

2nd Dup
name

Buxton Project: 424-2104
 Narrator's Name: Carl Goodwin
 Tape Number: 29A
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 Place of Interview: Knoxville
 Interviewer's Name: Joseph Hraba

Q. What is your full name?

A. Carl, no middle name, Carl Goodwin.

Q. Goodwin. Carl, when were you born, what's the date?

A. October 25, 1894.

Q. 1894. Where were you born?

A. I was born in Mahaskie County in a coal mining town.

Q. What was the name of the town?

A. You fellows never heard of it and don't think _____, Waukalooka.

Q. No, that's the first time I've heard.

A. Well I'll tell you where it's at. It's almost straight east of Oskaloosa. You know where Rose Hill is?

Q. Uh huh.

A. Right on 92 you know and you go east over _____. It would be about 3 miles east and a little north. Now that's where the coal mine was and it's in Mahaskie County.

Q. Mahaskie County. How long did you live there?

A. I couldn't tell you for sure but I know I was a year old when we left there.

Q. You were a year old?

A. I don't know how much longer than that we lived there.

Q. Did you move from there to Buxton?

A. No.

Q. Mutchakinok?

A. I lived in a lot of coal mining camps. We moved from there to a coal mining town Carbanado.

Q. Carbanado.

A. It was a pretty big coal, the railroad run in there off the Rock Island I think.

Q. Where was that, which?

A. I can tell you just how far it is. I've been out there several times since. We go out there every once and a while, out through there. I took my daughter out to show her where I lived at for 9 years.

Q. Okay.

A. On 19 at the other edge of Oskaloosa, at the other edge right there you go about a mile and a half, I think it's either the second or third road going north. And it's about a mile and a half from there going north. That's Carbanado. Right at the edge of Carbanado.

Q. How do you spell that Carl?

A. C-a-r-b-a-n-a-d-o, Carbanado.

Q. You spent 9 years there.

A. There's still a road going out there and it's still there. I asked a fellow about it over to Oskaloosa and he said the old Carbanado road is still there and it goes right close to the _____ hospital.

Q. Anything left out there?

A. No, only just farm. I was out there last year, me and the girl. _____ well I didn't know this boy, he was a Slavish boy, his name was Matrica that I knew grandfather.

Q. What's the connection with this Matrica?

A. What do you mean?

Q. Why did you bring him up? Did he live there in Carbanado?

A. His fore people. He's too young. When I lived there he wasn't born yet but he still lives there yet and I believe he's got

Q. He owns a farm out there or what Carl?

A. Yeah. Him and his uncle, I believe it's his uncle, yeah. His aunt, of his uncle there, his wife is aunt to him. Yes that's right, she is his father's sister and his name is _____. They live right at the edge of old Carbanado. That's west, west side.

Q. What was the other family name again, Matrica?

A. Mitrician it was Slavish, so is _____. Mitrician, that about as near as I can, it starts with a M-i-t., Mitrician. Now _____ lives here out on the main road down past Carbanado you'd have to go back in to get where the old camp was, maybe a quarter of a mile down in there. A creek run through there.

Q. How big was this camp Carl?

A. It was a pretty good size camp. It was long and it wouldn't so wide. It was pretty wide too. I expect it was over a half mile long, down that creek.

Q. How many people?

A. Oh God I wouldn't know. When I come there Carbanado was, when I was young cause I was only a year old, when I left there I was 10, just past 10.

Q. Where'd you go then?

A. There was no, the railroad mines had played out years before I could remember even and it was country mines there that worked 8, 10, 12 men and I don't know. There was 2 or 3 right there close and this Mitrician, that's the old man, the old fellow I'm talking he run the mine, coal mine. Another fellow by the name of Bearman, he run a mine right there within the vicinity of Carbanado, just out of, well Mitrician's was right here near Carbanado, Bearman was just off of the edge. My dad worked at both of them and then he worked at another mine that was a railroad mine, private. I mean it was a private mine but railroad run into it. They load cars. These others they hauled their coal to Oskaloosa. These other mines, Bearman's and Mitrician and Barney _____ run a mine there, John Kluck. My dad worked at all of them and the last mine he worked at was a pretty good size mine. It was I suppose about a mile right north of Carbanado they had a switch of that rock and come up to Oskaloosa. It was right in there. And my dad and oldest brother, whose 9 years older than me, he was probably about 18 then 19, they worked there but us boys, the other 3 boys were too young to work in the mines at that time. When we left Carbanado we were too young to work in the mines. The oldest brother, _____ worked in the mine, in the county mines and that big mine. Spring Creek, they called it, Spring Creek Coal Company.

Q. Okay, after leaving Carbanado, where did you go?

A. We went to a coal mining camp east of Oskaloosa, probably just a little bit south but further east.

Q. What was the name of it Carl?

A. Colen.

Q. Colen?

A. Colen, Co-len. Then I can tell you who owned it.

Q. Who did?

A. He was, they was wholesale people in Oskaloosa. What was their name? Spencer, Howard Spencer I think. They run a big wholesale, had one for years and they run another mine way down toward Bussey. They bought that mine out. That mine was _____ when we went there. We lived there twice. Just east of Bussey, about a mile and a half, east of Bussey. You probably know where that's at.

