

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

ALTA SLATON

Interviewed by Julie Hunter
31 March 1989
OHRC accession #88-83-1,2

INTRODUCTION

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DEED OF GIFT AGREEMENT

I, Alta Slaton, hereby give
Interviewee (please PRINT)
my oral history interview with Julie Hunter,
Interviewer (please PRINT)
which was conducted on 3/31/89, to Indiana University.
Date

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yes its ok to send a copy to the above places
(verbally given - 3/31/89)

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

<u>Alta Slaton</u>	<u>Mar 31 - 89</u>
Donor	Date
<u>Julie A. Hunter</u>	<u>3/31/89</u>
Interviewer	Date

PAOLI PROJECT
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

Biographical Data Sheet

I. INTERVIEWEE/NARRATOR DATA

Full Name: Alta M. Slaton
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: 405 Horton Avenue
Paoli, IN 47454

Phone: 812/723-4363

Date of Birth: April 15, 1908 Place of Birth: Paoli, IN

Sex: Female Ethnic Origin: _____

Education: High School Graduate

Occupational History: Worked as Clerk in Dry Goods Store for 2 yrs.
before marriage & then worked with husband in trucking
and septic service; also did occasional house cleaning & wash

Special interests, hobbies, etc.: _____

Father's Name and occupation: Long / Tenant farmer

Mother's Name and occupation: _____

II. INTERVIEWER DATA

Full Name: Julie A. Hunter
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Local address: 117 E. 15th St. #2 Bloomington 47401 / 336-7162
and phone

Permanent Address: 7800 Mockingbird Lane Ft. Worth TX 76180 / 817-656-967
and phone

Date of Birth: Jan. 24, 1962 Place of Birth: Hollis, Oklahoma

Association with the Paoli Project: Intern

Subject of interview: Life history, early community history,
WW II

Number of Tapes: 2

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ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

Interviewee: Alta Slaton
Interviewer: Julie Hunter
Date: March 31, 1989
Subject: Life History in Paoli
Transcriber: Julie Hunter and Norma Olmer

Hunter: I'm Julie Hunter. I'm interviewing Alta Slaton at her home in Paoli. The date is March 31, 1989. To begin if you could just tell me about your family, where your mom and dad were from, if they were from Paoli or out in the country.

Slaton: Well, my mother was a native of Paoli. She was a birth-right Quaker, as they used to call them. And her mother was also. And my dad came here from Horsecave, Kentucky. And they were married in 1908 and I was born on April 15, 1909. And we resided around, my dad was a tenant farmer for years. He worked on a farm for other people. And I attended two different country schools, one-room schoolhouses.

H: Did you live...whereabouts around Paoli?

S: We lived out south of town, and then we lived up on this hill, right over hill. And then we lived on a farm over here in town. We lived all around here on a farm. My dad worked for different people. Mostly for the Farlow boys that live here in town [Paoli]. They had a farm out south Gospel and one over south of the cemetery over here.

H: Would your dad have different...would he make a contract with different farmers to work for so long or so many years?

S: Yes, he would for so much and lots of times I can remember when he did well to get a dollar a day. You know, times were hard then and that was pretty good money, though.

H: Right.

S: We nearly always had a cow of our own, and we had horses and a horse and a buggy to drive, but my dad never owned an automobile. He never did in all his life. My mother attended school out in Beechgrove. That's where she...and she belonged to the Beechgrove church, it's still here. And it was a Quaker

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church. My dad was a member of the Christian church in Kentucky when he came here. But we went back down there to live one year, when I was a year old.

H: In Kentucky?

S: In Kentucky, in Horsecave, and he worked for a man down there, too, just like here, like on the farm. Then we came back up here and they lived here until they died.

H: What kind of things did your dad farm then? I guess I don't know what they farm around Paoli? Corn?

S: Well, they had corn, wheat, oats, rye and things like that.

H: And would he give everything to the guy he was farming for?

S: No, he just tended it, you know, he tended it for them. That's when you didn't have very much... you didn't have tractors, you didn't have anything. Everything was horse-drawn and we had shredders and thrashers in the fall and there was a big old steam engine that did that.

H: And you said before when we talked that you had nine brothers and sisters?

S: There was nine of us, all together.

H: Did you all work on the...you know, helping with the crops?

S: My father... when I was 14 years, my father bought a little farm of his own, out south of town. It's about three miles out there and we raised tomatoes. There used to be a tomato factory here, and we raised tomatoes, and then he raised hogs and we had cows and calves and they had horses and mules and then we moved out there when I was 14 and I was a freshman in high school. I went to [Paoli High School]. We were living over here until Christmas vacation on the farm here in town, and then I drove this horse-and-buggy three years and a half, and they had a livery stable here. A feed-store and livery stable. And there must of been two dozen boys and girls that drove horses and buggys. Hardly anyone had a car at that time, you know. So we came to [school]; we would drive our horse in the morning and drive up into this livery stable that had a floor where you'd drive up in the driveway. They would unhitch our horse and we would furnish our own feed and then we would feed and water at noon.

H: Would you do that to come into high school, then? To come in for classes?

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S: Yes, I came there, that far. And right down below...well, they torn an old feed-store down down there last spring, and that was the livery stable, originally. It's east as you go east, and our school house at that time, the one I attended was up on the hill, and it's been torn down and gone for several years. High school and all was in that one building.

H: Did your brothers and sisters come into town with you for school?

S: They would ride...they were going to a little place out here toward the Peaks, a little one-room schoolhouse. I went there a year or two, before we were living in the Corporation over here and they made us go up here.

H: What is that, the Corporation?

S: Well, inside of town. You know, a town's incorporated out so far. It's larger than it used to be, out every way. So, we had to; then they done away with the country schools that my sisters and brothers went to them for several years. And then our school was out in April. Then I would walk from the livery stable up onto that hill, after we got here. We'd come in and get warm in the afternoon, down there before we started home and then hitch our horses up.

H: How far out of town did you live?

S: We lived about, I expect, four miles or four and a half, out southwest.

H: Did a lot of kids from out around the country....?

S: All the neighborhood children went, yes. And then we had to try [for a diploma]. We didn't have a junior high, then, you know, you can just go right on in, now. And in those days, why, you had to try for your diploma when you where in the eighth grade to see if you could make to high school.

H: So you had to take a test?

S: Yes, the whole county took a test up here at Paoli. And there's my diploma up there on the wall. That was in 1923. And I made the highest in the county.

H: That's great. That was for the test that you took to go to high school?

S: To go from the eighth grade into high school.

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H: Right.

S: And we had several old teachers, we had one old-maid teacher that was from my...that her home was on out here, and she was a judge's daughter. Her name was Miss Jenny Troop. She was never married. She was rather [quaint]; she was a "good-turned" (dispositioned) person, she done right, but she was very strict with all of us. She taught botany and science and things like that. And we had Anna Maris, she's another one of them. And then we had an English teacher that's still living, Miss Beldon, over at Mitchell. She came here in the second year of high school and she's 85 or 86 years old. So, I graduated in the spring of 1927 and I went to work in a dry-goods store, down on the square, on the south-east corner of the square there's a second-hand store there where it was now.

H: Were you a clerk there?

S: Yes, I worked for Sol Strauss. We have a Sol Strauss Foundation here. He was a German. A Jewish person and he came over here after World War I was over, and he wasn't very well liked by the boys that had fought over there, you know. Because they thought he [was a German aviator].

