

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

PAUL WAYNICK

Interviewed by Catherine Jones
8 July 1988
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INTRODUCTION

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I, PAUL WAYNICK, hereby give
Interviewee (please PRINT)
my oral history interview with CATHERINE JONES,
Interviewer (please PRINT)
which was conducted on 7/8/88, to Indiana University.
Date

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Yes, a copy may be left at the Paoli Library.

He would like copy of final copy

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

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Paul Waynick</u> Donor | <u>7/8/88</u> Date |
| <u>Catherine Jones</u> Interviewer | <u>7/8/88</u> Date |

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INTERVIEWEE: Paul Waynick
INTERVIEWER: Catherine A. Jones
DATE: July 8, 1988
SUBJECT: History of Paoli, Indiana
TRANSCRIBER: Norma Olmer

Jones: OK. I'm Cathy Jones and I'm here with Paul Waynick at his office, The Waynick Insurance Agency, on the...

Waynick: East

J: ... eastside of the square. And today is July 7th, 1988.

W: Eight!

J: Aha.

W: Eight!

J: This is why...(laughs) we have to do this. And we're working on the Paoli Project. OK.

So, tell me about...let's start at the beginning when your ancestors first came to the area.

W: Well, my first paternal ancestors, George Venig, came to America when they...on the English ship Nancy; landed in Philadelphia, September the 12th, 1752.

J: Where did he come from and why did he....

W: From the province of Sudeten in Germany...

J: Yes, that's what I thought.

W: ...and at that time, he had a wife by the name of Julianna; we do not know what her last name was.

J: OK.

W: And then they had two sons and one daughter. The two sons were Daniel and Ludwig.

J: Yes.

WAYNICK

W: The two sons came south to Clifford County, North Carolina, in 1790.

J: OK.

W: They built a log cabin; the log cabin was still standing in 1960--and I was not in that picture, though. It since has fallen down.

J: Yes.

W: But then, Daniel died _____ years ago, and all his children and people left there and went to Harbor Inn, he came to Indiana and stayed here. And while one of them, Peter Waynick, helped found DePauw University.

J: Oh, really, Oh, and what was it called when it was founded? Because it wasn't DePauw...it wasn't named DePauw.

W: I've forgotten that.

J: United Methodist? or...

W: It was Methodist founded...

J: OK.

W: ...but I don't remember the name of it; all I know is DePauw.

J: DePauw, yes.

W: I do--this is on a different line-- I do have stock in Northwestern Christian university--that is now public.

J: Right.

W: But that's a different story, and we'd better not get into that. (both laugh) The name was changed in 1828 from VENIG to WAYNICK. The early Americans couldn't pronounce it and they called him "Wenick", "Venick" and everything you can imagine, so with this, it became standardized in 1828 and the spelling is now WAYNICK.

J: OK.

W: My paternal grandfath...great grandfather, Joshua Waynick, came to Orange County, in 1847, with two first cousins, George and Solomon Waynick. They settled in a little village of Valeene and my great grandfather...

WAYNICK

J: Of Orleans? or...

W: Valeene.

J: Valeene. Valeene.

W: (spells it) And my maternal great grandfather came ahead and settled in Greenfield township. He homesteaded land there in 1854. I still have ownership of that 40 acres; his daughter wound up with it and then I got it through her.

J: Do you know why any of them came here in the first place?

W: They don't know why; they were just looking for...stories were that they were looking for better land...to move.... Just everybody was on the move. They came by the Cumberland Gap; with horses...

J: Yes.

W: ...they came here. And he first homesteaded land; land was getting scarce, I suppose, in North Carolina. And my paternal...my maternal grandparents, of course, were Jordan and Minnie Seybold. And his great grandfather was Thomas R. Seybold who founded and bought land at Helix; community of Helix, which is no longer in existence.

Well, then, he had a son, Robert, that homesteaded land in what is now known as Greenbrier; you'll find it on the roadmap here. It's Greenbrier.

J: Yes.

W: It had a postoffice here named Greenbrier. When Joshua came here, he worked for Robert Seybold. And he eventually married his daughter. And they, of course, built a log cabin first and they pulled it down, moved it, and made a barn out of it. That barn was sold in, let's see, in 1981--I think it was. And it's now a log house on the west edge of Paoli.

J: Wow! (both laugh)

W: And then, of course, he had...he just had one son, my grandfather, Daniel Waynick. His name was Daniel also.

J: OK.

W: And their house still stands. Many parts of it is log; but it's still standing. It's not in the Waynick family.

J: How far outside Paoli....

WAYNICK

W: About ten miles.

J: From where we are right now?

W: Yes.

J: OK. In what direction?

W: South.

J: South.

W: It's in Greenfield township. And of course, the forty acres is not...does not have anything to do with it; it's all wooded.

J: Yes.

W: But it's still...I have a hundred-year-centennial farm, you see, because it's continuously in the Waynick family; everyone else is _____. However, the land is _____ and built to live on, but that's part of it.

Well, of course, I grew up... my father married Sadie Seybold.

J: OK.

W: Of course, Robert Seybold was one of the brothers...my mother's great grandfather.

J: OK.

W: So Robert Seybold and Jasper Seybold and John Seybold II. Our great-great grandfather was John Seybold II.

J: OK.

W: John Seybold II was a brother of Robert Seybold who was the father of Nellie...Eleanor, we called her Nellie--which was my great grandmother.

J: All right. (both laugh) I might have the story; I'm not sure, but I'll try.

W: _____

J: You know this very well, too; you can really go though it.

W: John the Second then had a son by the name of Thomas L. Seybold.

WAYNICK

J: Yes.

W: He contains... lived up the hill at Helix community. They had a sawmill, distillery, a saloon, blacksmith shop, post office, general grocery store... well, everything at the little village of Helix. It is now underneath Tucker Lake which _____ and Game Conserve district.

