

5
ELMER BUFORD 6-30-80 DES MOINES, IOWA TAPE 5-BA Side 1

FULL NAME

...AGE, DATE OF BIRTH, AND PLACE OF BIRTH. (JH)

Well, ah,...my nmae as Elmer Buford, born in Hiteman, Ioway, 71 years old, born 1909, June the 13th.

NOW YOU RESIDED ~~IN~~THERE...WHEN DID YOU MOVE INTO BUXTON?

Uh-oh. That I can't recall.

IS THAT...WELL, LET'S SEE. AH, DO YOU REMEMBER WORLD WAR ONE AT ALL?

Huh?

WORLD WAR ONE?

Oh, I was there. Fought in World War one.

YOU WERE THERE.

Oh, sure.

HOW LONG, DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG YOU LIVED THERE?

Not...nnnot off hand,I don't. But ah, let's see...(pause)

YOU WERE A CHILD AT THAT TIME, RIGHT?

No, I was a man.

YOU WERE A MAN AT THAT TIME.

I was, I was a child but I was a man. Because I, ah, they ain't a place in Buxton that I don't know. Not a place.

OKAY.

What, the Buxton broke up in, what? 27?

YEAH.

Thought it was 27.

26. (Dorothy Collier)

26. It was in 26. That's just about ^{AROUND} the time I ~~was~~ left ~~from~~ down there. Cause. Let's see. No,It'd in 25 wasn't it? Well, between 25 and 27, I'd say.

OKAY. AND GETTING THERE BEFORE WORLD WAR ONE.

Oh, I was there before World War 1.

OKAY. SOMETIME BETWEEN 1910 AND 1915, PERHAPS?

Uh, yeah...

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU GOT TO BUXTON? CAN YOU REMEMBER THAT WAY?

No. I can't remember how old I was when I got to Buxton.

OKAY. OKAY, FINE. AH...WHERE'D YOU GO AFTER LEAVING BUXTON?

YEAH, WE'D HEARD ABOUT THAT (JK)

Well, we went to a little coal mining camp they called Heydock, Ioway. Ah, so let's see, that was around 26 or 27. I didn't stay there very long.

HOW LONG?

I stayed there about, oh...about six or seven months, something like that. And I left.

YOU MINED THERE, TOO, RIGHT?

Uh, I mined in the, the 19. That's the same place. Then I left there, and went to Chicago. Then I came back.

HOW LONG WERE YOU IN CHICAGO?

MMMMMM, ummm, about 7,8 months. When I come back, that was gone. They had all moved to Rex 5. Then I stayed in Rex 5 awhile, I worked there for about, oh, maybe a year. I left there, and came to DES Moines. Where I been, ...well, I lef here and came back in 50. I been here ever since. Nothin' to brag about.

OKAY. I'M GOING TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. THAT ARE BOTH, THAT BOTH HAVE TO DO WITH BUXTON, AND ALSO TO TRACE THESE FAMILIES WHO WERE IN BUXTON, BOTH BEFORE THEY CAME TO BUXTON, AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED AFTERWARDS. AH, NOW. AH, WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS? OKAY. DO YOU REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT YOUR PARENTS? AH...

I know they came from Virginia.

THEY CAME FROM VIRGINIA. MOST,...WE'RE FINDING THAT MANY OF THE BUXTON RESIDENTS CAME FROM VIRGINIA.

90% of em.

90% OF THEM, YOU SAY. AROUND WHERE AT IN VIRGINIA?

I wouldn't know that. I never did ask my dad and mother. ~~Were they married?~~

WERE THEY MARRIED BEFORE THEY CAME OUT FROM VIRGINIA?

Oh, yeah.

OKAY. HOW. HOW DID THEY HAPPEN TO COME TO BUXTON, DO YOU RECALL?

I never did ask 'em that.

OKAY. AH...DID YOUR...WHAT KIND OF SCHOOLING DID YOUR PARENTS HAVE?

Well, I don't know, but my dad was a vice president of a union there, and I don't know how much schooling he had. I never did go into that.

HE CERTAINLY COULD READ AND WRITE.

Oh, yeah. Both of em could read and write.

OKAY, GOOD.

To tell you the truth, I never did stay home very often. I left home, I got married when I was 15 years old, turning 16 years old. And I... and you can just imagine how much time I spent at home. See, cause I didn't spend enough time at home to ask my mother what her middle name was.

✓ WHO DID YOU, YOU SAID YOUR DAD WAS, WHAT?, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNION THERE?

He was vice president.

VICE PRESIDENT.

At Rex 5.

WAS HE, ^{WAS HE} AH, HE WAS ALSO A MINER, HM?

Yeah. The whole town was miners.

OKAY, WHAT DID...YOUR MOM A MOMEMAKER?

Yeah. (pause) Yeah, she was a homemaker.

OKAY, YOU GOT MARRIED WHEN YOU WERE 15. DID YOU GET MARRIED...

^{I WAS,} No, I'd say I was 16 years old.

DID YOU GET MARRIED IN BUXTON, OR...?

No, I got married in Heydock in 1927, and left in 1927. The mine closed down the first day of April, 1927, but, uh, but, uh, oh I'd say... maybe a month after the mines closed down, I got married, then I left. That's when I went to Chicago.

WITH YOUR BRIDE.

No.

ALONE.

✓ Yeah. I left. (laughs)

WHAT WAS YOUR, WHAT WAS YOUR BRIDES' NAME?

Joanna ^{BARNES} ~~March~~. (?)

OKAY. AH, WERE YOU MARRIED TO HER FOR A LONG WHILE?

Yeah, quite a while. I got my divorce, she got her divorce, let's see, I came to Des Moines, ^{long pause} I think she got her divorce in 40.

DID YOU REMARRY?

Yeah.

WHAT ABOUT KIDS, HAVE YOU HAD CHILDREN?

Yeah, nine.

FIRST OF ALL,

NINE KIDS ~~+~~ HOW THEY...TELL ME ABOUT THEM. WAIT JUST A SECOND, I FORGET SOMETHING...HOW FAR DID YOU GO IN SCHOOL?

How far did I go in school? Fifth grade.

FIFTH GRADE. WHAT KIND OF JOBS HAVE YOU HAD?

Just about any kind you can name.

^{OKAY} WELL, NAME 'EM FOR ME. WE KNOW YOU WERE A MINER.

I worked in foundries, and I worked in garages. And, oh, I worked for street car company, I worked for the pipeline, I did to, I did carpenter work, and also brick laying work. ^{That's my} Carpenter and brick layin' is my trade.

YEAH. OKAY...

As far as education is concerned, ah, (pause) I'm wordly wise, not book wise. Because I've been to every state in the United States but one.

DONE A LOT OF TRAVELLING.

Done a lot of travelling in my life.

IN YOUR WORK? IN YOUR WORK?

Yeah. I worked just long enough to move to another town.

SO, YOU...YOU'VE KEPT MOVING, THEN...

Thats right.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS? TELL ME ABOUT THE KIDS. HOW MANY BOYS AND HOW MANY GIRLS?

[#] Three girls...I ^{got} had three boys and ^{had} six girls. I got 27 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. I'll soon have 18 great-grandchildren.

^{wow} (LAUGHS) MEN OF MY GENERATION WILL NEVER MATCH THAT.

Nope. I doubt it. They won't stay still long enough I don't blame them there. _____ but once in awhile you stop in one place for so long.

WHAT, AH, HOW ABOUT THE EDUCATION FOR THE KIDS? IT AHH...DID MOST OF THEM GET THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL?

Oh, yeah.

ANY COLLEGE?

Nope. All my girls went to high school.

OKAY. THE BOYS?

No. They went to the eighth and ninth grade. All my daughters finished high school.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE JOBS THE KIDS HAVE?

Well, two of em is workin for this, for the government. Workin here on this...what is that place over there? Oakridge. Is that Oakridge over there on Center street? Yeah, that's Oakridge, ain't it?

Oakridge is off of... (Dorothy Collier)

Off Keo Way. ^{Ain't it?} Yeah, that's where they working at.

DOING WHAT FOR THE GOVERNMENT?

Well, they is...I don't know. Just tell you exactly what it is, she's working over there with that sister, ^{over there} sister whats er name?

OH, A CATHOLIC NUN.

Well, they both working for them. And my other daughter, I ain't, I haven't seen her for about 4 or 5 months. I don't know what she's doing now. She was ^{workin} working for a private family. And my other one, she was, last time I talked to her, ^{she was,} I think she was working in a hospital.

AS WHAT? A NURSE, OR... DID SHE HAVE...

No. Nurses aide.

^{NURSES AIDE.} WHAT ABOUT THE, WHAT ABOUT THE BOYS?

Thats a question. (laughs) They boys, too. You can believe it. ^{Oh,} What do you want to know about em?

WELL, WHAT KIND OF WORK HAVE THEY DONE?

Well, two of em ain't old enough. One of em, he, the oldest boy, he worked on construction for awhile.

HOW OLD ARE THEY NOW?

Got one nineteen, one 17, one 14.

ONE'S ON CONSTRUCTION NOW, THE OTHERS...

Well, he's out of town, I don't know. I don't know what he's doing now. Last time I heard, he was still working on construction.

AND ARE THEY, ARE THESE TWO YOUNGER ONES STILL IN SCHOOL?

Yeah.

HIGH SC-HOOL, HUH?

One of em is. The other ain't but 13. _____

HERE IN DES MOINES?

Um.

OKAY, AH, NOW, YOU...YOU'RE NOT SO CERTAIN WHAT YOUR AGE WAS WHEN YOU MOVED TO BUXTON. BUT DID YOU GO, DID YOU GO TO WORK DIRECTLY IN THE MINES WHEN YOU GOT THERE?

Was I old enough?

UH-HUH.

Yeah.

YOU WERE OLD ENOUGH WHEN YOU GOT THERE TO GO TO...

I was mining when I was 15 years old, my dad set my age up. ^{I'S} Supposed to be 16, ~~my dad~~ set my age up. I went in there as 16 years old, but..

WHAT, DID YOU WORK WITH YOUR DAD AT FIRST?

Yeah, I worked with my dad.

WHAT DID YOU DO?

Well, we mined coal. That's practically all I ever did, Was mine coal.

WHEN YOU WORKED WITH YOUR DAD THERE, HOW DID YOU HELP HIM?

I did everything he did.

EVERYTHING HE DID.

Everything he did, I'd do. Drill holes, and learn how to shoot shots, AND Every other thing. How to use dynamite, how to use powder. Course we had to know that, he had to know that, AND LEARNED IT TO ME.