H: I think I've heard of him.

S: A lot of people...yes, he left a lot of money here to Paoli and they give grants to, especially to children. And he sent ever so many thousands of dollars he had in his will went back over to where he was raised at, to Germany. His mother came over here and he had a brother that lived at Salem, and then he moved on the upper side of the square, right next to the news office, and was there several years, only six or seven years. And he never was married. So he left...there's three churches here in Paoli that he liked. One was the Quaker Church, the Friends Church and I belong to it down here, sort of down under the hill here.

H: Yes, I've seen it.

S: And then he went to the Church of the Nazarene and he went to...there's three churches. Three ministers. I believe the other one was the Baptist Church that he went to. He said he liked it out of all the churches in Paoli, he liked these three the best.

H: There are a lot of churches in Paoli....

S: So he left money to each one of the churches and Mr. James

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Tucker, who's an old attorney here, that's been here for years, his dad used to judge here. He's an uncle to....

H: Marilyn Quayle?

S: Marilyn Quayle, yes. He was one of the trustees of this fund and our minister down here, at the Friends Church, and then the Nazarene Church minister, and then they will meet now, right away in May, to determine where to give that to.

H: He just died recently then?

S: Who? Sol? No, he's been dead several years. I forget how long it has been.

H: Did people accept him eventually?

S: Oh yes, he was accepted here, and he has done more for Paoli in that line of work than any [native. He has] given money from a Sol Strauss fund, they call it. Goes to parks, to children, to needy people and to our Senior Citizens last year, they gave us \$500. And to places like that, you know, that don't have very much, that's not funded very heavily.

H: Right.

S: And he's regarded with a lot of respect any more, but he didn't used to be, when he first came here. And I have seen him standing on the corner, a child would be coming in, you know, maybe from...getting ready to go to school, and be looking at shoes, and maybe their shoes would be off of their feet, and he would say, "Come back here, I've a pair back here that I think you can wear." And said, "While we're trying these on, let's just get some new socks," and he'd throw them in two or three pairs of socks and give them to them. He was real good.

H: Sounds like a really generous man. Did he...you were saying that he owned the store, the dry-goods store, that you worked for?

S: Paoli Dry Goods was the name of it. It was down on the corner of Court Street, down next to Radcliffe's Hardware, down in there.

H: How long did you work there?

S: I worked there about two years. That's the first place I worked after I got out of high school. He would have sales just every few days, and then I got to working steady there, and I worked there close to two years. Then in 1928, I married a boy

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that had been childhood sweetheart, and we were married 47 years, and he died. He's been dead 14 years. Died in '75. And we have lived all over, it seems that all over this end of town, where we [have lived]. Very few times, we lived in the country. We had a truck, and I helped on a truck with him, and we had two sons, and they were about grown, and then we had two more, and then we had a daughter. My daughter's Nancy Wright, and she's a reporter down at the news office. And they all live around here, pretty close, except my oldest son, he's near St. Louis, and my youngest son is somewhere in the South. I don't know where, exactly where he is right now.

H: What did your husband do, then? You said he owned a truck?

S: He was a truck-driver for a long time, for...we used a basket factory, and then it burned and then the Cornwells had a factory down there, where they made....

H: The handle factory or the Brittany?

S: No. It was right in...there's still a factory down here, down west here. And the old basket factory, they used to make baskets and make hoops like that, and baskets, you know, like that is. And you can get those baskets now and they supplied all the fruit orchards around town years ago. And then it burned in July, I don't know what year that was. It's been over 40 years ago. And it burned, and so many people would come from all over the county here to work. There just wasn't anything except factories here to work at then. And up on the hill, where this chair factory is, up here, was a Knotts Hutchison Furniture Factory, it was called. And then it changed hands several times. One of our banks failed here one time, the Paoli State Bank.....

H: Was that during the Depression? Or just before the Depression?

S: Yes, it was a little bit before. The Orange County Bank has always been here, since 1800 and something. And the Stout family, it was in their possession for years, and I guess, still is...the grandchildren are the main stockholders. They built up on the square when I was going to high school, we drove around the square, and it was just gravel, around the square there. And over there in our courthouse yard, it was full of big trees then, but they have all deteriorated nearly, and there's not very many of them left. Then they set out the pines or cedars there, and some of them have had to be cut. Then the World War came, and my husband and I, we hauled wood and we hauled...we finally got to where they needed a septic tank service here in Paoli, and they wasn't any. People began to have septic tanks then, you know, instead of...they used to have old outhouses?

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H: Out-houses?

S: Yes. And we cleaned for...back in '40, no, sometime in the early '40s, we got a truck, and we had a license, everything had to be licensed. And we went all around...we went to French Lick and English and Salem and Orleans and all around here and cleaned regularly. We had certain customers, you know. And then he got sick, and he was sick for about five or six years before he died in 1975. And then the boys took that over for a while, but they finally, we had to quit, you know, it was hard, it cost so much you couldn't make very much.

H: It sounds like you worked with your husband then? In the trucking and the septic-tank service?

S: I did. I just worked...I did everything, I lifted and helped clean, and we hauled, we moved people around here, you know, there wasn't regular movers and moving vans, like there is now.

H: Right.

S: And when I was going to high school, there was an old man, Mr. Al Davidson, and of course, we used to have a railroad that went through Paoli until about ten years ago. It's the Monon. And the freight office was right down, as you go down the hill there and cross.

H: Did they...you were talking about people raising tomatoes, did they ship tomatoes and the chairs and all that out by the railroad?

S: They shipped the chairs, but no, the tomato factory was out here, where they processed them all. We'd haul our tomatoes in in crates, and there were vats there that they would dump them into. They would inspect them. And finally people got to where they couldn't make too much, and there began to be more factories around here...people would rather work at the factories and make more money.

H: So you could make more money in the factories than in farming?

S: Yes. Anyhow, if you were just working for a farmer, because they didn't pay very high wages.

H: Right.

S: And I remember when my daughter was born, she's 39, that

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when she was a baby, you could buy coffee for 25-35 cents a pound [laughs]. And we didn't know anything about any instant coffee or anything like that [laughs] or any instant things that we have. We got used to drinking instant coffee, and then after my husband died, why I got used to using the other, so [laughs].

H: And now regular coffee is, I don't even know how much is, \$5 a pound or..

S: Oh, it's at least...it's almost \$4 a pound, it's three something every place. And it's not like coffee..it doesn't taste like coffee used to to me, but that might be my taste [laughs] Your tastes change when you get older.

H: Really?

S: And then I have one son that's a truck driver and one works on heavy equipment and then the one that's in the South is a car salesman. One has his own garage and he's a schoolbus driver, as you go toward Orleans, on the left out there, it says "Kenny's Repair" or something like on it.

H: And you raised all your children here in Paoli? They went through Paoli schools?

S: Yes. The only time they ever were...the two older ones and Ott and I were in...close to Niles, Michigan. The Edgerton had another factory out there, the basket factory.

H: So you lived up there for a while?

S: They lived up there one fall, about two months or three. My husband hauled baskets from their factory up into Niles, Michigan. A lot of orchards up there.

H: Right.

S: And other than that, I have lived here just all my life, and the year I've spent in Kentucky. Last year...I've always wanted to see the ocean, and my son that lives in the South...the one next to him, the one that's 17 months older than him, we went down to visit them, and I went to the ocean. That was quite a thrill for me [laughs].