Q. When did you move to Buxton?

A. 16. Four boys, four brothers,

Q. You were 16 years old?

A. Oh no.

Q. It was in 1916?

A. I was about 21. I was the youngest of the four. The oldest one was married and had two kids. We all left Durfy over there by Bussey and went to Buxton. The oldest one had been married long enough to have two boys, no a boy and a girl and we all went to Buxton. We went over there and we all got jobs and how we come to be so lucky of getting that job, we knew a man that had worked at DurKy. He was a miner at that time, just a miner, mule driver, if you know what that is in the mine. He drove mules. I drove a lot of them in the mines. So did my brother, 2 years older than me. We both drove mules. So did that oldest one drive quite a bit, the oldest brother. Well this fellow had drove mules at Durfy mine. They called it Durfy, they called it the _____. The coal company the Rex Coal Company and that was the last time we went to DurKy. The first time old man DurKy owned it, owned the mines, owned the store, owned the houses, camp. He was the man that owned Carbanado, no Waukalooka over there north of Rose Hill when I was born. He was the man that owned that and then went over to what they called Durky, the camp and he owned the store, owned the coal mines, owned the campthere at #1. But when they sunk #2 Spencer and Howard that owned Colen that I was telling you about, wholesale men at Oskaloosa, they bought out Durky and they owned it, the mines, the company store, and the camp, the houses. They bought out everything, the land. I think they had about 160 acres and it wasn't a big camp. I expect it was probably 70 houses.

Q. How big was Buxton when you moved?

A. Oh Buxton, Buxton was the biggest coal mining town there ever was in Iowa and I expect ever will be. According to the book that I had and I wish I could have found it, I'd have let you had it and then you could just send it back to me. It was a book on all mining here in Iowa back then. Who owned the mines and what the town's names were.

Q. Do you remember the title of the book Carl?

A. I know who printed it.

Q. Who?

A. Well it's an outfit up in Des Moines, _____ probably belong to the state where the mining and minerals

Q. _____ miners or something like that?

A. Yes, mining and mineral. Now a bunch of them wrote up this book way back, old timers you know, way back then and they wrote up this book and they mentioned oh just a lot of coal mines in Iowa and they mentioned Buxton and Mutchakinok. That was all the same coal company.

Q. Called Coal Mining in Iowa?

A. Huh?

Q. Was the book called, the title Coal Mining in Iowa?

- A. Yes, I think it was. I'm pretty sure that was the title of it.
- Q. Was it a green cover? Was it by a man name Olen I think?
- A. I believe it was.
- Q. I've seen that.
- A. Well it was several writ it. I lent it out to a principal over here at the school. I used to work at the school after I got so I couldn't work at the veterans. I got down in my back, I worked 16 years out there. But I worked 22 years my first _____ in the mines. I worked out here at Pershing my last work and that's about 8 miles.
- Q. For whom did you work at Pershing?
- A. Huh?
- Q. For whom did you work at Pershing?
- A. _____ coal company and their owners were in Des Moines. I believe Shooler was in it, if you've ever heard of that name. Shooler, but I can tell you who the general manager was. He had been a coal miner. My dad had dug coal in the mines with him, Love, Lawerance Love.
- Q. Lawerance Love, general manager?
- A. He was general manager.
- Q. Who was Shooler?
- A. Superintendent. Shooler was the owner, part owner, him and some other fellow in Des Moines.
- Q. Was the mine in Pershing?
- A. Huh?
- Q. Was the mine in Pershing?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Let's get back to Buxton now Carl. You lived there from 1916 until when?
- A. I went there in August 1916. All of us boys did. Now some of the boys, now in 22 they started to moving Buxton out, the houses out to their new place at Haydah, out southwest of Lavilla. My brothers had all moved before I did, the year before, oh maybe a year and a half. I think they all moved out there in the spring, no they didn't move in 22. One of them had lived out there 2 or 3 years, he worked in the company store out there at the mines. That belonged to the company too, the coal company. They had a company store out there. They had one over at 18, 2 miles east, the company store. And they had a camp over there at 18. This was about 15 miles out of Buxton, southwest.
- Q. When did you leave Buxton, Carl?

A. I left Buxton in August about the same time I went to Buxton.

Q. Okay, you went to Buxton August of 1916 right?

A. 1916, all of us boys did.

Q. How long did you live in Buxton?

A. I lived in Buxton until I left there.

Q. When was that?

A. In August 1923.

Q. August 1923, I didn't hear you say that, okay.

A. All of my brothers were out at Haydah, out at the new place. My wife didn't want to go out there. A lot of people, her mother lived there in Knoxville, my father lived there in Knoxville so I come up here and I knew the mine manager out here at Pershing well. I dug coal with him in the mine. His name was Thomas Rowling. He was a mine manager, now he was over the bosses inside. They had 4 or 5 inside there at Pershing and I knew him and worked in the mines with him at old Durky down there east of Bussey I was telling you about a mile and a half. Him and his brother-in-laws and he had a couple of brother-in-laws. He was married then when we lived in Durky.

Q. You went to Buxton with your brothers?

A. Yeah, 2 of them went over first. The oldest one who was married and had two children and one

Q. What was his name, Carl?

A. Elzy, Elzy Goodwin. Elzy _____ He used that P always on his name. Elzy _____ cause that was our grandfather's name _____ Goodwin.

Q. Who was the other brother that went there?

A. Charles.

Q. Charles.

A. He was next oldest and he was boarding in Durky with the oldest brother. As I say he was married and had two children, a boy and a girl. And Charles he went to boarding with him and me and Fred, that's the one just older than me, we backed together. My dad was a back in there too.