AND THEN DID YOU, AH, DID YOU SEPARATE FROM YOUR DAD? WHEN YOU WERRE 16 OR A FEW YEARS DOWN THE ROAD?

27. I left home at 27. I've been back home off and on, but not ^{hwat} you'd say, stay a year or so, Never did. ^{SOMETHING LIKE THAT}

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FOLKS? WHEN BUXTON CLOSED DOWN? YOUSAIID...

Well, they ah, they came to Des Moines, my dad worked ~~another~~ on number 8.

WHICH IS, WHAT IS NUMBER 8?

That's ^{CARBON} another coal company. ^{That's} Out north of ^{here} Des Moines.

BY ANKENY?

Then he got so he couldn't work no more, then he, ah...retired. ^{HAD A STROKE}

UH-HUH. DID YOUR MOTHER WORK AT ANY TIME?

Uh-uh.

OKAY. AH...WE'VE ALREADY COVERED THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE DONE SINCE YOU GOT OUT OF MINING. AH...OKAY, AH...WHAT ABOUT, BOTH YOU AND YOUR DAD WERE UNION. HE WAS A UNION OFFICER, AND YOU WERE IN THE UNION, TOO. DID YOU HAVE TO BE IN THE UNION DOWN THERE?

Sure did.

OKAY.

You did to work there.

WHAT WERE THE DUES?

That I don't know, cause they checked it out. Checked it out, off of your statement. Out of your pay, you know.

OKAY.

If I'm not mistaken, that is.

(C.A.D.) What are you, what comes to mind, what are some of the things that come to mind, when you think about the days in Buxton, when you were a young man mining? WHAT JUMPS OUT? (JH) WHEN YOU RECALL THIS FOR YOUR OWN, FOR YOURSELF?

I don't know. In what respect are you talking about?

WELL, ABOUT THE JOB ITSELF. DO YOU REMEMBER THE JOB, WAS IT A GOOD JOB, A BAD JOB, DO YOU REMEMBER ANY ACCIDENTS?

Oh, oh, I seen, I seen, I didn't see it, but I seen it after it happened, I seen two fellas get killed down there. I seen it after the accident, after it happened. ^{But} To, to actually see it done, I didn't see it. But I seen it after it happened.

WAS THIS FREQUENT FOR PEOPLE TO BE HURT IN, IN THE MINES?

Oh, if you got careless, it was.

WELL, WHAT HAPPENED IN THESE TWO CASES YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

Well, he was... according to the understanding that I got, he was sitting some rocks...you know. And during the time he'd hold the top up, you know. And whilst he was doing it, it ah, ah,...the prop he was setting broke through, ^{see} and when it did that, he was standing up by ~~him~~, it came right down on him. Jest took it apart and fell down between his legs. And another fella I seen, a mule kicked ~~in~~. Killed em. I seen that ~~actual~~. ^{AFTERWARDS}

WERE THERE MANY, WERE THERE MANY BOYS YOUR AGE WORKING IN THE MINES WHEN YOU WERE WORKING THERE?

Uh-huh.

ABOUT...WOULD THEY HAVE BEEN ONE HALF, ONE THIRD ONE FOURTH OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MINERS UNDERGROUND? HO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN BY THAT? HOW MANY WERE THERE? WERE THERE QUITE A FEW OF THEM?

They was a lot . They was long about two hundred wa'n't there?

ABOUT TWO HUNDRED?

Or more than that warden't there/?

WHAT?

Miners.

NO, MINORS, YOUNG MEN WORKING IN THE MINES. SAY UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

~~Well, I'd say there was about,~~

Well, I'd say, I'd say there was around, I'd say round about... mmm...oh, round about a hundred. Cause you pert near all of us started when we were fifteen, cause we quit school. You know, the dad pulled them right into the mines, you know. Ah, like my dad did me. Course I didn't want it, but I did it.

~~Q:~~

DID YOU...~~WERE~~ THE WAGE RATES, WERE THEY THE SAME FOR YOUNG MEN?

That's right.

SO WHAT WAS REALLY GOOD MONEY.

Oh, yeah...It all was...at that time it was. Yeah...I dug coal for 71¢ a ton. And now you're getting about...what? fifteen, sixteen dollars a ton, ^{now} ain't it? I think so. Yeah.

DID YOU LIKE MIN ING?

No!

NO? WHY NOT?

I don't like work period. (laughs)

I MEAN COMPARED TO OTHER KINDS OF WORK. AH... WAS IT...YOU KNOW ~~T~~ THERE'S A LOT OF LORE ABOUT MINING BEING SUCH A ~~DANG~~ DANGEROUS JOB.

No. Mining wasn't no dangerous job.

NO?

No. Its dangerous if you get ^o carefess. But its just the same as any other job ^{thin} you go on. You know what I mean? If you get careless, you get hurt. But if you, they, they have, ah, safety procedure, and you don't go by em, that's yer, that's yer bad luck. See, there's things you got to do just like on any job. And if you don't take care of it, then whatever happens, that's it. See. Now, ah, you supposed to, to not get in front of a load, and when you pull a _____, you supposed to get to the side of it. And all that, you know what I mean? -8-

But if you don't do that, then that's your, that's your bad luck. It's just like any other job you go on.

WELL, WHEN YOU LOOK BACK...OVER THE YEARS...HOW WOULD YOU RANK MINING? WAS IT ONE OF THE BETTER JOBS, THAT YOU'VE HAD, OR ONE OF THE WORST JOBS YOU'VE HAD?

No. It ain't one of the better jobs I've had. And its not one of the worst.

SORT OF IN THE MIDDLE.

That's right.

WELL, THAT FOR EX...WHATS THE BEST JOB YOU'VE EVER HAD?

Well, I worked for G.I. Case, and I was working on a slinger. That's about...No, I take that back. That's one of 'em. Then I was, was a inspector at the packin house here in Des Moines.

WHICH ONE, SWIFT?

Bookie's. (?)

OH.

That's, ah, that's two of the best jobs I've had in my life.

OKAY. WHAT AH, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE WORST JOBS YOU'VE HAD?

Working for ^{NEWMAN} Noland. (laughs)

WHAT'S THAT?

He's a contractor. Yeah.

WHAT DID YOU DO FOR HIM?

Well, I was a laborer on that job. I do, I do jest bout practically anything. ^{THAT IS VERY HARD WORK}

(Both talking at once)

Oh, yeah...at that time it was. Now it's way different, than it was when I worked for him. Automation's ah...^{gone} taken care of labor, you know. I mean, ah, if you don't know how to operate somethin' now a days...ah, well, you jest in bad shape. Back in those days, now they had pick andshovels, and so forth and so on, they don't, that's out now. They got enlows, and sidebooms, and you name it. Yeah, they don't, they don't dig no ditches now wath a shovel. They got enlows, and ^{ALL} sidebooms,...

~~But~~ YOU CAN REMEMBER THE DAYS WHEN THEY DID THAT?

Oh, yeah.

PICK AND SHOVEL.

I rememberthe days when they DONE IT.

WHAT ABOUT THE HOUSING IN, IN BUXTON? DID YOUR PARENTS, DID THEY HAVE ONE OF THE COMPANY HOUSES?

Uh-huh.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE IT FOR US?

Well, my dad...we had a...one, two, one two three four... we had four, we had a four room house. My dad built a kitchen on. To make it a five room house.

YOU BUILT THE KITCHEN ON?

My dad.

UH-HUH.

Mmmm. Ah, well, I tell ya. Everbody helped everbody, down there. I mean if they seen you doing, if your neighbors seen you doing something, they go on, they'd come in and help you. You know what I mean.

UH-HUH.

And you'd go help them. That's the way they worked down there. They...the people were very friendly *down there.*

THE KITCHEN WAS THE FIFTH ROOM, HUH?

There were five room houses there, the company had five room houses, but we didn't live in one.

HOW MANY, HOW MANY BEDROOMS DID YOU HAVE IN THE HOME?

Two upstairs.

TWO UPSTAIRS,

Wait a minute...^{15*10} how many rooms did I say we had?

YOU HAD FOUR, AND THEN THE KITCHEN.

We had five, and then the kitchen and bedroom on the side. I forgot about the living room, I mean the dining room.

YOU HAD A LIVING ROOM, A DINING ROOM...

And a front room, and two upstairs.

LIVING ROOM, DINING ROOM...AH...

That's still fave. Kitchen, dining room, yeah.

OKAY, (pause) DID YOU... AGAIN, HOW MANY WERE IN YOUR FAMILY?

Two,

TWO?

My sister and me. But my sister didn't stay with my mother, she stayed with my grandmother. (both talking at once)

...WHERE DID YOUR GRANDMOTHER LIVE?

In Buxton. Right, right across the street. My grandmother raised my sister.

^{WHY} WHY IS THAT?

I ~~don't~~ know.
^{WOULDN'T}

YOU DON'T KNOW, HMM. WELL, DID THAT HAPPEN TO...

Cause she wanted to. I guess. That's the only reason I know.

DID THAT HAPPEN ~~TO~~ IN A LOT OF FAMILIES IN BUXTON, WHERE THE GRAND PARENTS...

I wouldn't know ~~that~~.

YOU DON'T REMEMBER.

I wouldn't know it.

OKAY.

But, ah...

WHAT ABOUT OUT-BUILDINGS? YOU HAD AN OUTHOUSE?

Yeah.

OKAY. ONE OF YOUR OWN. DID YOU HAVE ^{ANY} AH...ANY SMOKE HOUSE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN THE BACK?

No.

^{HOW DID?} NO. OKAY. HOW DID YOU GET WATER INSIDE, INTO THE HOUSE?

Had a well.

HAD A WELL.

Uh-huh. Carried it in.

CARRIED IT IN ~~FROM~~ THE WELL.

^{and} Had a well, had a sistern.

UH-HUH.

YOU know what a sistern is?

YEAH.

Water run off the roof, into the sistern. That's what they call ~~salt~~ water. You go out to the well, to get hard water.

^{soft} AND YOU GET IT OUT THAT WAS

YEAH. BUT...WHAT...DO YOU REMEMBER THE, THE ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE YOU LIVED IN ON...WHAT STREET?

Fifth street/ is all I remember.

FIFTH STREET.

Yeah.

NOW DID YOU HAVE...THE SIDEWALKS. WERE THERE WOODEN PLANKS IN FRONT OF YOUR ~~HOUSE~~ PLACE?

No.

NO SIDEWALKS.

No sidewalks.

AND THE STREETS... (PHONE RINGING) tape turned off.

OKAY. WE'RE RECORDING AGAIN. AH...HOW WAS THE HOUSE HEATED...COAL STOVE?

Uh-huh.