J: OK.

W: But that was where they homesteaded at....

J: And how far away is that from here?

W: About seven or eight miles.

J: About.... And...I mean, that's still within Paoli township?

W: Yes. No, that's in Greenfield township.

J: OK.

W: Just a degree. Almost _____ township and almost in Paoli township; right in the corner of Greenfield.

J: OK.

W: So then, Thomas L. evidently ran into a little bit of hard times and I have a four-page credit brochure from a counterfeiter by the name of R.W. Biggs who writes him to tell him, "That there must be a _____ about making money. A lot of people don't have any money. And you see people doing real well. And I'd be happy to handle the counterfeit money." Gives him a code to go by, among other things. Well, that's in 1871.

J: Yes.

W: And I have a letter then from R.W. Biggs where he sent him more money. In 1872. I have a letter from Steven Seybold, who was Thomas L's brother, writing him while Thomas L. was in Kansas, where he apparently took to passing this counterfeit money. Well, _____ neighbor Sayes--S-A-Y-E-S (spells it)--you are out passing counterfeit money. Of course, the _____ was terrible.

J: Yes.

W: And he said all kinds of tales were circulating. (both laugh) And they had a stone quarry that they made whetstones...

WAYNICK

J: Yes.

W: ...and he _____ and said, "You better get back here and settle up your business." He said, "Then, if that country is... spelled C-O-G-O-N-D-R-Y...", then spelled it correctly. "That country is all you say it is, and then I'll send my boys out. And we might look at it. We might buy some land out there."

That was in June of 1872; and the last day of June 1872 Thomas L. writes his folks back here... _____ he's a gentleman in Kansas, and he tells that he's going to kill buffalo and make them all hides. Or have them... beds for them for the winter; so then kill 31 in one day, easy.

And, of course, the letter is real interesting. Of course he died at a very youthful age; and then my grandfather, maternal grandfather, Jordan Seybold, took over the business.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: _____ several _____ in the family. But they'd taken over the business. When my father and mother married, well they both... the farm that was originally homesteaded by Jacob Waynick. And my son, here, owns that farm _____ right now.

J: Huh!

W: Well, Jacob contracted a disease of "sloes." You've probably never heard of "sloes."

J: No.

W: But that was gotten by eating directly, milk from a cow that's eaten white snakeroot. It was....

J: That had eaten...?

W: ... _____ white snakeroot before _____; before-- a white flower on top of it.

J: I'll be darned.

W: It grew up in new-ground pastures. Well, when the cow...it killed the calves and killed a lot of people. Well, they thought it was malaria. Well, they thought a change of climate would help him, so he moved to Kansas. (laughs)

So now, my son has the original track of land back; and doesn't _____. That was, of course, in the corner of Greenfield township. When I grew up on...my dad bought that in 1923 and we moved there when I was seven-years old.

WAYNICK

J: Yes. Yes.

W: And then I... of course, I grew up on a farm.

J: OK, let me ask you a few questions. So, your grandfather then, had a whetstone business?

W: My paternal...

J: Your paternal...?

W: ...great grandfather.

J: Your...

W: ...my maternal, my maternal great grandfather.

J: Maternal?

W: Maternal. Thomas L. Seybold.

J: OK. All right. OK.

W: Now, my grandfather never participated in that.

J: OK. When your dad...what kind of business was your dad...or what did...?

W: He was a farmer.

J: He was a farmer. OK.

W: He worked through the seventh grade in the Hickory Ridge School. And all he ever knew was to work hard and be a farmer.

J: Did he have any...did he ever...do you know if he ever wanted to try...?

W: I don't think he ever...all he knew was work.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: His mother was a Smith and they were very, very hard workers.

J: A Smith? OK.

W: Now, my grandfather...paternal grandfather, was very bookish. He was a schoolteacher and he farmed alone. He was a carpenter. But he would rather'd been in liberal arts than he

WAYNICK

would have...

J: Yes. Yes.

W: ...work with his hands.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: He really enjoyed that. I can remember him...just today.... And I have some of his old books. My great grandfather brought the "Universal History of the United States" with him. And I have it here; it brings history to 1837. I have it rebound.

J: Up to the last minute. (laughs)

W: It brings it up to 1837. (both laugh)

J: Oh God.

W: And it's handed down to his son, and then I got it from my grandfather.

J: You know, you know so much about your family, is this... are...is your whole family this way? or...?

W: Not _____. No.

J: No? Are you about the only one that's really

W: Really deeply interested in this sort of thing.

J: Have you been this way your whole life? Or just as you've gotten older?

W: All my life.

J: From day one?

W: Yes.

J: Were you always asking stories about people and stuff like that?

W: And then, when I got out of common school, in the eighth grade, I wanted to go forward in education. Well, that year they put a school bus, _____ a school bus, to haul you into Paoli. And I hadn't been to town except for two or three times; scared me to death.

J: Now what year was this?

WAYNICK

W: It was in 1931.

J: Actually I should ask you what year were you born?

W: I was born in 1917; May 16th.

J: OK. All right. OK. So, and there you were; did you then get on the school bus to come in?

W: Yes.

J: Well, what was that like?

W: Very scary. I didn't know...never been out of Greenfield township but two or three times.

J: Yes. (both laugh)

W: We went to town maybe once a month to buy groceries. I hadn't been here hardly any time.

J: Well, when you say you went to town, what town would you have gone to?

W: Paoli.

J: OK. All right, OK.

W: We came into Paoli.

J: Were any of your friends from Greenfield coming with you, on the bus?

W: Yes, there were. It was a large bus. As a matter of fact, at that time there was nothing against allowing other people to ride it. We had more riders than we did students most times.

J: (laughs)

W: People'd come in to buy their week's groceries.