H: How nice. It's really different, it's not...

S: And it's hot down there, with that breeze off the ocean making so much difference from what it is here in the summer.

H: It sounds like...you were saying your mother was pretty

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active in church? In the Quaker Church?

S: Well, she wasn't for several years, too busy raising all of us to do much of anything [laughs]. But, she had joined a church out at Beechgrove. Used to, if your parents belonged to the Quaker religion, why you automatically, when you were born, you were automatically a member of the Friends Church. That's what they called birth-right Quaker. So it, though...to where anymore they don't recognized being a birth-right member. The older ones still do, but the younger ones [don't recognize].

H: How has that changed? Do you, you have to join the Quaker Church formally now?

S: Nowadays, you just have to, just go up and ask that you want to be, that you want to join. So I went back to church. I've been out of church for several years, I didn't go very regularly. After my husband died, I got to going back. It seemed to me, that I've tried two or three churches I went to a Sunday or two. And one Sunday morning I got up, and I didn't know whether I was going to go back down here or not. I knew I was going to go somewhere, so I went back to the Friends Church. The minister that we have here now was here then, and he was gone eight years. Then they came back, they are the Walters family. So I just...seemed like something told me to turn in there, because that's where I'd been...I had joined church there when I was a little girl 12 years old and my sister was 16, my older sister. So, I started going back and I went a year, and my sister that's four years younger than me, she came down there and joined. Now, I have a sister and a brother that both belong to the Christian Church and the Church of Christ, one of them does, and my youngest sister and my oldest brother and my youngest brother, his wife belong to a Baptist Church out...it's a new Church that's been built in the last few years.

H: Oh, I've seen it out there...

S: On the Salem road, as you go towards Salem.

H: Right.

S: Eastview Baptist, I believe is what they call it.

H: Have most of your brothers and sisters stayed here in Paoli?

S: Yes, they're all here. Well, one lives down about West Baden, and then my oldest sister is dead and her husband...her husband and my husband were brothers. She died of cancer. Then my mother outlived my sister and husband...and my husband...and

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my mother was 89 years old when she died in '77. My dad's been dead about 20 something years and he was 84 when he died.

H: Did your mom live alone after your father died?

S: Yes, she lived over on Oak Street and the house that she had was sold over there, and it burned. Somebody bought it and it burned down. At our old homeplace we had out on the hill, some people had bought it from Indianapolis and they had stuck a stove-pipe out in one of room windows and it burned it down.

H: Was that where you grew up, the homeplace?

S: That's where I grew up, out there, yes.

H: I've heard that a lot of...there are a lot of new people moving into Paoli?

S: Yes, there is. I don't know too many of the younger generations, but they call sometimes here at the Paoli paper, my daughter and Brenda Condra used to be married to a Cornwell. She's an editor, well, not the editor-in-chief, but she's the one that's in command down there [laughs] _____, so every once in a while, they'll ask...somebody will die, you know, an older person, or something will happen.

And she said, "Nancy, call your mother, I believe, I expect she'd know who this was." [laughs], and I'd usually know better than one of them. Everybody says I have a wonderful memory. But I can remember things that happened a long time ago, I'm getting here lately to where I, you know, somebody tells me something today and maybe I'll remember it tomorrow, maybe I won't.

H: Well, I'm impressed that you remember the speech you gave in Latin [laughs].

S: I remember it, and I know some Latin words yet when I see them.... Then I...I've been a member of Senior Citizens since '75, and I've been chaplain down there for nine years. And I didn't want to take it this last time. I had a light heart attack last April.

H: Oh, I'm sorry.

S: Then I stepped off in a hole out here in my yard...this hillside up here is full of holes and springs, they say. I've been living here since '73, and we'd been here two years and a half when my husband died. I went down to the little shed in the back and I tramped in a hole and it jerked me and I began having trouble with my back. And then I'd have muscle spasms and they tried to...they took X-rays of everything and finally, I

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had a bone scan and I had the dye put in my veins, you know, and they found out in '79 what it was (?), and it was two of my vertebrae are...they have slipped. Then, I had this that _____, whatever it was, last April...it was a heart attack. I blacked out in my bathroom, but I happened to have a friend here and she come in there and got me up...I don't know how long I'd been blacked out.

H: Thank God she was there.

S: She called my daughter down at the office. And so she came and picked me up to Dr. Mosemann's office in Orleans. He's one of the doctors out here. We have several Mennonite doctors around here any more. Our older doctors have all died and gone. We needed some here...and we've got the Mennonite Church out here.... And they're real good people, they help everybody around here, regardless of denomination or race or anything.

H: I've heard they also...not that they set up the hospital, but that they kept it going?

S: Yes, they did. And we're having a hard time right now with surviving out there. On account of, they say if it hadn't been for Medicare and Medicaid, that has kept them going, you know. And Medicare doesn't pay as much anymore as it used to, and it seems like just takes too long to get their pay out there. And they built...they have a lot of modern machinery out here. And some of them didn't know how to run it, you know, how to operate it.

H: Oh, no [laughs].

S: And I have a daughter-in-law that's been out here...she's been out here in this hospital (?) _____ let's see 1975, it'd make 14 years in June. And she's been out here about 12 years, she's worked out here. She's a head nurse _____. She says they're kind of bouncing back now. In some weeks they don't have very many in that hospital at all, and everybody around here gave "in memory" when that was built. They would give "in memory" of their husband or their wives or a husband and wife would leave so much to it. It was supposed to be for all of Orange County to use, but a lot of people go to Bedford and to Bloomington. I had a brother-in-law that died last October and he went to a cancer doctor over there, it was a lady. [deletion] So, this is a good place to be in a hospital here, then they've organized...the Mennonites have organized what they call "South Hills Clinic" and some of them _____ over at Orleans, and some of them are down toward English, and then at French Lick, they have some of them down there that belong to it, some of the doctors at French Lick.

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H: Do people care anything about that fact that the doctors are Mennonite, coming in, or not?

S: Well, I think at first they resented it, a little bit. But they've got used to it now, and they all admire them very much, I think.

H: Yes.

S: They are caring, they're a set of people that are caring and nice and kind to you. I came home on my birthday last year, the 15th of April. I'd been out there a week, and he said I'm full of gallstones, so I have to watch what I eat. I wouldn't want him...and I have a hiatus hernia, I wouldn't want to have to be operated on, you know, unless it's just absolutely necessary. So he wrote on the paper, and they sang, and he came in and sang "Happy Birthday" to me that morning.

H: How sweet [laughs].

S: Yes, that was nice.
[Pause].

S: I belong to Rebecca Lodge here. We have a Rebecca Lodge and Oddfellows.

H: What is that?

END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE.

S: ...woman's part of the Odd Fellows Lodge. We all meet in the same building but different times.

H:: And that's not the same thing as the Homemakers group that you're in with?

S: No, I...that's Paoli's extension club. It's a homemaker's club.

H: Is that through the 4H or...?

S: It's connected with them somewhat. We have several clubs here around in the country ____.

H: What kinds of things did the Rebecca Lodge and the Homemakers....

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S: Well, we are supposed to...we meet twice a month and we're supposed to have...help the widows and orphans and we're supposed to have sales... We give what money we can; we're a small group and so many of them are older. It seems that the younger people that join the Lodge don't attend very much and....

H: But they do join? They just don't get involved in....