WHAT DID YOU HAVE...POT BELLIED STOVE? IN THE ROOM OR WHAT?

Well, no, it weren't a pot bellied stove. It was a , it uh... well, I tell you it put you in the mind of an oilburner, one of these here PARLOR stoves. That's what my dad had.

SO...IT WAS DUCTED INTO ALL THE ROOMS? IT WAS ALL...

Oh, no. It wasn't ducted into all the rooms. We had to, we had ah... two coal stoves. We had one in the dining room and we had one in the front room, which would, the heat would go from there upstairs. See, and the heat from the one end of the dining room would go into the kitchen.

HOW ABOUT A GARDEN, DID...?

Oh, yeah, we had gardens.

HOW MUCH LAND DID THEY HAVE ON THIS LOT?

Mmmmm. They had quite a bit. Mmmmm, oh, I'd say round about 75, around 75 feet, ~~200~~ TO A HUNDRED feet deep.

UH-HUH.

You could have more'n that if you wanted.

WHAT DID THE FOLKS PUT IN?

Well, the usual...beans, potatoes, _____

_____ I know my dad. I ought to know, he made me -12-

work it, long as many hours. (?)

WERE THERE ANY SPECIAL...WERE THERE ANY SPECIAL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES THAT THEY WOULD PUT IN THAT YOU DON'T SEE MUCH ANY MORE? AROUND HERE?

No.

NO?

Uh-huh. Tomatoes, beans, and potatoes. They specialized in that.

OKAY. AND SO, ^{AND} YOUR SISTER WAS BEING RAISED BY YOUR GRANDMOTHER, AT THIS TIME, SO YOU HAD A ROOM ALL OF YOUR OWN.

Oh, yeah.

WHAT DID IT...WHAT DID THEY DO, TWO AH, TWO BEDROOMS, RIGHT?

Right.

OKAY. YOUR FOLKS SLEPT IN ONE, YOU SLEPT IN THE OTHER. OKAY. FOLKS GO TO CHURCH?

Yeah.

WHICH CHURCH?

Mount Zion.

MOUNT ZION, AH, YES.

Mount Zion Baptist Church.

DO YOU RECALL, TELL US... CAN YOU RECOLLECT ABOUT BEING A BOY AND GOING TO CHURCH WITH YOUR PARENTS?

Yeah, I'll never forget that. I had to go. (laughs) Sometimes I didn't want to go, I had to go.

HOW OFTEN DID YOU GO?

Every Sunday.

EVERY SUNDAY IN THE MORNING?

I went to Sunday school, then my grandmother'd take me and take me back into church. Yeah. Yes. Never missed a Sunday. Only when I was sick, or something, I, I had something I had to do. You know. See, I'll tell you what the people in Buxton did. Now, my dad and his...we call him, I call him my cousin, see they lived on a little farm. And...

YOU CALLED HIM YOUR COUSIN, BUT WHO WAS HE?

Well, was a _____. You know. He was jest the same as a brother to me. YOU know. But they would help each other, you know what I mean? Like hog killin time my dad ~~would~~ and me and all others

would go up there and help em. When my dad...we had hogs, too, you know My dad would get ready to kill hogs, they would come down and help us. You know what I mean. That's the way they worked things down there. See, they was, I don't know, ^{JUST} every thing was, oh, what a change from them days to now. I look back on it sometimes and just think how in the world do people ~~change~~ so. You know. They had more love for each other down there, than they, than they have nowadays. You know. I seen my mother walk through the snow many days to go see about somebody sick. Well. A many a time I seen her do it.

SO DID... DID YOUR MOTHER OFTEN, DID YOUR MOTHER CALL ON PEOPLE A LOT?

Oh, yeah. They visited. Sure they visited. They visit her and she visit them, ^{AND...}

WAS SHE, WAS SHE IN ANY...YOU WENT CHURCH ON SUNDAY...BUT DID THEY DO ANYTHING ELSE WITH CHURCH, DID SHE BELONG TO ANY OF THE WOMEN'S CLUBS? ^{IN} ~~AT~~ CHURCH, OR DID YOUR FATHER...? AN OFFICER OF THE CHURCH OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

Just a member, that's all.

JUST A MEMBER. DID YOU EVER HAVE THE MINISTER OVER FOR DINNER? OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

Oh, a couple of times.

A COUPLE OF TIMES.

Uh-huh.

WERE THOSE ^{IN} SPECIAL MEALS, THEN WHEN,...

Chicken we specialized in. (laughs) They specialized in chicken.

YEAH. AH...AH...MM...DO YOU REMEMBER THE OTHER CHURCHES IN THE COMMUNITY?

Yeah.

BESIDES MOUNT ZION. WHAT WERE THEIR NAMES?

There was the Tabernackel church, there was...I named Mount Z~~ion~~, and there's the Methodist church, and the, there was a...I can't remember the ~~name~~ of that white church. Right next to the ^Methodist church down in Cooperstown. It isn't...I thought it wasn't ~~M~~ethodist.

SO...THERE WERE BLACK AND WHITE CHURCHES.

Yeah. Right together. But there wasn't but one white church, ^{there} Up in Swede town. (Dorothy collier) It's still standing.

Well, I know that whatcha callit, ^{ah} Methodist was on the way you go to Cooperstown. Yeah. Set right at the bottom of the hill. ^{Right next to...}

DID BLACKS AND WHITES GO TO CHURCH TOGETHER IN ANY OF THESE CHURCHES?

Well, I imagine if they wanted to. There wasn't no discrimination down there. I've ate at many white persons' house. Fact of the matter I run around with em',

WOULD, DID YOUR FOLKS HAVE WHITE FRIENDS?

Yeah.

THAT THEY BROUGHT INTO THEIR HOME?

Oh, sure.

OTHER MINERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Yeah. ^{SURE} Do you know, ah do you know Andy Elger?

Who? (Dorothy Collier)

Andy Elger.

Uh-uh.

He took the, he ran that coal mine down there. In Lovilla. He, ah, his family and my family were real friends. I've ate at their house. He used to come over to eat at my house... He had a brother named, his name was... ah, Andy, and then they had another brother, I can't think of his name right now. But we went to school together.

✓ WHEN YOUR PARENTS WOULD SOCIALIZE WITH OTHER PEOPLE, WOULD IT OFTEN TAKE THAT FORM... OF... THEY WOULD VISIT EACH OTHER'S HOMES? THEY WOULD VISIT EACH OTHER'S HOMES, HAVE DINNER TOGETHER... AH,

NB

Well, not so much as the dinner, but ~~they~~ they would sit, you know how people'd do, they sit around and talk, I'll tell you something else they'd do, they'd used to have a quilt makin', ah, ah, go to each other's house and make quilts. I think it was more for talking than it was to make the quilt, But they'd have a quilt making, you know... and all of them would get together if it was in the vicinity, you see... And they'd come up and make quilts, they'd probably make one at my mother's house, ~~for her~~ and go to her mother's house, and make one... and next... whatever. That's the way they did it.

^{UH-HUH} DID YOUR FOLKS... AH, WHEN PEOPLE WOULD COME OVER TO VISIT YOUR FOLKS, WHERE'D THEY SIT, WOULD THEY SIT IN THE LIVING ROOM, OR...

Sure.

OR THE KITCHEN?

Living room!

THE LIVING ROOM, THAT WAS THE _____, NOT AROUND THE KITCHEN. OKAY, AH, HOW ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S FRIENDS... WHO WERE HIS CLOSE FRIENDS?

I think all of 'em was. He was a good mixer.

HE WAS A POPULAR MAN, HUH?

He was a good mixer, I don't know how popular he was, but he was a good mixer. My, ah...he was a ticket taker for the Buxton Wonders. Ah,...he knowed just about everybody in Buxton. You know.

CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE BUXTON WONDERS?

N.B.

Yeah.They was a good team. I was the mascot for 'em.

YOU WERE THE MASCOT. ~~FOR THEM,~~

Yeah.

FIRST OF ALL-HOW LONG OF A TIME DID THIS TEAM EXIST? DID IT WAS IT FIVE YEARS, TEN YEARS?

REALLY (JH)

Oh, it was longer than that. They had that team ^{WAY} ~~long~~ before I was born. Afore I ever come to Buxton.Yeah, they had, they had, let's see,They had a team, Hiteman had a team, Hawthorne had a team, Buxton had a team, Alvia had a team, Lovilla had a etam, and that was all in that vicinity, you know. And each one of those teams would play the other one.

THIS IS BASEBALL.

This is baseball.

BASEBALL.

I'll never forget, the Tennessee Rex came there and played, and the Kansas City Monarchs came there and played the Buxton Wonders.

THE KANSAS CITY MONARCHS DID.

Yeah, Really, Buxton had a ball team, and you'd ^{CAN} ~~better~~ believe they had one. Today, if they were here today, they would be in the leagues. Cause they were good. Yes, sir.

WERE THEY THE BEST TEAM IN THE AEREA?

^{BUXTON WAS}

~~They were~~ the best. Between Buxton and Hawkin, now. They ^{had} were a good team.

WHO WERE, WHO WERE SOME OF THE PLAYERS ON THE BUXTON TEAM? DO YOU REMEMBER THEIR NAMES, AND...?

N.B.

Well,there's Mack White, and there's Charlie King, Zebo Lewis, and uh, uh... Charlie, Charlie Townsend...Cocomo, they called him, but his name was Charlie Townsend. And there was Issac Davis, and then there wasuh, uh, uh,...who was that white boy that was pitching for 'em?

THEY HAD A WH...THEY HAD WHITE PLAYERS, TOO?

Yeah. Sure they did. They had a white boy playing for em. I can't think of his name.

WAS IT A TEAM, WAS THE TEAM MOSTLY BLACK, HOWEVER, AH...AND A FEW WHITE PLAYERS, OR WAS IT PRETTY MIXED, AH...?

Well, they had more black players than they did white. But they, I told you they don't discriminate down there in Buxton, If you could do anything, that's what you did down there. See.

THIS, THIS TEAM WAS MADE UP OF WORKINGMEN DOWN THERE IN BUXTON RIGHT?

Sure.

AND WHEN WOULD THEY PLAY?

On Saturdays and Sundays.

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS.

If they didn't work on Saturdays, If you worked on Saturdays, they'd play on Sunday. Least cause most of them would work on five hours on Sunday. ^{HAD TO}

WOULD THEY DRAW GOOD CROWDS?

What you talkin bout?(laughs) Come from everywhere to see em play. Yeah. Specially in the Hawkin, Albia, and Lovilla, and all them places around there to see them play. They had a good team, buddy, an I mean ~~they~~ ^{it} was good!

THEY HAD A,...DID THEY HAVA STADIUM THERE?

