

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

LOUANNE RUTHERFORD

Interviewed by Maria Green
21 April 1989
OHRC accession #88-74-1,2

INTRODUCTION

This interview was conducted by Maria Green 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, LOUANN RUTHERFORD, hereby give
Interviewee (please PRINT)
my oral history interview with MARIA GREEN,
Interviewer (please PRINT)
which was conducted on 4/21/89, to Indiana University.
Date.

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

These rights, title, and interest include all presentations and publications which may result from the reading of, or use of excerpts or full transcript selections from this interview. If necessary, indicate below any provisions or restrictions on the use of this interview.

In addition, indicate 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.

Will decide upon reading, whether to send a copy to the
above places. 1/30/90 - C Jones, by phone
okay to send to above 7/19/91 - BT

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

<u>Louann Rutherford</u> Donor	<u>4/21/89</u> Date
<u>Maria Green</u> Interviewer	<u>4-21-89</u> Date

PAOLI PROJECT
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

Biographical Data Sheet

I. INTERVIEWEE/NARRATOR DATA

Full Name: LOUANNE Rutherford
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: R#1 Box 125 Bennett St.
PAOLI, Ind. 47454

Phone: (812) 723-3962

Date of Birth: 10/9/47 Place of Birth: PAOLI, Ind.

Sex: Female Ethnic Origin: Quaker

Education: High School + 1 yr. college

Occupational History: OR. CO. BANK- Bookkeeping, ^{clothing} store clerk, school
aide, + now Deputy TREAS. for OR. Co.

Special interests, hobbies, etc.: TRI KAPPA SORORITY, PAOLI ALUMNI ASSN. TREAS,
6th grade cheerleader sponsor, reading is a hobby - MY FAMILY !!!
Father's Name and occupation: LOUIS F. JONES - OR. CO. BRANCH BK. mgr
Mother's Name and occupation: SARAH (SALLY) Rae Stout Jones (DOMESTIC)
(Goddess)

II. INTERVIEWER DATA

Full Name: ~~GREEN~~ MARIA ~~A~~ ~~MAA~~ GREEN
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Local address: 304 EAST SMITH AVE. BLOOMINGTON
and phone

Permanent Address: 1722 BURGUNDY RD. LECADIA, CA 92024
and phone

Date of Birth: 6-16-61 Place of Birth: Connecticut

Association with the Paoli Project: Intern Spring '89

Subject of interview: Best & worst memories of Paoli, perception of
youth today vs. her youth, generational dif. w/ mother.

Number of Tapes: 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BEST MEMORIES OF PAOLI	1
Versus now	2
PAOLI'S CHANGES	
Crime	2
Drugs	3
Alcohol	4
Entertainment and sports	4
HER CHILDHOOD PLAY	5
And her children's play	6
THE PEEPING TOM STORY	6
GRANDFATHER: Raymond Stout	7
HER LOVE OF PAOLI	8
NEWCOMERS	9
And changes in Paoli	9
PAOLI	
Its poor	10
Its industry	11
Its attraction to newcomers	12
Lifestyle, school system, etc.	12
On gossip	13
On cliques	13
TEENAGE GIRLS IN THE '60S	15
Versus now	17
TOWN VS. COUNTRY ATTITUDES	17
Kids now vs. then	18
MEETING MAX STORY	19
ON HER EDUCATION	21
POST-COLLEGE LIFESTYLE	22
Versus now	23
"Loners"	
HER GRANDFATHER	25
LEAVE PAOLI?	27
HER JOB	28

RUTHERFORD, LOUANNE

On women's "lib"	29
Mixed feelings about working	30
HER MOTHER	31
Tri Kappa	31
HER DAUGHTERS	32
HER GROWING UP IN PAOLI	
The Korean War	
Trips to Arizona/Mexico	33
On porch sitting	34
On pace of life	35
On visiting	36
The Square	37
The bandstand	37
Smells of summer	38
End of an era	38
The movie theater	39
Andy's restaurant	40
On walking	41
Country kids	41
The Amish	42
Church-going	43
MAX IN THE NATIONAL GUARD	43
CHURCH-GOING	44
On being a Quaker	45
The Mennonites	45
PAOLI'S GOOD CHANGES	46

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

INTERVIEWEE: Louanne Rutherford
INTERVIEWER: Maria Green
PROJECT: History of Paoli, Indiana
DATE: April 21, 1989
TRANSCRIBER: Norma Olmer

Green: This is Maria Green, and I'm interviewing Louanne Rutherford on April 21, 1989 for the Paoli Project.

I'm going to start out with a kind of funny question. I'd like to know, what are some of your best memories of Paoli?

R: Oh God. You know, I've been thinking about this a lot.

G: Yes?

R: It's funny the things that you stir up in your mind and you know you're going to do something with it.

I think about summer. The smells of summer...

G: Yes.

R: ...right before we have so much traffic. And when I was a kid... of course, you could see things differently from the time you were a child from when you're an adult. But the smell of summer was really great. It's like no other smell I can even begin to compare with, right now. Maybe that has something to do with my innocence with what's going on, but in the summer my cousins came from Tennessee, and they came from New York. And we'd swim down at the pool, and my grandmother had a swimming pool in her back yard too. I mean, at the time we thought it was huge, but now (laughs) it looks like a little birdbath. But anyway, we'd swim, and then in the evening we'd play cards. And we'd play cards until, I don't know, 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning. I was a big kid at this time, but you don't keep track of time when you're with family, so it's no big deal. We played Canasta and Crazy Eights, and I think we played a little poker maybe, and lots of Gin Rummy. But that's the best memories I have.

G: Hmm.

R: Of summer. With my cousins.

G: Yes.

F HERFORD, LOUANNE

R: The family thing. We used to also... my aunt would drive up from Tennessee, and my grandmother had this great big old '55 or '58 Buick. I mean, you talk about tanker; baby, this is one tanker. But anyway, my aunt... one aunt would drive us to the drive-in and they'd drive that big old Buick on the front row at the drive-in (laughs), and they'd leave us, and they'd visit with friends or whatever. And there were all these kids, six of us, grandchildren, we were all over that car.

G: (laughs)

R: And we'd take blankets; we'd lay on the grass and we'd watch the movie. Now, they'd come back and get us, but I mean, you could do things like that then, and you can't do those types of things now. No, you can't.

G: How come?

R: Well, the town has changed a lot. For one thing, kids aren't as well-behaved as they used to be. And I don't think you could leave that many kids, at the varied phases we were in at that time, alone and not have them destruct something, or get in a lot of trouble. Also, the movies aren't quite the same, and I don't know if you'd want to take the kids --the ages that we were-- to some of the shows that they put on at the local drive-in now. They're more... they're not pornographic but, you know, they're just... more are. The language is different, the scenes are different. And, I mean, I'm talking about movies when I was a kid that were really home entertainment. Family oriented. So I don't think you'd want to take kids to do that now, and I don't think you could leave them and not tear up everything.

G: Do you think that Paoli's changed, or because kids have changed?

R: Oh both, really. There's a... Paoli's still home-town. OK? And it's still real comfortable to me. But... 'course a lot of what I perceive is because I've gotten older. I mean, I'm thinking of when I was 7-, 8-, 9-years old and I'm almost 42. So you look at things differently. And as a mother I see things differently. But... no, it's just times have changed.

Paoli has changed. We have a lot more people in here from the city.

G: Hmm.

R: Names that we don't recognize. That's something else. When you were a kid, in Paoli, everybody knew everybody else. People didn't even lock their doors; they didn't have to. They didn't feel the need. The biggest crime epidemic we've had in Paoli

F IERFORD, LOUANNE

(laughs) was peeping Toms. I mean....

G: Oh yes?

R: Yes. (laughing)

G: _____

R: Well yes. And now, I mean, Paoli's got the only woman on death row.

G: I didn't know that.

R: Yes ma'am.

G: What's that? I mean, what's the story about that?

R: Woman's name is Lois Thacker and she had her husband killed. He was coming home, I don't know, from work or whatever one night, and she had a cousin or a lover or somebody.... I don't remember the details; it's been a few years back. But... put a big tree in the road, or a tree that they could handle. You know, these huge things. But anyway, he got out to check it out and they shot him. With a deer slug. [The sentence has since been commuted to life in prison.]

G: Wow.

R: And it was proven; it was traced back to her. And also one of the boys turned evidence against her. So Paoli has the only woman on death row. We have a lot more crime now; you don't want to leave your door unlocked. I don't know, when I was younger, you just always felt secure.

G: Yes.

R: I can remember a time in high school; I was in the band. And we were leaving for a particular concert engagement. And the bus was leaving at 3 o'clock in the morning. So I got up at 2 and walked to a friend's house, which was two blocks away at the most. And I wasn't scared. Well now, I wouldn't let one of my kids do that than anything.

G: Hmm.

R: Not... you just... it's the change... that much.

G: You mean things have happened that _____?

R: Yes, a lot of things have happened. I mean there's... Paoli has its drug problem like any other community but, I don't know,

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

it's just... anything? (pause) It's not as safe as it used to be; you just have to be more protective and more careful. What you do and where you go and... it's changed a lot in that way.

G: Hmm.

R: I don't feel real fearful but it's... it's not something I'd let my kids do. Like I was allowed to do when I was probably 15-years old; 14-, 15-years old. You couldn't let a kid do that now and not feel safe about it.

G: How aware are you of the drug problem? I mean, what... I haven't heard much about it, you know. Here.

R: Well, you know, a lot of it's alcohol related. (pause)

G: I mean, do you see kids doing stuff, or you just hear about it?

R: Oh no. No, no, no, no. You just... I have 3 kids and, you know, there's always something being said, or somebody was drinking and driving, or got pulled over, or was at a party and got too drunk, or.... And, yes, one night we saw a boy out to Chat and Snack, and he was in pretty bad shape. And I told my husband; I said, "We should take him home to his parents."

But his brother came. So we didn't. And he was involved in a really bad wreck later on, and I felt real bad about that for a very long time. The brother did try to help him, to get him home, but he got the keys and left again. He's a good boy and a good family; it was a bad situation.

But yes, there's a lot of... Paoli doesn't have a lot to offer now. This is something else I've been thinking about. When I was growing up, we had a movie theater on the square. You'd probably call it a circle; we call it a square.