S: They just don't get involved very much. And the rest of us, anyway, are not able much to attend...get involved. But we give to charitable organizations.

H: Are the women in that club a lot of the same people you went to school with? Or...

S: Yes, most of them are. One lady, she came here from someplace else, I don't know where it was from. I don't know whether she belongs to the Lodge or not, but we have a lot of members in our church down here that have grown up, you know, in the church here and have a lot of old ones left, yes. And then, it's that way all over the community.

And there's been so many new...there's that Brittany Furniture Factory they have here.... And then they've got a branch called Pound House or Pound Penthouse Industry here. And then we had the chair factory up here on the hill in Paoli. Then we have a branch of it over at Orleans and they built more and expanded it. And we had the handle factory down west; that worked if the _____. Then we have the skid down on the Salem Road and we just have factories, all kinds, here. Then we have one down that way that makes...there's one down what we used to call Thompson Lane down there; there's four or five branches down that way. One of them is a branch of the factory on the hill, I fear. It's sort of a chair factory.

H: Is it mostly the, you know, younger people that work in the factories now? Are they mostly the kids...people who've been in Paoli a long time?

S: Well, a lot of them are here from Paoli. And then we have a lot of people that moved in here from Kentucky and Michigan state, you know, and like that. They pay good money and everything, and most people that live around here don't have businesses of their own--why they work at the factories here.

H: Those are the major places to work, I gather,...

S: No.

H: And a lot of people aren't still farming _____?

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S: Well, yes they do have a lot of farmers around here too-- out in the country. Last year it was powerful dry, but everything was okay. They had a good deal of crops last year. A pretty good corn crop. And we had quite a bit of rain this winter, even though we didn't have but the one snow here....

H: Its been pouring the last few days. (laughs)

S: Yes, I guess its poured _____.

H: Yes.

S: So, _____ over, you know, let's see, _____ have the _____ Cemetery they keep growing up the hill; seems like it fills up so fast any more. We've had several deaths here in Paoli in the last six or eight weeks. We had the killing here one time. That Lois Thacker killed her husband here, close to Paoli. And he was from here. Johnny Hammond was his name. Or Johnny Thacker.

H: What was that about?

S: Well, she had taken out a big insurance on him and she hired three men to help her. She had intended to kill him a week before she did.

H: Not people from Paoli, was it? Or....

S: No. Well, one of them was. But two or three of them was from Salem. And when she had been married before and she shot and killed her husband--her first husband....

H: Oh, no!

S: And she said that he tried to force his way and she had a restraining order against him. Then she said she killed him in self-defense. But she didn't really shoot this man; she hired somebody to kill him. She's up there now in death row. Has been for three years, waiting....

H: Oh really. I haven't heard about that.

S: I thought maybe you might have read it in the newspapers; it was all every place, even my daughter-in-law was out in Seattle, Washington and she heard about it...

H: She called and said she read it.

S: Yes. He was just working over at Orleans, in a factory over there, and got paid on Friday night. And she had talked to an

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[insurance man]. And then she took out the \$10,000 worth of insurance on him. But she didn't know that he hadn't signed it...he had to sign it himself, you know. And he had told someone he couldn't live with her any longer; that she was so hostile and everything that...and that night he had come home from work--they were living out in the country a piece--and he had come in that way --he had lived out east. He came in the back way and they had felled a tree across the road. And he got to that tree to get out...to see what...he thought something was in the way for somebody to come. _____ these people that done the killing had gone, and she was at the house--she and her sister--and one of these men got scared and he said, "Oh, my god, not you." He thought one of them was his friend. He shot him a second time.

And so they got _____ and she kept waiting and waiting like she...this was the story she told somebody _____ down the street. That she found him there dead. And he had turned around and went back the other way.

H: Was this just up here, in Paoli? That they found him?

S: No, after. _____ in Paoli township, I think. So she had lived way out...way out toward French Lick, way out in the country near French Lick there. They come here from Virginia _____. So she got _____ way over in _____, "Mom, I'm getting _____." And he said, "Ma, Johnny's not come home yet." He said, "I believe he's gone over to Salem to see somebody. He's been gone over in Salem."

And I felt so sorry for her mother. She told on the witness stand that she went with her, and she said, "I didn't know anything about this." I guess she had the plans for four or five weeks and was aiming to kill him another time but their nerve failed them and she took them cold. But this man who had done all the shooting and rather than go he took them out to the house--he'd been to the house there and she did

_____ from the road and she put the clothes in the washing machine. They changed their clothes and washed them all and washed them out there and then the men dressed and got gone but went back to Salem.

But one of them, he didn't do anything; his nerve failed him and he'd been along with them, so they went out there and was looking around investigating and it was...this man had been seen with the other two. [deletion] And he up and told them; he said, "I don't want to be mixed up in this, but they wanted me to help but I wouldn't do...I couldn't." He said, "I did take the gun down and throw it in the pond."

So they went and found the gun. They didn't do anything with him. And her sister turned state's evidence against her. They had a trial that went on down in Jasper and it went on for days and days. And their mother said, " They've been out riding

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around." [deletion] The next morning she had been _____, his mother's and my mother's. Neighbor over there on Oak street. And she said, "What happened to Johnny?" (This was my sister.)

She said, "I thought I'd call over there and tell her. And then I thought, well...." Said she'd call first and her husband come to the phone; my sister called. And she said, "What you doing? Everybody all right this morning?" Said, "Yes, we're getting ready to go out to Johnny's."

And she said, "Well, I'll call back in a little while." She said I didn't have the nerve just to blurt out and tell her, you know, they didn't know anything about it." And so she called the police...the sheriff down here--Sheriff Blaty--she called down there and told him and he said, "Send somebody over there to Thackers and let them know that Johnny's dead."

Said, "They're getting ready to go out to his house." So they went over there and told them that....

His mother just...she was sick already and that just finished her. She just lived about two or three months.

H: Oh. Doesn't sound like that kind of thing happens in Paoli very often.

S: Well, we have had...the last three or four years we've had some shootings and things like that going on around here we never did before. If we did, why we kept them probably hushed up, years ago.

H: (laughing) Do you think it happened? And they just didn't talk about it?

S: A lot of things... I know, I had a great aunt that was drowned one time. And they knew who drowned her. And my mother...that was before my mother's time. My mother's mother was...my grandmother was a young woman and this woman had been going with somebody and he was going to marry somebody else. And he'd been going with her on the side and I heard that she'd been frightened. That's been year's back in....

H: That she drowned herself? Or did...

S: No, he did.... Those days, people would come in with their teams and help other farmers, you know, and they'd have threshings and corn harvest time. And so they'd haul shocks and fodder in--that's when they would [help one another] like the Amish do. And then they would all eat at a certain person's house and they would serve dinner to the whole crew. Well, all there was then was those that helped and ladies' husbands, but they only have the lady of the house there and neighbors would come help.

They bring in food and help her prepare lunch. I know that when they come to our house when we lived on a farm, well, over

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there we'd have four or five tables, you know.

H: Oh, really.

S: You cooked loads and loads of things; in those days you had to kill chickens and everything else... (laughs) and fix them yourselves. So, they didn't have refrigerators, of course, back then. And people had springs; they had a box set in the spring....

H: To cool their milk and cheese...?