J: Well, that's kind of nice and friendly, probably. (both laugh) Well, so, can you tell me what it was like then, you know, getting off the bus and...I guess you got off where Hillcrest is now?

W: Yes. That's right. The schools, Perry Lou, in 1931. I thought that was a wonderful deal.

WAYNICK

J: Oh, it's a smart building, even now.

W: I really enjoyed my four years schooling; I'd taken bookkeeping and.... Started out farm course and saw I didn't like that and _____ second year, transferred over to commercial.

J: You started out in the agriculture though? At that time...do you remember if you thought you'd go on in farming?

W: I did at that time. But then I changed my mind.

J: Just that first year.

W: And then I wanted to go to law school. And my dad said, "We haven't got the money; you don't need to go to law school." So I didn't. But I've always been sorry that I didn't go ahead and carry... but I didn't.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: And, of course, I married at the age of 24. Had bought my own farm then and tried to farm for a few years. I became disenchanted with it, didn't make any money, and didn't enjoy it...

J: Yes.

W: So Ralph Fleming owned a Fleming Insurance Agency. My wife and I talked about it; I came up and talked to Ralph in 1957. Well, he'd had an operation; he had cancer and one leg, melanoma. And so they _____; they'd taken his leg off up to his hip. Well he was very glad to hire me as solicitor. I went to work and I...he hadn't sold any life insurance or hospital insurance. He got an outlet...

J: Yes.

W: So I went selling life insurance, hospital insurance, automobile insurance, everything there was to go. I was out working every day and every day, and every day. Well, in February in 1958, Ralph called me in and said, "I want you to take care of the office for a few days; I've got an appointment for a checkup."

Well he came back in the morning...I came in one morning two or three days afterward...came in the office, opened up. He was already there. He said, "Well, I want to sell you my interest." Said, "I've only got a short time to live." Said he had an inoperable tumor behind the lungs. Said, "I want to sell you my office."

WAYNICK

I said, "You know, Ralph, I don't have any money."

He said, "You don't need any money." He said, "I'll settle for \$100 a month with no interest." Which is a pretty good deal for me.

I said, "I want to talk with my wife. And I want to talk with my dad."

He said, "Well, you better not do that, you'll go broke."

I said, "I can't go broke any younger."

So, we bought the insurance. She worked with me and we built it into a pretty good agency. We've done pretty well.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: Of course, at that time I started out in a one-room rented office building--where Ralph had had, underneath the Kemple Hardware. Until 1958.

J: Over that way.

W: Yes. April 1, 1958, I bought the insurance. In two or three years...I had ten years to pay it off. In two or three years I paid off the Agency; got it out in a hurry so I didn't owe any money. Well, out of 1965, this building belonged to Usugyi, who is an optometrist down here; he moved on to _____ Hotel. This was for sale; I found it out-- fellow I bought clothes from all the time. Lou Deates said, "This building's for sale." I said, "Well, I'll be interested."

So I went to see Usugyi; he told Lou Deates it wasn't that I didn't have any money. And I said, "Well, don't worry about that." So I went over and talked to him. "Yes, - _____". I said, "Yes, I just noticed."

J: Jeez.

W: And then I remodeled the building. Well, then this back part that had a block building and lot some time or other, and somebody slipped in and got a quit-claim deed and built this building this way. The lady had owned the restaurant next door, slipped in and got a quit-claim deed from the people who came in here from Italy and bought this, and built a restaurant on this building--on that part right here. Well, then, she got out of business two years ago and wanted to sell me the whole building. I said, "No, I just want to buy this part back here." So I bought this part back here and I had to _____.

J: (laughs)

W: And this building, of course, comes along a long ways. It was founded by Thomas Hoplitt who homesteaded this land in September the 10th, 1817. _____, in the town of Paoli, a man

WAYNICK

to sell land and they intend to buy and sell. _____ Johnson and his _____ agent, Johnson Lindlay. Well, _____, I haven't checked out this technically, how many rods twenty poles are. It was twenty-four poles from Lick Creek and twenty poles east and then back down to Litcreek. Well, then, they authorized him to sell these lots--five acres--for five thousand dollars each.

J: In what year was this again?

W: This was in 1817.

J: That's what I thought. Right. Wow!

W: Well, Jonathan Lindlay sold this to Thomas Chatman, in about 74, in 1822. When it kept on coming down, well I...I'm unable to find out the age of this building; everybody gives you a different _____, nobody knows.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: I went over to see Charley Russ, who's our county assessor. He went back as far as _____ records go and there's missing links: "This is very old." And he's not able to prove, to assess...

J: ...just how old.

W: That was it. Now Amos Stout and John Stout bought this in 1874. Now I suspect they aimed to build it somewhere back around there. 'Cause John Stout founded the Orange County Bank in 1886. Well, I suspect they might have built the building. It might have been built before; it could have been built afterwards. But I'm suspecting right in there is about the age of the building.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: Well, eventually, Gandolfo bought this in 1931--there was intervening ownership, so I understand. But about 1931...he was from Italy. Well he became in ill health and then he appointed "power of attorney" to his son, Antonio Gandolfo and his _____ Victor Emanuel III, King of Italy, and Emperor of Ethiopia in the sixteenth year of the _____.

J: Jeez!

W: ...until the eighth year of August 1938. (laughs)

J: Distinguished line of owners.

WAYNICK

W: And this Gondolfo's actual name was N-A-T-T-O, and then little "f", F-U N-I-P-P-O-L-I-T-O [spells it out].

J: I wonder how he ended up here?

W: I don't know. That he was back in Italy and in ill health, apparently, so he appointed his son "power of attorney". And his son sold it to Usugyi in 1957...

J: Yes. OK.

W: ...and then I buy it from Usugyi in 1965.

J: 1965.

W: So I don't know just the age of the building. But I know it's old.

J: And what year was it when...what year was it when you started?

