to.

J: So, what did you do on Sunday?

E: Well, once in a while, we would...well, about, just about every Sunday, if we didn't have company, we'd go for a ride or a picnic. We went on a lot of picnics, all through the summer, went on picnics. And in the wintertime, Daddy had a sleigh and we'd go sleigh riding, pulled by a team of horses or mules or something like that.

J: So, it sounds like it wasn't so much that you couldn't go out and have fun, it was just, it was like a family time...

E: Yes.

J: ...the day to be with your family.

E: And we'd go...or even some of the neighbor kids would go with us and my uncle--we had in our church at one time, there was...this was just a little bitty country church, that wasn't any bigger than this schoolhouse, I don't guess. And there was about 60 young people there and at least once a month, we could all get together and have a weenie roast or something. And he built a log cabin, with a big fireplace at one end of it, just for us kids, so we'd have a place to all get together. So, we had a lot of fun; we were together a lot, had a lot of fun. But we just, I would say we just didn't mix with the other people too much. That's about....

J: And you were playing mainly with your cousins. Your brother...

E: Mostly cousins. I had to get out of the neighborhood to find a husband, they was all around... [laughs]

J: So, then your neighbors were all your cousins, too.

E: My mother and father, let's see, they had three brothers and two sisters and mother had a brother and a sister and they all lived within two miles of where we lived, all around us. So, we had a lot of cousins all around me. My first cousin meant as much to me as a lot of people's brothers and sisters do.

J: Uh-huh. Well, yeah, I can understand that, yeah.

E: Well, that's the reason I say we're a lot like the office. Every once in a while,--I teach Sunday school classes--every once

in a while, I tell then out there in my class, I say, well, I'm just like the Amish. They'll say something about the Amish, and I'll say, "Well, I'm just like them." Last Sunday's lesson had something about them in there. [laughing] Well, I said "Well, I'm just like them."

J: Well, you know, I guess that's true in the sense of, you know, just being with, you know, your own group. Kind of family and like you said, didn't have electricity and all that kind of stuff. Well, at least you have a car, though.

E: Yes. We had a car then, too. I don't remember not having a car. I think they said they bought their first car when I was a baby. So, we've always had, we always had a car and they were active in rural and farm bureau and--I wasn't in 4-H, but my sister was. And my mother sang with the choir, farm bureau chorus. And she worked with...what was that when they was against prohibition? What'd they call that? They was working for...to do away with the alcohol.

J: Oh, temperance.

E: Yeah, it was along that line.

J: There was something else.

E: There was an organization and mother worked for that. We were, back then, we were always going.

J: Well, I guess your...

E: Maybe I'll do...

J: I guess your family...

E: I'll do that after you get that. I'll show you my family.

J: Oh, good!

E: After you get that done. [laughs]

J: OK. So, I guess if I'd gone to your house, I wouldn't have found home brew and stuff like that?

E: No, you wouldn't! No drinking, no smoking.

J: No smoking. Would I have found it at your house? A little home brew in the...?

W: No, no. Although my dad had...he might of had some hid out, [laughs] but you wouldn't have found it in the house. [J joins in]

Flick

E: His mother was a very, very religious woman. She wasn't bigger than nothing. She was just a little bitty woman.

J: Oh yeah, really? You're such a big man.

E: I don't know whether she...was she five foot tall?

W: Something like that.

E: She weren't any bigger than that and had piercing black eyes.

He don't look anything like her.

J: Are the blue eyes from his dad?

E: Yeah, he looks like his dad. His sister that was here last...his two sisters, they both look like their mother.

J: Well, let me just ask you this one last question. Well, probably not quite the last, I always say that.... But, you know, like women's lib stuff today. Do you know what I mean?

E: Know what?

J: With women's...you know, people talking about women's rights and stuff like that today...

E: Women lib or something?

J: Yeah, yeah. How do you all feel about that? You worked but...

E: Well, I've always said a woman's place is in the home. And if a woman takes care of her family and she keeps up her home and is a good wife, that's a full-time job.

J: So you don't need to work outside the house if you're doing all that stuff.

E: But with times like they are now, you almost have to work out. We have one daughter that works out. She works at school. She's a librarian. But if a woman did what she was supposed to do, it would be a full-time job, but it seems like everything's so high now that a woman almost has to work out to help her husband to make a living. It's a shame it's that way because I don't think God intended for it to be that way. I think a woman was created to be a man's helpmate. But I think she was created to be his helpmate at home. That's the way I feel about it.

J: Do you think she's all wrong?

W: Nope.

J: Yeah. Well, you know, women who do have to work outside the home, what do most of them do if they have kids? Do you know about that? I mean, like you were fortunate, you all were fortunate because you had, I guess it was _____.

E: I would've never worked out if I hadn't had....

W: Maintained baby-sitters.

E: Yeah, I kept one of my grand-children, this grandson that's 17 years old. Since he has to drive to school and everything. I kept him and for probably a year, a year and a half. And then they had a...every five years she had a child. So then she had this little girl and we were just crazy about her. And I said--she was going to go to work again--and I said, "Well, I'll keep Sherry."

She said, "No you won't." She said, "You've ruined one child and you're not going to keep Sherry." So, she took her to the baby-sitter. She said I spoiled him. And I guess I did; I don't know. But...we never had any boys of our own and he was the first grand-child, we've got one other grand--I mean, first grandson; we've got one other grandson.

J: Oh, and you all had girls, so this was like the first boy that you...well, how did you spoil the boy different than you would have spoiled a girl?