S: You put your milk and butter and cheese and things like that in there and nothing couldn't get into it but that water flow all around them, you know. So they sent her up to get butter and milk for this dinner, but she'd never come back. She had to go, oh about a quarter of a mile what was set right in the creek; the spring come out right in the creek. So, she was gone, you know, and two of my mother's sisters was there, had young daughters there and, of course, they're all taking part. And they sent them up after the aunt could find her; said they thought maybe she fell down, you know, or something.

When they got out there, she wore a bonnet...all the people wore bonnets then. Bonnet was floating on top of the spring and they had to walk there probably--and we understand that. And she had a rock put on top of the body.

H: Oh, on top of the path.

S: On top of the path that she went across; the board had weighted her down and she just...with her face down. And they knew she didn't put it there. And at the same time, the man that knew this young man, and this man was chopping corn out there--or farm leads up to her in the cornfield or something and he said, "You come to the spring," cause he had on knee boots and wet and he said, "L..., what in the world's the matter?"

"Oh," he said, "I've been here fooling around a while ago and I fell in that creek down there." And he said, "I'm hurrying home to get me some more clothes on."

Of course he was the first one that was suspected, because he had told her that he would not marry her; she said, "I'm going to tell [your fiancée]." Her that you going to marry.

H: Did everyone know about it then? They....

S: Yes, they knew that. They never... Yes they knew that.... I guess that...she must have been pregnant because she said, "I'm going to tell Evie that _____ I'm going to [have your baby]."

He said, "You do and I'm going to kill you." But thanks _____ to his father, got him away from here before anybody

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could do anything. It was considered such a big threat then to do anything...like that to happen that I think they [hushed up everything].

H: You think because she was pregnant....

S: Yes, I think they probably hushed it up. But everybody knew that he had done that. But they couldn't prove it at the time neither but they knew it. So his father took him and put him on the train and sent him to Oregon where he had some relatives out there. In those days they didn't go after people and bring them back and.... They just hushed up.

They lived close, at Beech Grove, why [many years later Beech Grove Church] at the church [was having a revival] and he come back here.

H: Oh really. When was that?

S: Well, it was back in ...well it had been thirty-five years after _____ when he'd come back and he said, "After all, I can't." He wrecked the church out at Beech Grove; you can't [get through to God].

And they prayed for him first thing. And he took [my great-aunt aside], "Myra, there's something I've got to tell you." He said, "I think you know what it is." So he told her and I guess she never told anybody except my mother. My mother was her niece. And she said he had owned up to killing her. He said she made him so angry, why just right on the spur of the moment, why, he killed her. And she said, "Well, I already knew."

And he said, "Now I've confessed what I've done, I think I can...I think the Lord will forgive me." But he went back to church and then after he'd been saved, he went on back to Oregon and he died out there.

H: Did people here remember that or... I mean, do you think if he had tried to move back to town that they would have....

S: Not really.

H: ...they would have tried to prosecute him?

S: Yes, I believe they would. If he hadn't got out of town that night. I believe they knew, because that man that had seen him go up through the field wet, the wet would do it, you know. He probably did the same thing, because he loved _____ . You know, people used to have money a long time ago without doing anything with money that you can here, so that's...

H: (laughs) ...pretty much true.

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S: I was talking with some of the people that are natives around here about different things. _____ we always called him Bud and _____. We called Raymond "Bud" all the time. And they owned the handle factory down here. Their dad had owned it before and they had always worked in lumber, timber and that stuff. I was talking to his wife awhile back and I told her about Bud, and she said, "Want you to help Bud [with our ancestry] some day." She said, "Come out and just talk to you," she said. "You know a lot about the history of the Farlows' and the Jones' and the Lindleys."

I said, "Yes, any time."

H: Is there... there a chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution here?

S: Yes, I've never belonged to it. I could...I mean, I was ineligible because my grandfather was from Kentucky. My grandfather went to Andersonville prison in the South.

H: Oh, really. During...

S: ...the War Between the States--1865. And he was in the prison there, and then he took smallpox and [lost his eye] among _____. I read the book about Andersonville [Prison--how they lived] without any water and [little food]; it was a miracle they lived. _____ some springs _____ in front of the bridge.

H: Oh, really? Do you think that.... Do you think of Indiana as being part of the South or more....

S: Oh, Indiana was on the side of the North.

H: Right.

S: And half of Kentucky was. My granddad lived in the state [but fought for the North].

H: In Kentucky?

S: Yes. He was taken from there, but there were part of Kentucky were on the side of the South.

H: Right.

S: But I was down there last summer and my son said--he's been there about three years--and he said, "Part of the people down here, Mom, [Negroes are hated]." He says, "Around here and in Georgia, the war's never been [fought]; the war's not over yet."

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H: I'm from Texas and we still say, if we talk about someone from the East, we still say "those damn Yankees."

S: Well, I

H: ...we haven't forgotten it.

S: Well, his partner down there, he'd like to kid me when I visited. So he came by to pick up my son that morning when we started back home. He said, "This will straighten you out a lot down here."

I said, "Oh, well I'd like to come down here and visit but I wouldn't want to live here."

He said, "No, all you Yankees come down here and visit and you mark that and you like the tourist attractions and things..." But said, "You ought to go back North."

I said, "Yes." I said, "You Georgia cracker, don't you call me Yankee." And he just laughed and laughed. I just said it in fun; he did too, you know. He called me a Yankee. (laughs)

I said, "We don't think about that up in Indiana at all. We don't think about it being like that. In fact, we got a big lot of two colored families here at a time; we've had two of them were [when I was small].

H: In Paoli?

S: Yes. And one of the first colored person graduated in Orange County was from Paoli. And his name was Howard. Leslie Howard, I believe. Graduated in 1917. And about everybody else was fine. I remember who knows about Salem six or seven years old, we were living on top of that hill and there was a woman by the name of Mary Thomas and her husband--they lived right out here where the road forks, you go up there and then go on to the Unionville Road--so they lived on this side of...on the right side of the road coming up the hill. My mom took me and my brother [to see a grandson of a colored family]. And mom said, "I'm going to take you up to see little Billy Thomas. And I don't say anything about him being a nigger or anything; just called him a black baby, that's all. And I've never seen a small colored person before. I remember he was so cute--he was pink. Pink, dark pink...

H: Was it...do you think it was hard for them to live here?

S: No, it wasn't here but, now, lots of places round in Salem, they wouldn't have a colored person around there.

H: Would they not let them live in town? Or...

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S: They'd tell them not to stop overnight. And there was a colored preacher--just died back about a year ago--and he was a very well-educated colored man and he was a preacher. Oh he really preached the old-time gospel, you know. And he said that he was just preaching down in French Lick. And lately, just somewhere pretty near Albany, and he said he was coming up here one time and he stopped at the filling station--his car had got hot and he said that he needed water. And he said, "I said, 'Do you have any water?' He said, 'Yes, I've got water, plenty of it. But none for you.'"

So he said, "I said, 'Thank you very much.' And I just come home." He said, "I got outside of the town and I got me into one of those first-spring storms that there ever was, and we just parked."

He said, "I took my hat and went down to the side of the road, there was a stream that was running down there and peeled my raingear _____." So he said the Lord provided for him. (both laugh)

H: ..."works in mysterious ways."