Q. In Buxton?

A. No in Durky. No he never worked in Buxton.

Q. Okay, you went to Buxton with your other brother?

A. 3 brothers, it was 4 of us there.

Q. Who was the other brother, what was his name?

- A. Fred, Elzy, Charles, Fred and of course my name's Carl. I was named after my father.
- Q. But neither your father nor mother went to Buxton?
- A. Well my father and mother was separated when we was living out in that old Carbanado I was telling you about. I was only 8 years old. I was only 8 years old and it was a girl, Loretta 2 years younger than me, passed away there in 77 right here at the hospital. Her name was Nichols, her husband. They had a big family, about 9 children. They had that many but 3 of them are dead but 6 of them's still living. Two girls living in Des Moines, one boy lives here, one boy lives out here this side of _____, one boy lives in Williamson and that's where she lived since 35, my sister, my younger sister, 2 years younger than me and she's got a daughter living there and two daughters in Des Moines. She's got one boy lives here, One boy lives in Williamson, the oldest one and one lives here this side of _____. And all three of them boys worked at the Veterans out here. One of them still work there, the young one and he's ready to retire. He's got his time in and could retire anytime. He lives out here on top of the hill. He had a little piece of ground out there he bought, 5 or 6 acres.
- Q. Now Carl what was Buxton like when you lived there?
- A. Well now we can get down to this. As I said before I've lived in 2 coal mining towns within 5, 4 one of them of Buxton and one of them was in 5 miles. One of them they called that 5 White City and that was north and just a little east of Buxton. This other one was north a little west.
- Q. What was the name of it?
- A. They called it Durky. But the coal company, it was a Rex Coal Company, Rex Fuel Company. That was the name, that bunch was from Oskaloosa that owned that, Charlie Williams and I think his brothers was in it. The ones that owned before him as I said was Spencer and Howard, the wholesale people and the ones that sunk it and owned it was old man Durky.
- Q. What was Buxton like when you got there?
- A. Buxton, it had one mine going and it _____ a lot of coal each day.
- Q. Which one was that?
- A. That was 18, #18.
- Q. 10 wasn't going?
- A. They hadn't finished 19 yet. But they finished I think the next spring and they started to work inside, loading coal.
- Q. What about 17 that would be about 1917?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. 17 okay. What was the town like?

- A. The town was spread out. Most of it of course the houses belonged to the company, the biggest part of it. They had two parts of it. One at the west end. I'd say it was the southwest end. It was cause it was nothing west of that, no buildings, house building except the superintendent _____. And the railroad run right through there. The company store was right there, nothing west of that, the railroad come up through there, no houses I mean until you get clear down to Coopertown. Now I'm telling you these little towns that added on to the town of Buxton. East Swedetown I'd say was a quarter of a mile square. Them houses were private houses and the lots belonged to the Swedes.
- Q. Was it mainly Swedes living there?
- A. Mainly Swedes. It was all Swedes and then there was West Swedetown that wasn't quite as big but there was quite a lot of them lived over there. Them houses was all private homes built by the Swedes and owned them and owned their lots. Now that was on the Monroe County side. As I said, that main road that goes up through Buxton from the West, come straight east from Hamilton, that was the county line that went right up along there. All the company houses and the Swede houses was built on the Monroe side of county. Then they had a little town that wasn't there. Oh it was a barber shop down there and there was a drugstore. There was a pool hall and a dancing hall and another some kind of a store there and one or two people lived on that side of the road and there's a man, this fellow you seen in them pictures, Gaines, Ruben Gaines, his father had a wholesale house, built out of cement brick rock you know. He ordered all the beer for them salones. That's this fellow you see in that TV, his father. His name was Ruben too, Gaines. Now they lived on the other side, on the Mahaskie side of that main road. But everything start from here was either East Swedetown or the main town of Buxton and owned all buildings until you got to the west. That was a square place in there, West Swedetown. I don't know how many houses in there, maybe 20 or 25. That was West Swedetown. Now when you come down through the line there's a railroad track, which I said there was no houses until you got clear down to this county line. There was 2 or 3 little buildings along there. There's a store, little store _____. He run that and then there was a blacksmith shop and that was about all on that side the Monroe side, going out and then you're starting out of Buxton then going west towards Hamilton. And I told you about Coopertown, about what all was in there on the Mahaskie side. There was 5 or 6 salones back over in behind just in behind these stores, drugstore and wholesale house. And then you go on down to the corner there about a couple of hundred yards and you turn coming out of Buxton and they called, there's a row on each side of houses there, they called that Hayestown, on each side of that road. That was in Mahaskie County too, all of that and Ruben Gaines, old man Ruben and young Ruben too I think at that time staying at home. They lived right in the corner there where that road turned and went west, going clear out of Buxton, leaving everything. Right in the corner, that was his home and that was in Mahaskie County.
- Q. It was in Mahaskie County, in Hayestown?
- A. In Mahaskie County. Now Dr. Mador that run this _____ here, old R.V. Mador, and his son. Of course at that time, his son was _____. He was my doctor for 30 years. So was R.E., his father, until he died and then I started _____. They both graduated from Iowa City. And the old man R.V. he lived in Buxton and was there quire a while. And you get up going east toward Swedetown he was over on the other side of the road, his office and home and maybe a couple or 3 houses down along. Blomgren, this fellow I was telling you about a while