G: (laughs)

R: And that was just... there were basketball games that everybody was into. I mean, golly, you went to a basketball game, and you didn't do anything if you didn't go to the basketball game. There was the movie theater and there were dances. Now this is when I was in high school; junior high and high school.

Nowadays there are dances. They're not scheduled as routinely, I think, as what we had. I mean, they have a lot of them, but I think we had more, at that time. And basketball has really picked up here in the area since we went to semi-state. We had a great team this year that we can be proud of. But the movie theater provided a lot of entertainment for kids from the time they were little until they were older. That's something else. I could walk to the movie theater of an evening and come

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

out, as a kid, 7-, 8-, 9-years old, my parents lived across the highway, and walk home. And they felt real comfortable about that. You couldn't do that now and feel real safe.

'Course there again, I lived about 2 blocks away from the movie theater and from town. But still, it was just... it was more of a safety thing then.

G: Yes.

R: But Paoli doesn't have that now. There aren't a lot of things for kids to do here. For a lot of entertainment, you have to go to other places. You have to go to Bedford or Jasper or Bloomington or Louisville. There's just not a whole lot of oriented... of an organized program here for kids. And what there is, comes through the school system. They've done a lot of really good things. I mean, our sports program is very good; and our band program is very good. I think we have some of the best facilities and... a very good school system for the state of Indiana, I think.

G: Yes.

R: Well anyway, I'm rattling. I'm rattling, I'm rattling, I'm rattling.

G: (laughs) By all means, rattle.

R: But... there just isn't a whole lot for kids to do here. And I think kids are so... they're easily bored now. I think they feel like they have to be entertained, and I think that comes from too much television. We didn't watch that much TV when I was growing up; we invented things to do ourselves. We went out and made our own games. You know, I mean, gosh. We played more outdoorsy things like baseball; I grew up playing baseball with the boys for as long as I can remember. Climbing trees. I mean, I'm not a... I wasn't a... what's the word I want?... a tomboy by any means. But I don't know, it just seemed like we didn't watch as much television as they do now, and we did more for ourselves.

And now kids are bored: What can I do?

G: Yes.

R: You know. You direct me and I'll find something to do. So... and kids do get bored very easily nowadays. (laughs) So I think, out of boredom, and a lot of other social-situation problems --girlfriends, school, loneliness, whatever-- kids are reaching out to lower their thing: alcohol, drugs, whatever. But there is some in Paoli; there is a problem with it. I don't know if it's of a huge magnitude, but it's affected some kids. I mean, it's touched a lot of lives.

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

G: Yes. Will... like, you know, you said you invented your own games. What kinds of things did you do?

R: Oh, you know, like climbing trees, and we played baseball-- I said that. And we'd swim. But... you'd sit there and play with your dolls. Gosh, I can remember a Jenny doll I had; it was great. I loved that doll; had clothes to match. I even had a little... not real, but a little fur cape. Not a genuine fur, but it was fur to me. And I loved her. I had a canopy bed for her, and a beautiful dresser set. Oh gosh, if I didn't think I wasn't Queen Isabella, I don't know.

G: (laughs)

R: We played dolls. We did a lot more playing dolls. I mean, I'm talking about girls; (laughs) I don't know how many boys played dolls. But we had a lot of fun with that.

I did paper dolls. That was the big... oh gosh, I can remember buying paper dolls probably every week and cutting them out, you know, and playing with them and.... I don't know, just stuff like that.

G: So, your kids don't do things like that?

R: Not paper dolls. And now my girls like dolls. Barbie dolls are a big thing with them, you know, but... Now, there I go again, and I'm as much responsible for this as anybody. My kids watch too much television; they watch a lot more television than I did. I mean, we read and we colored and we did things like that. But they really enjoy TV. You know, like the Brady Bunch. (laughs) Whereas I grew up on Howdy Doody and Clarabell the Clown, and all these guys, you know. They watch the Brady Bunch and the Flintstones and stuff like that, but.... Yes, they watch a lot of television, and I fear that they get more easily bored than what I remember that I was.

G: Yes.

R: Could have been I acted the same way. I try not to forget what it was like to be a kid, but sometimes I do. It's hard.

G: Yes. Well, what are some of your worst memories of Paoli?

R: Oh gosh. Worst memories of Paoli. That's funny; I never thought about that as a question. (long pause) What's the worst in Paoli? Well, I guess that goes back to the peeping Tom. (laughs)

G: Oh yes? (both laugh)

F VERFORD, LOUANNE

R: That's about... I don't have any bad memories of Paoli. Not as of yet.

G: Did that happen to you?

R: Yes. Well, I mean, it wasn't just me, but in the neighborhood we lived in, there was a little old fellow. And he was not quite... as my mother-in-law would say: He didn't stand too tall.

G: (laughs)

R: It didn't have anything to do with his physical height; it had to do with his mental capacity. OK? But anyway, I loved the way she put it: He didn't stand too tall. But anyway... he was always doing things like that: peeking in people's windows, you know, at night or.... He was _____. And then....

G: He was what? for it?

R: Notorious. Notorious for being a peeping Tom. And everybody who knew him just knew he was... could be naughty at times. (laughs) So... but he was harmless.

G: So you keep your shades down.

R: Yes. And a lot of times you could see his reflection. I can... that's the one thing I remember. I woke up one night, and the shade was down, and there was a street light right next to my house, on the corner. And it was just a perfect silhouette of his head. And I can remember lying there thinking: Gosh, scream. And I was... gosh, I don't know, maybe I was 10-, 11-, 12-, 13; someplace in there; I don't remember. I've got to scream, or I've got to get up and move. I couldn't. I was so scared, I couldn't move.

G: I can imagine.

R: And I finally let out this really loud scream, and even my dad came running. And he went outside and found the concrete block where he stood up on that, trying to peek in. But... well, whoever he was, we assumed he was that person; I don't know who it was. But anyway, that was.... (laughs)

I have to tell you something. When I was growing up, my grandfather, Raymond Stout, was a banker here in Orange County. He and his family. And he died May 21st, 1955. He had Parkinson's disease, and he did not die a pretty death. But he was well loved by so many people, and he did so many really good things for Paoli, as a community... OK?, for the future people of Paoli, that in his memory, the community built a swimming pool and dedicated it to his memory.

F BEDFORD, LOUANNE

Now, it took a lot of money, and it took... oh, I don't know, I think about 2 or 3 years, which, I don't... when I look back now, I don't think that was so long for a community of our size, with the amount of money they had to raise. But it was dedicated to his memory: The Raymond Stout Memorial Swimming Pool. And that's the pool that used to be... I don't know if you've seen it or not.

G: No, where is it?

R: As you're going toward French Lick, on Highway 150, or 56 West. It's behind the Park and Shop grocery store. There's a Jay C park... there's a pool back there. And that was built and dedicated to his memory. And the day of the dedication... let's see, what was I, 8-years old. No, no, I had to be older than that. Gosh, I don't know... who knows? 13, maybe 14. A lot of people turned out and were looking in and... I get real aggravated with Paoli sometimes; people not always being supportive or the business people being too dog-gone independent in....

But I love Paoli; I really do. And when I think back, I think about that. That's one of my... that was a neat memory to have. The people felt so much love for my grandfather, and so much gratitude for what he had done for them, that they wanted to give something back in his memory. So I don't have any ill-feelings about Paoli at all.

G: Hmm.

R: It's home, and I love it a great deal. Yes, I really do; I love it a great deal. I feel... I'm glad I raised my kids here. I've been aggravated times that they... there isn't as much for them.... Like, my daughter takes gymnastics and we had to go to Jasper to do that. And when the girls want to take dance, we had to drive to Bedford to do that. So, you know, I get a little aggravated and put out about things like that, but... no, I love Paoli. It's a neat place. It's home. And it's comfortable and I think the people are warm and friendly and caring. You know, we have a lot of new people that live in Pa... that have moved into the community from a lot of other places, and I think it may take them a little while to warm...

G: Hmm.

R: ...to our ways. And I say "our ways" like we've got so many trained _____, but...

G: (laughs) What are those ways?

R: ...Hoosier hospitality, you know. I mean, we're all pretty... I think we're all pretty friendly people here. I

R: VERFORD, LOUANNE

don't see us as being a restricted community or rigid or unfriendly or cold. I see us as being pretty friendly. And I think people who come in from the city that aren't used to that, you know, I think it takes them... I think it's probably a little bit overwhelmed, but I think it takes...

G: Yes.

R: ...them a while to adapt to the laid-backness and laziness, or whatever.

G: (laughs)

R: I don't know what you'd call it.

G: Hmm. Oh, why... what kinds of things do they do?

R: I don't know; they just... are more reserved and more guarded. They're not as trusting, I think, as Paoli people are who have lived here a long time. And I'm not saying that we're all that trusting; I think we're all a little bit guarded, you know, with all the stuff you see on television, and the things that are happening all over the world now. And with a few things that have happened in and around Paoli, I think everybody's more guarded, but I think people coming from the city are even moreso.

OK. An example. My sister and her husband moved down here, from Indianapolis, about three years ago.

G: Yes.

R: Well, everything they do... they lock their doors in the car. Well, I don't know too many people that live here in Paoli that lock their doors (laughs) in the car when they go to the grocery store and stuff. Now I think they're getting more haphazard about that, but it was just a habit of precaution they had learned from the city. And I think things like that carry over with people who have lived in the city for very long.

G: Yes.

R: And I think it takes a little while to feel at ease, or not as afraid, or not as leery. That's about the only thing I can think of in general...

G: Yes.

R: ...generalities, but....

G: When do you think things really changed? Or, when do you think things started to change in Paoli?

R: VERFORD, LOUANNE

R: (long pause) Maybe since I've gotten older.

G: (laughs)

R: Maybe it's just me that I see a change in. I don't know. I wonder when I think they started? (pause)

Well, let's put it this way. I have noticed... a lady in my office, today, doesn't go anyplace now by herself here in Paoli, of an evening, but she doesn't lock her doors. And she wouldn't have done that 2 or 3 years ago.

G: Yes.

