

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

BLANCHE & EXUM HALL

Interviewed by Julie Hunter
7 April 1989
OHRC accession #88-89-1,2

INTRODUCTION

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my oral history interview with Julie Hunter,
Interviewer (please PRINT)
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<u>Blanche L. Hall</u> Donor	<u>5-24-89</u> Date
<u>Julie A. Hunter</u> Interviewer	<u>7-19-89</u> Date

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<u>Julie A. Hunter</u> Interviewer	<u>4/7/89</u> Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PERSONAL HISTORY

Family history	1-3, 11
Chores	3
School	3-4
Courtship	20-22

PAOLI LIFE

Quaker Meetings	6-8
Farming	9-11, 25
Changes over time	12-16, 22-24
Entertainment	16-20
Depression	25-26
Politics	27-33

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

Interviewee: Exum and Blanche Hall

Interviewer: Julie Hunter

Subject: Life history, farming, political allegiance

Date: April 7, 1989

Transcriber: Liz Faier

JH: This is Julie Hunter and I am interviewing Exum Hall at his farm south of Paoli for the Paoli project. The date is April 7, 1989.

JH: If you could just tell me when you were born and where.

EH: I was born just a few feet from where we're sitting here on January the 26th, 1928 in the old house. And all my ancestry is pioneer settlers and around up the creek here a little piece is where my great, great grandfather John Stout settled--and across, on the east side of State Road 37 my great, great grandfather Jonathan Newlin settled over there.

JH: What about your mother's family? Your father's family?

EH: That was on my mother's side. And on my father's side they, they came from [North Carolina and settled] east to Paoli towards Hardenburg.

JH: Do you know when they came into this area?

EH: They come from North Carolina [around] 1816 and along that area.

JH: So that would have been your great grandfather?

EH: Great, great.

JH: Great, great--wow.

EH: I remember a whole bunch of the grandchildren of the pioneer settlers and heard them tell tales about when they were grandkids and, and knew their grandparents.

JH: Do you remember any stories about what it was like when, for the settlers? That you heard from your grandparents or other

relatives.

EH: No, except they had to clear all the ground.

JH: So it was all wooded.

EH: I would say that this area was 100 percent woods unless the Indians had a little area cleared.

JH: Did both sides of your family move in about the same time?

EH: Yes. All of them came in early 1800--around 1816. Practically all of them were Quakers out in North Carolina and they come out here over the slavery issue.

JH: Yes, I suppose that was a reason a lot of people moved into this area of Indiana.

So, you were born here on the farm.

EH: Born right here. Where this house sat.

JH: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

EH: I had a sister 3 and 1/2 years younger and a half brother 7 years older.

JH: That's it? Just the 3 of you?

EH: Yes, just the 3 of us.

JH: That's a pretty small farm family it seems like.

EH: Yes. Over south here was a James and Polly McBride that had 20 children and they argued whether they had 20 or 21 my grandmother said.

[both laugh]

JH: Probably would be hard to keep track of them.

EH: And there definitely was 20 of them because I know a guy now that his father was grown up back there and he said yes, there was 20 of them [and they did all belong to one mother].

JH: That's really something.

Was this your father's farm then or your ...?

EH: This was my grandmother's farm and this farm has been handed down every time to a son-in-law until it come down from my mother and father to me.

JH: Was that because there weren't any sons? Or because...?

EH: Well, I know 1 son, he just didn't want to farm and, I guess the next generation back there was no son--well, I guess there was one but he was older and he went on somewhere else.

JH: And what about your brother and sister--did they?

EH: Sister married a farmer in Ohio and half-brother, he was never interested in farming. He's at Terra Haute, Indiana.

JH: Could you tell me something about what it was like to grow up on the farm? Did you have certain chores that you had to do.

EH: Of course we grew up on chores--feeding chickens and bringing the cows in and shoving the hay down out of the barn loft--and back at that time everything centered around the church and the school.

JH: Where was that at?

EH: Just down the road was the church and the school. The church is still down there. And Paoli was just a place you went to get some feed ground or went on a Saturday afternoon to buy your groceries.

JH: So you pretty much raised everything for yourself right here and there were just a few things...?

EH: Well, my mother she used to can 500 quarts of fruit a year I think.

JH: My God--she was a busy woman.

EH: I well remember every summer always having to go blackberry picking--she'd can a 100 quarts of blackberries if they had them. [After picking berries we would go down to the creek and go in swimming, that was supposedly to drown the chiggers].

JH: Sounds like a pretty hard life. Well, not hard but in terms of all the work that got done.

EH: Oh I suppose. Yes, they worked hard. They put in long hours.

JH: Were there certain things that you would help do--were there any differences between what you did and what your sister did in terms of chores--did your sister help your mother around the house?

EH: Yes. I grewed up with the women worked in the house and the men working outside although my mother would come out and help us milk the cows. That was about the only outside work she done. Of course she kept the garden going.

JH: Did she feed the chickens or was that?

EH: Not too much, I don't think--she did some.

JH: What was it--did you go into school in Paoli or was there [a school in the country]?

EH: My first 8 years, a mile down the road.

JH: Was that a one-room country school?

EH: One-room school.

JH: I mean, was that, was the school just for the farm kids around here. Is that who ended up going to the school?

EH: Yes, in this neighborhood and some of them walked through the fields up on 37, Highway 37 and then, I don't know, seemed like there was not as many kids as there used to be and they, this was the last school in the township and they got to bringing them in some from [deletion] other areas. And the school wasn't closed down but it burnt down one fall--I suppose it had been ready to close down pretty soon but it burned down.

JH: When was that?

EH: 1942 probably.

JH: What happened to the kids then?

EH: Oh they just bussed them into town.

[pause]

JH: Did a lot of--did most farm kids go to, I guess they were required to go to primary education but did they go onto high school or?

EH: Almost all kids graduated from high school.

JH: Okay. that wasn't optional?

EH: Unless they couldn't make their grades too well and then they dropped out. Very few kids I know that didn't finish high school.

JH: Do you remember having to take--I've been told by a couple people that there was an examination at the end of the 8th grade for children who had gone to the country schools before they could pass into high school. Do you remember?

EH: Not that I remember.

JH: So...could you tell me a little bit what it was like living on the farm when you were kid? I mean, did neighbors stopped by and how the day went--that kind of thing?

EH: Did who stop by?

JH: Neighbors.

EH: Oh yes, they done more of this back then than they do now. None of them come going the neighbor at night somewhere and, I don't know, I meet the farm kids, they played together more than they do now. My brother, there were boys up the road here and of course he was their age and I would tag along. Why they was together all of the time.

JH: What would they do? Would they--when they were playing together?

EH: They did a little of everything I guess. You see, I was kind of the younger generation in this neighborhood. I didn't have boys about my age that I cared to play with too strong. And all the ones that went to church were older and they would take the dogs to go hunting in the night, shoot English Sparrows, climb trees, and then ride horses a lot. There's a bunch of wasteground over south here and I remember I used to ride horses with other boys--we would get on a horse on Sunday afternoon and roam all over that country over there.

JH: Would they just ride across fields?

EH: Well, that's just abandoned land back there--probably 1000 acres out there abandoned--it wasn't growed up then. It was open--now it's all growed up.

JH: With development, housing?

EH: No, just dormant land, sitting time.

JH: So, did you make friends through the school and through church? You mentioned that there were different age groups?

EH: When I got in high school as a freshmen then I met a whole

bunch of kids that I never met before in my life.

JH: Kids from Paoli?

EH: Paoli, yes. West of Paoli, north of Paoli. And I can't even recall knowing any of the kids in my class that come out of the town of Paoli before I went to high school.

JH: You hadn't met them by going in and trading? You hadn't met them when you went in with your family to go trading on a Saturday.

EH: No. Kids don't make acquaintance with strange kids very often you know so I didn't know none of them. Because there was only 49 of them in my class anyways, that graduated from high school, in 1946.

JH: That's pretty small. That's pretty small.

You said it wasn't unusual for someone to go visiting, nighttime after the work was done--would the whole family go? And go on down to another farm? Or did people just stop by during the day?

EH: Back then every once in a while you'd go to some neighbors for Sunday dinner after church. And they, neighbors, they just don't do that anymore except for some special occasion.

JH: Was that their entertainment then was to go--I mean was that how they

EH: Yes, I guess most kids played together.

BH: And they wouldn't be planning. You know, they'd just say, come on, let's go to Gladys and Riley's, have dinner, you know. You wouldn't know they were coming or see them before.