E: I don't know. I didn't know I spoiled him, but she said I did. [laughs] I guess I let him do too much. I don't know. But I couldn't tell that I did. I made him mind. I thought!

Anyway, she took, she took...well, most everybody takes their children to baby-sitters and there's good money in baby-sitting.

J: Are the baby-sitters just like a woman, you know, just would have people, have the women bring the kid to her own house and...?

E: This baby-sitter they took our grand-daughter to, she has other children, she has children of her own, she has children of her own and then, she kept other children. But it made a pretty good little girl out of her. She's a good baby-sitter.

And then, we have another lady that goes to church out here who is a baby-sitter, and Winston's sister was just laughing last night, said she was in the back the other day. I think she said she had six, didn't she say she had six little children?

W: I think.

J: Oh, God! [laughing]

E: In there with her. And she said they were standing there perfectly still.

J: Really?

E: Now, she is kind of a certified baby-sitter. She's a state--state approved. This one that our grand-daughter went to wasn't. She was just entertaining (?) a family. But...

W: How many she keep up...? How many she have up there?

E: Which? Robin?

W: Yeah.

E: I don't know how many she keeps, but she is state-approved.

J: Well, if I can...if I could learn to keep six little kids quiet, I'd...by taking some state course, I would think about doing it. Wow.

E: But this where our little grandchild went, Rita Ann said she's walked in there many a time and she's had five--four, five, six, something like that. And it'd be just as quiet in there as could be. They'd just be sitting there playing or something like that. You have to know how to control them...

J: Yeah, yeah, and have enough stuff for them to do.

E: You'd have to have patience.

J: Well, the other thing I was just thinking about is if...I mean, here you've lived in...OK, you're really kind of more French Lick, kind of more considered home. Would it bother you if for some reason Paoli was knocked off the face of the earth? I mean, would it change your life very much. Your sense of home and...

W: No.

J: And how about for you, Mrs. Flick? What do you think?

E: It'd probably upset me. [J and E laugh]

J: But you could still...

E: I could still carry on.

J: Well, you're obviously pretty happy out here.

E: We are. I would say.

J: Is there anything...any last word?

W: Well, I don't guess. Not me.

J: Well, could I just ask you this, and that is, like can you look back, looking back on your life, are there any like certain moments or events or anything like that that you really...that stand out?

W: No.

J: That's probably a hard question to answer. I don't even know if I could. OK. Well, is there anything...I mean I'm...anything that you can think...like to help me kind of understand...what is was like growing up? Or...?

E: We really don't think of any. It's just been one big happy event, I reckon. [laughs]

J: Well, good for you all.

E: There've been ups and downs. There were some downs too. But as a rule, everythings been pretty good.

J: I always say this, but I did think of one more last question, and that is about politics. I know this is kind of Republican country, out here, and I wondered if I could ask you all is you belong to any kind of party or...?

W: We are both pretty good Republican, but I vote for the man.

J: OK. So, it just depends. It's not a law.

W: No.

E: We're both registered as Republicans. But sometimes the Republicans run somebody that I don't think is fit for the office. I think I...I think you need to look at that their character.

W: I'll cross over if I think somebody on the other side is better.

J: Have you done it very often? Crossed over?

W: Yes.

J: Now, were your folks also Republican? Or...?

Flick

W: Yes.

J: And your son was too?

W: Yes.

J: Did your mom vote?

W: Yes.

J: She did? Did your's?

E: Yes.

J: She did?

[END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE ONE]

[Some unintelligible conversation]

J: ...I asked you what you liked about farming and you said the outdoors, _____, and being your own boss.

W: _____

J: Is there any other...?

W: Just being next to nature. _____

J: [laughs] About as close as it comes, yeah. OK. And how about for you, Mrs. Flick, is there anything?

E: I just like the outdoors and I love animals, love the cows, and beautiful sunrises and sunsets. When I was a girl, we used to, Daddy used to drag us kids out in the, between the house and the barn--it was kind of on a little hill--and he'd make us stand and look at the beautiful sunsets.

J: Would he really?

E: Sure. We had to appreciate those kind of things. I guess I've just got it in me.

J: Yeah, I guess it would...yeah. OK.

E: I just love nature. Well, that's all.

Flick

W: You going on?

E: I can.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

INDEX

AFC 13, 14
Andy's Restaurant 23
baby-sitter 51, 52
band concert 25
Beech Grove 3-5
Ben Mitton 2
car 15, 18, 20, 46, 47, 49
carnival 24, 25, 32
Cattleman's Association 34
Centennial 20
children 5, 9-11, 21, 22, 43, 46, 51, 52
Depression 9, 43
dimestore 12, 13
farm 1, 2, 5-8, 15-18, 24, 25, 36, 38, 40-42, 49
French Lick 5, 7, 16, 20, 31, 32, 35, 36
high school 16, 42, 43, 46
ice cream 7, 23, 25, 34
livestock 16, 17, 37
Mom 11, 54
Moore's Ridge 5, 8
Paoli 1, 3, 5, 7, 13, 15, 16, 23, 32, 33, 35, 36, 43, 53
Quakers 8
Saturday 13, 22-25, 31, 33, 34, 48
schoolteacher 9, 11, 12
sewing 10
socializing 34
Sunday 4, 34, 47-49
Tucker Lake 19
World War II 12

Interview with Winston & Evelyn Flick, p.57. Conducted by Catherine Jones, 17 June 1988, Paoli, Indiana, Indiana University Center for Documentary Research and Practice, OHRC accession #88-75-1, 2