W: 1965. When I started here.

J: When you started here. But when you started working with _____ partner...

W: In 1957...we started working with Fleming. In 1958 I bought his agency.

J: OK. All right. Oh, you have a picture.

W: That's very old. It's about the turn of the century, I suspect.

J: Ah, let's see. Is this the westside of the square?

W: These three windows right up here are my building.

J: Oh. And what... this is the northside?

W: No, this is French Hotel. This is the eastside. This is the eastside; this is _____ right end of my building, I mean.

J: Gad!

W: These three windows are the northend of my building.

J: Jeez, it looks so different.

WAYNICK

W: See the hitching rails?

J: Oh yes, now I can tell. Yes, there's the hill and there's that.... Yes. Yes. The hitching rails?

W: Around the courthouse.

J: Oh yes. Yes.

W: That's where they hitched the horses to.

J: Right. And there was electricity, of course, by that time?

W: I suspect there was. Probably.

J: Yes, you can see....

W: But most of this was ... see, Jim Plumber was always going to.... Of course, Paoli State Bank was not in existence at that time; this is a house by the back there. It was not even in existence on the corner up there.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: That became the Paoli State Bank and then James Farlow owned _____ and then he bought. It's still in business as an attorney's office. But this is Mineral Springs Hotel you see.

J: Yes. Yes. Oh. Huh. And so, when you first started out, you were down here somewhere?

W: No. I was _____...yes, I was straight down around the corner...

J: Right.

W: ...and leased that building down _____

J: OK. OK. All right. Well, that's really something. That's great.

W: I thought you just might be... not that you would need that for anything.

Anyhow, that's...let's go in the house. I wrote that in preparation _____, they would give you two pages of typed material on a book that we're planning on French Lick.

J: Can I copy this? I could...

W: You can have it.

WAYNICK

J: Oh, I can have it. Oh, good. Thank you.

W: I don't particularly need it.

J: OK. Well great. Well, thank you very much.

W: I didn't use it because I became a little bit disilllusioned and then it fell through completely. I thought they were trying to make too much money off of it.

J: I'm sorry? When....

W: They were going to publish the book _____...

J: Oh. Right. What you mentioned before, but then.... Right.

W: Yes. Yes. And then I became a little bit disilllusioned so I didn't follow it up. So of course, it completely fell through. They're going to have to rebate any money they'd taken, I understand.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: I just didn't think...it was too much of a money-making thing, I think.... (laughs)

J: And then you want to rel...you want to value your history but you don't want to have to pay all that...

W: I didn't want to have to pay....

J: At the _____ like that. (both laugh) Well, have you written it, you know, just in some form?

W: Oh, I've had this... I've written the history of the family.

J: OK. All right. I thought that's what you'd said in the book.

W: I've got three times more material now than when I published that.

J: Is this...there's a lot of genealogy-trees! My god, pages and pages of it. But...

W: I've got 4-5 times as much material that I had when I published that too.

J: My god! You have 200 pages with genealogy-trees.

WAYNICK

W: Yes.

J: Good lord.

W: I've filled in some more since then too.

J: Jeez. (Flips through pages) And I notice, you have, like, stories that different people told you? Did you sit down and talk with different...

W: Yes. Oh yes, I did. I went to North Carolina; talked to Capus Waynick. Capus was...again, let's go back a little. Have you ever driven through Blue Ridge Parkway?

J: No.

W: Well, anyway, Capus was State Highway Chairman when that was built.... Roosevelt was president. Capus said that they were trying to get it built, and Ickes who was Secretary of Interior vetoed it. So he tried to wrangle an appointment with President Roosevelt. Finally, the Senator...senior Senator here, he managed to get an appointment with Roosevelt. He was in an awful hurry; he wanted to go play golf. But they got him; this initial(?) that they built it. So that's the way they got the Blue Ridge Parkway built. (laughs) Capus was quite a character. He kept carrying most of Carolina for Truman when Truman ran for President. Well, Truman awarded him some ambassadorship to Venezuela and Columbia; both of them at once. He served as Ambassador to both places. He _____ to North Carolina, he'd been Chairman of the Democratic party in North Carolina. He had quite a career, he did...and died last year.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: But he was a very interesting old gentleman.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: Capus was very interesting. Very interesting.

J: Yes. Well, sometime would I be able to look at this?

W: Yes. Yes.

J: You know, part of what I was hoping that we'd be able to talk about, is more just on the nature of the kind of stories that people told you.

W: OK.

WAYNICK

J: I guess that's part of the kind of stuff that I would like you...that I'd like us to talk...to be able to talk about and....

W: I could give you some colloquial ghost stories, and one thing and another might be of interest to you.

J: (laughs) Oh sure.

W: My grandfather, Daniel Waynick, told this one many, many times. He said that they had a haunted house in Unionville, Indiana. Youngs Creek is on the map now.

J: Yes.

W: They had a haunted house in Unionville, Indiana. The neighbors came over one day. They said, "Well, we'll give anybody \$10 that'll stay all night in that house."

J: Yes.

W: And Grandpa Waynick said, "I think that's a pretty good deal. So he said, 'I'll just do that.'" So he got his trusty old lantern out _____. Sat down in the old house. Nothing happened until midnight. _____ business trip, midnight hour."

J: Yes.

W: At that time, a ghost came in and sat down aside of him. Then he said, "Boy, I just took out. I ran out." _____ and run and run and run; he was running to get out. Sat down on a log and the ghost sat down aside of him. "Had quite a race, didn't we." And grandpa said, "Yes, and we'll have another too." (both laugh)

Grandpa, he'd tell so many different ones. It was really interesting. He'd tell ghost stories....

J: Was he a real story-teller?

W: Yes, he was.

J: Was he...how can I say it? Well known? I mean, for being that way; was he a real talker?