JH: Really _____ out.

EH: The kids, they done a lot of roaming, just roaming around, over the fields and so on, you know. Get together and take off and walk.

JH: That's kind of the idea that I was getting from what you were saying.

Did, was there a lot of ... did everyone around this area go to the same church. You said a couple of times...

EH: Most all of them went to the same church.

JH: And what church was that?

EH: Beech Grove Friends Church.

JH: That was the Quaker church?

EH: About every 3 months on Saturday and Sunday they had what they called the Quaker Quarterly Meeting and the church houses would be full then. [It was held at different local Quaker churches and every summer in July at Blue River Friends meeting.]

JH: What was that?

EH: They [would] just get together and have a business meeting and speakers and so on. And they'd meet for 2 days, back then.

JH: So the 2 churches would come together?

EH: Well, there'd be 4 churches here and 1 in Salem. And of course they [would] have a big basket dinner each day.

JH: That sounds like a lot of fun. They'd do that on a Sunday?

EH: Saturday and Sunday--Saturday was the big day though. Of course back then everybody cut up their corn and that was shredded into the barn in the fall and all the neighbors helped each other. Same way about the wheat and oats--that was all cut with a binder and then either brought it in and stacked it, to be threshed from stock or haul it out of the field and thresh it [as hauled in from the field.]

JH: How did that get organized? How did that happen? Did someone say well my corn is ready and it needs to be picked?

EH: No, they'd cut the corn up just as soon as it was mature; the fodder would still be green, a lot of it and put in fodder shocks. And ... way back in 1800s they didn't even have a shredder or thresher back then. They even I guess tramped it and got the wheat out by hand, some way. But had the flour made at the mill in Paoli.

JH: There was a flour mill there or feed mill?

EH: Yes at ... Forest Tiller, [the foot of the hill below the town square] down by the creek there.

JH: Oh, I hadn't seen it.

EH: And my dad worked there when he was a young man and people [would] bring their wheat in and they'd store it there and they'd keep that wheat turned all the time, from one bin to another to

keep the weevil out of it and then they'd make flour. people would go in and get their flour.

JH: Could we just go back? So, did people, I mean, I guess I had the impression that people from different farms would come in and help each other thresh or gather new corn in?

EH: When they shred it, yes. You see that takes several wagons to keep it coming in all the time. I mean, you have to have a wagon there to collect the ear corn and you'd have to have 2 wagons for that. While one guy was unloading one wagon, scoop into the corn crib, and then you'd had the shredder crew and the thresh crew--that was usually 2 or 3 people.

JH: How many families--or how many farms would be involved in that?

EH: Oh, it'd probably be, there'd be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7--they'd be as many as 10 and maybe as they went through the neighborhood, as they moved down through the lower end, a few of their friends would drop off you know [and other ones would be added].

JH: Was it just understood that everyone in the area would help each other with this kind of tradition--that they would do that or? They just knew that when it came time to thresh?

EH: Yes, they'd come in one end of the neighborhood and they'd work right on through the neighborhood and go on out into some other neighborhood. I remember daddy, kind of, he kind of swapped over, maybe in the next neighborhood some. Where that guy over there--he wouldn't be swapping way down the lower end of the neighborhood.

JH: Does swapping mean that if I help you, you'll help me?

EH: Yes, and they usually didn't pay attention if one guy had a big crop or a small crop--why, they still helped.

JH: Was the whole family involved? Would the kids come along and do their share?

EH: Of course the kids, as soon as they got big enough, would help. Yes, they'd--always a great time for the kids if you got in on it. In the fall you were in school. And all the women gather in and cook the big shredder/thresher dinner.

JH: You'd all sit down to eat together at the end of the day?

EH: They'd have 2 tables of men--had the tables stretched out and 2 tables of men--the first bunch would eat and then the

second bunch and then the kids got to eat with the women.

JH: They eat afterwards then?

EH: They eat last, yes. And then each women would try to out do the other, I guess. Two or 3 different kinds of pie and ... cake, the whole works.

JH: Sounds like a good time.

EH: I think it is a good time.

JH: Did you, were you involved in those? Was it still going on?

EH: I was as a teenager and...I had to quit--let's see, I went in the army as soon as I was out of high school, in '46. And I think they quit shredding about the next year.

JH: Was that when tractors came or mechanical....?

EH: Yes, pretty much getting tractors and custom combines was coming in to combine the wheat and then people was getting corn pickers and picking their own corn.

JH: Did they ever--would it happen that maybe 1 farm would buy a combine and after he had used it, let other farms around use it? Kind of carrying on with the same....

EH: [deletion] [As they began to buy pickers and combines.] Maybe 1 guy would do some custom work for a neighbor and then, you see now in this neighbor there's only, really 2 full time farmers right now. And I bought most of the adjoining farm and most all the tillable land on another farm and that same thing has happened with some other farmers and there's really only 2 full-time farmers that has not retired. The rest are small farms or they're retired or, or, somebody else farms part of their ground.

JH: So, it sounds like the size of farms have changed too.

EH: Yes, they're getting bigger.

JH: How many acres did your father have?

EH: He had...he had 240 acres and I've got 510 acres.

JH: Almost double.

And did he grow the same kinds of things that you do or are you able to?

EH: He had a few milk cows, a whole line of horses and a few hogs and he, he had a rotation of corn and wheat and clover. Where now you have a lot of continuous corn and you have your hillside ground and permanent hay.

JH: When you say rotation, it would be through the season?

EH: No 3 years--corn 1 year, wheat the next year--sow your wheat in the fall and combine the wheat in the next year and then you cut the clover hay the next and then the next year back to corn.

JH: And the clover would put protein back in the soil?

EH: Put nitrogen in the soil.

JH: How has, how has farming changed then, from let's say the time that, that you learned farming from your dad to...?

EH: From the time I was a teenager to about the time I graduated from high school--well, he...course he, of course he cut up all the corn and shredded it or either shucked it out by hand and...put up the hay by pitchfork and put it on the wagon and then of course bring it in, bring it up and take it to the barn with a hayfork and dump it. And he probably didn't feed out anymore then 40 or 50 head of hogs a year and many have out--maybe 30 acres of corn and now I could have out over 200 acres of corn and I have fed out 800 head of hogs a year and...I keep about 50 [deletion] beef cows and fed out 50-70 [head of fat] cattle and...you're able to do that because you've got bigger machinery and you've got your own feed grinder and combine and all that stuff.

JH: And would he butcher his pigs and sell his corn around locally? Is there a difference there or did he eat everything?

EH: He wouldn't sell the corn. He'd feed it all. Well, he sold some but most normally he'd use all his corn. I remember he got 60 bushel/acre yield here after an alfalfa field and...they thought that was unheard of. Your average corn yield was 30 or 40 bushel/acre where now you think you're not doing too good if you don't get a 100.

JH: Oh, really, it changed that much--from 30 to 100?
And has that been because of fertilizer?

EH: Yes all this ground around here was extremely low in potash and phosphate--all this crop ground, at that time.

JH: Do you think that happened because of the way they were farming without fertilizers, with just natural fertilizers--the

soil had gotten low or they changed the balance of the soil now so that it can do more?

EH: They just didn't have the information back then and...of course you had no way of spreading bulk fertilizer--the only way fertilizer was handled was by the bag. And all the fertilizer they ever put on was what they put on the wheat field and sowed their wheat and then the corn planter box to plant their corn and if you see corn turning red, the leaves from the lack of phosphate they thought that they had put on too much--burning it up. So they just didn't have the knowledge back then.

JH: How has that changed--do you think that--did you get more education about farming than your dad or has it been 4H clubs or I know that there's ...

EH: ____ farm papers--county agents, when I was a teenager, why you'd have 2 guys come down from Purdue every year and one of the [men] [deletion] would tell them how to plant their garden [and the women came to hear him too] and the other guy, he would have something about ____-- your pasture or cattle or something and there is a way of a lot more information than there was then.

JH: I guess, going back to your parents a little bit--were they, this was your grandmother's farm, so that was your mother's side. And your father was from a farm around here?

EH: He grew up west of here on a little, small farm and all the boys, there was 4 boys and 2 girls and that grewed up [a boy and girl died young]--their father never accumulated anything and he just had a small farm but all 4 of these boys ended up having farms and done well. So they worked and saved and got ahead.

JH: Do you know where your parents met? Did they meet through the church or school or ...?

EH: My dad was 9 years older than my mother--she married another fellow and he died and ... he never dated anybody in his life until he dated her.

JH: How old was she when they met?