- A. ago, his father had a place there and I think he owned a little ground down in there, maybe 20 or 30 acres. That was on the Mahaskie side going down to Coopertown.
- Q. This Mazor, he's not alive is he?
- A. Who?
- Q. The old man.
- A. No, he killed himself up here, it's right on this street between here and town, in a brick house.
- Q. Did his sons live here, Carl?
- A. He died too _____ cause I went to both of their funerals.
- Q. The son died?
- A. The son died too, Dwight. He had a heart operation oh 3 or 4 years ago in Des Moines at Merch Hospital. Well he got so he could get on his feet and he could get around and him and his wife went to Florida a couple of winters and back and I'd be, not often cause I don't think he got out much. Oh I got a daughter that works up there. She worked for R.V. when he opened up that hospital. She still works there. She's not worked there steady. She's left there 2 or 3 different times, 3 or 4 times but she's now working up there now as an aid on the ward. At one time she worked in the lab and she took X-rays and give lab tests. They got rid of that, it have to be trained people now that does that.
- Q. One of the boys is still alive here in Knoxville though, one of the Mazor boys?
- A. He only had one boy.
- Q. He only had one boy?
- A. He only had one boy. R.V., that's the old man. He only had one boy and one girl. The girl's living, down in Texas. She was here at the funeral.
- Q. Now back to Buxton, now.
- A. They'd be up around their 70's you see. I think Dwight was 72. I believe it was 72, the card here that I got told his age. And this girl was only a couple of years younger than him. But she's been in Texas. She got married and went down there. Her husband was a doctor up here too in the hospital. His name was Elliott. And they separated not too long after they got down there in Texas but she's still lives there. I don't think she ever got married. But Dwight, that's the boy, he'd been married 4 times. Married and got one child by his first wife and she died. _____ He got married again, married a girl from out of Lavilla. She was really a pretty girl. _____ Dr. kind of run around with her a little bit before they was married. Both of them come to see me when I had _____ in 1940 and she was very pretty and she had one child. After she couldn't hang on to him, he _____ and then he was _____ before he was _____ that big hospital out there at _____, Army hospital, he was head surgeon down there. And he married a nurse out there and they had 2. All them kids were back here too at the funeral, all of them and the wives. I don't know whether that second wife's kid was here or not. I ain't sure

- A. but I know the wife that he got out there at Lincoln, her two kids were here and his first wife, come with her mother from Texas. They was here. Now he married that one, that nurse, that was his third one now and then a woman that I worked with out here at the Veteran's Hospital on the board, a nurse, she's Swede, her name was Johnson. Oh I worked for years with, oh several years until I quit and she still worked there and she got to working down here at this hospital. By golly they got married. She had two children and he had these himself, four of them and he married her. So he was still married to her when he died. They'd been married.
- Q. Now Carl, what did you do in the mines there in Buxton, what was your job?
- A. Well let me tell you something. I done several different jobs. But I suppose I drove mules more than anything else. I had a brother to drive mules and he's in the part of the mine that he worked in he was boss rider. And when a boss see, inside boss was off he'd take his place.
- Q. What was it like driving mules, can you describe it for me?
- A. Yes I can. I've drove enough of them. I drove in 4 different mines. Yes I drove at Piercing and I drove out here at old Anderson. That's east of town here too. It's not quite as far as Piercing. About 4 miles if you go right straight through. And I drove mules there, I drove mule at Piercing. I drove mule at, wait a minute now, let's see. I drove mule in Buxton. That was my first driving.
- Q. That was your first driving there in Buxton?
- A. First driving a mule. My brother, two years older than me, he'd been driving for, oh hell 3 or 4 years.
- Q. What was it like Carl?
- A. I'll tell you. If you were ever down in the mines you would know how it's laid out but I can tell you a little something. And I don't want to take up your time.
- Q. I've heard people describe the mine to me, the rooms.
- A. Yes and
- Q. Uh huh.
- A. Now we went off them was motor roads, right from the bottom of the shaft. That was just for motors. Of course in the smaller mines there'd be for or . But in these big mines like over here and Buxton, they were motors, all motors. They had about 7 or 8 motors.
- Q. What did you do driving mules Carl?
- A. Well I'd pull, we call it the miner's slang pull coal from the miners who loaded it in their rooms, brought it out to the motor part, entered through the motor part. We'd come out of the entry, come out on the entry and pull it up as far as the motor part and there'd be maybe several drivers there going different directions, north, south, west, up in the entries. Go up in these rooms and get this coal, and in the entries too we'd get their coal. Driving an entry, an entry was just 8 feet wide, it's supposed to be. All the entries were

- A. suppose to be 8 foot wide. They get a little wider than that, 9, 10 maybe. But they called them 8 foot entry. The rooms were turned off of them and they called them cross entries from your main entry and motor. That's where we'd pull the coal out of them, them cross entries, the rooms, out of the rooms on them cross entries and from all other diggers up in there, even them cross entry men and there'd be cross entries off of them, maybe in some of them, and be rooms off of them and we'd go up in there and get this coal with the mule. Sometimes I drove _____ a mule ahead of one another where the mule's going down. One mule couldn't pull it. I've drove quite a few team in Buxton and I drove out here at Piercing.
- Q. Well how many mules would you have in those cases, two?
- A. Two, that's all as many as ever I saw. Of course there may have been places where they used three but I never saw them.
- Q. Did you have to whip the mules?
- A. Huh?
- Q. Did you have to strike the mules to get them going?
- A. No they didn't. No you didn't have too but a lot of the guys did like to strike them. I never do. I'd carry a little paddle. I'd take a pick handle, cut into and have it about this long. Pretty long, thin for a handle you know. That's all it was. Oh I did carry when I was in Buxton, never did out here at Piercing.
- Q. How much coal would you carry, you and the mule?
- A. According to what kind of mine you were working in. Now if you were working in Buxton, they had big cars, 6 feet and a half long up so high and you could, if a digger wanted to he could put over two ton on it.
- Q. Two tons?
- A. Yeah, over two tons. A lot of fellows build them up you know like you can get more weight, the diggers get more weight and they'd build them up high. Not higher but build a better curb on them on top. You build them up like that, you _____ on top of the car, the edge of the top of the car and don't go above that. Don't go above that cause you're up on the timber, cross timber, you'd drag it off _____ your cars built up. If they done with chunks, big chunks around, you'd put around on top of that car. You'd leave it a little vacant at the top of your car so your chunks would fit inside with it like that and lean in and then so your shoveling coal to build that all up and that's the way the diggers build his car up. And the better he could dig you know along up along the side, _____ the more weight he'd get more shovelings in there and you get weight. That's what they wanted, the diggers. That fellow get paid by the day. They were loaded by the ton.
- Q. How much did you get paid a day Carl?
- A. \$7.50 when I left the mines.
- Q. \$7.50.
- A. That was my highest wage that I ever got in the mine.