R: So I have to think that it was in the last 5 or 6 years people have become a little more guarded. And I think a lot of that has to do with the things that they see that are going on in television, that are happening all over. You know, people opening up... in MacDonald's or the schoolyard with a gun, or people putting bombs around. In the Logootee school system, a good friend of ours, and neighbor, moved to Logootee. He's the principal there at the high school. And right before he moved down there, somebody had a pipebomb on the high school door.

I mean, things like that are happening all over, and that wouldn't have happened 20 years ago, or 25 years ago; it just wouldn't have happened.

I guess the media has made it so easy... I mean, everybody's blaming the media for everything. But the media has made it so easy, and so fast, to hear about everything that's going on all over that, I think, because we have such accessibility to all that now, that people are more guarded.

G: Yes.

R: And I think it's been within the last 6 years, maybe, that people have become more fearful and guarded, even in Paoli.

Am I rattling?

G: No.

R: Am I rambling? Am I making any sense at all?

G: Yes.

R: I feel like a total jerk.

G: No, you're saying a lot of very interesting things. And... I think it's great.

R: (laughs) Well, just ignore this. OK?

Paoli doesn't have industry... used to have, either. I mean, we used to have a factory called Cornwell's.

R: ERFORD, LOUANNE

G: Yes.

R: ...that employed a lot of people. And they still have reunions. It was a big factory down the hill as you go towards French Lick too. We've got a lot of industry, but we're not a real wealthy or prosperous community. We have a lot of unemployed people.

And that's something else. When I was a kid, I'm sure there were unemployed people, but I don't remember there being as many.

G: Yes.

R: There were poor kids in school that I went to school with when I was a little girl, but I don't remember them being that many. And now (pause) there are so many on welfare, and so many who get free lunches and reduced lunches. And so many who get welfare checks and food stamps. There are just so many here in the community. So many. And I don't remember seeing that many "quote/unquote" poor kids when I was a kid. There were a few, and you knew who they were...

G: Yes.

R: ...but I don't remember there being as many.

So there has... is it my child's memory, there had to be more employment than what there is now? Or then again, maybe people were more willing to work.

G: (laughs) Well, you know....

R: I don't know. A child's eyes see differently. You know, they just see things different, but...

G: Yes.

R: ...I don't know. But there's... no, there weren't that many poor kids.

And when I say "poor," I mean those kids whose parents didn't have a job, and really had a hard time making it. I just don't think there was. And now there are a lot of kids whose parents have a real hard time making it.

G: And you think that's because industry left here, or...?

R: Well, I think it's because we don't have... we have good industry. The industry we have is really good... that have come in. But we just don't have enough for the size of the county. We need more. I think this Patoka thing is going... this Patoka Lake Developmental (whatever you want to call them) Project is

F IERFORD, LOUANNE

going to make a real big difference, if it all goes through.

G: Yes.

R: I think it will help enormously, and I'm hoping that this area will get the highway system in (laughs) 20 years. That goes for all _____; the hoping for that. But I'm hoping that that will make a difference.

I mean, Paoli... Orange County used to be the second-poorest community in the state, for goodness sakes. And we have a lot of things to offer, but we're not that easy to reach, I guess.

G: So, what do some of the new people who move in... where do they work? I mean, what attracts the people?

R: What attracts them? Well, I think the lifestyle, and I don't think they feel as fearful here as they do in the city. And they don't have to worry about bussing like they do in the city.

And we have a real-good school system. I mean, I really feel like we have a real good school system. It's not perfect, but what is. I just think they wanted... they want what Paoli had to offer. What is... the carefree attitude, the lower tax rate... I mean, we're into taxes right now. Lack of bussing.

More land. If you want to run butt-naked nude around your house, you buy some 40 acres out in the country and you can do that. You can't do that in the city without getting arrested.

G: Do a lot of people do that? (laughs)

R: Yes. Yes, they do try. But they'll get arrested. But here, if you own land and you want to go naked, that's your business.

G: (laughs)

R: Oh, you just wouldn't want to do it to your neighbors too often. I think freedom. A free-er lifestyle; more laid-back. A lot of people... not all, but a lot of people that I see in the office, that come in, are what I want to call (laughs) left-overs from the hippy generation.

G: Hmm.

R: You know, the lifestyle and the attitude and the....

G: These are the newcomers?

R: No, not all of them, now. Just a lot of the people that I've seen. You know, they're into doing their own thing, and

R 'ERFORD, LOUANNE

they're about my age. We all grew up in the '60s and... they just remind me of left-over hippies.

You know, they had a carefree lifestyle once in the '60s, they like it, and they're not going to march to anybody else's rules but their own. And it's really easy to do that, here, in Orange County. You can be your own person.

G: Really? You don't think there are a lot of social constraints here?

R: Well, in what way? I don't....

G: Well, I guess, like, in a small town, sometimes, there's a lot of gossip and....

R: Oh, there's always a lot of gossip in a small town. That's what makes a small town tick.

G: Yes it does, doesn't it. (laughs)

R: Yes, it really does. There's an underlying current. Everybody knows everybody else's business, and that happens to be the truth. My mother has a saying: When they're talking about you, they're letting somebody else rest. And it's very true.

G: (laughs)

R: You just accept it and you go on. And I have to tell you, I love to hear it. (laughs) I'm being real honest, tape recorder or not, I like to hear it. I don't like to carry it but I sure do like to hear it. I like to know what's going on. (laughs)

But it's a small town. Everybody knows everybody else's business.

G: Yes.

R: That's just the way it is; that's the way it works in a small town. Any small town in the United States of America would have that same problem, or complaint, or....

G: I guess, what I meant was that, when people sort of march to their own drummer, as they said, sometimes there are cliques... made them into outsiders or....

R: Yes, that's true; there are.... Yes, I think I see what you're saying. (long pause) I don't... Paoli people are just like anybody else in the fact that they can be cliquey. Jasper has a clique.

G: Yes.

RIVERFORD, LOUANNE

R: If you're not German, you don't always fit in... when you move in. Paoli people can be cliquish, but I think when they learn to know you and to trust you, and to feel comfortable with you, that they'll open their doors, or their hospitality, and let you come in. I don't think that they would shut you out.

G: Who's the clique here... be made of? Made up of, would you say?

R: Oh, I don't know. I don't know; I.... (pause) What would I say to that? Well, people who have lived here all their lives... or almost all their lives. You know, in a way I guess we're like Jasper; we're kind of cliquish, but I don't think we're (pause) totally unreasonable. I mean, I think the doors would open.

G: I... maybe... I guess I didn't say it very right. I meant to say, well... maybe I have a perception of a small town being more conservative.

R: In what way?

G: Well, I don't know. I guess, when you have some people who are sort of leftover hippies, that they would look at them... less ready to accept them.

R: Oh no; I don't feel that way. No, I really don't. Unless they make waves. I think if people come in and think: Ah, ha; you're going to do this my way, or else.... and they make a lot of waves about it, I think that they will be totally excluded. But I don't think any community would welcome somebody with open arms that wanted to come in and say: You do it my way or we don't do it all.

G: Yes.

R: You know? I... they might... a lot of Paoli people might look at these people a little differently, and be a little standoffish for just a little while, but I don't think they would shut them out.

END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE

R: OK. Leave him out in left field. (laughs) People are... I mean, everybody has to size everybody up when they first meet them. You know, first impressions are, unfortunately, usually what we judge people by.

G: Yes.

R: VERFORD, LOUANNE

R: And we make mistakes sometimes doing that. I know I have. But I think we're all open to take another look and form a second opinion. I don't think we'd leave him out in the cold, but I don't want to believe that we would.

G: Yes.

R: I'd like to believe that we'd be fair.

G: So you... when were you born?

R: 1947.

G: 1947. So you were a teenager in the '60s?

R: Yes.

G: So, did hippies reach Paoli? Did...?

R: I don't remember. I thought about this too. We were so busy having fun and being in high school, and trying to find out who we were, and dating, and wrapped up in all those things, I don't think it did. Now... I went to school in Terre Haute for a year, to Indiana....

G: Indiana State University?

R: Yes. And I don't think being a hippy would come from that. I even hardly noticed. I have a lot of regrets that back in the '60s I didn't pay more attention to what was going on around me. I was so busy having a good time, and looking out for myself, and growing up and spreading my own wings, and being involved in various things that I really didn't pay that much attention to what was going on. And I have a lot of regrets for that now.

G: Like...?

R: Like, I have a really good friend. She was super. She graduated a year ahead of me. Her name is Kay King. She graduated in 1954. And she went to nurses training: Kentucky Baptist Hospital in Louisville. Excellent school. And then she took that training and she went to Vietnam. And I believe she made a difference. Or maybe I just like to think she made a difference. No, I really believe she made a difference.

'Course, we're seeing things more and more all the time on television about Vietnam. China Beach.

G: Yes.

R: Tour of Duty. All these things. I was just so involved

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

with myself and having a good time, I didn't do anything for anybody else. And I'm really sorry about that now. I wish I'd paid more attention. Maybe I would have made a difference.

G: (laughs)

R: You like to think you would, anyway.

G: (laughs)

R: Max and I were married in July of 1966, and before we were married, a friend of mine... the boy she was going to marry, he was killed right before he was to come home and they were to be married. I mean right before, maybe within 2 weeks. So, you know, when you know somebody who died in Vietnam and you know what a good person they were, it puts it on a different basis than to see numbers and totals on the pictures... on the television screen. Or you hear things. It makes it more personal.

G: Yes.

R: And I'm just real sorry I didn't do more to help out. Maybe it wasn't necessarily in that field, just... to make a difference. To make a difference.

G: So you really weren't aware of things that were going on?

R: Oh sure. You heard about them but, you know, but... (falsetto) gee, this is tough but I've got to wash my hair, I've got things to do. (normal voice) You know, that kind of thing. Not that we were so... any of us were so cold and callous that we didn't notice or didn't hear, or didn't care. We did. But we were having a good time. We were 17... 16-, 17-, 18-, 19-years old. We were carefree, we were out of school or we were going to school, we were free for the first time. We were married. You know, we just didn't pay enough attention. Or I didn't; I can't speak for everybody else. I didn't pay enough attention.

G: Hmm.

R: I was married when I was... let me see, was I 17 going on 18, or was I 18 getting on ready for 19? I think I was 18, soon to be 19, and I was all wrapped up in that, you know.