S: He was well thought-of around here. And we went that...my younger brothers and sisters went to a country school with...there's a Norris that lives over here. He's the only colored family there is in Paoli here, but we used to have some over toward Orleans but... And he married a white girl. His first wife wasn't white but he married a white girl here that's a lot younger than him. He's what we used to call yellow...yellow nigger we'd say. He's real light, you know. And his dad was as black as the stove pipe and his mother was real light-colored. (laughs)

H: How did people react to that? Not....

S: Well, they don't pay much attention to anything like that anymore.

H: That's great. Yes.

S: My daughter-in-law has a sister that married a boy who's half... he's Larry Bird's cousin, he's half black and half white. _____ Bird's family and all, and _____ see me lots of times when he was small. He had [deletion]. So someone said he when his _____ won't be able to play any...won't be able to play basketball now or not. I haven't...

H: Go ahead and _____...

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S: [deletion]

H: You can stop now_____...

S: Oh, he built his mother the most beautiful house up there in West Baden country somewhere.

H: Is that _____ out here?

S: No, it's down [west of Paoli at West Baden]. Sawmill Road, _____ back through the country. And somebody told me about Larry Bird's mother, Georgia, her house upon the bend where she used to live, said that's too much for her to take care of. She works at the bank. She _____ French Lick Bank. His father was an alcoholic and he's a painter and a carpenter and everything. And was real brilliant, but... And then two years ago, we thought there was going to be another Larry in the family. _____ name, seems like it was James and he was a star ballplayer down there _____, but he didn't go to IU, he went to Indiana State, I think, or somewhere like that.

H: You know, I've gra...well I guess I've...from some of the other interviews that people up at IU have done, that Paoli used to be...like the farmers would all come in on Saturdays and...

S: Oh, yes, we did.

H: ...sell their stuff down there and...

S: Well, we had a market down here on the square till about ten years; well, we do have here_____, you know, farmers had the highway rebuilt now. We have one that's over there _____ where several roads here in the summer time. Then we did have one down near the square; this man died and... You can buy produce in all the places in the summer but...

H: And then people would get together in the evening and just walk around the Courthouse and...

S: [deletion] When I was growing up, thirteen years old, thirteen or fourteen, my sister--that was older than me--she said, "A batch of us girls and a batch of boys would all get together and maybe come by the courtyard and we'd have a band concert.

H: Oh, really.

S: And it was on the southside of the square and Dr. Stipp had an office right below where the bank is--the Paoli Orange County

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Bank. And he said he'd looked out across there and seen us for so many years that...and he was going to have a bigger place and he'd get this...

H: Did you-all play yourselves there?

S: No, our [high school] had a band that played...with older people. It wasn't our student band. And every Thursday they'd play in the summer, and everybody'd go set and [listen in the courtyard]. And they would play until 9 or 9:30. We had a movie house there on the Square...was one of our diversions, if you want to call it that. An old lady, her place, Mr. Perry's law offices down there, had a _____; we called her Granny Davidson. She had a...she had an old player piano there; we just made her get it out and play it over and over a piece that we'd play. (laughs) [It cost a nickle to play the piano.]
Coke was a nickle. And....

H: So you'd go in for a soda and....

S: Yes. And a dish of ice cream would get piled up would be a nickle and a dime. And you'd just loaf there as long as you wanted to and keep coming out and set with us, you know.

H: So, young people would socialize a lot together? They'd....

S: ..._____ up and do, yes. And we rode horseback; I had the horse. And I drove to school; all the rest of them that had horses on Sunday afternoon in the country would, at least ride out there. And then, what you'd call "Willow creek? on down"--it's down _____, you can turn off the left as you go toward French Lick and go back there _____. Then they'd all come to our house or we would all meet at one of their house and go over to the house and we'd get out and ride miles around back. They do that pretty much here--some of them do. But things that we used to think were really great, you know, children don't have time for that. And people don't have time to do things like they used to.

END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO

S: ...some of them...kept a lot of them there and a lot of them are in private homes. And I knew a man and woman in... they were from a real good family. You could tell good breeding and all. They had two little girls about the age of my two little boys. I've often wondered what become of them; their name was Spaulding. And the president of the bank lived down West Main down here and he took... he and his wife took them. And they

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stayed there. So one day, why, somebody come down there and obviously _____ thing. And nobody to wash for anybody, and I said, "Well, sometimes," I said, "I would wash."

I said, "I've cleaned house for people, and do things like that." [deletion]

They stayed down there about six weeks, I think, with these people. And my husband was one of them went from here down to help take people out of the house _____. He and Bill Deem. And there was the...an Attebury boy that--Albert Pearson--he was raised on the river. And he had a boat _____, and his brother-in-law, Bill Dean. So they would go down there for morning and drive to New Albany --somewhere in there-- and then they would get across the bridge there and they had some way --I don't know where they put their...where he kept his boat-- and then they'd work all day down there and kept hauling people out and their belongings and everything.

H: Did people... did some of the people from Louisville stay in Paoli?

S: Oh, a lot of them did. And then they got to --whatever year after that-- a lot of them, they come to _____ there. And they had, like a flood disaster or anywhere like they do nowadays, they'd set up a canteen up in the schoolhouse up there and took bedding and clothing and everything, people did. And the government sent foodstuff to cook, too. Then the grocers _____, there, I don't know. I think we had two- or three-hundred here at one time.

And then, after everything in the flood went down and everything was all ruined, they cleaned up down there. Why, the first year after that, why, we'd had Orange County Day down there. And you could get into that...used to be a Fountain Perry Park. And all of Orange County that...each county around here took them, you know, _____ the Ohio River went in so many different counties. But each county that had given help or had helped keep some of them, why they could have a special day for that one county. And we would go down there for years and everything would be free.

H: Would the people from Louisville come back up here to, you know, to...

S: Oh, yes, they'd come back up. They _____...

H: ...celebrate with Paoli people.

S: So, we kept going down there every year and Fountain Perry was there for years before 1937. And then the colored people had got in and tore up some things and they banned them from going in there and they went back and just tore it all to pieces

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down there.

H: Why was that? What...

S: I don't know. On account of the racial thing, I think. They were... I know, used to, if you rode on the streetcar or anything down in West Baden--there were a lot of people worked at the hotels down there was colored and still is--come from the South. And we used to have a streetcar running from West Baden over into French Lick.

H: Yes. That was back when the casino was there?

S: Yes. And they would make a difference; these colored ones couldn't ride just with the others. They had to go in the back somewhere and sit down. And I think it was an attempt made by them there; they didn't want them in there when the white people was sitting there. And so they just decided they wouldn't let nobody white come in neither.

H: Do you think that a lot of people moved to Paoli during the Depression too? Was that...

S: Well, they'd be...I guess they'd get out of... They worked.-..a lot of people worked at Bloomington, you know, around at all the factories at Bloomington. And then they worked at Bedford and then they'd be in Kentucky working down there at different factories down there, come back to the factories and warehouses and things down there. So they came up here in the end and...during the Depression and that's when we had food stamps rationed, you know. Gasoline was rationed and we had the saro rig that we sawed wood with.

H: Was that during the Depression or was that during World War ...?

S: Yes. This was during the Depression.

H: OK.

S: And then the War, too.

H: They had rationing, too?

S: World War II.

H: Right.

S: Yes. And we had...but most of them during the Depression. And you just allowed so much... I had a friend of mine that

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stayed with us when her husband was overseas and a soldier's wife could get about anything...

H: Really?