Yeah. Yeah.

ABOUT HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD WATCH A GAME?

OH. Well they had a, let me see. I'd say they had five, five...lets see to maybe eight seats high. I'd say... ^{OH BROTHER}

too soon

WOULD THIS WRAP AROUND ~~FOR~~ FIRST TO THIRD BASE?

Oh, yeah. They drawed some good crowds, ^{BUDDY} and don't you think they didn't.

DO YOU REMEMEBR THE STORES WHERE YOU SHOPPED IN BUXTON?

Yeah. Rememebr them all.

WELL, TELL ME ABOUT THEM,

Larson's, Larson's, that was up in Swede ~~town~~. Company store. And old Man Krukshank's, do you remember old man Kruckshank?

Yeah, (D.C.)

(laughs)

Old man Krukshank, he was in Cooperstown. I, yeah, Coopertown on the corner.

LARSON'S AND KRUCKSHANK'S STORES, ~~THESE~~ WERE PRIVATE STORES, THEY WERE NOT COMPANY STORES, WERE THEY?

No.

WHERE DID YOUR FAMILY SHOP?

All of em.

ALL OF THEM?

Yep.

WHY IS THAT? WHY DID THEY SHOP...

That's the same reason you do. If you find something cheaper in one store, you go to another one.

COMPARATIVE SHOPPING, HUH?

Yeah.

DID, DID THEY ALL DELIVER TO THE DOOR?

No. You had to go get it yourself. Me going along pulling the wagon, you know. I'd get the groceries and put in there and come on back. It wasn't too far to walk. Larson's is about the furthest we had to go-from fifth ~~street~~ to Swede town. About the furthest we had to go.

DID YOU, DID WERE MOST OF THE CLOTHES THE FAMILY WORE...WERE THEY STORE BOUGHT CLOTHES?

Yeah.

YOUR MOTHER DIDN'T, YOUR MOTHER DIDN'T MAKE YOUR CLOTHES?

No, no.

BOUGHT 'EM AT THE STORE.

Uh-huh. You could just buy anything you wanted at that company store.

THAT WAS BIG, WASN'T IT? THAT WAS A BIG STORE,

^{Oh} Yeah, ^{OH, YEAH} It took up a, it took up, well, we called it a block. For some reason or another they had a furniture store, a grocery store, and they had a ice, they had a place ~~for~~ an icecream parlor and a bakery shop, and on the other side of it was a telephone company. I mean, not the telephone company...I mean the post office. Now you can just imagine it was a big place. See I think it was, let see, one, two, three, four. There was four ways that you could go in from the front, ^{TO THE COMPANY STORE} I mean from the front, now!

HOW MANY STORIES WAS IT? TO THE COMPANY STORE. JUST ONE STORY?

Uh-huh.

DID IT HAVE A MEZANNINE AROUND IT?

No. And they had a basement, you know. They had a half basement. That's where they kept, oh I imagine they just kept some of the like, watermelons horse radish

^{YEAH.} WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER STORES, CAN YOU DESCRIBE THEM? LARSON'S...?

Well, it was more, it was more like the...it wasn't, it wasn't shaped

like a store. It was more like a house. You know...converted into a store. But it was pretty good size. Now Kruckshank's now there was...

WHAT I MEAN

WHAT DID THEY SELL AT LARSON'S?

Jest anything you wanted.

DRY GOODS?

Not at, uh-uh, not at Larson's.

NOT AT LARSON'S.

Jes~~y~~ groceries.

GROCERIES, OKAY.

The company store's the one that had ah, ah...clothing.

AH, WHAT ABOUT AT KRUCKSHANK'S?

Same.

THING?

SAME? DID YOUR, DID YOUR FATHER DRINK AT HOME?

NO!

NOT AT ALL?

Very little.

VERY LITTLE. WHERE WOULD A PERSON GET...FIND WHISKEY OR BEER?

Well, there were a lot of places you could find it. You could go out to Sharp Inn, you could go out to Coopertown, you could go to White City,... you could go...

WHERE IS WHITE CITY?

a couple of miles

That's about ah,...I would say...that would be...ah,...that would be east of Buxton.

IT'S ANOTHER TOWN.

Jest another little sub...I don't know...another coal camp.

ANOTHER COAL CAMP.

WHITE CITY, YOU CALLED IT. WHY WAS IT WHITE CITY?

I don't know. I didn't name it that.

OKAY.

There were, I would say there were more, there were more white people up in there than there was colored people.

YEAH. THAT MIGHT BE THE REASON. NOW WHAT...AS YOU GOT A LITTLE OLDER, AS YOU LEFT THE HOUSE, YOU AH, DID YOU GO INTO ANY OF THE

Taverns?

There wasn't no taverns.

NO Taverns?

No.

WHAT WERE THESE PLACES LIKE? JUST GO INTO SOMEBODY'S HOUSE AND BUY, AND HAVE TO LEAVE...

No, you didn't have to leave. Sit there and drink and talk.

RIGHT IN, RIGHT IN THE LIVING ROOM

Uh-huh.

SO THERE WERE NO BARS...

No bars.

...LIKE WE HAVE TODAY? THAT WAS DURING PROHIBITION, WASN'T IT?

Yeah. Well, yes.

WHO MADE THE BEER? WHO MADE THE BEER AND WHISKEY?

Anybody-I could make it. I ~~will~~^{can} say that. I could make it too buddy.

CAN YOU, CAN YOU MAKE...?

You better believe ~~it~~/I can make it.

HAVE YOU DONE THAT?

Yep.

WHAT...CORN MASH OR WHAT?

Home brew.

OH, BEER. DO YOU STILL MAKE IT?

No. You can't get the malt. If I could get the malt and hops I could.

YEAH. WE USED TO BE ABLE TO GET SOME OF THE MALT OUT OF Pabst.

Yeah, I know. But you can't get it no more.

BUT YOU CAN'T GET IT ANY MORE.

Nope. That's a good drink. Huh? What was there/? Coopertown. (Talking with Dorothy Collier but her end of conversation is inaudible)
Oh. Yeah. I forgot about that one down there.

WHAT WAS THAT FOR? WERE YOU INSIDE THAT SALOON?

No. They wouldn't let me in there, I was too young. Now I ^{what I mean} could go in with my dad, or something like that, you know. But as far as serving me-no.

WHAT SORT OF STORIES DID YOU HEAR? DID YOU HEAR ANY STORIES, WERE THEY TELLING ANY STORIES ABOUT THE SALOONS IN COOPERSTOWN?

No.

NO?

No more than usual, jest...

WHAT SCHOOL DID YOU GO TO? IN BUXTON?

Fifth street.

FIFTH STREET.

Eleventh street.

THERE WAS ELEVENTH STREET, TOO, WASN'T THERE? THEN THERE WAS A SCHOOL, WAS THERE A SCHOOL IN SWEDE TOWN?

Swede town.

THERE WERE THREE GRADE SCHOOLS, WAS THAT RIGHT?

Right.

AND THEN THERE, THERE WAS A HIGH SCHOOL. AND IT BURNED DOWN. WERE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THAT AT ALL?

No. That was before my time.

OKAY. SO THERE WAS NO HIGH SCHOOL DURING YOUR TIME? JUST GRADE SCHOOLS. WHAT...THROUGH THE EIGHTH GRADE?

Uh-huh.

WHAT, WHAT...DO YOU HAVE ANY MEMORIES ABOUT GOING TO SCHOOL... ABOUT THE TEACHERS, ABOUT YOUR CLASSMATES...

Yeah.

OKAY, LET'S HEAR EM.

They was good.

THEY WERE GOOD.

Uh-huh. And you ^{LEARNED} know it...buddy. I t's so...it's as much difference from those schools down there and the ones they're going to now, as it is from day and night. Buddy, you learnt there...you'd ~~better~~ believe it. Here they pass you just to get you out of one grade into another. Down there they didn't do that. You stayed there until the seat got too small for you to sit in. And you could believe it. Miss London, Miss Dimitri,

Miss Golds, Mrs. ah, Mrs. ah, Mrs. ah...Baxter. Buddy, let me tell you something-you stayed there, until you learned! They didn't pass you just because you got too big for the seat. They set you on the bench, and you ^{STILL} stayed in that same class. But when you come out of there, you knowed your...If you was in the fifth grade, you knowed everything that you could learn in the fifth grade. Boy, let me tell ya. You better believe it. And if you got a whoopin' in school, you got one when you went home. Yeah. I...me and my sister, I never will forget. I said don't you tell 'em I got a whippin'. (laughs). Now they didn't whip you, they'd take and whip you on your hands, ^{ON YOUR HANDS} Wit a ruler.

WITH A RULER.

That's jest as bad as whipping you on the rump. You know.

SO DID YOUR PARENTS STAY IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE TEACHERS TO SEE HOW YOU KIDS WERE DOING IN SCHOOL?

Well, I wouldn't say that they were kept in close contact. Not my parents. But the teacher did.

THE TEACHER WOULD MAKE SURE THE PARENTS WOULD KNOW.

Oh, yeah...you believe it. She, she ^{would} had some way to get it there.

WAS THERE EVER ANY ROWDI-ISM AMONG THE STUDENTS? IN THE CLASSROOMS THERE?

No.

NO?

No.

WHAT TIME IN THE MORNING WOULD YOU GO TO SCHOOL?

^{SAME AS USUALLY} Same as here...same time here. I didn't have...I didn't have as far to go as from here to that garage. To go to school.

UH-HUH.

Fifth street, I lived on Fifth street.

SO YOU WALKED Sort of walked RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET.

Yeah, yeah.

SO WHAT TIME DID YOU GET OUT? THREE SOMETHING IN THE AFTERNOON?

YEAH...YEAH. ^{NOT CAPS}

DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT SCHOOL? ABOUT WHAT YOU DID OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM. ON THE PLAYGROUND...

Well, ^{WE} ~~I~~ always played a lot of ball.

BASEBALL?

Baseball. That's about the biggest thing that we did. Is play baseball.

DID YOU ALL WANTED TO BE LIKE THE BUXTON WON, WONDERS?

Yeah. yeah. We used to see which one could knock the ball over the top of the schoolhouse. And, you know, it was two stories high. Yeah. Yes.

WHAT OTHER GAMES DID YOU PLAY? BESIDES BALL?

well, we did a lot of ice skating. A lot of sleigh riding. Now that's one thing that, you know one thing that I often think about that.