And that's something else... that's something else. When I was growing up here, when you were in high school, you went steady. You had a special somebody...

G: Yes.

R: ...and you married shortly after school. OK? Nowadays --

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

and I think it's for the best -- the girls... no, not all of them; we still have a lot of teenage pregnancies in Paoli and we still have a lot of kids who get married young. But more and more girls are going on and getting their education, or going on to make a way of their own by themselves for awhile before they become part of a pair.

They're finding out who their single oneness is before they join up with somebody else to become a couple. And I think that's good. We still have a lot of pregnant... young teenage pregnancies in Paoli... all of Orange County.

G: Really.

R: But... well, we always did, even when I was in school. But I think girls are more interested in doing something for themselves.

G: Is that something that's ever written about? Or is that just sort of common knowledge?

R: Oh, I think it's been written about. It seems to me like the Girl Scouts....

G: I mean, do you hear about it in the paper or, I mean....

R: Oh, how do you hear about it?

G: Yes.

R: Like, it's... OK, there you go. Paoli is a small community, and the kids bring it home. "Oh, so-and-so is pregnant." Or you hear it through the grape vine; the gossips, you know, what you said a minute ago. You know, you... word gets around. It just gets around.

G: So you grew up in... right in town?

R: Yes. My husband grew up in the country.

G: Oh.

R: And believe me, it makes for a difference of lifestyles...

G: Oh yes?

R: ...and opinions on things.

G: Like what?

R: Well... (pause) (laughs) I don't know. It just... the kids have always wanted to be busy... our kids have always wanted to

P IERFORD, LOUANNE

be busy and do various things. My attitude is: if they want to do it, they should try, and we should be supportive. Max's attitude was: Well, they don't have to do everything; I didn't. So, you know, there's no need for them to do everything they want to do, you know. And I think a lot of that's the difference between town and country.

G: Oh yes?

R: Yes. Yes, I do. And I think the country kids were even... a lot more laid back, and I know they probably used their imaginations and creativity a whole lot more than we did, because they had less to do.

G: Hmm.

R: But in a way, they had more. You see what I'm saying? Does that make sense? The things that we had in town were provided for us, like the pool and the movie theater.

G: Yes.

R: Stuff like that. The stores were here; you could walk around town. In the country, they had to provide their own. Play in the dirt with trucks, which a lot of kids in town did that too but, I mean, they were just... there was less to do in the country, so they had to make... use their own imagination a lot more. They went to country school...

G: Hmm.

R: ...and they were a closer knit group. We went up here and... oh, that brings up another thing. When I was going to school here, I knew each and every one of the kids I graduated with. And I'm not sure they all know one another that well now.

G: How big was your class?

R: I think we graduated a hundred-and-20; 118, 119, 120. I think that... no, no, I take that back. We graduate a hundred. We graduated a hundred. We started out a hundred-and-20-some odd, and finished up 98 to a hundred, some place in there. That's what we graduated. But I knew each and every one of them. And still do. Their last names. Sometimes I can't always think of their first names real quick but.... (laughs) We were more (pause) in touch with one another... as a group, and I think kids nowadays are... a lot of them are more "me" oriented; instead of "we", more "me."

G: Hmm?

R: VERFORD, LOUANNE

R: I don't know; maybe that's not... maybe that's not a fair assumption. Maybe that's an assumption on my part. But I feel like: kids nowadays are more "what's in it for me" or "let's look out for number one" instead of _____. But that's an assumption; that's just totally an assumption. I think... maybe it's my age again. Maybe we were more that way than when I realized it. I don't think so. We all knew one another; we all... we all knew one another. We knew... we just didn't know each other by name; we knew one another. We knew something about one another.

I don't know if the kids take that kind of time with the kids that they're in school with now, unless through the... you know, everybody knows the real popular kids.

G: Yes.

R: But what do they know about the kids who are not as popular, or who are less fortunate? But then again, maybe that's my age that's speaking...

G: (snickers)

R: ... instead of my memory? Maybe that's just my age. I don't know.

G: So, how did you meet your husband then?

R: Oh, you want dirt. (laughs) Well, now you're going to know what kind of person I really am. He was seeing my best friend. And she was having trouble with him. Lover's problem. Would I go out and talk to him for her?

Sure. Why not.

And, I got to tell you: I think I really believe I loved him from the first minute I saw him. Now, I have got....

G: So, you didn't go to high school with him?

R: Well, no, he's older than I am. I remember him; he graduated in 1962 and I graduated in '65. And I remember him. But he was going steady with somebody else and so was I. I went with a boy for 4-and-a-half years and it was just a general assumption that we would marry. And the summer I graduated, I spent the summer in Memphis taking care of my aunt's kids... my aunt and uncle's children... while she went to Europe. And while I was gone, he strayed and... You just didn't do that.

G: (laughs)

R: And I came back and I was getting ready to start college at Terre Haute, and I went out to Phyll's house and she... when I got back... when I first got back from Memphis to see her. And

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

she was getting ready to go out on a date with him, and he came in the kitchen, I thought, "Oh, my God," you know. I knew he was goodlooking; I mean, I feel like she was, but.... God. And he had the most beautiful arms. I mean, I'm an arm person. You know how some people look at eyes or legs or "tushes" or whatever. I'm a shoulder person...

G: (laughs)

R: ...and he had the most gorgeous set of biceps on him you have ever seen in your life. He was a country boy and he put up hay, and it's like working out, you know. You develop those things. Oh, God. And he's dark; he's real dark. A lot of people think he's from Iran or, you know... or maybe he's Italian or he's Mexican. I mean, he's real dark, real dark... it's Indian blood but....

Anyway, I went out there to talk to him for her. And like I said, he lived in the country. OK? It was a beautiful, beautiful fall day; it was October the 2nd of 1965, to tell you the truth. And he was getting ready to hitch up his dad's pony to a pony cart.

And I said, "Oh Max, I'd like to talk to you about Phyll."

And he said, "Well, I'm getting ready to take a pony ride. Have you ever taken a pony ride?"

"No."

Bat, bat, bat, bat, smile, heart fluttering. And at that time, I was dating his best friend, too. OK?

He said, "Well, let's go for a ride."

And I had never been on a pony ride. So we went for a pony ride. And it just so happened that they were having a persimmon festival over at Mitchell that day. And we were coming back... and we were talking about Phyllis, and we were talking about Clifton and... we were coming back and he said something about: "Would you like to go into the Persimmon Festival?"

I said, "I'd love to." I'd love to.

And we were walking down a street and our hands kind of bumped.... I mean, this all sounds probably a little corny to you but... I don't know... I just knew from the minute I saw him, I really loved him.

G: Maybe it was just the sex appeal because I....

R: (laughs) Those shoulders.

G: Yes, the shoulders.

R: It had to be the shoulders, I swear. Oh God, they were gorgeous. Anyway... and when we got back, as things would have it, his father had been taken to a hospital in Louisville, and he didn't know his way around Louisville. Well, there you are again, the Fates smiled on me because I did.

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

So he said, "Well, would you direct me on how to get to this hospital?"

"Of course." Flutter, flutter, heart palpitating like crazy.

So I took him and his brother... I mean, I directed him; he drove. And we've been together ever since.

The next Saturday was October the 9th, 1965, and that's my birthday. That was my birthday. And I have to tell you, I probably am one of the most blessed people in the world in the fact that my friend is still my friend. We weren't... we kind of strayed for awhile, 'cause I did a real hurtful thing. I went out and told her about it the next day, but she already knew.

G: Hmm.

R: Yes, she already knew. She said, "Lou, I just knew that when you and Max got together, you were going to stay together. I just had this feeling."

And I'm real thankful to the good Lord up above that I've had some truly special friends, and Phyllis is one of them. She's one of the dearest people I... she doesn't live here now. She's one of the dearest people in the whole, wide world, and I still love her deeply. I don't get to see her as often, or talk to her as often, but she's always in my heart.

But anyway... that's the dirt on that.

G: Hmm. So then... you left and went to college for a year?

R: No.

G: Or was this after you had a year at college?

R: No, I was going to college at the time. And so I came home on weekends. I was a suitcase student at Terre Haute. Every weekend I packed up and came home because that's where Max was. And on Sunday I packed up and went back. I quit 6 weeks before the end of my freshman year. On a whim. And I wanted to kick myself three ways from Sunday for doing it, ever since I did it. Not that I regret marrying Max, and not that I regret having my kids, but I really regret I didn't get my education...

G: Hmm.

R: ...because now I'd like to have it. And because of money and working full-time, and a little bit of fear... I have to be real honest and say a little bit of fear... I don't go back. I'm afraid now that if I got in a classroom, I'd be too intimidated, or I'd be so dumb I'd sit there with my fingers over my eyes going: Oh God, you know, what have I got myself into.

Yes, I'm real fearful. I think that overpowers everything

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

else; I think I use the money for an excuse, and to a commitment to the kids and stuff. But I think the overlying fact is: I'm more afraid now than I was when I was 16-, 17-, 18-years old. Gosh, I had the world to conquer; I wasn't afraid.

G: Was there a big... was it hard for you to go from Paoli to Terre Haute?

R: Oh no. No. Not at all. It was great; I loved it.

G: 'Cause I don't know too much about it, but I assume it's pretty big.

R: Maria, I've been real blessed --that's another thing; I got to travel a lot when I was a kid, with my grandmother. And I got to do a lot of really neat things. No, going to Terre Haute was not that hard.

G: Well, I don't want to pry too much but I... it looks like, you know, some of your... why, what it was like growing up here, when you were little and... or actually --if you're interested-- when you married Max, did... was there a problem deciding whether you'd live in the country or town?

R: (laughs) Yes, as a matter of fact... but economic situation had it that we didn't have any choice. We lived in town.
(laughs)

G: Oh really?

R: Yes, because we didn't have the money to buy land. He didn't have any money. He didn't have that great a job, and here I was... I'd just quit school, you know. So, we lived in town.

G: What did you do? You were able to find jobs?

R: Yes, I worked... I was working at the bank. The day I quit college, my dad, he was devastated because he had never been... his parents had never had the money to send him to school, and he always wanted to go. And a lot of his dreams and hopes for... were put in me to go and get that education first, you know. Accomplish what he was never allowed to accomplish. And I wasn't happy at Terre Haute, and I wasn't doing very well. So I quit. Before I flunked out; thinking that I would go back.