W: I suspect. Now, he told another story that _____; the stories were actually true. They weren't hypothetical ghost-stories.

WAYNICK

J: You mean, that wasn't...?

W: Well... (both laugh)

J: What am I... wait a minute. (both laugh)

W: Anyhow, they used to hold religious debates.

J: Yes.

W: This was about 1911 to 1913, in that territory somewhere. And the first one was at the old Hickory Ridge School, which was in Greenfield township; it's torn down now.

J: Yes.

W: My father would take him and a horse-and-buggy to these debates. He was so...he was assistant to...had another man helping him. _____ was on their pulling side. He had...he represented the Church of Christ.

J: Yes.

W: And the Reverent Ed Apple was at the United Brethren Church.

J: Yes.

W: Well, my grandfather was assistant to Reverend Ed Apple...

J: Yes.

W: And then...I'm thinking _____... Rogers, Rogers was. _____ what his name was. _____ Rogers was assistant to Ed Apple, Reverend Ed Apple.

J: I re...I think I remember Owen Stout talking about this. Yes.

W: Yes. They had big debates.

J: Yes, sure. Right. Right.

W: People became very excited about.... Somebody asked this Reverend one day if you didn't go to church...? Said he'd gained little interpretation of the Bible; _____ exactly right. Said, "Now, if you could ever find just one item in that Bible that wasn't the way you thought it was, what would you do?" Fellow said, "If they'd ever find one thing in there that was wrong, I'd still believe it." (both laugh)

That shows the depth of the feeling in this situation.

WAYNICK

J: Yes. Yes.

W: And they did become very loud. Walt Stout who lived about a half-a-mile down the creek from the school where they debated down in Greenville...

J: Yes. Yes.

W: ...said he could hear them nights just roaring...just debating. So, I'm sure it was a very exciting time.

J: So, one of them interpreted it real literally and the other one...

W: Yes.

J: ...took it more symbolically.

W: The Church of Christ believed that "once saved, always saved." And Baptism had to be immersed to be saved...

J: Yes. Yes.

W: And they didn't believe in music in the church. Well, United Brethren was much more liberal. They believed in music in the church and you could be saved or not-saved and you could be sprinkled. So they had very different views...

J: Views on it, yes.

W: ...and they'd become (both laugh) very animated in their discussions.

J: You know, the way you all talk about it, it sounds like it was almost a form of entertainment for people to go...

W: It was. It was great entertainment.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: People enjoyed it wonderfully. (both laugh)

J: Yes. I really get that impression.

W: You see, it had originally been the Christian Church, and then some of them broke off.

J: Yes.

WAYNICK

W: And that's when they formed the Church of Christ--which is still in existence today. In Paoli and different places. And that church is still in Unionville, believe it or not. Where Youngs Creek is now. And the old church is still there.

J: Oh. That was Young.... Oh, that's right. Libby Mathers, I guess...her parents were from there. That's right, she mentioned it. OK. OK.

W: And there used to be a church on the hill. It was a Baptist Church. It's now torn down. The old cemetery's still there. You go out on the Youngs Creek towards SR #37 till the crossroads. Turn left at the top of the hill and a right turn, there's a cemetery.

J: Yes.

W: The old church was there. It finally burned down.

J: You know, since we're talking about church and religion, can I ask you about your family and what you practice--or what your parents did?

W: My family was always Methodists.

J: Always Methodists.

W: My mother and father belonged to Moores Ridge Methodist Church.

J: Which one was that?

W: Moores Ridge.

J: Moores Ridge. OK.

W: It's a very, very old church. As a matter of fact, I wrote a brief history of it--last year or the year before. I dug up quite a bit of research. It started down off of SR #145...what is now SR #145. And then it burned or something; and then they moved up further up off of 145 right west of where the present church is...

J: Yes.

W: ...and then they finally moved out there and built a frame-church out there.

J: Yes.

WAYNICK

W: I can remember it very well; it had two front doors and the men sat on one side of the church and the women sat on the other side of the church.

J: No kidding. Really?

W: That's right, that's the way we've done it.

J: When did that...do you rem...was it that way when you were small, do you remember?

W: Yes, I was just a very small child. They built the new church in 192...4, I believe.

J: And where is...?

W: It's back of us, in French Lick township.

J: OK.

W: As a matter of fact, you go out of Paoli--go out of here on US 150 West, across the old railroad crossing; the tracks are out now, but you turn left, go out past the ski slope--_____ ski slope?

J: Yes. Yes.

W: You go out, and instead of turning over the hill toward the ski slope, keep on....

J: Yes.

W: You go up over a big hill--steep hill, they call it the Copeland Hill.

J: Yes.

W: Get up on over it and little ways ahead it says: French Lick Fish and Game Area.

J: Yes.

W: Go out there and then go into a T on the road, turn left and it's about a half-mile up there is your Moores Ridge church.

J: Oh.

W: Beautiful brick building _____. From what I remember, it's a nice bvliding.

WAYNICK

J: And you still go there now?

W: Yes, I do.

J: Because there's

W: My son is treasurer right now _____.

J: I should ask you, where do you...?

END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE

J: ...did your father have?

W: He had eighty acres.

J: And...can you give me an idea, was he pretty much a subsistence farmer or...?

W: Well, it would be subsistence today. He generally had a team of horses and he'd put out a little corn--tried to raise enough corn to feed his horses. And he had two or three cows. And had about 100 or 150 hens--...

J: Yes.

W: ...laying hens. And then, of course, he yarded logs. He'd take his team and pull logs into piles for trucks to haul.

J: Oh, did he?

W: He'd take his team, work hard...made quite a bit of money yarding logs. He liked to do that; he'd yard logs for sawmills.

J: So he...so, was that the main way he got his income was through the lumber? And then the farming was for the family...was for food.