Q. How much would a good digger make?

A. Well it's just according to whether he's digging in a room or an entry. The entry make more, always did, more money than the room cause they got paid per yardage too, as they were going in. They'd get paid anywhere from 5 or 6 or 7 dollars a yard. If they put an entry in. That's besides their coal. They got the same price for the coal as we did in the rooms, \$1.22 a ton, when I left the mines and had been getting that since 1921, right after the war.

Q. Well how much could a digger make a day on the average?

A. Just according to how much he wanted to make, what kind of a digger he was. I could take a third of Buxton that didn't make a . They didn't want to. All they wanted to was just make enough to eat. And especially those colored people, and I've got white ones that's almost as bad. But I've seen as good a workers as colored people any white man ever wanted. Hard workers, and tried to make money. And a lot of them, they were no good.

Q. Why do you say that Carl?

A. They were lazy, didn't want to work. This Buxton that I'm talking about, all of them. If I've heard it once, I've heard it a hundred times or more, these people that come from Mutchakinok. That was the same coal company come over into Monroe County. That was a coal company come in through Pershing, Iowa right there at Mutchakinok and the bought two mines and sunk 7 more there, south of Oskaloosa, between Oskaloosa and the river 4 or 5 miles down there. They come in there how them colored people come to get in there, that was right when the union was starting, around 1880. My dad could remember of course, he was born in 54 and remember it well. He was one that helped to bring the union here in Iowa. They'd go around to all these mines you know and get the men to lay down side and force the company into union.

Q. When did your dad work as a union organizer?

A. Around 80.

Q. Around 80 huh?

A. Uh huh. He was probably 25 or 6 years old. Well it took several years before they got organized, several years. I suppose it was way up in the 90's before they got Iowa organized.

Q. Did he know John L. Lewis?

A. Yes. I saw him once in Des Moines coming down the street. He was a very powerful built man, not too tall. I don't imagine he was any taller than me. But boy he had a pair of shoulders on him and a neck like a bull. Big through his shoulders and chest and on down. He was just a big powerful built man, had great big long black eyebrows, and wore his hair long down here. Not long like they do now but I mean down here to his collar. He had long hair, wore his hair long and parted on the side I think and combed it, just about like I do. But he had a heavy head of hair. Real heavy head of hair. I imagine, he was getting grey when I saw him but I imagine he had dark hair cause he had right dark eyebrows, almost black and long. He was a, I think they called him the bulldog and he was. Now his father, I won't take up too much of your time about this but I can tell you this. My father worked in the mines with his father.

Q. Which mine was that?

A. I think around Watt in the first place and then some out here at Lucas, if you know where Lucas is. That's where John L. was born, just out of Shearton about southwest. I don't know just how far it is but I imagine it's out there 8 or 10 miles. And this creek that goes right out here, they call it White Breast. It goes right out here and down in the river down through. That run right up by Lucas and they called that the White Breast Coal Company and it was named after that creek. It was on up above Lucas and I don't know what them two on the southwest ~~pp~~ above that. I've been down through there.

Q. How many cars would you take out a day there in Buxton?

A. You mean how many cars would go out to the bottom, loaded cars?

Q. Well how many would one driver take out?

A. Well I don't know just exactly. A lot of drivers would pull two cars of coal, if it's level enough you know, wouldn't much hill to pull, and I have with this spike team, many times took two cars out to the motor park. I've took three out, I've took four out and in Buxton I was _____ with the spike team. I took 5 and 6 out.

Q. At a time?

A. Yeah, to the motor park. I'd take about 5 maybe the most that I ever took out. But I had a spike team now, two mules. That grade wouldn't too awful, but I was pulling for another parting, a little parting inside and then he pull from the diggers to this part, this driver did. I took them from him out to the motor part and out here at Pershing there was _____

Q. How many would you do a day Carl?

A. How many trips would you make in a day?

Q. Yeah.

A. Oh it was just according. Some of them damn drivers wouldn't make very many. They'd hang around inside. I was never that way. It didn't make no difference what job I was on I was there for work. I knew it and by God that's what I did. I don't care what job I was on even ~~af~~ this hospital, even at that school house. But in about 10 years here at the hospital after I got down over there.