EH: Well, of course they grewed up together and he was, maybe in eighth grade when she was in first grade. He knew her his whole life but then when--I don't know who got them together but somebody said he always kind of had his eye on her, kind of liked her but I guess he thought that she was too young or something.

JH: Pretty big age difference. And so...was it pretty usual then for kids in all the same neighborhoods to marry or, I guess they

meet other people in town.

EH: Yes. Back then all 4 of these--my dad and all 3 of his brother--married girls right int he neighborhood and...my cousin he married a girl in the neighborhood. And that was pretty much, they pretty much got their mates out of the same neighborhood or not too far away back then. It seemed that there was just a way of a lot more kids when I was young through the whole neighborhood--just more kids and on back--the school was just full of kids.

JH: Than there is now, you mean or by the time you were growing up and going into high school?

EH: Until the time I went to high school and then there was just not the kids in the neighborhood anymore--there's not that. I don't know, I guess...seemed like there was a generation about the same age and they're all gone now in the last few years but they all had kids about the same time and...seemed like there was a swarm of kids running down the line and now there's not anymore. Of course there's still all the kids up on the highway around 37 but I don't know them--I'm not acquainted with them.

Used to go to down--I didn't think that I would hardly run into anybody that I didn't know. Now for years I go to town and lucky to run into somebody I do know. That's because all these young ones growing up--you don't know them.

JH: Do you think people are, young people are moving out of town more than they used.

EH: The population of Orange County is about the same as it was about 75 years ago. However there's not the people out in the country that used to be. I suppose you go south here and there was just a swarm of farms [and] [deletion] little farms and raised families and just nobody there no more--no home no nothing.

JH: Why do you think that is? Do you think people are moving?

EH: They just couldn't make it on those little farms anymore and they got jobs in town, industry and the kids have gone on to other areas and...

JH: Do you think farming has changed in that way then--that it, you have to have a larger farm to make a living.

EH: Yes, you got to have a lot more.

JH: And is that because of the machinery that's involved--that it doesn't pay?

EH: Of course the bigger the machinery it got, the more acres they can farm and the more they want to farm...you simply couldn't make it on the size farm that they did 40 or 50 years ago. Inflation, higher material living standards more narrow profit margins, dictated an increased volume of farming to keep up.

END SIDE ONE TAPE ONE

JH: A TV or...?

EH: Yes, you see now you got...what you got..you got all this equipment--it takes money to keep it up and...and...it just costs a way a lot more I suppose to maintain it--a standard of living we have now.

JH: And now a days there's not as much difference between the kind of life you'd have on a farm and in town would you say--in terms of having material comforts, televisions, or...

EH: No. There'd be very little difference now.

JH: And was there a lot more, back when you were growing up? Do you think?

EH: I doubt it. Everybody lived a lot more simpler back then with a lot less money and a lot less things about them--you'd didn't have TVs, tape recorders, VCRs. All you had, all we had was the basics and the old telephone that you hang on the wall that you crank. And that didn't cost you anything to have. the neighbors kept the line up too.

JH: Did your family have electricity and indoor plumbing?

EH: Not till 1942. And the lower end of the neighborhood didn't get it until '46--after the war.

JH: What was it like going into Paoli for high school? Did you feel, you said that you didn't know most of the kids there. Did you...?

EH: Well, I was plenty shy to begin with and I guess, I guess a fellow felt. I think they still considered the country kids a little bit countrified or hicky at that time, probably. Maybe we felt it a little bit--I don't know.

JH: But there must of been, almost more country kids in the school than city kids.

EH: I don't know--probably.

JH: Do you think that in terms of friendships.

EH: I don't think it made any difference.

JH: So the town kids didn't stay together?

EH: You always got your clique group, you know in a class and the ones down lower, I don't know. Maybe they have an inferiority complexes or they're slower learners or something, you know. Always kind of figured I was half way in between. I was stood in good with both sides.

JH: That's a good place to be. [laughs]
were there school buses then? By the time you were going to Paoli for high school? And would they stop down on 37?

EH: They stopped at every house.

JH: Oh they would. They would come down here.
You said you went into the Army right after high school.

EH: As soon as I graduated--as soon as I got out.

JH: And would that have been?

EH: 1946. May 16, I believe it was. I plowed right up to the day I left. I plowed the ground with that old F12 right up to the day I left.

JH: That's something--no break. Did you volunteer then?

EH: No, I was drafted. Last day of the draft in Indiana.

JH: Oh really, that's lucky.

EH: Well, yes, it kept me out of the Korean war and I didn't mind it at 18. I got as far as Japan and was out by the end of a years time.

JH: Did you know a lot of people around here that were involved in one of the wars or another? Was it, I guess I am asking if was that--if that was something that you were very aware of that people from around Paoli were drafted for the Korean or World War II or...?

EH: Yes. We were aware of it [in] high school. But, as high school kids that didn't bother us none. You just don't think about things like that when you're that young. [pause]

One other thing that might be interesting. Back at that time, during the 30s and up in the 40s and maybe a little after the war, you had about a half dozen fellows with pick up trucks that run around and traded livestock all the time. They would buy an old cow or calves and maybe buy some pigs if you had them for sale. That was the way they made their living.

JH: Oh really? What would they do with them?

EH: They'd either take them and sell them to some other farmer or they'd take it to the stockyards at Louisville and then that same bunch of guys and along late summer, about, most of them, they'd have their pick up trucks selling their watermelons and mushmellons and sweet corn and stuff on the square. But then when the farmers got their pick up trucks, why that all went by the wayside.

JH: So this was before there were very many cars.

EH: There were plenty of cars, everybody had cars. But the farmers didn't have no pick up trucks. Maybe like my dad, he picks up a little trailer to haul feed. Or they go to town they'd haul feed in the trunk of the car. I remember there was an old '28 Chevrolet daddy had...a brother learned to drive and he was coming around the corner and somebody pulled up and stopped, he didn't stop, and I remember I was a little kid, I was laying on the back seat right next to the ceiling on these feed sacks full of feed piled on the back seat and he'd have turned over if he hadn't had the _____ car [rub] against a tree as he come around. Kept him from turning over. [laughs]

JH: I guess I didn't realize that, that there weren't pickup trucks. I guess I always thought that there were trucks as long as there were cars.

EH: I don't think your pick up trucks--really made much till about 1941 or 1942.

JH: I've heard that one thing that happened around here is that farmers would take what ever they had to sell or trade into Paoli--into the square on a Saturday and kind of make a day of it. Maybe trade the rig for sugar, you know that kind of thing.

EH: Oh, way on back. Why, yes they'd take our eggs and anything--a few chicken they had in the poultry house to sell. But I don't ever remember them taking them to stores. Stores might have bought them some though. And then you see, even the poultry houses went clear out [of business].

JH: Why was that?

EH: I don't know. I suppose other means of marketing took over and wasn't no demand for a poultry house anymore. And very few people even have a flock of chickens anymore.

JH: A poultry house was something that each farmer would keep then? Or was that big, you know...

EH: No, that'd be...there used to be 2 poultry houses in Paoli and they would have people--that was their market--on eggs. They would take their eggs in there all the time and they would come out and buy your hen or your entire flock of chickens when you got done with them and [deletion] one poultry house sold...hens, way over to Ohio to the processor.

JH: So they were butchering them and...or...also selling the eggs? To grocery stores or something like that? I guess...

EH: I suppose grocery stores would maybe go to them and buy eggs, I don't know. But that all went to...that all went to...to maybe some outfit with a big bunch of chickens, you know, and they'd have their own route and everything and...now it's all integrated in some way or another.

JH: You said that you didn't consider yourself a part of Paoli until about 1942. What was the...what was the turning point or what was the difference?

EH: Well...you see you lost the country school. And, [pause] well, of course when you got in high school and you got to run around then you know the town kids and so on...and you became a part of the Paoli school community then. And...I suppose the fact that people went to town more, then done more their grocery trading then where they used to kill their own hogs and beef and...there was more need to go buy stuff and you got to buying all these canned goods. When I was a kid I can't even remember any canned goods coming in here--in a tin can. You had it all here. And, so there was just far more demand for people to go to town and now the kids, that's where they want to go. That's where life's at, you know. And they got the cars to go with now. Back then they didn't have.

JH: So they don't need to stay out here roaming around with each other. They'll go on down town and see what's happening there. Or already be there, I guess, because of school.

EH: There's a lot of school activities. Blanche can answer that better as to why.

BH: _____.

JH: Oh, kids spending more time in town now than they used to, say...