You were kind of smiling when you were telling me about that. How did you like working on the farm when you were young?

W: Not too well.

J: Not too well? (laughs)

W: I was a bookworm.

J: Oh, yes?

WAYNICK

W: (laughs) I was that way from the time I was old enough to read.

J: Well now, how did that go over with your dad, if he didn't....

W: Not too well.

J: Not too well? (both laugh)

W: He was a practical man.

J: Yes.

W: Very practical.

J: All of what you need is books and...I mean, common sense and not that....

W: He was not at all like his father. He was like his mother; his mother was very practical. Very hard worker.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: He never read. He didn't care about reading.

J: Now, how about your mother. Was...?

W: Well, she liked to read. She was a little bit differently turned. _____. Of course, my grandfather--maternal grandfather--was a character. His name was Jordan; they called him Jorde. He was heavy-set, heavy...big man. Big arms, big hands.

J: Yes.

W: He liked to drink. They said of him, tie one hand behind him and get him half-drunk--replace three good men. (laughs) He liked to fight, and he liked to drink. He tried--after his wife died in 1924--he tried to move in with our folks. But my dad didn't believe in drinking and they just didn't get along, period.

J: Yes.

W: And he soon moved back out; and a son of his came back from Chicago and moved in with him--and the whole house--down at Helix.

J: Yes.

WAYNICK

W: The old Helix house. I've got...taken large pictures of the old sawmill down there and the old house--...

J: Oh.

W: ...all those. Of course, they're underneath Tucker Lake now.

J: Right. Right.

W: But that's...

J: Well, what happened to...what happened when they built Tucker Lake? To the people that....

W: The people had to move out.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: Wasn't many moved out. But there was four, five or six families was displaced.

J: How did they feel about it?

W: I don't think too many of them cared...most of them were getting old and about ready to leave anyhow.

J: OK.

W: One old lady, Myrtie Smith--I've got a picture of her right here that _____, a little part was log and there's a little bedroom on the back and there was a kitchen on the front.

J: Yes.

W: She never married; she lived there all of her life. Well, they came along and bought her out in her old age. She only lived about six months afterwards. I think it just literally killed her; it broke her spirit and her heart...

J: Yes.

W: She just...was gone.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: There were some oddities about the home she lived in. Right at the foot of a big hill...and they were working in '26--her

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father and her--at some hotel or something. And a big _____ truck ran backwards with the building _____ or something, I don't know, lost footing going up the hill and went back.... There's a big chimney at the back of the house...it tore the chimney down. So, if somebody'd been home, they could have been badly hurt. (both laugh)

J: Wow!

W: And her...and their old farm has two vertical caves-- they're 90-feet deep--on opposite sides of the road. One of them is above a spring. And one of my...one of the Seybolds, Laurel Seybold, Robert Seybold's son--explored the cave. One of them's got some large rooms runs out from this. The other one is just a deep vertical shaft; he wasn't able to find any rooms in it. It had a lot of stalactites in it. But he explored those two caves; and as far as I know, they're still in existence. _____ of course, Spring Valley Conserves _____...

J: Yes. Yes.

W: Of course, that would make that road a dead end. That's where we went to Moores Ridge Church. We started out late of an afternoon; you'd see the sun in the sky. It was...what we called jolt-wagon; the old wooden-wheel wagon with the steel tires on it?

J: Yes. Yes.

W: We'd ride that to Moores Ridge to go to church. And then once across Helix Creek, of course, on the way. Now, of course, Helix Creek and all of that is underneath Tucker Lake.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: And then we'd have to go around to get to Moores Ridge. But _____

J: It's quite a bit different. (laughs)

W: Quite a big difference.

J: Well, can you...let's talk for a second about that farm and growing up. Can you tell me more about what it was like, you know, being a kid and.... First of all, did you have brothers and sisters?

W: I have one brother. I had two sisters; they both died in infancy.

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J: Oh dear, I'm sorry.

W: I have one brother, seven years younger than I am.

J: Oh, so you were the eldest and there were only two boys.

W: Yes.

J: Well, I can see how your father may have been more upset even, that you weren't interested in going on in farming.

W: Now, my younger brother is very practical. He works the farm...he's like my dad. He farms--that's all he wants to do and that's all he's ever been interested in. Of course, he's retired now, but that's all he always wanted to do. And he was doing pretty well at farming.

J: Just out of curiosity, did he raise livestock or was he in crops.

W: Oh, he had milk-cows and had a dairy barn, raised a lot of crops too. He had...he bought the Joshua Waynick farm, and then he bought some other acreage, and then he rented a good bottom farm. So, he'd done pretty well in life farming. He really did.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: But I wasn't cut out to be a farmer. I just didn't like it and I got into a calling that I enjoyed.

J: So, I imagine, when you had to get up and do chores and stuff like that, it didn't sit too well.

W: Oh, I didn't bother that too bad. I even cut timber for awhile; made pretty good money at it. But I liked other work so much better. And I got into a calling that I liked.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: And I think I could have been successful much younger if I'd have started...

J: Yes, but you found it; that's the main thing.

W: I found it. Found it before it was too late to _____. But that's life.

J: That's life and that's the main thing, yes.

W: But I'd done so much work on so many of the families, and

got so many stories...that's rather interesting. _____
_____ I've got them all typed up somewhere.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: And I've got fifteen scrapbooks, big scrapbooks, full of material. When they were building Tucker Lake, I was down there. They tore the old house down and I accidentally found a big old chest. I thought it was something that...just chuck-jammed full of papers. So I brought it home with me; it was full of letters, advertising, deeds, etc., with just a few watermarks on them. But they hadn't really damaged. And out of that I got seventy-odd letters dating back to 1871 that was written in ink. They were in a good state of preservation. A couple of old almanacs, 1890s. I've got advertisements for all kinds of old farm implements. I've got ledgers; I've got about six or eight ledgers dating back into 1850s. Ledgers of the sawmill, the distillery,....