^{CARBIDE} END OF SIDE #1

...lamps up on their head, and sleigh ride down the hills, just like the kids. Used to make bob-sleds, you know. First time we went sleddin', we had to make our own sled. I never will forget that...I took the railings off my bed, Daddy like to kill me, made me a bob-sled. (laughs) You know that holds the springs? I took off one of 'em, you know what I mean? He said I _____ right into the floor. We used to make bob-sleds, and four or five of us would ride on the bob-sled. Then we used to go ice skating down on the reservior. There was more elderly people down there than there was children. I never will forget...do you remember Virg Step? (uh-huh Dorothy) I'll never forget, thats the last time I went skating, and Virg Step, he came down there He's ah, he was half drunk, and he says "Hey, boy, let me use your skates" I said "Virg, you drunk!" I could skate. He could too, when he was sober He was good. And I said okay. We had these screw on skates, you know. We never had none of those shoe skates, then, we had screw on skates. I took 'em off and give em to him. I think he mada about three strokes, and boy, his feet went out from under him, and he hit that ice, and when he got up, he had a knot about the size of...(laughs) Oh, boy, I never will forget that. I never will forget how he run into a _____ hole, too. I got started over there and it had a big hole in it, in the middle of the pond, and I couldn't stop, I went right on in. Just lucky that those people, and it wan't very deep, ^{Too} Yeah. Yes. Yes.

WHAT KIND OF GAMES DID YOU KIDS PLAY, BESIDES BASEBALL?

Well, we used to play that, ah, leapfrog, we used to play at a lot of marbles, we'd shoot marbles, we'd shoot marbles, yeah...

DID YOU PLAY IT WHEERE YOU WON, YOU GOT TO KEEP THE OTHER GUY'S MARBLES?

Sure. That's what we played for. We'd play keeps. We didn't play for no fun.

KEEPS, YEAH, RIGHT. That's IT, ~~WHAT~~'S THE NAME OF THE... WHERE DID YOU GET THE MARBLES? STORES THERE?

Yeah.

DID YOU HAVE SPECIAL MARBLES FOR SHOOTERS, AND ALL THAT...AH.

Well, they had, they had steelies, they called 'em.

AH, STEELIES.

Yeah, and all that. Yeah. But they, they wouldn't let you shoot with them, especially if they had them glass marbles. You know what I mean. The boys wouldn't let you shoot, cause you'd break their, break their marbles. Yeah. Yeah.

WELL IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A, IT WAS A, A FAIRLY HAPPY TIME, FOR YOU...

Oh, yeah! I enjoyed every minute ^{of it.} Oh yeah, I enjoyed every minute of it. Yeah,...

I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING NOW, JUST A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE THAT LIVED IN BUXTON. SO FAR, WE'VE _____ ASIDE FROM BLACKS, AH, THERE WERE SOME SWEDES THERE, TOO. WHO ELSE LIVED THERE? CAN YOU REMEMBER SOME DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE LIVING THERE?

Well, there was Ed Peterson, he, Ed Peterson, he was the manager of the Buxton Wonders. And there was a Bill Pierce, he was the sheriff there. Not the sheriff, but the constable.

HE WAS A WHITE MAN, THIS GUY?

Yeah, uh-huh.

BILL PIERCE, HUH?

And Ed Peterson. And that was his sidekick, ~~Bill~~. And ah, let me see...who else? Oh, that ah, ah, Mike Hunter. He was the same as one of us.

DO YOU REMEMBER ANY POLISH PEOPLE THERE IN BUXTON?

No.

NO? ANY OTHER...

I didn't pay much attention to their nationality, we didn't pay no attention to their nationality. No. And if you was a man, you was a man. And that's the way it was down there.

I SEE. RIGHT THERE ON FIFTH STREET WHERE YOU, WHERE YOU WERE BORN AND RAISED, WELL, NOT BORN, BUT RAISED...WERE THERE, WERE THERE ~~WE~~ WHITES LIVING IN THAT IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORHOOD, AS FAR AS BLACKS?

Yeah. Yeah, I just got through telling you that, ah... the, the ⁺ Mike Hunter lived down there. He lived right across the street from my grandmother.

RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET. HOW ABOUT HOUSES RIGHT NEXT TO YOU? BLACK FAMILIES OR WHITE FAMILIES?

Well, when I lived on ~~5~~5th, no. There was an empty house...I lived here and there was an empty house here, and Miss Webb, do you re~~a~~

...member Miss Webb? Miss Webb. Then there was another white family that lived there. And on the other side, let's see, ah, ah...I can't think of his name right now. Mmmmm...They were white. See, and Higgins lived right up, right above them. Harold Higgins and Gus Higgins and them. They lived right up there. They were white. See. And they all, all of us went to school together.

WELL, WELL, WHAT WOULD BE A GOOD WORD TO DESCRIBE THE RELATIONS ^ THERE IN BUXTON? WHAT WORD WOULD YOU USE IF YOU WERE ASKED SUCH A QUESTION? AH...WERE THEY BITTER, WERE THEY GOOD, ^{between the races} WHAT...?

Were they good or better...

WERE THEY GOOD OR BITTER, ^{BITTER?} BAD...

No. No. I told you they's just all one happy family.

THAT'S HOW YOU REMEMBER...

THAT'S how I looked at it. One happy family.

WHAT ABOUT, WHAT ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BUXTON AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES?

Same thing.

SAME THING, YOU SAY.

Same thing.

THERE WERE NEVER ANY FIGHTS ^{LIFE} BETWEEN BU,...BETWEEN PEOPLE IN BUXTON, AND OTHER TOWNS OR ANYTHING LIKE...

No, no. Do you remember any? (to Dorothy)

No. (D.C.)

I don't either.

OKAY.

And I was all over that place. They ain't no place in Buxton that I wasn't ~~there~~.

OKAY.

And I associated with just about everybody down there.

HOW ABOUT WHEN YOU WERE SICK...DID YOUR FOLKS CALL IN THE...

I never was sick.

^{CAPS.} You never were sick? (JH)

No.

NEVER?

Never.

OKAY. LET ME ASK YOU IT THIS WAY...HOW ABOUT WHEN THE OTHER PEOPLE IN THE FAMILY WERE SICK?

They'd take them to the miner's hospital in Albia.

THE MINERS HOSPITAL IN ALBIA.

Yep.

OKAY. WHAT AH,...DID AH...

I take that back. I broke my leg once. I hopped on a wagon and broke my leg, I was about six years old.

UH-HUH.

That's the onliest time...

WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT CASE? DID THEY TAKE YOU TO ALBIA?

Yep.

AND THE MAN OVER THERE SET YOUR LEG?

Yeah, it was Doctor Fletcher, I never will forget that.

HOW LONG WERE YOU IN A CAST?

Oh. I don't know. The usual time, I guess.

DID YOU, DID YOU HAVE CRUTCHES?

Yeah.

YEAH. I SPENT THE SUMMER WITH A BROKEN LEG WHEN I WAS A BOY ABOUT THAT AGE ON CRUTCHES. I COULD NEVER RIDE A BIKE...

One thing that was so bad, The wagon that I hopped on, I married his niece. (laughs) I often, we often talked about that, I said your uncle broke my leg. SHE said no he didn't, you broke it yourself

WHAT ABOUT WHEN PEOPLE IN YOUR HOUSE HAD COLDS. WHAT WOULD YOUR MOTHER DO ABOUT COLDS? DID SHE HAVE ANY HOME REMEDIES FOR THINGS,...

Oh, yeah.

TELL US ABOUT SOME OF THEM, WOULD YOU?

(sighs) Well, they used to...I never will forget. ^{My uncle} Mom, he, had the miner's asthma awful bad. They used to, my aunt, she used to ah, I can't think of the name of that weed...Do you remember? ^{go out and get this weed} the weed they used to get and dry and smoke it in a pipe?

Mullen Leaf? (dorothy)

Mullen leaf!

MULLEN LEAF?

Yeah. Best thing in the world for asthma. You can believe it.

THEY SMOKED THIS WEED FOR ASTHMA.

For asthma.

WHAT ARE, WHAT ARE, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE OTHERS THAT YOU REMEMBER?

Well, they used to get the, take the lard and turpentine, and ah, and mix it together. They used to use it for rheumatism, they called it arthritis. Yeah. And we used to wear the, the asphidity around our necks. They'd smell you 40 miles. ^{THAT'S IT} To keep down the, to keep down the germs.

WHAT DID YOU WEAR AROUND YOUR NECK?

A, a string with a little piece of sack on it, and I don't know what the world was in that sack...

Asphidity. (Dorothy)

Asphidity. Put it around your neck. All of us kids used to wear it.

ASPHIDITY? I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT. WHAT IS THAT?

Don't ask me! Some of the fine remedies they come up with. Then they'd go out and they'd get some...

APPARENTLY...

Some kind of herbs and put it together, and ^{COOK} ~~put~~ it all up there for pneumonia.

Uh -HUH.

And if you got too bad, they'd take you to the hospital.

WAS YOUR DAD EVER INJURED AT WORK?

Yeah. He got two fingers cut off.

WHAT HAPPENED IN THOSE CASES? TO THE MINER'S HOSPITAL?

Uh-huh. Miner's hospital.

HOW ABOUT YOUR MOTHER? WAS SHE EVER SICK?

Oh, yeah. She had the arthritis...

UH-HUH. HOW WERE BABIES DELIVERED THERE? DO YOU REMEMBER?

They had to...sure. My mother used... Do you remember the Bostons? Jim Boston and them?

Not there. I did here. (Dorothy)

My mother delivered one of her children,

SHE ACTED AS A MIDWIFE.

Midwife, yeah. Uh-huh.

WAS IT NORMAL, WAS IT AH... NORMALLY A MID WIFE WOULD BE CALLED IN RATHER THAN A...

More than likely.

MORE THAN LIKELY.

Because they had so far to go. But there was Dr, Chester. Dr. Chester, Dr. Carter, wasn't it? And ah, they would ah... they would come when they called, you know. But they was all... TOGETHER Everybody down there just about learned how to deliver a baby.

NOW YOU MENTIONED THE BUXTON WONDERS. DO YOU REMEMBR THE ACTIVITIES AT THE YMCA? AH...DID YOU EVER GO TO THE...?

Yeah. I joined it. It was 50¢ a month. I never will forget that. Do you remember Pep Webster? He turned out to be a...he turned out to be a light heavy weight, a middle weight champion.

WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

Pep Webster. He ah...I never will forget the day that me and him was all in a row, in a line, I mean a circle... and I got right beside him, I dont know what made me do that...you know, but I did. And ah,... We had a medicine ball, you know what I mean?Get hit in the stomach with this medicine ball. And I was running off ten miles not apying no attention to what I was doing, He handed it to me and I didn't pay no attention and dropped it to the floor. SEe? I picked it up and hit the other boy in the stomach, went all around just like that. So it got back to Pep again, and I'm sitting right beside him, he took that ball and hit me in the stomach with it and knocked me back, bak into the corner and said pay attention from now on. (laughs) Oh, boy I tell you. Them were some days, buddy.