G: Hmm.

R: But anyway, he told me the day I came home: You have to go out, and you have to get a job right now. Otherwise I'll take you back. So I got a job that day.

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

I worked at the hotel in French Lick as a cashier. So, you know, I had a job when Max and I got married, and he worked at the chair factory when we got married. So we both had jobs, but, you know, we weren't rich by any means, although money... you know, we had enough money to pay the bills and eat and have a good time; that's all that really mattered. We weren't about saving; Lord no. We were having too much fun. We partied every weekend. I mean, we ran around with a group of kids that he had gone to school with and we partied every weekend. That's all we did. (laughs) We partied from Friday till Sunday, every weekend. I think that's why now, a lot of times...

G: Partying then was the same as it is now? or...?

R: Oh, I'm sure it was. (both laugh) Oh, I'm sure. People didn't do drugs, I mean; they didn't smoke marijuana. But there was a whole lot of drinking and dancing and playing cards, and laughter and merriment and... throwing up going on. (laughs) Those with hangovers, you know. But I think now, when people say party, I just kind of... Oh God, really? (laughs) You know, I'm not... we partied so much, I'm just.... Now I'm more of a... I like small crowds because I like that (pause) closeness, you know.

G: Yes.

R: I like that one on one, more personal contact instead of a whole huge bunch of people, where you can't really relate to anybody.

G: Yes.

R: "Hi. How're you doing? Fine." Go on to the next person. I like... I like people; I like them a lot. And I like to know what's going on with them, especially if they're people that I want to be around.

G: So, did a lot of the people that you grew up with, they stayed in the area?

R: Yes. A few left; a few have come back; a few more have left... who were here have gone away. A lot of the kids that I grew up with are still right here. A few are around close.

G: Yes.

R: Indianapolis and Evansville, you know, around like that. Max's friends are in Indianapolis, and some in Lawrenceburg. And kids we grew up with... _____ we changed though. Maybe this is one of those social changes.

RUTHERFORD, LOUANNE

G: Hmm.

R: A lot of the kids... here I am talking like we're all 16-, 17-years old. A lot of the kids... people, that we partied so hard with for so long... say, for years... we don't even see any more. We have contact with at Christmas but we don't see very many of them.

G: They live here, in Paoli? or...?

R: Well, yes and no.

G: Even the ones that live __?

R: Yes. Life has changed... lives have changed and.... You know, divorces, change in occupation, getting religion, so-to-speak. I mean,...

G: Hmm.

R: ...just a lot of different things have changed the people that we used to run around with. The group of people that we ran around with then and the people that we run around with now. Although you can't really say that we run around with a group of people; we're kind of loners. We really are; we're kind of loners.

We have a few people we associate with. I say "associate" like we're being really snobby. I don't mean it like that; I mean... Max is a trucker, and he used to be gone so much, and he was gone for such a long time at certain times of the year that.... I'm not saying this right; let me go back on this.

Max started driving a truck about 16 years ago. We'll be married 23 years in July. Up until that point, he'd always been there with me, and I depended too much on him. When he started driving a truck, the first winter, I thought: "Oh, my God, I'm going to die." Every time the phone rang, I thought: "Oh, he's been killed." You know, you kind of think.... So I had two choices: I could either sit on my duff and watch the world go by, or I could get up off my duff, and make the world alive for me and the kids.

OK. So that's what I decided to do. And for a long time, he'd be gone sometimes two and three weeks at a time. Well, he's home a lot more often now; he's only gone two nights a week. And because we missed out on being with one another for so long, we really enjoy being just the two of us a lot of times. Not all the time, but a lot of the times.

G: Yes.

R: So sometimes I say we're loners by choice because we've gotten a lot closer as time has gone on. We've had some real

R: VERFORD, LOUANNE

hard knocks that have brought us to our knees, so we picked ourselves up together. So, that's why I say, we're kind of more loners now than what we were.

G: Hmm.

R: This is not helping you at all about growing up.

G: No This.....

R: This is like therapy for me; that's what it is. (both laugh) Take this to a psychologist or a psychiatrist and have them test... evaluate me and tell me if I'm all right.

G: It's... we're also looking at how people remember what they remember; not just what you remember but....

R: Sometimes I think I've got a block on a lot of things. My grandfather... that I told you about a minute ago; the one that the pool was dedicated for, we were good buddies. I mean, we were great buddies. Right. We were brought up with manners... I was brought up with manners. And I knew the social amenities, I would say. OK? We dressed for dinner a lot of times, and no matter how many people sat down at the dining-room table, all the plates were placed in front of my grandfather --while he lived-- with the serving bowl around him. He served everybody's plate to them. And you sat and you waited until everybody was served before you began. And that was only after saying grace.

G: Hmm.

R: OK? A lot of things I don't remember about my grandfather before he died, and he and I were together all the time. I think it's a block. I really think it's a block. I can remember, he and I had this thing... when we had mashed potatoes.... You wouldn't believe this from looking at me, but I used to be such a runt. Puny looking. I mean, we're talking all arms, legs, and head. I was such a skinny thing. Oh God, was I skinny. Took cod liver oil. But the only food I really liked was mashed potatoes. Oh God, do they show now. Anyway....

G: (laughs)

R: ...he had this thing that he'd always do with me to get me involved with eating. He took the mashed potatoes and he'd put the serving spoon over his shoulder and plopped that sucker down on the plate. You know, I mean it was "plopp."

G: (laughs)

R: Well, it dropped on the carpet one time. My grandma was a

F VERFORD, LOUANNE

little perturbed, to say the least. "Well, Raymond..."

"Well, now, Sarah, don't worry about it."

You know, this is the conversation. And she's the one that had to clean it up though. He didn't clean it up, you know.

G: (laughs)

R: There was no woman's lib back then, I'm going to tell you.

G: Yes.

R: A man did one thing and a woman did the other. But... a lot of things that... I can't remember a lot of things. It seems like, when he died, I shut up a certain part, and I've never gone back in and opened it up again. I don't know if I can.

G: Maybe in time.

R: Well... I mean, my mom's... my mom will tell me things that we did. And I do remember a few things, but I don't remember... I think seeing him with Parkinson's disease had a lot to do with it; the way he had to die. He was bedridden, I think, about two years and, gosh, that was awful. Yes, that was really... you know, 'cause this man was a really vital person. He loved life and he loved people. I mean, you can tell he loved people or they wouldn't have been able to do for him like they did.

But after he died... or, when he died, my mom took it so hard, I stayed with my grandmom. Now, my grandmother had all these people coming in from all over and yet she was so strong. I've always admired her strength.

G: Hmm.

R: And I stayed with her. I didn't go home; I stayed with her. I don't even think I went to the funeral; I don't remember seeing him. I don't remember seeing him as a corpse. I remember things that happened after that, but I don't remember a lot of things that he and I did together prior to... let's see, I was 8-years old when he died.

G: Were your grandparents... were they born in Paoli too?

R: No. Well, my grandfather was; my grandmother was Boise, Idaho. She was born on a sheep ranch, and she went to the Boston Conservatory of Music. And she met my granddad on a blind date. (laughs)

G: In Boston?

R: In Boston, yes. And I'm not so sure they weren't "love at first sight." And she later married him, and they had twins

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

almost 9 months to the day from their wedding night. And then they had my uncle, and then they had my mom. My mom was the baby.

G: How did they end up out here?

R: Well, my grandfather was born and raised here. His people were here. I mean, this is where he was born and raised. And the bank... and the family does still own 51 percent of the bank at this time.

G: So you never thought about leaving Paoli?

R: Oh yes. A few years ago, before Max got into trucking, we had the opportunity to leave. My uncle, bless his heart, offered him... offered Max and I a really good opportunity. But Max didn't want to leave. He didn't want to leave; he didn't know what we were going to get into.

G: Where was...?

R: Down south in (pause)... someplace in Alabama. Or was it Georg... no, it was Georgia. It was Georgia.

Barnsville. Barnsville, Georgia. Barnsville, Georgia. And he just didn't feel real good about it, so we stayed here. At times I wished we'd left, but most of the time I'm glad we didn't.

G: Why?

R: Well, now, our parents are getting older, and it's been a good place to raise the kids. And we're close to Louisville and we're close to Indianapolis and we're close to Evansville. We really have a lot of advantages right where we are, without having a lot of disadvantages.

G: Yes.

R: You pretty well know who you can trust. (pause) The people know us, and I think if our kids were really in trouble, we'd hear about it.

G: Yes.

R: I hope we would. Yes, for the most part, I'm glad we didn't. But every once-in-a-while I get... like the feeling I had, like I wish I'd done more, you know, when I was growing up in the '60s? I wished we'd gone away too. It might have helped Max and I to reach a....

P. VERFORD, LOUANNE

END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO

G: OK. We've finished that.

R: I try. Oh gosh, I should have written it down. My brains are on my desk in there.

I think, had we gone away, Max and I probably would have developed a better relationship sooner. I mean, it's taken us a long time to get to where we are now. And I think, had we gone away, without a lot of outside involvement or influences, we would have gotten there sooner.

G: Hmm.

R: And I'd like to know if we could have made it in the big city, you know?

G: Is that a city? a big city?

R: Oh, I don't know; I'm just....

G: No small _____.

R: Yes, yes. It would be neat to know how we would have fit in someplace else. Would we have fit in someplace else? Would we have been total outcasts? Would we have been the life of the party? I don't know.

G: (laughs)

R: See, I'll probably never know now.

G: Yes.

R: Only in that way... I just wondered how we would have fit in. I'd like to know how I'd do someplace else.

You know, it's like... sometimes I see these corporate ladies on television. I say, "I could do that. I could do that job. If given half a chance, I could do that."

But then I think, "Well, you're not going to be given that chance here in Paoli." You know, that kind of regret which is not so severe, and they don't happen very often. It's just... I like to feel challenged. And the older I get, I like to feel challenged.

The job I have is great and I love... and my boss, that you met a minute ago, she is one of the most terrific, dynamic women... she's just... I love her. I love her dearly. And she gave me a chance to prove myself with this job.