EH: Well, the young kids know the kids who are in town now for starting the first grade [together] so they want to be with them. And that's their center--they're associated together now and used to no country kid out here hardly knew anybody in town. Until they got to running around.

BH: Besides I lived, told you that day in Crawford County and a little bit different kind of a neighborhood, I guess--a little poorer community. [laughs] And the kids down there, we would go and visit each other in the afternoons. We'd walk maybe a mile to our neighbors and play all afternoon and then at night we were home with our family, you know. Mother, I remember especially wintertime she'd read to us. She'd tell us a story or she'd read a chapter a night. Daddy would play the guitar--stuff like that. There was a lot more family interaction and everything.

EH: Yes, these neighbors here, they played fiddle and banjo and guitar and they'd be people coming in up there and...I'd be up there with my brother and they'd be a playing them instruments and...a way back they, some guy down [south] here got him a, that was a way back [deletion] [inearly 1960s, people were] a complaining about it--he got a--what do you call it?--a--record player, I guess. He was a tying up the party lines playing that so other people could hear it! Phonograph!

BH: _____ in the neighborhood that we had to go to was church and that would just be like on Sunday night or if we had a revival meeting where everybody--usually be in summertime--we'd walk to church or ride in a car if we wanted to. We had more fun walking because we'd get to walk home with everybody else, you know. And then once in awhile, I can remember time or two when my daddy would have a big halloween party and all the neighbors would come. You know maybe the kids would mask up and try to guess who the kids were and one time daddy sneaked out the back door and nobody missed him and he came around the front door and he had on a pair of long underwear and something over his face. Made his entrance and everybody thought that that was so funny. [all laughing]

EH: Well, the young people in this neighborhood got together once every month for a party too and they'd be others come in from other areas, course, where they knew them, you know, or dating them or something.

JH: Would that be kind of like barn dance or something like that?

EH: No, they just get together in the wintertime. First they play all kinds of games and in the summertime play games outside.

BH: Yes, and we did that too some. And...of course people didn't have much transportation to go in. And where we lived it was about 8 miles into English, you know, the largest town in the county and...as I got older, probably 12 or 14, we started to go to the movie theatre in English and maybe once a week if we were lucky daddy would take us in to the movie.

EH: Always a western movie on Saturday.

BH: Yes, Roy Rogers and Gene Autrey.

EH: Hop-a-long Cassidy.

BH: And once in a while, of course we didn't get to go every week because we couldn't afford it but, once in a while one of the neighbors had a big truck and he would call up every body and people in the neighborhood and say "want to go to the movie" you know, "come on, get in the back end of the truck" and he'd take us in. [laughs]

EH: The movie theater here, in Paoli would have almost capacity crowds all Saturday afternoon and night. I remember seeing them lined up, kids lined up way back going to theater on Saturday afternoon.

BH: It was 32 cents for adults to get into this theater.

JH: When was that like?

EH: See, I remember when it was a quarter or 15 cents to get in.

BH: Yes, for kids, under 12, I don't know, maybe 15 cents or something. probably pretty reasonable but 32 cents was the adult admission.

EH: And the old folks didn't go to the movies except when Will Rogers and Lum and Abner come around and then they all went.

JH: Why was that? Was...?

EH: Well, everybody had a battery radio back there in the 30s and a lot of them did in this neighborhood before they got

electricity they had a battery radio and they build a wood tower outside on a pole and had a generator with a propeller blade on it, you know, and the wind blew and charged your battery. And I remember sitting down [out] there cracking hickory nuts one night, you [deletion] [planned] your milking around Lum and Abner because you didn't miss Lum and Abner. I remember sitting out there on a rock and cracking hickory nuts and the conditions [were] just right and I heard Lum and Abner over the hill. I heard Lum and Abner coming from Herbert Lindleys down [north] here and daddy and mommy in the house listening to it here. [all laugh]

JH: So you knew where everybody was at that time of day.

EH: And they old liked the Amos and Andy too but not as much. Lum and Abner had their movies and I'd still like to see one of them.

[pause]

And the town square, every summer, the carnival was on the inside of the curb. Did anybody ever tell you that?

JH: Yes, I've heard about that but not very much. I didn't know it was every year I guess.

EH: I remember, maybe some big trucks come around there every night and they'd have to ease their way around and then even on Saturday nights, without the carnival they'd park 3 deep in them corners and on the inside curb on a Saturday night, there was no clothing store or anything [deletion] [away from town square], a few little, small grocery stores out, but all the grocery store main ones ran around the square and they finally got to complaining about so much parking around the square, on Saturday night, that I guess trucks coming through could hardly get around. And I remember they just leave, they just probably [would] leave them one lane drive around that square. they'd just fill her up.

I know one time I was sitting up there with my cousin and there was a family up there with an old car on the north side of the square and they'd been sitting there and hour or more and course they'd parked clear back. Finally he wormed and squirmed that old car around, a ramp, used to go up to a garage, and he got that thing up there and wormed around on the sidewalk and he drove down the sidewalk and drove home. [all laugh]

That old guy is still living over there-- Cydrian Dickey.

JH: Did everyone come in for the carnival? Everyone from around Paoli?

EH: Oh yes, everyone went to the carnival. Yes I remember

usually every night when we would go home, the American Legion down [deletion] [on the south side] would slice off this ice cream--it was chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry--they'd slice it off and put [deletion] [at between two] wafers, you know, and you'd eat ice creams sandwiches as you left. Probably for 10 cents. I'd have about a dollar and a quarter to spend for the whole week of carnival and budget it for the whole week.

JH: Would it be there just one week out of the summer and it would be brought to other towns?

EH: Monday through Saturday night. You could ride the ferris wheel for a dime, lot of stuff just a nickel.

JH: Sounds like it was something that kids would look forward to for....?

EH: And they all went. _____ and nickel one time and _____ [I put a nickel down for something one time and he raked it in and I had to give him another and it] like to kill me.

[pause]

BH: All timers too. You're talking with him--they would think movies were kind of worldly, you know, so they wouldn't go see anything except maybe Lum and Abner.

EH: The old Quakers would, yes.

JH: I was going to ask you about that. Whether they disapproved of the movies or just the idea?

EH: I don't recall anybody really except Seneca Farlow and she kind of belonged to older generation. One time the 4H club met down there at Beech Grove and Seneca Farlow come and she said thee and thou. And [deletion] he showed a, showed a comedy and Seneca watched that and then when he showed the movie about 4H she held her head down all the time and she told somebody that I was in the wrong place. [laughs]

BH: But a lot of them would go see a western movie or some kind of a comedy type movie on a Saturday night but you weren't allowed to go on Sunday night. You know, that was bad if you went to the movie on Sunday night.

EH: Yes, I think I remember, I think remember they frowned on going to the movie on Sunday night though.

JH: Did that mean that you weren't in church or just the idea

that you were doing something else.

BH: Well, we usually had church on Sunday night.

EH: They just had it once a month--the Friends did but...but I remembering back, I think most of them would frown, really frowned on anybody going to movie on Sunday night though. At that time.

JH: What, I'm trying to think of other things that I wanted to ask you...

How was it that the 2 of you met? Did you...if you'll tell me. Did you meet down in English or just up a bit?

[Halls laughing]

EH: I heard about her through a [used] car salesman.

[everyone laughing]

JH: Have I got a car for you!!!

BH: We were both getting up in the years you see. I was a school teacher so I had taught, I was in my 10th year teaching when we got married. So I guess I had been teaching 9 years before I met him. And...he'd been, kind of looking in the field over, you know, looking around for a little _____. Up in his 30s. He's looking around for somebody and he knew about me but he hadn't found any way to get to meet me.

EH: Well, Frank Fleming told me about her. And he was a boy raised up [the road] here. And...I guess I was, probably 6 years before, maybe. And...so he said something to her about if she knew me and kind of giggled around and she thought I was some kind of a nut. As we carried on.

BH: Well, you know he was trying to sell me a car down in English. Do you know Exum Hall, down at Paoli. Of course, I had heard the name but I didn't know him. I said "No, I don't know him."

EH: How'd you hear my name then?

BH: When I was down in the city--some of those girls--I knew the girls, and they knew a girl that he had dated some and...

But anyway, when Frank asked me if I knew him, I said "No, I don't know him." Well, he knows you. [laughs] And I thought, well, who is this guy that knows me and I don't know him, you know. I thought he was a kook or something.

So, he wrote me a letter.