THEY HAD SOME SPORTS THERE DID THEY HAVE GYMNASTICS, OR...? SOMETHING LIKE THAT, HUH?

We played tennis.

TENNIS?

YEah.

INDOORS OR OUTDOORS?

Outdoors.

OUTDOORS.

Do you rememebr old man Potter?

Uh-uh.

See thatfinger there?

Mrs. Gross and Miss Dimitri, and him, and and old man Hutchison, you member old man Hutchison? He used to be the superintendent of the YMCA? They was all out there playing tennis, out behind the YMCA, and I'm up there signifying, you know what I mean. And old man Potter got mad at me and he hit me on my elbow, with a tennis racket, and jarred that, jarred that finger up. And boy, you talking about something hurting. Yeah. I was ~~mad at him~~, you know.

MEDDLING

They had a basketball team there too. But that was before my time. (Dorothy)

BASKETBALL?

That was fore my time, too. But they specialized in baseball and tennis.

WHAT, WHAT OTHER EVENTS DO YOU REMEM...DO YOU RECALL HAPPENING AT THE Y, AH, MCA THERE?

Well, they had a, they had a slide bowl. (?) You know. I'd say it was ten foot, maybe twelve foot long. And a thing that wasn't quite as big as this that you held in your hand and you played just like you played this...

COULD HOLD

SHUFFLEBOARD?

Shuffleboard. Shoot 'em down there. I didn't care too much for that. Cause it was too much walkin and I guess I was...

OKAY.

But you had to come from this and and try to throw it back down there. It got tiresome, and I didn't like that.

WHAT DID YOU LIKE DOING WHEN YOU WERE A BOY?

I Loved to play ball.

BASEBALL. THAT WAS YOUR GREAT LOVE.

I guess it was because my father did so much of it, I guess. Cause I was the mascot for the Buxton Wonders. For awhile. My uncle, he was, he was the first baseman. I never will forget that, he slid into second and broke his leg.

(PAUSE)

AH,...WHAT ABOUT THE, THE, AH...DID YOU GO TO ANY BAND PERFORMANCES OR CONCERTS THEY HAD?

Oh, yeah. They'd have one of those every now and then. There's a old photograph I wanted to show you, the boy's drew for me. They had a bandstand there, USED TO PLAY

UH-HUH.

They had an orchestra, they had a good orchestra. My cousin, she used to play the piana in the orchestra.

YOU ENJOYED THOSE?

Oh, yeah.

OKAY. HOW ABOUT, HOW ABOUT SOME PROBLEMS IN THE COMMUNITY... DO YOU, WHAT PROBLEMS DO YOU REMEMBER IN THE COMMUNITY, ONE OF, ONE OF THE THINGS I'M INTERESTED IN IS, IS THAT LABOR TROUBLES AT THE MINE. WERE THERE, WAS...

Not whilst I was there.

NOT WHILE YOU WERE THERE.

Well, we came out on a strike. In April. April, 1927. That's the only strike I can remember. And that, after they did that, that mine never did open up ^{the mine} any more. That was April 4, 1927. I never will forget that.

WHAT...NOW SOME PEOPLE TOLD US THAT IN SOME PLACES IN BUXTON THERE WERE PARTS OF TOWN THAT WERE CONSIDERED ROUGHER THAN OTHERS, OTHER PARTS OF TOWN. DO YOU REMEMBER THAT TO BE THE CASE?

I didn't think so, and I went to all of em.

YOU DIDN'T THINK SO.

No. I went to Sharp Inn, Coopertown...

SHARP INN...A LOT OF PEOPLE TOLD US...

Oh, naw!

NO? WHAT, WHAT WAS IN SHARPS INN?

Well, there was...ah, Booze (?) Mathews, do you rememebr Booze Mathews? He run a good time house right on the corner. Right there next to Mr., ah, old man Vaughn.

A GOOD TIME HOUSE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY A GOOD TIME HOUSE?

Well, it's the same thing as you going to a night club, ^{you know} And Miss Strider, remember Miss Strider? She's the...lived on the...that's all. There wasn't much there.

ONE MAN HAS MENTIONED THAT, THAT PROSTITUTES WOULD COME INTO BUXTON ON PAYDAY.

Now I wouldn't doubt that.

YEAH. DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THAT?

Well, I didn't know of any coming there, but I know there was some there.

THEY LIVED THERE PERMANENTLY?

Oh, yeah.

WELL, THAT'S WHAT WE WEREN'T SURE OF. WAS THERE A HOUSE OF PROSTITUTION IN BUXTON?

(laughs) Yes.

WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE PLACE?

Just an ordinary house.

WHAT WAS IT CALLED BY PEOPLE?

They didn't pay any attention to it.

I SEE. WELL, WHAT PART OF TOWN WAS THIS IN?

Ah, in Coopertown.

~~OKAY~~ COOPERTOWN
OKAY

Do you, do you know where old man Robinson's cigar store was? You don't remember that? Well, old man, old man...the cigar store is sitting right here on the top of the hill. And right along there ~~was~~ there was about three or four, ah, good time houses is what I mean.

THREE OR FOUR?

Yeah, I used to go in there, and he'd send me there and she'd send me there, you know? Go in give me fifty cents, a quarter something like that.

Uh-HUH. DID THE KIDS, DID KIDS IN BUXTON GET IN TROUBLE ~~VERY~~ MUCH?

No.

NO?

Now you know I can hardly remember ^{only} one fight in Buxton. Amongst us kids. That's when ~~Butch Comb~~ ^{bit} LeRoy Brooks's ear off. But... Johnny Scott. Do you remember Johnny Scott?

Uh-uh.

Johnny Scott and LeRoy Brooks got in a fight. They's coming from school.

AND BIT HIS EAR OFF.

And he bit this boy's, he bit him up there, and just bit the whole thing off, then spit it out and handed it to him. (laughs) We was all going to school. He used to live right next door to me. Uh, uh, uh,...LeRoy Brooks. Now that's the onliest fight...you know what I mean, we had little scuffle, but that wasn't a fight/..

THERE WEREN'T ANY FIGHTS BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE?

Oh, no, no. I tell you we was just a happy family, Down there.

OKAY.

To tell you the truth, I'd rather live there than here.

WELL, THATS WHAT WE UNDERSTAND.

Believe I would.

NOW WHAT ABOUT DRINKING? WAS THERE MUCH DRINKING IN THE STREETS? PUBLIC DRINKING. DID YOU EVER SEE ANY DRUNKS STUMBLING AROUND?

No.

NO?

No.

OKAY. SO IT WAS PRETTY STABLE AND A LOT OF LAW AND ORDER...PLACE.

That's right.

AH...YOU SAID, YOU JUST SAID THAT YOU'D PREFER TO LIVE DOWN THERE. IF THAT COULD BE, IF THAT WAS POSSIBLE. RATHER THAN HERE IN DES MOINE SO THAT WAS ONE OF THE HAPPIEST TIMES OF YOUR LIFE...AH?

Yes. If they would open up ^{there} down there and start all over again, I'd go right back.

YOU'RE CERTAINLY VERY FOND OF IT. WHY IS THAT?

If I had the...

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE REASONS THAT YOU FEEL SO STRONGLY ABOUT THIS?

Well, it, it's the people ^{See? It's the people} that's just so much difference between the people there in them days then they is day and night. Now. See.

SO THEY COULD TRUST ONE ANOTHER.

You could trust one another. Here you gotta go lock your door. Down there, I, we didn't know what it was to lock a door. You know what I mean? I know my mother and them, my dad probably be going to the store. You know what I mean? And I'd be coming from somewhere and my mother says "The door's open, go on on in" You know what I mean. Now they were going to the store and I would be, just about half a mile ^{or so} from where they lived at. Nobody locked no doors down there. No. And they had lock doors. Sure they had locks. But I don't know what it was to lock a door. And the fact of the matter, I never did see my dad lock one. He just say...ah, ah, Charlie I'm going so and so ^{and} so and so. You know what I mean? And my mother'd ^{AND THEM} go to Albia and I'd go with her. Rememebr the Herresy's used to run that rig, a horse and buggy. (laughs) They got an old Model T Ford They'd charge us a dollar to go from Buxton to Albia. Then we'd go to Hamilton. All them ^{old} places. ^{Yes sir...}

I HAVE ONE LAST SET OF QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU. SOME OF THIS, SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS WE'VE ALREADY COVERED. THIS WON'T TAKE VERY LONG. IS THAT...

What time is it?

A LITTLE AFTER THREE, I BELIEVE.

Oh , no!

AH, FIRST OF ALL, IS THAT, YOUR SIS, YOUR SISTER WAS BEING RAISED BY YOUR GRANDMOTHER. ⁵⁰ IT WAS YOU AND YOURR PARENTS THERE IN THE HOUSE. -32-

AND THEN YOU GOT MARRIED AND HAD A HOUSE OF YOUR OWN THERE IN BUXTON, RIGHT?

Uh-uh!

NO?

Uh-uh. Not in Buxton.

NOT IN BUXTON.

No, that was Haydock.

SO YOU HAD MOVED BY THEN. THAT'S RIGHT. I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT. RIGHT. AND IT WAS...YOUR FATHER WAS A MINER, HE WORKED OUT-SIDE THE HOME, YOUR MOTHER HADN'T THERE IN BUXTON. DID SHE TAKE IN...

No.

DID SHE TAKE IN ANY BOARDERS?

No.

DID SHE WORK...

No.

FOR ANY OTHER FAMILIES? NOTHING. JUST MANAGED THE HOME? OKAY. AND, WE'VE ALREADY COVERED THAT YOUR PARENTS BELONGED TO MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH. DID THEY BELONG TO ANY OTHER ASSOCIATIONS HTERE IN BUXTON?

Yeah, my dad belonged to the...

BASEBALL CLUB...

and the Knights of Puthin.

KNIGHTS OF Puthin. WAHT ABOUT YOUR MOTHER?

She was a sister of ah, ah, what was the name of that lodge?

EASTERN STAR?

Eastern star!

OKAY.

Eastern star.

WHAT ABOUT, WHAT ABOUT, DID THEY, DID YOUR PARENTS MAINTAIN TIES WITH THEIR EXTENDED KIN? THEIR OWN BROTHERS AND SISTERS. WERE THEY STILL BACK IN VIRGINIA, OR DID YOUR PARENTS HAVE KIN...

I never seenany of my mother's parents.