I went from the Prosecuting Attorney's office... well, I'm sorry. I started out in the Tax office, part-time. Then I went

R: VERFORD, LOUANNE

to the Prosecuting Attorney's office, because my job in there ended and I worked.... I was in the Prosecuting Attorney's office for about, I think, six months. Four to six months; I don't remember. And then I went back in there; and I went in as the Deputy. So....

G: Hmm?

R: Excuse me... I guess it was six months I was in the Prosecutor's office.

G: What were you doing there?

R: Well, I did a lot of ADC work, which is Aid to Dependent Children. And I helped out on their little things. I mean, I knew what was going on... a lot of what was going on, but I didn't do that much...

G: Yes.

R: ...as far as paper work. But... I was in that office when....

G: So you like working?

R: Most of the time. Some mornings I really hate getting up. (laughs)

G: A little while ago, you were talking about women's lib and....

R: Oh, well, yes... well, I'm not much of a woman's libber. I mean, when I was growing up... this is going to sound so corny, and it's going to sound like, I don't know what... I really believed that women should get equal pay for doing an equal job, there's no doubt about that. But sometimes I think that we've come too far.

G: How?

R: Well, I like social graces; I don't think it's wrong for a gentleman to hold a door open for a lady. And I still think it's nice that men make the first move as far as sending flowers or asking people out. Although I don't see anything wrong with women doing it; I don't have a problem with that. I just kind of like... oh, some of the old-fashioned values that I grew up with. Not values, but traditions I should say. I kind of like that. I like having a door opened for me; I like that a lot. And I like... (long pause) here I've gone blank; I say I like something and I can't tell you what I like.

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

G: (laughs)

R: I like being treated different than a guy would treat another guy. 'Cause I am different. And I like being made to feel... I like being made to feel special. I'm a flirt; I am. And I love being pampered.

G: (laughs)

R: You know... but then again, now that I'm working, I love it that Max helps me out with the house. (laughs) He does dishes, and he does laundry, and he can cook. And I love that. (laughs) And I think that's great. But I think it should be that way, you know: if two people work out, then they should both share the responsibilities of house and kids. That's just fair. Because it's really hard being mother, wife, chauffeur, friend, sister, doctor, nurse, aunt, uncle, brother, you know, neighbor -- all these things.

G: Yes.

R: Teacher. There aren't enough hours in the day, and you get tired. And the older you get the more tired you get.

G: So, your mom didn't work outside the house?

R: No. No, my mom was always home. And my grandmother was always home. No, they did not work out. And sometimes I wish I could have stayed home and be there. You know, when the bus gets there, I'd like to be there when the kids get off the bus. And I'd like to be there when the kids go to school. But in-between time, I want to be here.

G: Yes.

R: I like what I do, and I think I'm good at what I do. That sounds real egotistical, doesn't it?, but I really think I am.

G: Well, if you enjoy it, you probably are.

R: Well, I love people. And they can be a real pain in the "tush" sometimes, and I get really aggravated sometimes, but I really like working with them. I love the trust in their eyes; I like being trusted. And I like knowing that I helped somebody out. You know, maybe if they had a problem or a question, or they needed help with something, I like to know that I helped them out.

G: Well, would you say that your life is a lot different than your mother's life?

R: VERFORD, LOUANNE

R: Oh, most definitely. Most definitely. Oh, my God. I don't remember my mother ever coming to school for a party. I don't remember... my mother didn't drive. I don't remember my mom and dad ever participating in anything I did, or even being there when I did participate in something. And my kids have been my life. Whatever they were involved in, I was involved in.

G: Yes.

R: And I still am that way to a certain degree. I don't think I missed a party that they... growing up with, and even though I've been working for the last five... five-and-a-half years, I've still been able to attend a lot of parties for, you know, for my kids.

I drive. I'm active. Yes, my mother... I mean, it's like day and night. My mom, bless her heart, she doesn't know how to balance a checkbook.

G: Hmm.

R: Her whole life... no, I shouldn't say her whole life; that's not fair. A lot of her life revolves around the soap operas right now. You know what I mean? She and my dad, both, get really into those. And I just don't have time for that.

Not that I don't enjoy Dallas. (laughs) But the rest of it; I just... I don't have time. I've got too many other things to do. And I don't remember my mom and dad ever belonging... oh, my mother belonged to Tri Kappa but.... I know she was active for a long time, but I don't remember her ever belonging to anything else. I don't remember my dad ever belonging to anything.

G: What exactly is Tri Kappa?

R: It's a philanthropic sorority.

G: That you joined in high school or...?

R: No.

G: ...it's just a local organization?

R: Well, it's state-wide. It was established in 1901, in Bloomington, as a matter-of-fact. No, in Indianapolis.

G: It's a women's organization?

R: Yes, it is. It's one of the biggest in Indiana, in the state of Indiana. But it's only in the state of Indiana. Kappa, Kappa, Kappa.

My grandmother was the first married lady to be initiated

R' VERFORD, LOUANNE

into Paoli Tri Kappa, many years ago. My mom went in; and then I went in 1965. I graduated in May and was initiated in June. '65. So... I did that, and my mom did it for a long time but, I mean, gosh.... I've had Brownies; I've had Girl Scouts; I've had Cub Scouts. I've been Treasurer of the library board, Town Alumna Association. I mean, Tri Kappa, I was recording secretary and vice president, treasurer; president twice.

I've worked with the Heart Association; I've worked with the... oh gosh, I've got a little plaque at home on the wall. Oh, this is terrible; oh my gosh. I've got a heart plaque on the wall, and what else? Of course, I can't remember.

I worked with the Blood Mobile. I mean, I've just... I've done a lot. My mom never did any of those things. Maybe she didn't feel she had to prove herself, and maybe I felt like I had to prove myself. I don't know.

G: Hmm.

R: Anyway....

G: Well, how about your daughter's lives? I mean, do you feel that your life is very different from theirs?

R: When I was their age? Oh yes. Yes, Leah's been (laughs) pampered to death. My kids are rotten; are you kidding me? And they're not street-wise. I've always said they weren't street-wise. And I don't mean, like, sluts (laughs).... You know, you say "street-wise".... They just... I... I thought, at the time, what I was doing --and it was what I wanted to do, but I thought it was good for them. But now I realize, I did too much for them. I didn't let them be more independent; I made them too dependent on me.

Whereas, my mom and dad just... you know, if you have to have a ride someplace, it's your responsibility to get it. You know? If you need something ironed or something, get it out for me and I will.

But... change. I mean, this is a small thing. 'Course times have changed so much, with the cash registers now, who fools with change? But... like our baby... when I say "baby" because she... my baby is 12. I don't know if she understands about change entirely, or not. You know, when you give her money,...

G: Oh. Yes.

R: ...if she knows to count it and double check? She just trusts people. Well, I always remember counting things. And I'd always go to the movies when I was probably 8-years old by myself. Well, I wouldn't let my kids do that.

G: Hmm.

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

R: I may... I did not let them be as independent as I should have, when they were little. And I'm sorry for that. That was something my parents did that I think was really right. I was very indepen... possibly too much so. Although, in a way, I was dependent on my grandmom. She was my buddy.

G: Hmm. (pause) Oh gosh, there was _____ I wanted to ask you.

R: This isn't really helping, is it? I'm not....

G: Oh God. Stop. (laughs)

R: _____

G: Can you tell me more about growing up?

R: Oh, let me see. Growing up. (pause)

G: So you were born in 40-...?

R: 7.

G: So it was after World War II.

R: Yes.

G: Did you know much about the Korean War, at all?

R: No, I remember hearing about it, but I don't remember much about it at all. I remember seeing... my dad and mom had friends, and I can remember one in particular, his name was Donny Rehl. He used to come to the house; he brought me a Geisha-girl doll one time.

G: Hmm.

R: I don't know where he'd been.

No, I don't remember much about Korea at all; I just.... I remember hearing about it; I don't remember much about it.

Growing up. We took trips in the summer. To Arizona. And I remember an Indian reservation that we went to one time. But this was before I was 9-years old, because my sister wasn't born. And after she was born, we didn't go anymore. (laughs) So... it was because she was such a brat and I was so wonderful. No, I'm just teasing.

G: (laughs)

R: And I remember thinking how lucky I was. I remember going

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

into Mexico, and the meat in a grocery store... and the meat was on a hook. And all the flies... oh, my God, it was terrible. I remember sneaking tequilla back into the United States. Sitting on it, as a matter of fact. (laughs) I like the way I... I remember, we were coming home one time from Arizona, and I was probably 8 at this time, and we got on the wrong road. And talk about a blessing: that was the most beautiful road. My mom and dad told me 25 times the name of it, where we were, and I've got to write it down because my memory's that short; I can't remember. But I remember going through a forest, it was....

G: Was it the Painted Desert?

R: No, it was in Arizona, and it was... the tallest pine trees. And I bet... we stopped, and I bet the carpet of pine needles was probably... it felt like 2-feet thick.

G: Hmm.

R: And it was so quiet, and it was just... almost spiritual. And I remember the colors that we saw in a lot of canyons were not like any colors I've ever seen... they were shades that I've never seen. I remember having nose bleeds a lot.

G: (laughs)

R: A lot. I remember the stands along the sides of the roads that they used to have... where you could stop and get cold cider and.... Souvenir shops.

And people were friendly, real friendly. Everybody was always talking. I mean, you could just talk to anybody out on the road. You didn't have to worry about whether they were Jack the Rippers or some pervert, like you do now. It was just a whole calmer, slower way of life. We're all moving so fast now. We're just moving too fast. All of us. I don't know if that's my age, because each year rolls by faster.

No, I think we're all living too fast. We just don't... we're just going too fast. We have so many conveniences, and we just hurry and get through with this so we can get ourselves involved in something else that turns out to be a hassle. And one more we thought it was going to be after all. And we miss a lot of the nicer things in life by being in such a rush. It was a calmer way of living.

People sat out on their front porches more... a lot more. Just rocking, watching the traffic go by.

That's something else. Here in Paoli, when I was growing up, it was a big thing to ride around... you know, when we were in high school. And you could sit on the front porch and see everybody go by.

G: Yes.

F. HERFORD, LOUANNE

R: You know, sitting on the front porch was not as great... It wasn't an embarrassment, or a hassle, or.... Oh God, you'd be... probably die of mortification if they saw you sitting there now.