J: Yes. Yes.

W: How much whiskey sold for, and so on. Old recipes; recipes perhaps for sore breast, for sore eyes and...

J: Yes.

W: ...I think some of these are given...

J: Something for rheumatism, I'm sure, had to be in there.

W: Remedies for different ailments.

J: Right. Right.

W: _____ for sore throat and I could get.... Recipes was all I typed up, because it would be interesting. And I've kept the originals in my scrapbooks--that's what I've done.

J: Yes.

W: But it's _____...rather interesting. I've got a lot of old photos; I've got some old tintypes. You know, tintype photos never got old...

J: Oh. Tintypes? I don't think I know what those are.

W: They were made out of a piece of tin.

J: I've heard of them. Yes. Yes, that's what they first came out with.

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W: I've got one of my great grandfather and his brother Jacob, both, and I think I've got some more of them. The old tintypes; I've had them made over.

J: Neat. Yes. Yes. I guess that's what they first made it out of. Do you need to....

W: I've got another five or ten minutes I can spare.

J: OK. All right. (Aside) What was I going to ask you. The area that you lived, did you have neighbors close by...?

W: Yes.

J: ...or what was it like?

W: Yes, we bought...as I said, my dad bought the Jacob Waynick homestead.

J: Yes.

W: Well, Charlie McBride...if I remember Charlie McBride...

J: Yes.

W: ...had bought that originally. Now he had sold it to Oscar Walters who had married my dad's sister.

J: Yes.

W: Oscar Walters became disillusioned; he wanted to move. So he moved on my granddad Seybold's farm. Rented it--Jordan Seybold's farm. He moved on and rented it; and then we bought his farm. Moved over there and, I think, it was 1925; I was eight-years old. That's what it was. I think I said 1924; but it was 1925 because I was eight-years old when we moved over there.

J: OK.

W: Well, Charlie McBride was newly-divorced.

J: Yes..

W: He'd been married five times. His fourth marriage ended in divorce; his first ended in divorce and two had died. And to get everybody, he'd been married five times. And then he and his fourth wife was divorced, so he would come out about every night and entertain us with stories. He was a great story teller. He

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was a wonderful mimic; he could mock other people--talk in their voice.

J: Oh, really.

W: Women, men--and I wish that I could have had a tape recorder back in those days. I could have _____ a hundred dollars to heard him talk about the old-timers.

J: Well, you know...OK, and then you mentioned, I guess it was your grandfather, who was a good story teller too. I mean, would people just stop by the house...was it...?

W: He would come on every night with his trusty lantern. Used to see us just practically every night of the week. He'd be out there because he was a single man and I guess he was lonesome...

J: Yes.

W: Well, he'd tell wonderful stories. Indian stories, lost gold mines, lost silver mines, lost lead mines, everything imaginable he would tell about. What had happened...

J: Yes. Yes. Yes.

W: Wonderful story teller.

J: Do people still tell stories the same way, do you think?

W: I don't believe that such a hurried world and so much going on, I don't believe they tell them exactly like they did then. There's not the visiting that there was in those days and ages.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: People don't stop by and visit and tell tales like they did in those days.

J: Yes.

W: It's just a different world. A different society.

J: Do you miss it at all? Or do you just...?

W: Well, you don't think about it, I don't suppose.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: But that...that was wonderful days, that part of it. I enjoyed that; I used to stall, of course, and I enjoyed it. The

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stories were wonderful.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: (laughs) _____ He had some wonderful stories to tell; he really did.

J: Yes. Well then, of course, at that time I guess, you were probably just sitting by the lantern--somehow that helps too when you're not....

W: Yes. Yes. Yes. Oh, he could tell...I don't remember any ghost stories much that he told. He told big stories of true happening, and I can't say that it wasn't. But they were interesting.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: And I know...he told stories of caves and.... One of the caves is on my farm; well, I rented it before I ever bought it. I bought it from an old lady by the name of Celia Parks. Well, there was a better man rented it and it...plowed their rows up and down the hill and the land eroded. When it ran up to a cave, the dirt ran over and filled it up. And I started to excavate it a few years ago, and it cost too much money. And since it's such an awful job, I let it go.

But anyway, he told stories about what was in that cave. Supposed to have been some lost gold stored in the cave; one thing and another. And I doubt if he'd have found anything, but I was just going to excavate it to see what I might find. But there was so much trouble; going to take so awful long, I let it drop.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: Part of it. Because I thought I might be interested in just...open it up and see what might...

J: Yes. Yes.

W: What part might be there but I didn't do it.

J: Yes. Yes. Yes.

W: Now, my son has a cave on his farm; I've never tried to explore. Oscar Walters--who married my dad's sister now, and had lived there originally--well, he had...went back in there. He was going back in about a half-a-mile back underneath his home, he said. I never did explore.... There's a big room, first in it, but I never did go back in it.

WAYNICK

J: Hm.

W: And just beyond it a little ways, there's a cave by the name of Hopper's Cave. I had an article in the Courier-Journal a good many years ago--I still've got the article about the cave, pictures of it and all. It has a verticle opening about twenty or twenty-five feet deep. It's big; you can walk up and look down in this or you can around down on a lower level--there's the opening to go into a big room. And this big room goes on to this open place before it looks up an amphetheater. So you can look up to the sky in the cave.

J: Wow!

W: That's Hopper's Cave.

J: Huh.

W: I've probably told you the story about old-man Hopper; I don't know whether it's in the Orange County history--about him--or not. I've got the original 1886 edition. But anyhow, he would carry a needle and thread and different items throughout the country selling; he was a pack-pedlar. And he lived in this cave and so, became known folkwise as Hopper's Cave.

J: Yes.

W: And still carries that name.