NONE OF YOUR MOTHER'S PARENTS.

Uh-uh.

SO THAT, THE...WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S PARENTS?

I seen a brother,

A BROTHER. DIDN'T HE HAVE A BROTHER THERE ON THE _____.
THAT WAS YOUR UNCLE.

My cousin.

YOUR COUSIN.

Earl. Earl Buford.

OKAY. EARL.

Uh-huh.

HE WAS A COUSIN OF YOURS.

Uh-huh.

SO YOUR FATHER HAD A SISTER THERE.

No.

WHATS THE CONNECTION?

Ah, let me get this thing straight...Now, now my graddfater and my
uncle was brothers. You know. And he had a son. And his name was
Hal Buford. Now his brother was named Earl. Buford. Now that's
the one that played on the ball team.

OKAY.

See what I mean.

YES. THAT WAS THE FAMILY. THAT WAS THE ONLY FAMILY THERE.

That was all I had. A uncle, I had an uncle, a grandmother, an
uncle and an aunt and a grandmother and grandfather. And that was
just about all, besides the _____.

YOUR GRANDMOTHER WAS YOUR FATHER'S MOTHER?

Right. My grandmother was my father's mother. I never did see
my mother's mother, or her father.

WELL, AT THE TIME THAT YOUR GRANDMOTHER WAS RAISING YOUR SISTER,
WAS SHE RAISING HER ALONE, OR WAS YOUR GRANDFATHER ALIVE...

He was alive.

HE WAS ALIVE. DID HE MINE? WAS HE A MINER, TOO?

Yeah.

OKaAY. WOULD IT BE FAIR TO SAY THAT THEY WERE FAIRLY CLOSE, THIS
FAMILY, ~~THAT~~ THEY WERE ~~TOGETHER~~ A LOT?
SEE EACH OTHER

TOGETHER...

Yeah.

OKAY.

My uncle lived there, my grandfather lived there, and I lived there.

VERY CLOSE.

You could throw a rock at each one of them's houses.

DID, DID YOUR FAMILY EVER TRAVEL, AH...?

No. Only from Albia, Hiteman, ^{little} places like that.

SURE. AH...CAN YOU TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE DAILY ROUTINE IN THE HOUSEHOLD, AH...FOR YOUR MOTHER ESPECIALLY, IS THAT...WHAT TIME WOULD YOU GET UP, USUALLY?

Well, they had to get up pretty early because, see my daddy had to go catch the miner's train, and they had about, what was the distance, five miles from Buxton to 18, 19?

I don't know. (DC)

I think it, I think it was about five miles that they had to ride from Buxton to 18, and then the unloaded 18, then they'd leave there and go to 19, same train, see. So they had to get up, oh, pretty early.

WELL, WOULD YOUR MOTHER GET UP AND FIX BREAKFAST FOR EVERYBODY?

Oh, yeah. For him... I wouldn't get up. No. Cause I was a youngster then.

DID SHE, SHE MADE HIM A LUNCH, TOO, DIDN' T SHE?

Yeah. Everybody had a lunch, buddy. Dinner in the top, and water in the bottom.

WHAT DID, WHAT DID YOUR, SO DID THEY HEAT IT, THEY HEATED THEIR LUNCHES?

Oh, no. It's the same temperature down in the mines all of the time. Su...winter and summer. Stayed the same way.

SO IT WAS JUST DRINKING WATER.

Drinking water, yeah.

INA THERMOS?

No. Just a regular bucket. Just a bucket with a handle on it. Just set it down in there like you would a pot.

OKAY. AH...WHAT DID YOUR MOTHER DO FOR THE REST OF THE DAY UNTIL YOUR DAD CAME HOME? CAN YOU RECALL THAT?

Well, time she got the house cleaned up, she'd probably go out and do a little work in the garden, or feed the chickens, feed the hogs, when I wasn't doing it.

YOU HAD, YOU HAD CHICKEN AND HOGS ON THE PLACE?

Uh-huh.

HOW MANY, AH, HOW MANY HOGS?

I remember two.

TWO.

Uh-huh.

WHAT, A DOZEN CHICKENS OR SO?

Oh, yeah. Yeah. Just about everyone down there had chickens.

CAN YOU TELL...AT DINNER...WHAT WERE SOME OF THE FOODS YOU ATE AT DINNER? AH...WERE THEY...DID YOU USUALLY HAVE MEAT WITH THE MEALS?

Oh, yeah.

WHAT KINDS OF MEATS DID YOU EAT?

Same kind you eat here. Pork, beef, chicken, liver.

ANY FISH?

No, I dont rememebr eating no fish down there. Only what I caught in the reservior down there, and that wasn't very many. My dad never did no fishing, and I went fishing several times.

OKAY. IS THAT...WHAT WERE THE HOLIDAYS? WHAT WERE THE IMPORTANT HOLIDAYS? TO THE FAMILY?

Fourth of July. Christmas. Thanksgiving. The usual, just like you do now. The Christmas and Thanksgiving was mostly the biggest event down there, at that time. We ahad a good little fourth of July.

DO YOU REMEMBER, DO YOU REMEMBER EVER CELEBRATING ON THE FIFTH OF AUGUST?

No. What's the fifth of August?

EMANCIPATION DAY.

No. Emancipation Proclamation. (laughs)

WE'VE HEARD...ONE WOMAN HAS MENTIONED THAT. NO?

No.

THAT DOESN'T THAT DOESN'T RING A BELL WITH YOU?

That's that's mostly people from Missouri. Southern people. *Waterloo* specializes in it, because 90% of the people ~~from~~ ⁱⁿ Waterloo ~~are~~ ^{is} from, ah, from down south. I lived there for a while. ~~Way up. Last~~ *work* ~~time I was there,~~ just about everybody there was from Water Valley, Mississippi..

YEAH.

But I don't remember celebrating no fourth of August in Buxton.

NO,

No. We never did.

OKAY. ONE LAST QUESTION. IN YOUR PARE...DID YOU EVER HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR PARENTS ABOUT HOW TO LIVE LIFE? SOMETIMES PARENTS AND CHILDREN WOULD SIT DOWN AND TALK TOGETHER ABOUT THE VALUES OF LIFE, HOW LIFE SHOULD BE LIVED, AND THAT SO...DID THAT EVER HAPPEN IN YOUR FAMILY? AND IF SO, WHAT WERE THOSE CONVERSA-TIONS LIKE?

Do you mean my dad and them sit down and talk...explain life to me?

NOT, NOT JUST SE..., IF YOU MEAN BY THAT THE BIRDS AND THE BEES, THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M GETTING AFTER. BUT HOW TO, HOW TO LIVE LIFEM WHAT KIND OF MAN TO BE. AH, WHAT KIND OF PERSON TO BE, HOW ONE SHOULD LIVE LIFE.

Well,that's what they told me about, going to school, you know what I mean. To get an education, But, ah...one of the things let me tell you, mister, I seen it when I was in Buxton, cause I was ~~there~~ ^{down there} for there. You know. I was with gamblers, I was with all the hustlers. I used to sell water down there to the gamblers. Ten cents a drink. You know what I mean.

THERE WERE A LOT OF GAMBLERS.

Oh, yeah. Yeah. they used to gamble there, they used to gamble every Saturday, it was payday, in the park. Down there, Yeah. I used to sell water down there, five cents, ten cents a drink. They used to give me a quarter, I never did give them no change. You know. They never did ask for it.

WHERE, WHERE DID THE GAMBLING GO ON, SHARPS INN, COOPERSTOWN, IS THAT WHRE IT WAS...

They had a place down there they called the bull pen.

THE BULL PEN.

Yeah, that's where they ah,... ah,... shoot craps on the pool table. Now where I was talking about was in a park. They shot... and gambled on the ground. You know.

THEY SHOOT CRAPS ON THE GROUND.

Yeah.

THAT WAS A , THAT WAS A FREQUENT OCCURENCE.

Every payday.

EVERY PAYDAY. EVERY OTHER WEEK THERE WAS A...

Every two weeks.

EVERY, YEAH...EVERY TWO WEEKS. WERE THERE, WERE THERE MEN THERE THAT DID NOTHING BUT GAMBLE, THERE IN BUXTON?

You mean hustlers?

UH-HUH.

No. They was all working class people. No, I take that back. Daddy Red was one. Did you know Daddy Red?

Uh-uh (DC) DOROTHY COLLIER

Daddy Red, and there was another fella. They called him...his name was Conjure. There was three of them. There was Churchy, Conjure, and ah,...Daddy Red.

CONJURE, THE MAN'S NAME WAS CONJURE?

That was his nickname., we called him Conjure. And Daddy Red, and Rubin Gaines. Rubin Gaines did a lot of hustling because... the bull pen belonged to Rubin Gaines. See.

YEAH. WELL THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR US. I KNOW YOU HAVE TO GO.

Yeah.

Tape turned off, and back on again.

...Sisters. BUFORD

Yes.

I don't know what she was, she was the one that drove the car. Miss Langlord. The Langlord sisters. I remember them, too.

THEY OWNED THE MOVIE HOUSE?

Yeah. (DC)

That was in... BUFORD

(DC saying something) _____

Yeah, that's what that is. Cause their names was Langlord. BUFORD

Yes, I know that. (DC)

Yeah. They had a little over on top of the Y, over on top of the Y, over on top of the Y. BUFORD (B)

OKAY. HRABA (H)

See, it was three, the YMCA was three stories high. They had the pool hall, the reading room, and the recreation room downstairs, upstairs they had the movie hall, and up a third floor was the lodge where they had the lodge meetings, and things you know what I mean? B

UH-HUH. H

Then we had the little YMCA right across the, right next door to it. Like here. Where they did the swimming. You know what I mean. B

OKAY. H

Uh-huh. THAT'S ah, that's ah, that's ah... B

They had skating, roller skating (DC)

They had that in there, upstairs. (B)

In the Y. (DC)

Little Y. (B)

Yeah. (DC)

Yeah, they had roller skating. Oh yeah, they had dancers in there, cause my, I, my cousin Leola used to play Diana for that _____ down there. Yes, sir. (B)

NOW WHEN THEY HAD DANCES, WOULD BOTH BLACK AND WHITE COME TO THESE DANCES? (H)

If they wanted to. If they wanted to. (B)

UH-HUH. (H)

I told you they wasn't no discrimination down there. B

WELLA, I'M NOT, IM NOT JUST ASKING ABOUT DISCRIMINATION. H

Well, you just keep asking me about the black and white. They worked together, they ate together, and if they wanted to, they slept together. and they did everything together down there. B

YEAH. AH,..WHAT ARE...THE Y, NOW THATS AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN BUXTON. WHAT WERE SOME OF THE OTHER IMPORTANT PLACES? IN BUXTON? AH...FOR PEOPLE? H

Well, the churches, the church, well, if you was in the sportin' class, if you was in the sportin' world, there's ah, there's Sharp End, go there. And then they had the bull pen, down in Coopertown.. B

NOW, THE GAMBLING THAT WENT ON THERE, WAS IT MAINLY GAMBLING OF CARDS AND CRAPS? H

Yeah. B

DID THEY HAVA ANY HORSE BETTING? H

Oh, no. B

NO? NOTHING LIKE THAT. H

No. Now the onliest time they'd bet on, have horse races, was when they'd go to Albia to the Fair You know when they used to have the fair in Albia, then they'd go up there and they'd... B

DID PEOPLE SPEND A LOT OF MONEY AT BETTING DOWN THERE? H

Oh, B

DID A LOT OF MONEY CHANGE HANDS? H

(DC saying something)

WHAT KIND OF CARD GAMES WOULD THEY PLAY? H

Stud poker. B

STUD POKER. POKER WAS THE BIG GAME, HUH?