EH: Six months later, she answered! [laughs] She wouldn't answer ['till she talked to a girl who taught school with her]. And that was one of the girls that she knew at Oklamhoma City so she asked her if she knew me and said "Yes" and that she'd date me if she had the chance. Well, then she answered the letter.

BH: This girl had been a teacher here in Paoli schools, you know, so I figured she, probably knew something about him. She'd been down here probably 4 years, teaching school. And I ask her one day if she knew Exum Hall, down here at Paoli. "Yes" And I said well, what do you know about him? What can you tell me about him? Well, she would go out with him, if she had had the chance.

JH: So you figured he was safe?

BH: I figured he was all right then.

EH: Her sister seen the letter and she told you to answer, didn't she?

BH: Yes. He wrote me in the summertime but I was kind of dating somebody else and he's wanting me to go to Louisville to an All Star basketball game and, so I didn't know. I showed my sister the letter and she said "sounds all right to me". But I didn't answer it for 6 months. Then after Dana told me that she thought you were all right, why I finally answered back.

EH: She was getting more desperate!

BH: Yes, I wasn't going with anybody then. [laughs]

JH: Were you living in English then? With your family or your ...?

BH: Dana and I were renting a house over in Mitchell because we both taught school over there. So, I still kind of...go home on weekends and she would too--she went the other way. And we both go home on weekends but we met in Mitchell during the teaching. And he come over to see me on a Wednesday night and then we'd get together on a Saturday night or Sunday or something like that.

JH: How long before you got married?

BH: About six months.

EH: No, a year.

[So] we would go to Florida [on] Christmas break.

BH: Yes. I guess our first date was about the end of December, wasn't it? A really cold night too. And then in August, first Sunday in August, I had a diamond, a diamond ring to wear to the Hall reunion to show everybody that we were engaged. Then we got married in December. First date in December and we got married the following year.

JH: And you had a boy and a girl--is that right?

BH: No, we had 2 girls and a boy. He's 14.

EH: And he's taller than I am.

JH: Really?

BH: And our girl just got married--she's 24. And the girl's a freshman in college.

JH: Does the married daughter live in Paoli or?

BH: No, they live in Clarksville.

JH: And where does the other one got to college?

BH: At Asbury College in Kentucky--in _____. Close to Lexington.

JH: You were saying the other day that you don't think that any of them are going to come back to the farm and carry it on.

BH: I rather doubt it. Unless Cindy meets a farmer, I doubt. John could change his mind, you know, he's got time to think about it. He thinks he'd like to go to Purdue and...so...he might decide to be a farmer or he might decide to be another Larry Bird.

JH: He's probably tall enough for it.

BH: He likes basketball.

JH: I guess it sounded to me, like you, had learned farming from your dad to just kind of growing up. And it sounds like that's not something you can do now a days to be a farmer.

EH: I never really thought about doing anything else in a way, I guess.

JH: Really? It was always just here and...the farm was here and you always knew you'd take it over?

EH: You see he was 39 when he got married and I was born when he was about 40 so, by the time he was 60, why he was ready to slow down anyway. And same with this boy of mine--I was 47 when he was born so if he wants to farm, why I'm ready to turn him loose on it.

JH: The sooner the better.

EH: She was 43 when he was born.

JH: He's your last one.

BH: Yes. [all laugh]

I tell him that makes me a young mother--you know, I'm younger than other people my age.

JH: _____.

EH: She jumped on to her mother [for talking to everybody and being suspicious about her being pregnant] [deletion] before she went to the doctor [deletion]. So...then she was a playing it down and you told her "I'm only 43 years old" didn't you. She played it down like she wasn't saying much of anything. Her grandma spoke up "well, we've been telling everybody you's 44".

BH: Mother felt terrible for that. I was that age and getting ready to have another baby, you know. My daddy thought it was great and he said we had 2 girls and we needed a boy.

EH: Before he got sick and died he brought 2 pairs of bib overalls for him.

BH: My daddy always liked to farm but he always had to work outside of the farm to make a living, you know. We had 6 kids and...so he farmed a little bit in the summertime but he also had worked other places like the saw mill or a factory or something like that, you know. Things going.

EH: That's another thing--people my age and a little bit older, from all these areas down in here, in these hills, they worked at the cabinet factory, Cornwell's factory--of course that burned down. They come into these little factories and worked.

JH: The chair factory...

EH: And I think that generation is now somewhat retiring...

END OF TAPE ONE SIDE TWO

EH: there is now more migration in close to towns and other communities [deletion].

BH: The Forst Service is buying it all up. Turning it into wilderness areas.

JH: Part of the National, Hoosier National Forest?

EH: Well, they had a plan one time, wanted to buy double the amount they have right this area right now.

JH: Really, when was that? Do you remember?

EH: Probably up towards 10 years ago, they had so much opposition on it that they dropped it.

JH: Why did they do that?

EH: Oh I guess the ones who were running it thought it would be nice to have it all consolidated and a whole bunch more ground.

BH: But the people north of area, central Indiana and north of us, Indianapolis north, they looked out here in rural and southern Indiana and they think it's not good for anything but recreation. They don't see how people can make a living out here and...so probably at one time, they thought that would be good and everybody's favor--buy up all the old farms and you turn it into a recreation area.

EH: There used to be some people coming out from northern Indiana somewhere--they were stock traders and they would come down and the would buy milk cows or Jersey Heifers and...of course you'd have a calf crop every year so dad couldn't keep them all, you know, for milk cows. And I know 3 or 4 years, he would sell them cattle that way and one he had been looking around and dad said "You don't see how we make a living down here, do you?" And he says "It's a mystery to me." But if he'd come and seen the dinners they put on, well, [at corn shredding time] he'd see [deletion] that there was nobody starving around this neighborhood--very little.

BH: No, because even though maybe the farms aren't very big, they had space big enough for gardens and everybody had a garden and they grew a lot of vegetables and they canned a lot.

EH: Well one other thing about the town of Paoli--my aunt lived

over there and raised a bunch of boys and one girl over close to where the school is now and...why they had the whole back yard, rich ground, big garden and I come through here a few years ago and I looked down there...between the houses, never seen a single garden anywhere--his whole yard all open. And back then that whole--all open space would have been saturated with gardens in everybody's backyard.

JH: [Did they have milk cows?]

EH: They did then, yes. And the Friends preacher who used to always come into Paoli, if he had a bunch of kids, the first thing he done was bought him a milk cow somewhere, and kept [it around somewhere to have] [deletion] milk for the kids.

BH: We had, we usually kept about 3 milk cows. Fresh, whole milk all the time.

JH: Did you make your own cheese and butter and that kind of thing?

BH: Well, butter and cottage cheese. But about the only thing that we would have to buy from the store would be like flour and sugar and salt and...

EH: Cornmeal.

BH: Because mother always had a big garden and most the time, she and my brother worked together to tend it. My brother he'd get on the horse to keep him in the row. To make him go straight and start and stop. They go between the row to make the row--to make the row first and then clean out between the rows. He'd ride a horse to keep him straight and to keep him from running over anything. And she'd hold on to the plow because daddy wouldn't be there or anything.

EH: Daddy would cultivate all the corn with a one-row-riding-cultivator and 2 horses, you know. And I'd cultivate corn with a--you know what a double shovel is? It's 2 shovels like this, one set in front of each other and turned a little bit so that to throw the dirt toward the corn but you have to make a trip up one row and then go back down the other side in order to get one row. So I'd plow corn rows back and forth with a horse all the time.

JH: It sounds slow going.

EH: Yes, it's slow going but of course we didn't have too many acres of corn.

BH: Daddy, one time he put a bag of _____.

EH: There's one in Paoli too.

BH: And so we had this huge _____.
But us kids go to stop helping pick tomatoes, you know. And of course... it always gave us something to do. And then _____ cane in that field and ...

JH: What kind of cane?

BH: Cane--sugar cane.

EH: Yes, daddy would have about an acre lot out there--I remember having sugar cane. We would take it down over there toward the [spring]. [In the next] neighborhood that guy had a sorghum, whatever you called it and we'd...yes, we'd take it down there--wagon loads of it--and they'd make sorghum molasses out of it.

BH: We had a big fire place like where they put the big pan on to cook it and then another man that didn't live in our neighborhood, he'd come and bring his sorghum mill and set it up there and the horse would go around and then he'd just grind up cane [to get the juice]. It was always fun to watch him do that. We loved to eat the sorghum. [laughs]

EH: My grandmother died in 1942 and of course she grew up at the time when they dried apples on tin roofs and had dried apples and dried peach pies and I remember, I remember her still doing that a time or two in the early 30s.