Q. Was being a driver hard work Carl?

A. No it wasn't. It was dangerous damn work. It was dangerous, _____ the hills. Cause you had to go down them hills on the run. Cause you put sprags in your cars wheels. I've run down hills that I had to sprag every wheel, taking one car down. Put a sprag, a sprag was just a piece of wood so big around, put a sharpe on each end there so far. You'd put them in your wheels. Stop at the top of the hill when you're coming out and you're going out to the park, stop at the top of the hill, stop your mule and go around and there's your sprag, go around and put them in, whatever you need according to the size of the hill, maybe you'd only need a couple on one side. Of course the hill wouldn't steep at all. Now maybe you'd need four. I drove on ~~one~~ hill there and you put four sprags in one car load going down there. You'd have two tons of coal in behind you. You're at the front end of it right behind the mule, you had a tail chain. They

- A. called it tail chained. On one end of the car it had a hook. On the other end it had links, big links, that big, maybe two or three and couple your cars together that hook on one end hooked in these links. That's the way the motor took them out too. That's the way they were built with a hook on the end and maybe there'd be one link here and a hook with a long shank on it. Big too, it wouldn't no small thing. Yeah it was that big around from there. Hook that down and this two or three links out of the other car. That's the way they couple them together, just a hook and link. Now you asked how many would the driver pull out. Well that would be hard. Well you took a driver that was a pretty fair driver and wanted to work, knowed what he was in there for, he'd make, oh I expect anywhere from around 30 to 35 trips a day, inside and out to the park.
- Q. You say it was dangerous Carl, ~~were many~~ drivers hurt?
- A. Oh God yeah.
- Q. What would happen?
- A. Oh they'd get squeezed against the rib, car jump the track, going down a hill, mostly that would be down a hill cause there's not ~~many~~ cars that jump on the level. If you're going down a hill and of course you had to go over a lot of switches in them rooms going down there. Of course the switches would be pointed out you know. They wouldn't be toward you, naturally they'd be pointed out the other way you was going down the hill. But when you're coming in in the empty a lot of times you'd have to slue that damn car, that switch and you go back in and if that one hard to do you just put your hand over on the end of the car and throw your weight that way you know a little.
- Q. Were you ever hurt in the mine?
- A. No not to cause me not to work, never. I had a brother that was mashed up a couple of times. He was about 3½ or little more, 8 months older than me, along during the first World War, 1918 and then I think he got hurt in 19, oh probably about well it was after 35 because he come down here to Lavilla at Rex 5 and he got hurt there. A slate fell on him in the room he was digging. That first time it crushed his arm, his elbow here and his ribs. Hit him pretty hard, that first time. The next time it wouldn't quite as big a fall slate but he had to lay off for several days. But me and this other brother that drove or the other brother that digged, I can't remember either one of us ever getting hurt in the mines and the only time that I can remember my dad getting hurt, I was only 8 years old and that was after him and my mother separated, that same winter. He was working one of them country mines out there at Carbanado. He got coal . See the powder didn't bring it out, burst it up, bring it out and you have to get in there and then and mine. He was at the top or at the bottom and he was down either in the middle where he had his shots at the bottom and he was mining that, working with my oldest brother, that damn coal and cut his legs, didn't break them.

Side 2

A. I expect that they worked, I'd say probably a third, more than 19 did of men and I'll tell you the reason for that. When I went there they were hiking three thousand tons a day, 18 alone that was steam horse, 19 was an electric coal company but they had a lot of good coal at 19. I only worked there a couple of short times at 19. I always done all my work at 18 before I started to work for and it was just many more men worked at 18. It had been going a long time. It had been going 7 or 8 years probably than 19 longer. And it was right in there a mile and a half. The last place I worked at it was in a mile and a half and they'd drive in the coal would either get poorer, low, rocky, slate get bad or something and they stop _____ or they'd go up against their line and spread their lease line or coal line and that's as far as they could go. Now when I was driving mule in 18, I was a digger but I was out driving extra driver _____ and I was driving mule in a part they called the northeast. That was the first pair of entries off of the main north. They had a main south and a main north and the main entry, first pair of entries go up off of that, going one way, they called that the northeast. Going the other way, they called the northwest. That went over on the other side. The first pair of entries off the south they'd call the southwest or the southeast. Going the other way they'd call the southwest or the northwest. The first pair of entries broke off. And there was a lot of men, a lot of entries, corss entries both off of them in there. I was up in there a mile and a half. Anyway there was just four of us there and boy that's some pretty coal up in there about 7 feet high, clean.

Q. At 18?

A. At 18.

Q. Good coal?

A. Good coal. Oh they had a lot of it, miles of it there, with 6 or 8 feet high.

Q. One of the better mines you ever saw?

A. It's a better mine that ever was in Iowa or I imagine ever will be. I mean shafts dug down 212 feet deep and there's a bluff all along each side of it. Pretty good bluff you went up there. I walked up it a many a times coming from work _____ a while, I had to walk up that bluff. We had a path where I went up through but there's a main road come down through. Cars, trucks from 19 could get down into the mines. Come and go up the main road. But the _____ sat on top of that hill and the main road would go from, well I'd say from, if you go from oh say from Buxton going over there, you'd go right through that and go to Melrose.