G: Really? How come?

R: Well, I don't know. I think that goes back to the, you know... can't wait to get in the car and go for themselves. Who wants to take the time to sit on the front porch and watch? I want to be a doer; I don't want to be sitting here watching it go by. I want to be part of those people going by.

But, life was slower when I was little. But then, again, here I go. I was a child, and I'm looking at it from two different points of view. I'm looking back as a 42-year-old woman looking back. But it was slower and calmer; it was just.... It had a lot more flavor.

Not that life's bad; I don't mean that. Life's great. But I wish we'd all slow down a little bit. We're all in such a fizz. You know, we eat on shifts; everybody eats on shifts. I know, I've got other friends who....

G: You mean in your family you did?

R: Yes. You know, the kids are all going in different directions, through the week. And Max is going. So everybody eats on shifts. And I know I've got a lot of friends who have the same problem with their families: they eat on shifts. Everybody eats on shifts.

When I was growing up, you didn't eat on shifts. You all sat down to a meal together. Maybe you had to eat early because people had to go, but you sat down at a dinner table together, and you didn't sit in front on the TV, and you didn't eat on TV trays. And you talked.

Now, we talk. I'm verbal. I'm a motor mouth. But I think a lot of families now are losing a lot of communication skills. I don't think they talk enough. I really don't think families talk enough now. I don't think... I think that parents are so worn out and tired, and hassled, with worries about making ends meet and other problems--job related or what-else, marital problems, financial problems--that they don't take the time for their kids. They don't listen enough. They don't remember enough what it was like to be 16-years old, or 12-years old, and be going through all these crazy, crazy emotions.

I had 6th-grade cheerleaders this year, and I told them.... I said: If I could get your head, your heart, and your hormones all in the same body, we'd be fine.

G: (laughs)

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

R: But you're three different people going three different directions. I mean, they were terrors; they were little jerks, all of them, but...

G: (laughs)

R: ...I loved them. But they were little stinkers. But they were. Their heads, their hearts, and their hormones were all going 3 different directions. So I had....

G: _____ feel like that. (laughs)

R: I had 18 different people, when I only had 6, to cater to... or to hear from. But I don't think people listen enough... to other people or their own family. I think people don't talk as much as they used to. They don't go visit.

That's something else. People used to go visit around here, a lot. When I was growing up, people visited one another. Now, the older generation around here visits. But the younger one doesn't visit. Not to just go sit and say, "Hey, what are you doing? Let's talk for awhile."

G: Yes.

R: They just don't visit. I visit with some of my friends, and they come over and see me. Well, one or two....

G: Is this like: unannounced, you go by.

R: Yes. You know, I don't think people do that as much as they used to. I may be wrong, but I don't think they do. Everybody's in too big a hurry to do something else, so they've got to _____... they've got to go do, or they've got this or they've got that. But I don't think people spend enough time talking to one another. I think that's a real big problem all over. I don't think it's just here in Paoli; I think it's everywhere.

People are so busy, and so worried about so many different things, that we've lost touch with one another. I think that's really sad. We've got a lot to learn... a lot to learn from the older generation. And a lot to learn and help to... and help to, what? Help to guide, in talking with the younger generation.

Older people always talked to us. You know, you could just sit down and listen...

G: Yes.

R: ...and you could learn so much from listening to older people. And people don't... kids don't take the time to do that nowadays, that I see. They're always in too big a hurry. And they don't want to learn what the older people have got to

F HERFORD, LOUANNE

say... or to teach them. They think they know everything. They've got all the answers, and they don't even have any of the questions.

G: Hmm.

R: They don't know what they have answers to. (pause)

G: Do you remember... I've heard a lot about, like, Saturday nights on the square?

R: Oh, _____ (laughs). Oh gosh, yes. That was... the square on Saturday night was packed. I mean, there wasn't a parking place. It wasn't like it is now, you know. But there were more parking places then. But we didn't have meters, I don't think... or maybe they did; I don't remember.

Isn't that terrible; what a memory. Yes, they had meters; of course they did. Oh senility; oh God. (laughs)

It was something else. People would come to town... and they'd bring cheese and crackers and coke, you know. And they would sit there and visit.

G: Hmm.

R: You know, the square would be packed on Saturday night. country people would come early just to get a parking place. (laughs) It was great. 'Course there were more stores on the square. There wasn't TV... or not as many people had TV. People didn't drive out of the county to get their entertainment; they made their own entertainment in visiting with one another up on the square. That was the place to meet. And it was something else.

And there again, I can remember a smell, in the summer. We had... (pause) mercy, forgive me... a bandstand. And we used to have music concerts on Wednesday... was it Wednesday night? On Thursday night. Thursday nights in the summer, the band would perform. On Thursday nights. From the time I was a little girl, listening to it, up until I was a big girl and got to play in it.

G: Hmm.

R: And even after I married, I still did it for awhile. Now, the bandstand has since been torn down, which is a dirty shame.

G: Where was it?

R: It was on the lower south side of the square, kind of southwest. Oh, it was great. People used to come into that... and when people... and when the band was done playing a song, they all blew their horn. Instead of applauding, they blew their horns. Beep, beep, beep, beep. That was great.

R/ BEDFORD, LOUANNE

Warm summer nights, still daylight... and there again, I have a smell in my mind --in my mind's nose (laughs)-- that I can still perceive and relate to. It... oh, God, that was great. That was great. You could walk anyplace in the summer....

G: What kind of smell?

R: It's that smell like I can't... maybe it was just youth and innocence, but....

G: Can we bottle it?

R: Ah, I wish we could. It was just... I guess it was the smell of (pause)... what? Excitement? And people... people going _____ excitement. Trees, and the grass, and the new-mown grass, and the hay, and all that stuff, you know. And a little bit of gasoline.

No pollution. None whatsoever. Cheese and crackers. (laughs) You know. It was just the smell like I can't even... flowers. There were flowers in it. There are probably soft, flowy dresses in it and... young guys and young girls. And Coppertone. (laughs) All those things. It was just a real special smell.

G: _____

R: Yes, that... that... I guess I'm a nose freak. I go back to smells. It was... that was something though, those concerts. I wish they still did that; I think.... Oh, I don't know, people probably wouldn't have the time for them now, but that was neat.

G: What do you think people do instead, now?

R: Well....

G: Or why do you think it stopped? or when did they stop?

R: Well, they tore the bandstand down... the band lost interest. I think. The banddirector lost interest in it.

G: The whole Saturday night deal....

R: Oh, it was television. You know, everybody got TVs, and people started going to Bedford, you know. And you can drive to Bedford to go shopping; you didn't have to stay here in Paoli. It wasn't such a big deal to travel 21 miles (laughs).

But you know, we still have a lot of people in Orange County who have never been out of Orange County?

G: Hmm?

R: VERFORD, LOUANNE

R: Never been out of Orange County. But people just learn that they can drive someplace, or they could tune in entertainment on that little box. And then drive-ins, you know.

Of course, we had the drive-ins for a long time. And of course, now we have videos; you can watch anything you want on videos.

G: Yes.

R: From A to Z.

But here I go... sense again. In the movie theater... it was down the south side of the square, where the WUME radio station is now, that used to be a movie theater. It was called the Strand. And you walked in the door, after you paid your ticket money, and right there on the left was this huge popcorn machine. And, oh my God, they had the best popcorn in the world.

And when you were a kid, you had to sit downstairs until you got to be... oh gosh, what was it. 14-years old, maybe? 15? 13 or 14. And then you got to go to the... BALCONY.

Yes. That's where everybody wanted to sit. You couldn't wait till you got to the balcony level.

G: (laughs) Who allowed you up there?

R: Jack Groomer.

G: Oh really?

R: Yes, they had a restriction; you could only sit upstairs after you, you know... a certain age you stayed down....

G: It made it that-much-more attractive.

R: Oh, of course. And if you could sneak up there, all the better. But what you tried to do was: when Jack came... was coming around making his rounds... 'cause he made his rounds to make sure you were behaving... and all hands were visible....

G: (laughs) And this was up in the balcony?

R: Yes... well, this was everyplace.

G: Everyplace.

R: You would sneak down the backstairs, you know, and not get caught before JACK GOT YOU, because if Jack got you, you were in deep doo-doo.

G: (laughs)

R: VERFORD, LOUANNE

R: And then there was the back row at the theater too. I mean, this is where the young lovers --5th and 6th grade-- hung out. That's where you had your first... Woo-woo.. kiss. (both laugh)

Oh, God, it was so _____. I mean, you sat together, and if they put their arm around... and usually you had a kiss.

Oh yes, it started out young here. Big-time stuff. Big-time stuff.

G: Is it? That's pretty young.

R: Yes.

G: Wonder why?

R: Oh well. I don't know, I... which is something we always saw, on the back row. And then, when we got to the balcony, there was another section of the balcony that was for really go-getters.

And what went on over there, I mean, your mind dared to imagine.

G: (laughs)

R: You know....

G: I bet that was talked about.

R: Well... here we go. Good people sat in one place, and... bad people sat someplace else.

G: (laughs)

R: We had a place here in town called Andy's. It was tough, man. We would walk past it... and that was something else; kids walked. We walked home from school. We walked to school; we walked home for lunch. We walked. Nowadays, if they can't drive, they don't go.

Anyway, you walked past Andy's (laughs) and only certain kinds of people hung out there. And when you're 16, you think there's certain kinds of people that hang out there. They've got a name, and they are tough. You don't mess with those people.

Now, I realize... oh God, we were all so dumb and jerky. I mean, they were kids just like us.

G: Yes.

R: They were just a little more carefree and a little more independent possibly. But they were good kids. But we thought they were... they moved and they grooved, or they were tough. You know, you just didn't mess with those kinds of people. Oh,

R VERFORD, LOUANNE

we were so stupid. (laughs) Oh, we were so stupid.

You have to grow up to realize how stupid you were. Right? Oh, but anyway....

G: Was that... Andy's was Handy Andy's?

R: No, it was just called Andy's. And it was right here on the corner where this building is now... where the parking lot is right here. It came down this way a little bit; it was called Andy's Restaurant. And we walked past it every day going to school... or coming home from school, whatever the case may be.