BH: I'd climb up on top of the roof to spread the apples out and mother would get cheesecloth --to put over to keep the bugs from getting on them. Think about it now...it wasn't very sanitary probably but... that's how you dried your apples. And I used to help wash cans because my hands were small enough to go inside the glass cans.

EH: Everybody had a smokehouse with the canned--or the cured hams inside, hanging in the smokehouse.

BH: You put canned fruit down in the cellar underneath the smokehouse.

JH: Was some of the difference in the depression or you know, it sounds like people _____ with their food _____ that it would really affect you.

BH: People out in the country probably weren't affected that much.

EH: I know they always said the farmers south of Paoli fared better than the farmers north of Paoli they were bigger farmers and north of Paoli. I think my dad, and maybe Uncle Charlie, he died about 2 years ago this March or this past March, '94 almost. And he said that the person who was out of debt went through the depression pretty good but if he was in debt a little, he just couldn't hardly scratch enough money together to feed his family and done well to pay his interest and taxes.

JH: Did many banks fail around here?

EH: The bank over in Paoli failed. And there's quite a few that thought they had money, lost money in it.

BH: Didn't bother us--we didn't have any money to save.

EH: Ak Dewitt he was getting older and if he got a nickel, he'd sit on it and squeeze it to keep from spending it. So he had some money [in the bank] and then he took about 3 different notes [for what he lost in the bank] and one of them was the neighbor's up here and he _____ pestered him to death on that note--he couldn't pay it. And daddy didn't have no money [deletion], daddy told Ed, he said "we won't let you lose your farm". The neighbors will go together and [form a company and] keep you from losing your farm. Nobody had any money but Ed's mother said he had the first good nights sleep he had had for a while.

JH: Sounds like that kind of thing wouldn't happen usually.

EH: I doubt it. They'd let him go under.

JH: _____ the last couple of years _____
much _____.

EH: I don't think I expected the ... some farmers have overreached. The young farmer, made a big move [deletion] [to expanmd at his age level which was a poor time to do so. And it affected the course of the ones who were poor managers anyway and [conditions] had them. Now I know one young guy that, he was probably 29, and they bought a big bunch of land at a high price. Now he'll pay it out because they work. And the man, he made the statement, I'll be in debt a long time.

JH: If you could go into farming around here--let's say you don't have a farm or a family, do you ever feel _____.

EH: I don't know. It'd be hard to do. You see, I got 500 acres, in '79...I suppose that if I had priced everything at \$1000 per acres--they'd a took it right now. I told somebody if I priced this farm with all the buildings and this house...if I asked for \$250,000 I'd doubt you'd get anybody to take you up on it. And that would be with, [deletion] I think you have to consider better than \$100,000 worth of buildings. Hog set-up and everything.

BH: Back there a few years people were looking at us and thought that Exum was a millionaire.

EH: I was close to it in land value. There's a farmer in Illinois who had a 1000 acres near around Champagne and that was eventually worth \$4000 per acre. He had a 1000 acres and [deletion] he came to town and somebody says "well, how do you feel to be a millionaire?" Well, he didn't much feel like one--he just had 1000 acres. [deltion] [which was worth \$1000 per acre which made him a millionaire.]

BH: But you don't really hear of young people starting out. Now did Becks come and buy a farm? I mean they were farmers, mainly I think.

EH: No he worked in Louisville somewhere and he just has a cattle farm.

BH: And what about Ray Walker? He's got a job....

EH: I suppose he just wanted to get out of Louisville and he bought a farm up there--a grass farm--and then he got a registered Angus cow herd. Now right up here is an old German and his wife who was a German soldier on the Russian front--talked to him just the other day--he was from East Prussia and he was telling about before Hitler took over--one had such inflation, he said everybody was a millionaire. He said I'd give a million dollars and I always had a loaf of bread someplace--I paid a million dollars for a loaf bread. Everybody was millionaires. Because the money wasn't worth nothing. And he said it could happen here too.

JH: Why is that?

EH: Well because we're living in an inflated economy and ... okay 73 Dodge--\$3200, 78 Buick \$8000, LTD Ford \$17,000--what's the next one going to cost? And I said when it got rolling. It went real quick, didn't it. And he said yes. And I said it could happen here sometime soon. And he said yes, it could happen

it.

EH: Well what happens is that all you ever accumulated, monetary value is just down the drain. You're just living with the times.

JH: Do you think people over in that way _____. Well, like you remarked that people live on _____, live above their means.

EH: Oh, I'm satisfied that the majority of them do. I...I made use of a lot of borrowed money but I borrowed a pretty good hefty amount of money to do something. I remember one priority was to get that paid before before I went on to anything else.

BH: We never had the practice of using a credit card. I got a JC Penney card, just this past for identification to show people when I write a check. And so I have used it a little bit. But that's the only one.

JH: Do you think that _____?

EH: Well the farming industry, of course, there was a lot of people operating loose and everybody had the idea that everything was going to keep going up you know and they've done a lot of belt tightening and [deletion] working debt down the last few years.

JH: That was done as a necessity or?

EH: I mean the farmers themselves. They got conservative in their farming and a lot of farms, they've been paid off.

BH: Don't you think that a lot of the rural people, before they go in debt for a big piece of machinery, something that costs a whole lot, that they wouldn't go to the store and charge it or something like that.

EH: They have been making do with their machinery too. They've been repairing it and making do whereas a lot of them just trade her in and buy them a new one.

JH: I guess I get the feeling that _____ and a lot of people there _____. In the city itself you see people _____. I get the feeling now that it's worse.

EH: Now let's see--is that the heavy oil area around Fort Worth? the heavy oil economy?

JH: It was stockyards--a big cattle place.

EH: All that industry didn't affect it too much? I know Texas is supposed to be hurting pretty bad. That's supposed to be where most of your savings and Loans have gone under.

JH: The last few years there's been a real boom. They were just building new shopping malls everyplace you turned, you know.

EH: Jim Wright is not your congressman, is he?

JH: He is.

BH: Is he a good one or a bad one?

JH: I think he's pretty good.

EH: My opinion would be different.
[all chuckle]

JH: You don't think so?

EH: I think he's pretty sleazy.

JH: Are you a republican or a democrat?

EH: I'm a strong conservative republican.

JH: How about you?

BH: The same.

EH: You're probably a conservative Texas democrat.

JH: Well, you may have it right. I probably would be a democrat.

EH: The south is swinging over to republican left and right. back 40 or 50 years ago, whenever a democrat run for president, in the south he had it sewed up before he ever run. Now it's solid republican.

BH: You know, it's interesting the other night, John had a social studies book here and we were reading about how after the Civil War the democrats were so bad and so mean to the negroes you know. And they wouldn't let them vote or anything.

EH: Well that was just the--you couldn't say the democrats really. It was just people.

BH: Look! that's what the social studies book said. It was in

history.

EH: They had been their slaves...

BH: And they wouldn't--the republicans were trying to get a hold of it, you know, to let people in. And they couldn't. They couldn't make headway with the democrats.

EH: Then it became a democrat president who opened up the colored freedoms, didn't it? Under Johnson mainly.

BH: Yes but it took an awful long time to.

JH: Wasn't it

EH: But it wasn't a liberal democrat--Hubert Humphrey and a lot of them, Northern Liberal democrats which was pushing to turn that thing around. Of course Congress was controlled one time by the southern conservative democrats and northern conservative republicans.

BH: I think the difference right there is not so much the difference between democrats and republicans as it is between the conservatives and the liberals.

EH: Yes, I agree with that.

BH: You know, there's lots of good democrats that are conservative and think along the same ways that republicans think.

EH: For instance, me and the neighbor [deletion] [who is a democrat--] argue politics. the mailman come along and he's talking about John Lindsey in New York--an ultra liberal republican [deletion] mayor [of New York]. He thought he had something on me about [him changing to be a] being a democrat. I said you're welcome to him and I'll name you a few more that I'd like to give you. And I said--while you're at it, I'd like to pick up some of your good conservative democrats into the republican party.

JH: You don't think...would you ever change if you like the candidate, a democrat candidate?

EH: We just don't have the opportunity in this state--they're just usually all this, they're all this liberal types or they're all owned by the labor unions more or less. The past laws. Sure...

BH: Sure! I'd change if there was some liberal republican running for the same office that a good conservative democrat was running for--I'd vote for the democrat.