Q. How far was 18 from Buxton?

A. Around 15 miles.

Q. 15.

A. Took the miner's train just about a half hours.

Q. Was the pay better in and around Buxton than it was at the other mines?

A. No not in the smaller mines. Private mines, no.

Q. Private mines, the pay was just as good?

A. No, you couldn't get near the pay out if you work in any

Q. In Buxton?

A. Buxton mines they paid you for what you done and more too, more too, their diggers. And they paid the mule drivers this way. I boarded as I say when I was driving mule up on top of the hill there from the mines. All you need to do, you didn't have to ask that boss, can I work tonight? If you wanted to get 2 or 3 extra shifts on the pay in, they paid every two weeks. If you wanted to get a couple or two extra shifts and I did. I was just first married and I didn't have nothing when I married and of course all them extra shifts I can get being 7 and a half a night and I'll tell you how they were. If the driver, we'd come down there with your mining clothes on and his lamp cap, all he had to do was be there at the shaft they'd find work for him, the driver inside. Now they had a regular night crew. They had a motorman below that took all the timber and the powder, that all went down at night and your timbers and your rails and the mule's feed, hey and whatever they fed them, that all went down at night. Our big long timbers there, them long ones you couldn't put down in the car, they'd swing them below on the chain below the cage. I was a cage there too, as well as drive the mule. Well I'll tell you what I done in there before I tell you this. When I started there I was a timberman helper. One of the best timbermen that ever went down in the mine, he was a Swede, Oscar Erichson.

Q. Oscar Erichson?

A. He hung all their doors.

Q. Where was this now?

A. That was at 18 and he lived right there and I boarded with him and his wife. There was 6 of us boarders boarding at that house. His wife run a boarding house and I was working with him. I was his helper and all we done was sit up timbers for doors and trap the air. We'd put a door in an maybe there'd be a trapper there. A kid under 16 he could go down in the mine at 14 and he'd trap there. He could do trapping but he couldn't go inside the mines and dig or anything until he was 16 years old.

Q. What is trapping Carl?

A. All you did, I done it when I first went in. I trapped over here at old Boulding, 6 miles this side of Oskaloosa, right on 92 just a little off the side. They called that Boulding. I trapped there. A couple of months before I was 14 I went down there. Dad give them my name as 14.

Q. What is trapping?

A. Just open and shut a door for the mule drivers, that's all. When he comes out with his load, he'd stop up there and take his sprags out there's a hill _____ there and if there wasn't he'd be on the level, he would stop up there and you would see him, see his light you just pull that darn door open and _____. Hollow to him if he could hollow to him far enough. If you didn't you just wait until your head and wave it like that and down through he'd come with his load and go out to the pardon. There was a tail road pardon from the outside pardon. And when he'd come back in, I'd hear him coming you know. I'd go on up when you would get up there pretty close open the doors, _____ and he'd go on in _____ let it go shut, sat down, that's

- A. all they had to do. That's everything he had to do was just trap that door for that driver, let him in and out. And that door was put there to turn the air. Of course another pair of entries, draw up an entry on down come out another pair of entries, on down and up another pair of entries. That's the way they were. And where ever you seen a door that door was in there, not for the driver, they wouldn't need it for the driver. It was for the air, turn the air, go up another pair of entries and it go down through and around and come out down there on that entry way down below it. Air just kept going in a circle all through the inside of that mine, they'd have break through each entry, each room every 60 feet they'd have to make a break through 8 feet wide. A pair of entries going here, he'd put entries going up here. Every 60 feet they had to drive, _____ did that both entries. They drove in pairs you know, 28 feet _____ in here between them and each side would do his share making that break through. These over here in this entry, these other ones over here in this entry, they'd cut it, shoot it out and open it up. As quick as they got that one opened up, right through and after they'd start to filling this back one up. They kept them all blocked behind them. Of course they'd wished they had if they didn't. So they _____ them up with slate and some of them put _____ wooden _____ in or slate. Some drivers haul slate from inside, someplace where they'd had a fall and throw it in the break through there and the company man, they called them dirt men, they _____ up them break through. Just as quick as one would get open, pull open, the day man, the company man would start to building bobbing that other one out, fill it up. Every room, every entry, I don't care what entry drove in that mine, I don't care they were supposed to make a break through every 60 feet between the rooms and between the entries. Of course that's the way you got your air. You had to do it.
- Q. You said that the pay at 18 mines around Buxton was much better than pay at other mines.
- A. I worked there, I'll tell you. Of course you could ask anybody. Anybody could tell you this, I don't care who worked in Buxton. Anybody would tell you this. They were so much ahead of these private mines, it was just. Now when I worked at Durky's, I dug coal there, me and my oldest brother. If we took home \$25 pay after two weeks, just in two weeks. They paid the first Saturday after the 5th and the first Saturday after the 20th. Once in a while you get, have to wait for a three week pay. That may be only a couple of times, maybe 3 a year the way the month run.
- Q. At Durfy's you were getting about \$25?
- A. If we brought home, we wouldn't getting it, we never brought home, me and my oldest brother. My brother was 4 years older than me, or about 4, him and his buddy make the best pay that was made in the mines. Now that wouldn't a big mine because it was only about a hundred and 20 or 30 coal diggers working in that mine. It was a small mine.
- Q. They made \$25 every two weeks?
- A. Wait a minute until I tell you. If they made \$25 that was the best money in that mine, more like take home 16, 17 and 18 maybe. That was the money you drew on your work statement. Of course your expenses were taken out of that. If you had a store bill that was taken out. Of course your powder, you had to pay for your powder. Everything that you wore you paid for. All tools that you used you paid for. That was evern in Buxton. All the tools that you used, drilling machine, pick, shovel, scrappers they call it, bring your dust _____