J:; I'll be darned.

W: And I wouldn't have known how that ever got its name but Charlie McBride....

J: Yes.

W: ...he told us. He was born, you see, I think, around 1870--something like that. So he was back part of the time; I'd think he'd remember.

J: Was he about the only person close by? Or were there other...?

W: No. Sanders Roberts had the adjoining farm south of us, but he was a very practical-minded gentleman. He, and Inez Roberts, his wife, and I grew up with Dennis Roberts--he was a year or two older than I.

J: Yes.

WAYNICK

W: But they didn't, you know, not that type of people to tell the stories McBride told. His were so varied, and were busy making their livelihood.

J: Yes.

W: And Celia Parks lived adjoining us on the east side. Well, her husband had died--I think maybe the flu or something--around 1917 or '18. Well, their house had burned and then she lived in a little two-room house. Well, I'd walk through the fields over to the road to get the Indiana Farmers Guide--which incidentally I have two volumes bound, Indiana's Farmers' Guide, 1928 and 1929 and 1930.

J: That would be interesting.

W: (laughs) Well then, the farm on the southwest corner, Tom Allen lived. He raised a family of about seven or eight children and lived right on the corner of our farm. Well, the way they had to get out was...they had an old dirt road that went out to the main road. Or most of the time, they walked up through our farm to get...to go up to what they called Queen City or Greenbrier--where the store was: where Bert Weeks had a country store.

J: How far away was that?

W: Oh, it was just a little ways up the road. Just one farm between us and it. If you walked up the main road and Bert Weeks farm...well, we moved over there, the road we was on was still a dirt county road.

J: Yes.

W: They were building... before we left _____ you see, when my dad and mother married, they built a two-room house--above my grandfather Waynick's house. And we lived up there until I was eight-years old, in a two-room house.

J: Yes.

W: Well then, when I was eight-years old, my dad bought this farm off his brother-in-law and we moved over there. It was like heaven to me.

J: Yes. All that space? And did you have your own room then and...?

W: Yes, I did.

WAYNICK

J: ...yes, all that _____.

W: Yes, it made a lot of difference.

J: Yes. Yes. A young boy probably needs his own room.

W: I really enjoyed it. It had a big spring. We had to carry our water from a little spring; the water was warm always and didn't.... Almost got dry in the summertime.

J: Well, did you end up having to help...since your mom didn't have a daughter to help her out...?

W: I carried the water in the dry weather. It wasn't that we didn't have enough rain to catch enough water in the tub for the wash, but I'd go to the spring to carry the water for the washwomen. Oh, about a thousand-feet, I think.

J: Oh!

W: Steep. Steep hill. You had to go down and...of course, it was a big spring: plenty of water. But if you wanted a cold drink of water, you went to the spring.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: And of course, the spring carried _____ of water to the house.

J: Yes. And you would have to climb back up and carry.... Yes.

W: Yes. Of course, they used the old-fashioned washboard; they didn't have washing-machines. No electricity.

J: Yes.

W: No running water. Before electricity came around in later years.... About the time I married, my dad bought a hydraulic fan. I've still got one of them; _____ take it home. You set this below the spring and then the water...of course the water would hit this and rush. It would shut off and push it up. _____ push it up, it would get to the house; it would come out in spurts all the time. Well, I had to leave it running all the time.

J: Right.

W: But it was running that water up to the house, you see, of a

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sort. You would have water that was warm but it was water.

J: Oh, that must have been great though.

W: Oh, it was great; it was a great deal.

J: When was that? When you were a kid...?

W: Oh, it was around 19.... He put that in around 1939, 1940, in there somewhere, I expect.

J: Well, what I was going to ask...if you were born around 1917...?

W: Yes.

J: So, in the Depression you were about 13 or 14, 15-years old? What do you remember of that time?

W: What I can remember is very, very difficult. But I think we carried it better than a lot of people; we had our own food and our own clothes. My dad trapped and he was...they were generous in logs being done, so we done reasonably well. My dad bought a 1923 Chevrolet and then he bought a 1928--and was able to pay for them. He was never in debt, you know. And he could...he wasn't rich; I don't mean that.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: But he was able to subsist; to make a living. He was strict and a good manager. A hard worker.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: I think we carried much better than a lot of people did.

J: Do you say that, looking back? Or do you say that...I mean, do you remember, as a kid, being grateful that...

W: I didn't know anything else than _____

J: You didn't make those kinds of

W: No, I couldn't make a comparison then. All I knew was that we were probably a little bit better off than some of the neighbors. Now, some of the neighbors done real well. But Tom Allen, for example, he'd raised a big family; he was a good guy. He lived in a two-room cabin--with a big family and no screen doors.

WAYNICK

J: Yes.

W: I can remember going down and...the doors was open.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: They didn't even have an automobile.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: So, there's people that was worse-off than we were.
(laughs)

J: Yes. Yes.

W: I remember, we were middle-class at that time. (laughs)

J: Right. And didn't even know it. (both laugh) I guess you didn't know it because you didn't have a TV to tell you.

W: You couldn't compare, because you didn't know everybody to compare by.

J: Right.

W: You didn't have very many neighbors doing better. Our store keeper had a 1926 Grant Touring--it was a big automobile, you know.

J: Yes.

W: So they were...he had gas lights in his store...

J: Yes.

W: ...and they put in a cooler, and bought ice when they were building the road down past there. The rock quarries that they got the rock out of to build a road down past Greenbrier came off the farm that I now own. They used the quarries. I know they hung up at my grandfather's road that came onto the main road which a steam engine going down to the quarry rock pile which had the old-time steam engine, you know...

J: Yes.

W: ...to travel with.

J: Yes. Yes.

W: Well, that's the space; we had better...

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J: Yes, that's about it.

W: We started at 3 and I've just got....

END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO

END OF INTERVIEW

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