EH: If you were running [a conservative democrat]--now I was a little bit peeved at Sam Nunn over _____. Now if you was running Sam Nunn on the democrat party for president and you was running, ah, let's see, they're kind of weeded out but there used to be, well there's still some pretty liberal republican senators...I remember Javitz and...several liberal republican senators...that Lowell Wickerett from Connecticut. That honry rascal, I wouldn't vote for that guy for nothing, of course he got beat last time. If you was running several conservative democrats in the south against that guy, I'd vote for them in a hurry.

JH: Did you _____ do you think that they had more _____ or did they _____.

BH: I think my mother was a democrat. No matter what because she's not educated enough--she doesn't know really what's going on. She doesn't know _____ and how the democrats ingrained in her because her dad was a democrat.

EH: Well some of her brothers have changed or vote republican.

BH: Yes and pretty much I think she voted for...

EH: I think she voted for Nixon.

BH: I believe that she did. But...but she wouldn't change her politics I mean she might vote for someone. My daddy was a republican.

JH: She was a democrat but a conservative? Did it ever cause any problems at home?

BH: But...most of us kids were republican. We'd say we were republicans. Some of them may have changed a little bit.

JH: Did you save _____. I heard a story from one woman and she was saying that she had changed to a democrat so that her husband _____ 5 years before they _____. She finally said to him I've been voting democratic and he said oh no, so have I.

BH: Well, I don't know.

JH: _____ the solution or...

BH: I couldn't change. My mother might have--she might not say who she voted for republican...

[pause]

And maybe because her dad was. If she would have read up on it or studied or known much about it then I think she would change in a minute.

EH: I told her...she had a job under Nixon going around helping sick people in town and she was laying it into Nixon about cutting her job. Her dad was there and I said now don't your job depend on people getting sick. She said yes. [I said you] sound like a typical democrat. People's jobs depend on people getting sick and if don't enough of them get sick, you blame Nixon for it.

BH: Home help program--nursing. Her clients do not have to be in a nursing home or a hospital.

EH: You ought to have a talk with W.C. Wheeler--he's an interesting fellow to talk to. Ended up the whole family being orphans down close to Memphis, Tennessee in Kentucky and he's retired now. Come up here and run a filling station and he comes from [southern] democrats. He is a hard core conservative republican. [laughs]. He's very intelligent, well read, very nice--you could interview him on the way to town if you wanted to, if I called him. Do you want to interview him?

JH: Did he grow up here?

EH: No they come in here as young men--he's about 67, probably, I think. Bombaneer in the World War II and...so they come up here, well, a lot of migration into this area out of Kentucky, even before the War some and...he had come up here as a teenager to live with his uncle because there was no place else to go. And his brother lives here and they were just plain out orphans and scavenged around. Well a guy in Kentucky kept him for a while and then he got up here. And their youngest brother was adopted and lived in a very sheltered home he was raised in so they got him up here as a young teenager to kind of get him out of his sheltered area. He'd probably enjoy being interviewed. Yes, I'd call him. If he's home, he'd probably be glad to be interviewed--wouldn't he?

He'd tell you about his life of coming in here when he was [young], of course he lived close to town and I know he said they all [three boys] cut up [a cord of] wood, a cross-cut saw, [deletion]. I think they got a dollar and a quarter [after delivering the wood to some one] and then 3 or 4 of them went to the movie that night and had a little left over for refreshment.

BH: _____.

JH: Could you?

_____.

EH: Have you interviewed Lotus Dickey?

JH: _____.

EH: Yes, I met him a few times. He's a well known fiddle player. Known all over the country I guess and then he come up to Indiana University with some kind of big recognition thing a little while back.

JH: Yes, I didn't make it to that but _____ did. And I guess I talked to _____ concert around town.

EH: He and his brother and sister played for the Farm Bureau meeting one night and they sang some of these real old time songs.

END SIDE ONE TAPE TWO

EH: Never worked out anywhere except the neighbors putting up hay or something.

JH: And was your dad able to do the same?

EH: Mom and dad worked full time farming.

JH: Another question I wanted to ask you is what would happen if they were several children and a couple wanted to farm--would the brothers stay on the farm and manage it together or what would happen in that case?

EH: They would probably need to buy a little more ground and probably would need to--you see I sell about half the corn so they could double hog production or they could feed more cattle.

JH: Does that kind of thing happen around here--you know brothers or couple families would stay together and manage?

BH: Well, there's a father and son. Exum's cousin Glen Hall and Stanley--they're farming together and there's enough income--well, Stanley's wife is working at Bedford in a hospital for a little extra income, I guess, that's what she likes to do. But Stanley and his dad have this hog operation and...

EH: My dad's generation an awful lot of them went to Illinois to

shuck corn or they went to northern Indiana to work on farms.

JH: Why was that? To...bring in a little bit more income for the family or?

EH: Well, I guess they were just trying to get some...they were young men and they wasn't married and they didn't, hadn't bought any land yet so they just went to get jobs and then those guys had pretty big farms. The corn all had to be shucked by hand and they even went as far as Montana, working in the wheat country and way out there.

BH: To get cash, you know.

JH: And then they'd come back and buy land?

EH: Maybe get a little money and buy them a track of ground somewhere and get married.

BH: My daddy and mother went to Illinois right after they got married in southern Illinois. And he was working on a farm. She was doing some housework for people and...how long were they there? It was just a few weeks, I think but she got so homesick she couldn't stand to be away from her mother. Came back to Crawford County and daddy used to say, if she stayed in Illinois we might have been wealthier.

JH: But family was more important?

BH: Yes, family was more important and they came back and it was just fine I think. Never did get anything as far as money but they had 6 children and they were happy.

EH: I think my first wages were 10 cents an hour putting up hay. And...

JH: Was that your...?

EH: Neighbor, putting up hay. And the older folks talk about working for a dollar per day. And that was probably 10 hours work.

JH: Ten cents an hour.

Would you get, say when you...I don't know...when you were a young man and old enough to work out and you worked for your father on the farm, would he pay you wages or...he just?

EH: Hmmm. I had 2 dozen old hens up there in a hen house and I kept track of the eggs and sold them for my spending money. No,

he didn't pay me nothing. Of course I come back from the Army [and rented land and raised hogs] [deletion] to get some income and [deletion] [he was in his 60s and ready] to phase out [some]. Anything I made I put back into the farm over a long period of time.

BH: But you...you didn't have an allowance either when you were a kid? Just what you could make selling eggs--that's all the money you had to spend?

EH: Yes. We didn't need no money much.

BH: They learned the value. He had a little money of his own, I don't know how he ever got it--he needed a haircut and he wanted his dad to give him money to buy--to get his haircut and his dad said, you got money. He came home and didn't get a haircut. So his dad cut his hair for him and made it pretty bad. [laughing hard]

EH: Yes, them old clippers.

BH: He didn't want to spend his own money on a haircut so he cut his hair. [everyone laughing]

EH: A haircut was a quarter then.

JH: Practices sure have changed.

Did you ever consider living any place off the farm? Like say when you had been in Japan? Or you know?

EH: No, although I used to go out to Colorado, took my Uncle and Aunt before I was married and...and...that area out there--I said that if I didn't have any attachments, family and neighborhood and all that it would kind of appeal to me to go out there in that wide open space and settle out there.

JH: Was it the landscape that was appealing?

EH: Yes, and there's just not as many people. More wide open.

BH: And after we were married we made a few trips out that way and he looked at those big farms in Kansas, you know, I don't know if he really envied them or not but he said "what would you think about living on a big farm like this?" "Well, I think I'd rather be back in Indiana." The neighbors are too far apart out there and town's too far away and...

JH: Do you manage by yourself farming? Or do you have hired help?

EH: No, pretty well done it myself.

JH: Looks like it's a lot.

BH: Except now in the last few years he's been having a friend come out and help him for spring plowing or something like that, a little bit.

EH: After he gets off work.

BH: Our son helps him.

EH: He is good at raking hay. And even get John acquainted with running the tractor maybe this spring--a little chisel plowing.

BH: And I've never helped him like a lot of farm women around here. A lot of the women get out and drive the tractors and plow and all that kind of stuff and I've never had to do that. Just once a while I help him out in a pinch, you know, pull him out of a mudhole or something. [laughs] Drive a tractor when they're picking up hay or something like that--a few times.

He always said his mother always worked in the house and garden work and stuff like that so he didn't expect me to get out and work on the farm.

JH: Do you keep a garden now?

BH: We have a garden. Actually he worked this and put most of it out. Then I'm not supposed to put it in to freezer...