S: ...to send overseas to him and she could get a lot more stamps than we did. And, of course, she couldn't send all that overseas and being that she was staying with us, she helped us a lot. I think we was allowed two pounds of coffee a month. And you couldn't get chewing gum or candy bars hardly at all. She'd go to the store where she traded and she was buying them and bring.... And even clothing was rationed.

H: Oh, I didn't realize that!

S: Yes. My husband always wore bib overalls for every day, you know, so he said... one time he said, "Maria, I don't know what I'm going to do. I guess I'm going to have to patch up these old overalls _____."

And she said, "I'll get you a pair of overalls down there." And she traded at Albright grocery store down at the Prospect near at French Lick. So she got him a pair and brought them home but they was white; but he would rather have them [blue but he wore them]. (laughs) Like carpenter's or painter's overalls.

H: Probably all she could get.

S: Yes, it was.

H: Was it any better for farmers? Like Paoli being...having a lot of farms all around it during the Depression.

S: Yes, and I've heard a lot of things...something a lot of people did. They had boys and they didn't want them to go into the army. If they had a big farm, they would go out and buy up a lot of cattle and a lot of hogs and they would get a deferrment. Every six months they would be deferred for six months and they'd do that just to try to make for time. And some of them never did have to go in the service.

H: What was the the rule that they used. Did it...

S: Well, they said that they had to help their father run the farm there and the boys wouldn't have to go.

H: So they'd just keep buying a lot of....

S: ...They'd just buy up a bunch of stuff, you know, and keep that boy from going. Well, I had two boys that went over there in the fifties and they'd stationed in Korea. They'd having

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_____ in Korea; one was in the north and one was in the south.

And my second boy, he didn't want any part of the army ever again. He got his done with, he come home; he wouldn't join the American Legion or anything like that. He said, "No more army for me unless I just have to go." So the oldest one was in four years straight and would have enlisted again but he...they sent him back to Seattle and he stayed out there a year or two after he got back from overseas. And he married an Indian girl out there and brought her home.

Oh, they did that all around here...some of the biggest farms around here, a lot of them I know. And some of them's going to church right down here and _____ the day.

H: Did it affect Paoli very much? The war or...

S: Well, we had...I don't know, it did seem like everybody every where just went crazy when the war was going on. They just drank and just ran around, you know, and done everything...- seems like all the wives did while their husbands... I guess it was that way every place. And feeling would run high here _____. Nine-years old when World War I was over and...

H: Do you remember that?

S: Oh, I remember it. I remember when President Roosevelt was elected in... My dad was a hot Republican and he said, "If Roosevelt..." I don't mean...President Wilson, I mean. And he said, "Vote for Wilson and have peace." And he hadn't been in office three months till he declared war. (laughs) And so my dad just went on about that, cause he was a Republican, you know. And I was growing up that...we used to have whistles-- every factory around here had a whistle...

H: Oh, really.

S: ...and we had one down here _____ far station(?) now and...utility place down there. And there was four or five years; why, they didn't blow it. I don't know that something got wrong with it and they couldn't fix it so...about three years ago, I guess it was, they got it fixed again. And it blows at twelve every day and.... Used to every factory around here would blow at...

H: When they...

S: ...when they opened up at morning and then when...you know, at noon, and then at night and when they'd get off from work and all so... I was going up that hill; I'd been on an errand at the fact...at the little store at the factory _____ there for my

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mother and I had a little basket with some soap or something in it, going up the hill with a bar of soap--that was all I had. Going up the hill and I heard the whistles all begin blowing, all at once, all over town. _____ scared _____. (both laugh) And I'd run on up to the house and, of course, we had no radios nor no televisions or nothing to tell you anything then. And so dad come in then to eat and he said, "Well, the war's finally over."

H: Oh, really.

S: He said, "That's what all that noise was that they were blowing." And they celebrated.... We used to celebrate Armistice Day here.... anymore they don't pay no attention to it much while they....

Then when December 7, 1941...my husband and I were visiting some friends down in French Lick at a ladies house there and there was another man and wife there. And it come over the radio that...it said the Japs had invaded Pearl Harbor. And this woman jumped out where her and her husband was setting there and she said, "Oh, my God, that's where Donald is." That was her boy.

H: Oh, really.

S: And she didn't know for about five days whether he was hurt or whether he was safe. But they finally got a message through that he was all right. And I'll never forget the reaction she had to it.

Then we had a doctor, Doctor Weeks here, that had been stationed in the Islands over there; he'd been there for years. And his wife used to live at Orleans and.... Well, their children grew up.... They always said--she was older than him--and he said they had made a pact that--she told it too--that when the children grew up that they were going to get a divorce. So her...they got a divorce and she was telling my sister about it that.... They thought it was their own planes over...coming over. And....

H: Was that Pearl Harbor?

S: Yes. Said that when they first come then, screaming, they come down just as low as they could. And come right through up to where they was at and went back up. And said before our boys and our army could get to shoot, they'd already blasted a lot of that there.

We had a _____, now he was there when World War...when they invaded the... _____ did you mention anything about the war and he'd just go all to pieces _____. He said that that was such a horrible thing for anybody to see over there. He was stationed there on a ship in the harbor and

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they come over...and he said somebody give him a shove. And he said there was colored twins on the boat with him. He said, _____ there and he said the last thing he seen, one of them give him a shove like that and shoved him down the hatch or what _____ and said _____ was shot and he saw his head floating down the ladder. Oh, he never did forget that.

And he drank most of the time after he'd come home. And he'd just drink, drink, drink all the time.

H: Because of the...

S: Yes, because of the war.

Charles was telling me about how that Jewish man. Why, we were living out here on the lower street and we had a neighbor that had been in the army, he'd been in France in World War I. So Sol Strauss had been in...he'd been a gunner on a plane. And he wouldn't allow his wife to go up there and buy a piece of material or a spool of thread or anything--if he knew it. But she got around it, she would have someone else to get it (laughs) and take it home and she wasn't buying it up there, but somebody else was buying it for her.

H: I guess if he didn't know the difference...

S: No, he didn't know the difference. And a lot of them was like that. And then, you can't hardly blame them. We had...our chief of police...used to be chief of police here, he was stationed in... I think Hawaii was where he was at. And he was captured and he was a prisoner of war for four or five years. Then we had two or three that... one was there seven years as _____ told me, used to be State Police here; he's still living. _____ and he had the thing going for them a while back and _____ was a prisoner of the Japanese. He said they would bomb _____ every night and the next day all the boys, American boys, would like to get out and rebuild that railroad along where it had got torn up. He said they first come home from overseas that...we'd been rationed, you know, and everything with our meat and _____ things like that. You could buy a chicken and anything like that but beef or steaks or anything...you couldn't buy anything like that at all here. And he said _____, "There's a man here," he said, "that paid for his boys _____ for overseas." He said he never did spend... He said, "When I first come home," he said, "I hadn't seen a piece of meat until I got out _____ no telling when." He said, "I heard this man say, 'Oh, I'd like to have a good steak. I've not had a steak that's _____ deep for six months.'" _____

And he said, "I wanted to hit him." (laughs)

Well, _____ all they'd gone through over there and didn't have anything to eat and they'd like to starve to death

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and then somebody setting here at home and do everything. And their boys didn't have to go. Course it wasn't fair, I know that. Wasn't right.

My oldest boy liked the army--what he saw of it. He drove heavy equipment; he's _____ a truckdriver today.

H: Yes.