The band concert was a big affair. (DC)

Oh, yeah. Then they'd, do you remember the parades they used to have that the lodges would... they'd turn out, maybe go from the YMCA to the Mt. Zion, the Methodist church and so forth and so on. Yeah, yeah, I never will forget that. Then they had the kids at the lodge they called the tents. Remember that? Did you... Miss White? Yeah, I never will forget that... she said I'm going to put you in the lodge and gonna ride that goat. (laughs) They used to say I'm going to blindfold you and have you ride the goat. You know, and all that baloney, you know. My mother and them they all belonged to the lodge and all. I didn't have time for that. B

How far was Hamilton from Buxton? (DC)

Five miles. Five miles west. B

We came from to Des Moines to visit. Mama was working out by the park, you know, where the college was, and we had a hack, Mr. Rosses hack... (DC)

Mr. Ross's hack. B

We drove from Buxton to Hamilton, then we caught the train. (DC)

Yeah. B

Boy, it seemed like we were riding forever. B (DC)

That was ah... that was... that was west of, ah... of um, Buxton. You know you used to come out, you know where the company store was? You come around there, and you go by Rubin Gaines' house, and you go straight on from there, and out into Hamilton. Hamilton, Iowa, see. There was three ways you could come in from Buxton. There was Hamilton, You could come in from Lovilla, and you could take the back road out of Albia and come in by the Armstrong, you remember? /And the Tates... B

...to go there now. (DC)

The shortest way? From here? I'd say Hamilton. See, then you'd come in from Rubin Gaines' house, then you'd come in down on Cooper-town, ah... and you wouldn't have too far to go from there to the park, and the graveyard. See. You remember the pop factory in Buxton? B

No. (DC)

You cross the crick, go over into the pop factory there. You don't member that? B

No. (DC)

You remember the coal, you remember the coal chute? B

Oh, yes. (DC)

Well, the coal chute sits just about, oh, I'd say, ah...a block form the pop factory, see? You cross the little old bridge, I've got a picture of it here, see you get the picture, it's all in there. I had this fella to draw it for me. And you go across the bridge and there's the park. Then you go up the hill, and there's the graveyard. Then you cpmme back down the hill and across the crück and there's the ball park. B

Well, when we went, we went through Lovilla, I can't get it straight. DC

Well, you went through Lovlilla down through Miama, Miami. Then you went up about Old lady Taylor's house to Tate's corner. B

Tate's corner. DC

What, that's why I was telling you, you taking the back roads into Buxton. By Tate's corner and Armstrong and Rubin Gaines, where Rubin Gaines lives at Now. See. That's the back roads out of Albia. See. See. There's threee ways you can come in there. See. You come in from Albia the back roads, you can come in from Lovilla, you can come in from Hamilton. See. But, _____ most of the time they come in from Lovilla. Just because the road is better, they took better care of the roads, see. Because that was coming out of Ottumway, going into Knoxville. B

CAN YOU, CAN YOU DRAW A MAP OF BUXTON AD YOU REMEMBER IT? H

Sure! Not, not...You mean now/? B

UH-HUH. H

No, no, I told...I have to ... B

YOU HAVE TO LEAVE? H

I've got a whatcha call _____ . B

SHOW US, SHOW US SOME OF THESE PLACES YOURE TALKING ABOUT HERE. H

Boy, I don't think I can see that. B
(all three talking at once)

This... B

That's downtown. (DC)

THAT'S DOWNTOWN? H

Uh-huh. B

BY WHE RAILROAD TRACKS. H

Yeah See, the railroad tracks come in behind... B

There's therailroad tracks...(DC)

The railroad tracks come in behind the company store. The railroad tracks come in behind everything, see? B

WHERE'S THE COMPANY STORE ON THIS MAP? H

Well, wait a minute now. Let me find the water tank. Where's the water tank? B

Let me see here. (DC)

They got a water tank on...2nd. You got a water tank set,...should set right here. See? Then the company store set right in here. Then here's the street going right up here. The Token's lived here on, the Token's lived here on 4th street. Is that 4th? Yeah, here's 4th. Now, the Token's lived there, and ah,...let's see... Remember old man Hawkins? B

Yeah... DC

Old man Hawkins? B

Yeah, he lives out by the tank. DC

He lived up by there, and... B

See, here's the school, (dc0)

That's fifth street school. B

Now Scooter Thomas, he lived right here. Now the water tank should be settin' right along in here somewhere. B

Yeah. DC

See Now Scooty lives right beside the water tank. See B

ON WHAT STREET IS THIS? ON WHAT...? H

Fifth street. No, that's on fourth. B

(Both talking)

Maybe on Fourth. Her, here... B

There's nothing in there. (DC)

Is this fifth? This is the street I lived in. B

This is the school... DC

WHERE DID YOU LIVE, NOW, ELMER?

I lived, south of the...south of, south of the school. Goign otward the/reservior, the reservior. B

WHERE'S THE SCHOOL IS THE SCHOOL UP HERE?

This is the school. And this must be the church. This must have been the high school, and the... (DC)

Uh-uh. That had to be the church. B

This is church on fifth street. There's two schools. This is the one on fifth street. Here's the school here. DC

...and this is the church. That was fifth street school. DC

Fifth street school. And the church. Yeah. Yeah. Now fifth street, that, that...this, this, this...church set on sixth. Between fifth and sixth. B

Yeah, that's...DC

It set behind the school, remember? B

Yeah, cause Grandma lived in front of the school. (DC)

Uh-huh. B

Uh-huh. DC

Yeah. B

Course we lived on fourth street ^{way down} across the crick and up on Gobbler's Knob. DC

OKAY, WHERE WAS, WHERE WAS COOPERSTOWN?

COOPertown/? You go, you go straight down first street. B

FIRST STREET?

You keep straight on out here. See? B

I SEE. OUT ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.

West, it was ah,...it was ah,...north, north west of downtown. Just like this railroad track, you know this is the railroad track... alright, now. Here's Coopertown sitting right here. B

Right IN THERE. H

See. Then you ~~cross~~ ^{go} the track and go over there to Rubin Gaines'. Rubin Gaines' house is sitting right along in here. See. On the other side of the tracks. On the other side of the tracks. B

BY THE BULL PEN. H

Now the bull pen, was here, Rubin Gaines lived ^{over} here, with his mother, mother and dad. B

AND, AND... H

Two churches. (DC)

AND THIS WAS KIND OF THE GAMING PART OF TOWN HERE, OKAY. NOW WHAT IS IT POINT'S END, OR LANDS END THAT WAS THE OTHER SECTION THAT WE HEAR, THAT WE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT. H

Pardon? B

POINTS END OR WAS IT LANDS END? THAT SECTION OF TOWN THAT AH,... H

I don't know what you mean by Point's end, land's end. B

WHAT IT IT, WHAT IS THAT, DOROTHY, IS IT LAND'S END, THAT PEOPLE -43-

...KEEP REFERING TO?

Land's end? (DC)

NO, NO...

Coopertown, Sharp Inn? (DC)

~~SHARP~~ SHARP INN"

Sharp Inn. Sharp Inn was east of east of...Buxton. It was east of Buxton. B

OKAY.

You on your way to White City, when you when you go to Sharp Inn. You had to go through Sharp Inn to get to White City. B

UH-HUH (DC)

And you go down one hill up andther hill down a nother hill, then you make a turn and you in White City. B

SO IT'S , IT WAS SEPARATE, AN OPEN SPACE BETWEEN SHARPS INN AND...

An open space. There was an open space between them, yeah. Between the whatcha ma callit. B

There;s a ^{11th} ~~fifth~~ street school, that;s the church. (DC) That's the Tabernackel church and that's the... DC

NOW WHAT ABOUT THE, NOW WHERE'S SWEDE TOWN ON THIS AH,...?

Swede town would be north of, ah, Buxton. B

There's two. East Swede town and West Swede town. DC

OKAY. WELL, NORTH OF BUXTON IS THIS WAY. THIS WOULD BE WEST. THIS EAST AND THIS SOUTH. Right?

Now wait a minute, there was no east and west Swede town. B

It's in all the books. East and West... DC

I don't care what that book says. B

And Jeanette... DC

There's a Swede town and there's a Well's hill. B

Yeah, we had Well's hill, and east,.. (DC)

SHOW ME. SHOW ME. H

And there's East and West. You check it with some off the older ones. D

WERES SWEDE TOWN?

Swede town set across...B

THE RAILROAD TRACKS?

...no, it's up in here. B

It's up in there Swede town^e that's that church.

UP IN HERE. NOT TOO FAR FROM COOPERSTOWN, REALLY?

Uh-uh. B(DC)

THAT SAME SECTION, UP BY THE RAILROAD TRACKS. North, HUH?

And then I think this is... (DC)

(all talking together)

Now, now, ah,...here's the here's the street coming down to the company store. Now here's the company store here. Now here's the street coming right down here. Now right here, right here sit a rooming house. Right here is a street going up to Miss Lanlord's. B

NOW THE COMPANY STORE WAS HERE?

This is the company store here, and the telegraph office here, and ah,... B

THAT'S SORT OF THE MAIN STREET OF TOWN?

Main street, yes. B DU

Yes, that's main street. B

First street. B

Now. This is a, this was a rooming house here. Right here was a water tank. See. that was a water tank.. Now you go right on up the street here, see, and you make a curve here. Alright now here's another street over here. You come up here. From the YMCA. The YMCA right here, that's the little Y and you had the big Y sitting right here. Now. When you come up here, there was another water tank... B

End of tape 6-A Elmer Buford 6-30-80