JH: But is that something that you think is appealing for you about farming that you do everything by yourself, I mean, as opposed to maybe, I don't know, working in factory under...it just seems like that would be...

EH: I never felt like I wanted to be tied down working in a factory.

JH: That seems like something real different about farming too--that you just be out there.

EH: You're tied down but you can come and go as you please.

JH: And you do everything when you want to do it and you decide when it needs to be done.

BH: He doesn't have to take orders from anybody.

EH: Except the government.

JH: The ground?

BH: Government, when it comes to tax paying time.

[pause]

Well, we like it out here in the country--I like it. I have lived in a city.

JH: Where was that?

BH: I lived in New Albany for a while when I was working between school and so forth. That gets to be...

EH: I'd hate to live with all that traffic all the time.

BH: And here the traffic isn't all that long, you know.

EH: I'd hate to even live on a [state] highway [deletion] I like a little road like this. This is a dead end road.

BH: And the people right next door to you--you can't even walk out of the house. Out here, you know, if I want to go out in my pajamas...[laughs]...nobody sees me.

EH: When us kids were young we went right down there to the creek. There were big sycamore trees right along there then. And we'd peel off our clothes and go swimming and hang our clothes up in the trees. Why we thought we was a way off. Course the parents could always see us but that didn't make no difference I guess. And a car, an occasional car and that went by...you just stay in the water. I know Aunt Marie came walking up the road one time--me and the boys in swimming--had the water all muddied up and of course she'd come over and talk to us--she chatted away, you know and the clothes hanging on the tree. We just stayed under the water. [everyone laughing]

You know there was, what you call a riff raff down there before a culbert was put in when they hit that concrete riff raff. And you could tell every neighbor when he went by in the night just by the sound of his car.

JH: Was that like a thing that went over the creek?

EH: No, it was just concrete--like a ditch with the sides and bottom concreted. And you could especially tell [by the sound] every neighbor's car when they hit that and [deletion] [went on up the road]. And used to, every car that went by, if you didn't recognize the sound you got up to see who it was. And...now you don't--even now there's so much traffic you don't even bother

most of the time.

JH: Really? It's changed that much?

EH: Wild mushroom hunters will swarm up and down [the road] before long.

BH: And lovers would go and find a quiet place that--park.

EH: Marijuana growers and there has been a few of them, I think tried to put out marijuana patch up there.

JH: Up in the woods?

EH: Yes. There was a patch up there.

JH: Really.

EH: And there's just a lot of people that likes to go up there and walk, now, in the woods, you know. Squirrel hunters and so on.

BH: That's a national forest up here.

JH: When did that go in? Like in the 40s or something? When did that go in that it was made a national forest?

EH: Oh, they owned some land a way back. I think if they had the chance they would buy more.

BH: But when did the McBrides and them live up in there?

EH: Some people lived there up until about 1942. An old couple lived, right at the end of the road, and you went back the ridge and then south and then down under a bank. Of course they used to be on a public road which was never a rock road and then them roads were they laid down and there was still an old couple lived there. And my Uncle and Aunt would come down every summer when the ground was dry and would drive back through the old fields. [To visit them and we would all go back they had been their neighbors when they had first been married and lived in an old house back there.]

BH: But now that's part of the national forest.

EH: Well, I'm told the Handle factory owned that. And Paul Farlow, over in town, he owned a whole bunch of that ground--he bought some at \$3 an acre. So they sold it to the government several years later for \$75 an acre.

JH: Wow.

EH: And it's just about all government ground south of here now.

BH: So the Saddle Club--Orange County Saddle Club likes to go up there. There's some kind of a picnic area. They eat and then they get on their horses and ride through the forest.

EH: Because they've got horse trails.

JH: Yes, I saw those.

EH: Yes, and deer hunters go up there some--during deer season.

JH: And they contract the lumber rights out? To different?

BH: There have been problems about that clear cutting--I don't know if they've done any of that up here.

EH: Oh, they've done a little bit down there, I think.

BH: But some parts of the county, they do. They just go in and cut everything down.

EH: Little Africa. Have you heard of Little Africa? Anybody told you about Little Africa. That's even a bigger area south of Chambersburg. You know where Chambersburg (?) is. A little town east of Paoli. And there was a colored settlement there years ago. They must...oh, I don't know, there must be 2 or 3 thousand acres in there. And there was very many people lived in there. And you always called it Little Africa and the colored cemetery is still back there. And they have been clear cutting the time out of that--all of it.

BH: And the people that live around near that area--they like to go in there and walk and go mushroom hunting and use it for a quiet place to go.

EH: Well, the big ruckus was that the forestry service was going to build ATV trails for these 4-wheelers, you know, for them to road all through there. And that met a lot of opposition. They didn't want to bring in that type of crowd.

JH: That would sure change things.

BH: At the same time they were talking about, against the ORV, they brought it back to clear cutting and how they were ruining the looks of it, you know. And it would probably take years for

it to grow back up. All that decay. Bad.

JH: Do they replant when they do that?

BH: They don't clean up anything, they don't replant.

EH: You don't want to clean it up. It's beneficial to let it rot.

BH: But it makes it look bad.

EH: That is an unproven thing. It's probably not as bad to clear cut as the ones that area against it let on and to my notion it would be better if they'd leave the nice young white oaks and black oaks and all that but that's an issue. There's a strong bunch against and a strong bunch for and somewhere in between is probably the answer.

JH: So they don't cut just mature trees, they cut everything.

EH: They absolutely clean everything. And just...and let it all come back. Now they don't get the hardwoods--they get the poplars and stuff like that. When they get the hard woods--it's probably 100 years down the road.

JH: They come back, you mean.

EH: They already got their information for what it does. All your poplars...and you poplars dominate and eventually, I think you get some hardwoods coming in and the hard woods are the beneficial, your most important timber.

BH: So, in other words, the stuff that does come back up then, is not, not the good kind of stuff that you want. So if they clear cut they should clean that up and set out for little new trees.

EH: No, that wouldn't work. They just ought leave...I don't know, you get into labor then. But they ought to cut out all the scrub stuff and leave your nice young white oaks, your nice young black oaks and for seed trees. Instead of just whacking down a nice little black oak as they come through there or a white oak--and they would have a fine tree there several years from now. Why it's going to be 100 years or more before they ever have one. They got it all figured out that where you clear cut, there's certain stuff comes first and [deletion] [certain timber] next.

JH: Does that wood go into local furniture factories or what happens?

EH: I don't know. It goes everywhere. The veneers, white oak veneer is your high price stuff now. I suppose it goes for table tops and so on. I don't know what this is, on this table.

BH: Maple.

EH: That's a veneer maple--would you reckon? Anything else that you can think of about early life that you want to know about around here?

JH: Is there anything that you can think of that I haven't asked?

EH: I can't think of nothing right now.
[pause]

JH: I can't really think of anything else. I'll turn this off.
Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW

Abner 18-20
 Asbury College 23
 Becks 29
 Blue River Friends 7
 car 15, 17, 19, 21, 39
 carnival 19, 20
 cattle 10, 11, 25, 29, 30, 35
 Chambersburg 41
 chickens 3, 4, 16
 church 3, 5-7, 11, 17, 20
 Civil War 31
 Clarksville 23
 cows 3, 4, 10, 25, 26
 Crawford County 17, 36
 Cydrian Dickey 19
 democrat 31-34
 electricity 13, 18
 English 5, 18, 21, 22
 Florida 22
 Frank Fleming 21
 Friends 5, 7, 8, 20, 25
 Gene Autrey 18
 Gladys 6
 Herbert Lindleys 19
 hogs 10, 16, 36
 Hoosier National Forest 24
 Illinois 29, 35, 36
 Indianapolis 25
 James and Polly McBride 2
 John Lindsey 32
 John Stout 1
 Jonathan Newlin 1
 Kentucky 23, 34
 Little Africa 41
 Lum 18-20
 movie 18, 20, 21, 34
 New Albany 39
 Nixon 33, 34
 North Carolina 1, 2
 Orange County 12, 40
 plumbing 13
 Purdue 11, 23
 Quakers 2, 20
 Ray Walker 29
 republican 31-34
 Riley 6
 Roy Rogers 18
 school 3-6, 8-14, 16, 21, 22, 25, 39
 Senea Farlow 20

theater 18
TV 13
Will Rogers 18

Interview with Blanche & Exum Hall, p. 45. Conducted by Julie Hunter, 7 April 1989, Paoli, Indiana, Indiana University Center for Documentary Research and Practice, OHRC accession #88-89-1, 2