S: And now the second one, he come back home and he's worked for _____ for a company over _____ since back in the '50s--ever since he come home except one year.

H: Can you think...I'm trying to think what else I wanted to ask you. (long pause)

Well (laughs)...

S: Always drinking and dope and something's going on. That's the ruination of our young people today, I think. I've got a grandson that's _____...that's been down there in the south with his dad and then his dad got on and _____ and lost his arm four years ago. He got off of it...he had been an alcoholic ever since he'd been fifteen years old. And then he got the...smoking marijuana to begin with. His second wife, he married, she used marijuana and he never did use it till he married her. And I think she still smokes marijuana. And he got on it when he got on the hard stuff. He got on cocaine. He liked to never got off that and he come very near, I think,...what scared him worse than anything else, he was shooting it in his arm here and his arm...they thought they were going to have to take his arm off right here. And he said it was...he said the blood vessels was just closed up, you know, here...

H: Oh, my God!

S: ...and they had to go in there and they operated on his arm. They told him all they could save...maybe they could save it. "We may have to cut your hand off." It was all the way down to his hand. And they put in _____

H: Veins?

S: Veins and _____ was all stuffed up where he had shot himself with that stuff. Oh Lord, it was awful. And then he got to sniffing it. And that's the most awful thing there ever was; I thought that alcohol was bad enough but.... My husband was alcoholic for years. But, that's nothing, _____ pain or what. Crack or crank or whatever they call it, my grandson was being down here hadn't been on it. He's at home right now, but I think he's still on it some. He's up here at his mother's, _____.

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H: It can really destroy lives....

S: And, we act so _____ crazy, when _____
_____. I've seen my son, he's not very big and I've seen
him...the first time I ever saw anything like that, he come up
here and he was _____ and that's when he first
got on it. And there's a guy come from New Albany and he called
Elmer--he was a car dealer and he went to New Albany _____ any
time he'd go down there, why, he could get a _____ on him.
_____ to come
up here. He was drinking some beer and my oldest son--he don't
drink any more, but he didn't drink very much then, cause he's on
the run coming and going all the time on the tractor and trailer
outfit. But he _____ that day and he come up here
and this _____ and I went in the kitchen then to do
something and John was in _____.

He said, "Mom, I'm going to get out of here _____ see to
get home. Let that Kenny _____ take care of him in there."

So they stayed here a while and then Kenny _____
But I saw him _____ and _____ laid it
on top of that big _____ and _____
So I thought _____

H: He didn't know what he was doing.

S: I knew pretty well what he was doing but I didn't know if he
had been doing it. I didn't know if he had been _____ and
shooting it in his arm. And he's _____ Bedford
Hospital and operation of ten or twelve hours he was in surgery.
They thought his _____ would always be stiff but it all come
back to him. So _____ understand _____ where he had not
drinking or anything and you can't imagine how much better it
was. It was like a different person. I heard my daughter-in-law
say that...she got _____ in the spring. She'll be twenty-one in
August; she's married and she's a recovering alcoholic _____

_____ and she said, "You can't imagine how awful it is."
I said, "Don't tell me I can't imagine." I said, "_____
you know that Donny was drinking all the time he was at _____."
And I said, "You don't know what a relief it is when they quit
doing it _____."

I never thought he would ever live to be able to quit
because I thought that every time that he would be adrinkng and
_____ he'd been hurt so many times and just missed....
I said that the Lord must have been with him or he wouldn't....
And then the _____, he got off of it; he's helped _____.
He had to _____ from them--that big house up there in
the country--and had money in the bank, had anything in the world
that he wanted....

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H: This is your oldest son?

S: _____

H: He's in _____

S: _____. Supposed to come over this week on a visit. That's his little daughter right there, the little girl with the brown hair.

H: She's cute.

S: And these Ree's(?) two boys right there when they were little and here's Heath's(?) picture....

(Unintelligible dialogue)

And she looks so much like her _____. I've got a lot of grandchildren...a lot of grandchildren, great grandchildren.

H: Is this your family?

S: Well, that's a picture of my husband that's in that. My daughter had that made to fit for _____ and then this is my husband when he was about nine years old and several of his cousins. That's his brother and here's one of his brothers and one of them right there. And this is his sister--they look so much alike. That picture was taken...I don't know how many years ago. That's one of my boys and his wife over there. Let me see--this is my husband....

END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE ONE

S: _____ And we'd walk over and we'd see that big hotel over there. That was a _____. It's had the second largest dome...free-standing dome in the world.

H: I've heard that.

S: It was a _____ twenty years ago.

H: Is it still standing?

S: Oh yes. My daughter _____ a school for Jesuit priests to go to and its been a gambling _____ down there too...

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H: That's got to be funny, isn't it.

S: And then it was a college. My daughter went to two terms down there in the college and she had--what do you call it-- a grant. And she was divorced from her husband--they were separated and divorced and then they went back together-- she had four children and she got money to go to school on down there for two terms and as a result she got this job up here in the paper office.

H: Oh.

S: She said _____. One of them is humanities, _____, history and other _____ things, she said. And she graduated...she was a weekend student. She went Friday night and Saturday and then Wednesday night, I think. And they all graduated at once; _____ regular students that went all week graduated. And she graduated with them--her class did and she _____ the house and any of them in the regular college or the weekend students...

H: Oh really.

S: She made 4-something, whatever that.... "A" student.

H: Do you think that's something that's changed. That women can work more outside the...

S: Yes, I think.... Used to women didn't have any income of their own, hardly at all and what husbands would make and unless you sell... If you lived on the farm and sell butter or eggs or something like that....

H: Would that be money that the woman could do whatever she wanted to with?

S: Well, it would be money that she would buy...yes, help buy clothing and things like that. My mother used to sell butter and used to...you had to have a lot since you would sell it...

H: Right. Right.

S: Butter and eggs and milk--and everything... I think the mother was more in charge of the children now--I mean, then-- than they are now because that was her job...considered her job to be the homemaker and the mother and...had to make clothes and everything that we had. Comforts, _____. My hobby is making...I make comforts and quilts and...

H: Oh, do you?

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S: I like to sew. I made these drapes over here back in the fall. First thing I sewed for a year.

H: Very nice.

S: And I make cushions...Christmas I make cushions and give them to my children and my friends. Then I like to read. I can just be dead to the world and read. Just set me...don't anybody talk and I've always been a... I've always read an awful lot. And I like to read the Bible and I've been a Sunday School teacher. I like to be in the Chaplain down there, but anymore I don't get to go as much as I did. I pick out the ministers, call them you know, most of them will come just any time that they can if you call them.

And I liked to belong to the Senior Citizens. As long as I could eat anything that they had. But I can't _____ [much of] anything; I've been on a diet now for over a year. And I'm afraid I'm not staying very close to it all the time. (laughs)

H: It can be hard.

S: I'm awful...well, I ate baby food for a year back in '79. And no coffee, not even instant coffee--I mean decaffeinated coffee--or anything. I've always been...I've always thought that if I didn't have coffee for breakfast, I didn't have anything. That's the first thing I do.

H: That would be hard for me. (both laugh)

S: I told my daughter I'd wish she'd quit smoking. She said, "Mom, you're just as addicted to coffee as I am to cigarettes." And that's about true.

H: The one thing I can't do without.

S: I think it sort of, peps you up of a morning. (Telephone rings.) Oh.

END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE TWO

END OF INTERVIEW

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