And that's something else. Boys carried girls' books home from school then. They talked; they communicated. Nowadays they drive or they don't do anything. I mean, I just am lost... we've lost a lot. We've gained a lot and we've lost a lot.

G: Yes.

R: Everybody's on wheels. Everybody's on wheels. Nobody takes the time to walk. You know, it's a slower pace when you walk. You move faster when you drive. So that goes back to the

G: Yes. Was it far for you? from where your folks lived?

R: It was a mile. It was a mile. Yes. I walked a mile to and a mile from.

G: When did the country kids start going to school with you. I mean, I guess up to a point you went to school with just a lot of town....

R: ...town kids. And the country kids were all spread out; there were schools all around. When did they come in? Let me think. (pause) Well, let me think. 'Course, this is tough Marie. Marie or Maria?

G: Maria.

R: Maria. Excuse me, I'm sorry.

Oh golly. Maybe when I was... well, Max came to town to school when he was in the 7th grade. I'm sure that's what he told me.

G: Did you know if...?

R: It might have been in the 4th grade at that time.

G: Did you notice big differences between town kids and country kids?

R RERFORD, LOUANNE

R: No, I don't think so. I don't remember it. I remember when the Amish moved into the community and they came to school for awhile. That was a big deal.

G: What was that like?

R: Oh gosh, they were a whole different set. I mean, the little girls wore --even in the summer-- long dresses and long sleeves and long hair.

G: You mean, they weren't always....

END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE ONE

R: They moved in here from... I think it was Pennsylvania; they came here from Pennsylvania. And they went to....

G: Was this when you were growing up?

R: Yes. They went to school here 2 or 3 years, in our school system. Now, I think I'm telling you right; I've forgotten, but I think they were in our school system 2 or 3 years before they built their own school.

G: Hmm?

R: Schools, I should say; plural. Because they got to enjoy too many of the things that we enjoy, and got to know too many of the kids...

G: Hmm.

R: ...too well. And I think they thought it was going to pose a problem, and possibly it would have. It probably would have, because a lot of... there were some beautiful girls... there still are. And I think the boys around would have liked to have dated them, or gotten to know them, and... you know?

G: Yes.

R: The Amish people are very, very strict. Very closed to outsiders coming into their families, or into their ways of life. They're good people, and they'll talk to you and stuff like that. But they're a very closed religious sect and they don't want any intermarrying _____.

G: Yes.

R: But, they've got beautiful, beautiful complexions. They're a

F ERFORD, LOUANNE

neat people, they really are. They're a neat people.

G: Did you go to church much when you were growing up?

R: Yes. I did a lot. But as much as I went to church, Grandmom had a ritual every night where we always read from the Bible. Always. She read a book called "The Upper Room," which is published in Nashville, Tennessee. It was then, and it still is now; I still get it. And there was always a story and a Bible verse and a prayer. Things to read and discuss. And we did that every night. Every night.

My grandmother was the choir director. My grandmother graduated from the Boston Conservatory of Music and she ran the music program in our church for years and years and years. She was the choral director. And she had a great voice. It was soprano, and I didn't always understand that when I was a kid. And I thought: Hoo, hoo, you know. But, when she played the piano... my grandfather gave her, as a wedding gift, a baby grand piano.

G: Hmm.

R: Yes. But anyway... what was the question? I'm sorry. Oh, church... church. I'm sorry; church. Church. Yes.

Yes, she made sure I got there. She made sure I got there. I don't remember Mom and Dad going that much. I just don't remember about that. But Grandmom did. We didn't go every Sunday, but we went.

G: Yes.

R: We all went a lot more when my granddad was alive. Isn't that funny; I remember that. We went a lot more when Granddad was alive, before he got so sick. We didn't miss a Sunday, the best I remember.

Isn't that strange? I hadn't thought about that.

R: Is your husband a Quaker too?

R: He is now. (laughs) He was... I don't know if he had a religion, so to speak, when he was growing up. I don't know if they went to church. I just don't know about that. His dogtags, for when he was in the service, say Baptist, but I don't know if he was ever inside a Baptist church before we got married or not. We, at one time....

G: Was he in service for Vietnam? or....?

R: No. No, he was in the National Guard. He didn't join the boys going to Vietnam, and a lot of times... I know, when this whole big thing with Dan Quayle came up, Max said that the media

R: VERFORD, LOUANNE

didn't know what they were talking about because it was more of a hassle to be in the Reserves for 6 years than to go and get it over with.

And it was, Maria. It truly was. We were married for a very long time, and this weekend warrior stuff is a hassle. And in the summer, the 2 weeks that he got off, he had to take for 2-week summer camp.

G: Hmm. 6 years.

R: Yes, that's right. And there's "The right way, the wrong way, and the army way." And that 6-year stuff... that's a hassle. And it's a drain on a family, and you do without a lot of vacations in the summer, because that's what he had to do with his vacation. I mean, he has his vacation and you have what? When he's gone you have 2 weeks.

G: _____

R: Yes, but you've got the kids and no money to go anyplace. So, that's a hassle. And people don't realize that. And Max really... of course, here we go. This is wisdom looking back at fear.

At that time... he was afraid to go to Vietnam, as most people were. Or probably all people... all boys were. But he wishes he had done that instead. Not necessarily go to Vietnam, but he wishes he had gotten it over with instead of dragging it out for 6 long, long years. Do you know what he... I don't know whether I ought to tell you this or not, but...

G: I can turn it off, if you want.

R: Well, I'm not sure if it's against the law or anything, but the night he got out... his last night, when he came home, he burned his uniform. He burned his fatigues. I mean, he set those suckers on fire so fast. We had a bonfire with his uniforms. Not that he didn't love his country; let me say that. But he hated that 6-year thing so bad. And he had some leaders that were real jerks. I mean, he had some good ones, but they had some real assholes too. And they made it even worse.

G: Yes.

R: And there's a lot of favoritism, you know. If so-and-so likes you, then you moved up in rank. And if they didn't, well, that's just "tough nuggies." So... but... church, you were talking about church.

We went to the Baptist church here for quite some time. Two or three years.

G: How come?

PERFORD, LOUANNE

R: Well, we loved the minister. He was a neighbor and a dear friend, and we really enjoyed it. And our church has always had a lot of older people, and not a whole lot of youth. And... we're back at the Quaker church -- when we go. But, I don't know, one thing about being a Quaker: religion... I don't know how to say this. I just... we believe that it's more with... it's more of a one-on-one kind of thing. You don't have to... I shouldn't say "we believe". In my Quaker upbringing, I believe, from being a Quaker, that your relationship with God is a one-on-one continuing thing.

Now, you need to go to church to learn. There's a lot to learn... or a lot of things to be explained, or as best they can be. But you don't have to go to church to be a Christian.

G: Hmm.

R: And just because you do go to church, doesn't mean that you are a Christian. So I... I like my religion a lot. I'm not as knowledgeable about it as I used to be. I've slid a lot; I've slid a lot. But I've learned a lot of things too. It's just a real laid-back kind of thing.

The Mennonites here in Paoli are a terrific group. They have a lot of younger people, and they....

G: Are they a recent arrival too?

R: Oh, within the last 15 years, I'd say. I've lost track of that too, but they're energetic and enthusiastic, and they're a great bunch of people. They're very loving and giving, and they're very business oriented, and community and civic oriented. I mean, they are... they have been... a lot of people will not agree, but I think they've been a great asset to the community. A few people feel like they've tried to take over.

G: Hmm.

R: I think they've been a terrific asset. They've brought a clinic in; they've brought the Peaks in, or...

G: Oh really?

R: Yes. And they've just... I don't know, they're good people. They're good, good people.

G: So there's been some good changes here?

R: Oh yes. Sure. Yes. Yes. Do I sound like there haven't been that many? Do I sound like the _____ a minute ago, like the gloom-and-doom type. I didn't mean to project that.

R: VERFORD, LOUANNE

G: Oh no. No, no, no.

R: Yes, there has been... yes, there's been a lot of good changes. People watch, you know...

G: Yes.

R: ...and the things that we have now, and the things we didn't have 35 years ago like the clinic and the Peaks and Patoka....

G: What is Patoka?

R: It's the second largest lake in Indiana. You know Monroe, that you-all have in Bloomington... well, we have Patoka. Same basic thing but just not on the scale that yours is.

G: Yes. And they're developing that? or...?

R: Yes. The lake is already there, and has been for several years, but they're hoping to develop a... like hotels and restaurants and recreational areas; stuff like that. A _____; I forget what-all, to tell you the truth.

G: What else _____. (Aside, small accident scene.)
Well, thank you so much for your time.

R: Well, I hope I've been of some assistance. I'm afraid I rambled and rattled too much.

G: No. No you didn't.

R: You got more about me than you did about growing up in Paoli, and that doesn't help you.

G: Yes it does. You don't know; it's been really good. It's very interesting.

END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE TWO

END OF INTERVIEW

INDEX

alcohol 4, 5
Amish 42
Andy's 40, 41
church 43-45
clique 13, 14
Cornwell's 10
Dan Quayle 43
Donny Rehl 33
drug 3, 4
education 17, 21, 22
French Lick 8, 11, 23
gossip 13
grandfather 7, 8, 25-27, 43
grandmother 1, 2, 22, 26, 30, 31, 43
husband 3, 4, 9, 17, 19, 43
Indiana State University 15
industry 10, 11
Jack Groomer 39
Kay King 15
Korean War 33
lifestyle 12, 13
Lois Thacker 3
Max 16, 18, 20-24, 27, 28, 30, 35, 41, 43, 44
Mennonites 45
movie theater 4, 5, 18, 39
National Guard 43
Paoli 1-10, 12-15, 17, 22, 24, 26-28, 32, 34, 36, 38, 45,
46
Patoka 11, 46
Peaks 45, 46
Quaker 43, 45
Raymond Stout 7, 8
school system 5, 10, 12, 42
square 4, 37, 39
teenage pregnancies 17
television 5, 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 28, 38
Tri Kappa 31, 32
Vietnam 15, 16, 43, 44
women's lib 29

Interview with Louanne Rutherford, p. 47. Conducted by Maria Green, 21 April 1989, Paoli, Indiana. Indiana University Center for Documentary Research and Practice, OHRC accession #88-74-1, 2