A. had a button on the end of it _____ powder and dust in your hole and it run anywhere from 5 to 6, 7, or 8 feet long, just a half inch I suppose it was, iron and you'd put a button on the end of it, a round button so you could pull your dust out of your hole that you were drilling. Drag it out and pull it out and then when you were tapping your hole, you'd push your powder back, at the back in of your hole because that's where they wanted it at, there at the back end. And then put your fuse in, blow up your _____ paper, throw out the powder and stick you tube down in and tie a little knot in it and cut it in that knot, down in that cylinder paper about that long. And then when you got your powder all in, whatever you wanted, maybe you'd put 4 or 5 chargers, that charger _____ that was just a piece of galvanite tin or something made in a funnel shape and something like a broom stick 3 or 4 feet long. It was _____ on that with a hinge. That would be about that long, that funnel. That was metal made of galvanite _____ at the top end where you poured your powder in and then come down small where your hinge was on there, just a wire to hook in to the end of this broomstick _____ And then when you put it in the hole you'd hold that charger until you start to put it in the hole and then take it into, cause you go back, clear back to the end and throw your powder like that, go out and clear out and take your can of powder which was a gallon, we called them jacks that you dump out of your powder keg which was about 2 gallon and a half. You dump that into this powder jack, a gallon. It was a galvanite can too. Had a little thing slip down over the top, take that off, hold your charger like this, straight up from your handle, fill it up and sat your can down and level it off and put your charger in the hole and take that long stick and throw it back in there. And when you get a couple of chargers or 3 in you'd take your scrapper we called it, with a button on the end and push the powder clear back until you got how much chargers you wanted in there. And then when you got that all in then you put this paper capsule with the powder that you'd cut, tied the knot down inside of it and you had a roll of fuse about that big around, I think it was 50 feet long, the whole length of it. But your hole might be 5 feet, might be 6 feet, might be 7 feet, it may be 8 feet. _____ And you take this long scrapper and you push that capsul right back against your powder just as far as she could push it. Then you were ready to put your dust in which was all right here in a pile for you _____ the hole. Throw it in there, keep tapping until you got that hole tapped full of dust, clear full. There'd be your fuse hanging out and your _____ take and cut off what you think to give the shot firer plenty time to get out of there after he lit it, maybe a foot, maybe a foot and a half, cut it off, Cause you had maybe 4 or 5 feet in all, maybe you'd have 2 holes, sometimes 3 all tapped for the shotfirer when quitting time come. And have them cut off, split that fuse on the end so it would be to his light, have a piece of paper over it numbered how many shots you had 1, 2 or 3 and put that piece of paper on each fuse, put it up over the fuse, and a lot of people did, some didn't according to how long your fuse was. If your fuse was out about this long _____ put the paper in behine it up against the coal and that's the way we numbered our shots. That's to let the shotfirer know when he come in there and seen that first shot how many shots you had fired. Well he'd go on through when he get that through he'd go that and break through and go to the other room. Maybe he'd be up there 4 or 5 rooms before one of them shots would go off. Gone through 4 or 5 rooms. Of course they all wouldn't have three holes to shoot. Some of them only one and some of them two and hell he could just go right through there and not stop even. He could tell when that fuse was lit when he _____ and go on through the break through and get the other room and go on and keep on clear around and into the entries, get there and go through the break through and get the other entry and then start up the rooms over there going the other way. And that's the way they got their shots. They had, I don't

- A. know, they had 2 or 3 shotfirers at 18. Most mines had 2. Pershing out here had 2.
- Q. Let's go above ground for a while Carl. Where did you live in Buxton? You said you board with a family,
- A. I board with my brother, oldest brother. All three of us brothers boarded with the oldest brother when we first went there. Now we was there about, I don't think he ~~was~~ there only about one winter to two of these brothers just older than me ~~want~~ to boarding with another family. I still boarded with my oldest brother and kept boarding with him. Well that year in 17 along about in June it was to be a baby born and so I went out to 18 and got board out there.
- Q. With a family by the name of Erichson.
- A. Erichson, Oscar Erichson. Now he was the one that I had boarded with before.
- Q. How much did you pay for room and board?
- A. I think at that time we was paying, let's see what was we paying? I think \$8 a week,
- Q. \$8 a week?
- A. Of course he went up a little later on after the miners started to getting raises. I think it went up to 10 and now they went up to 12 but at that time we were just paying \$8 a week. But she'd wash our clothes. We'd give her a couple of dollars for that, board Mrs.
- Q. Now Carl you say that in these so called country mines that a man working very hard would be lucky to get \$25 every
- A. No, you're talking about a different thing now. A country mine is not what I meant when I said private mine.
- Q. Okay, but in a private mine. At the Buxton mine a driver was making \$7.50
- A. A day.
- Q. And a digger could make even more?
- A. Yea. Well I got off of driving and went to digging and I did make more.
- Q. How much did you make a day Carl?
- A. Well for the year I come up here to old Anderson right after we was married. We hadn't been married a year yet. I come up here in the fall and we stayed with my dad and I went out here to a little dinky old mine out here dad was working at and I was to turn the room off of his room. We had both worked together until I got my room turned right up to the face of his room and they were driving it through for the shorter air cut. That's what they were driving my room for. I was single, he was single but we worked together until I got my room turned. Now what you call a room turn, you'd drive in 8 feet. That's all you're allowed from your face where you started off the entry. You'd drive in 8 feet, 9 feet, you'd drive that just 8 foot wide suppose to, Sometimes the shovel kick back and get it wider than that, maybe 10 feet. But it was supposed to, they called that a room. See you suppose to go in there 9 feet

A. and then you can start to spreading out with your hoe. And if I remember right it was either 22 or 24 feet as wide as you could drive a room, according to the rules that _____. They never paid no attention to it. I have seen rooms wider than that.

Q. Well how much did you make there in Buxton as a digger?

A. As I was gonna tell you, I come up here and I like to starved all winter long. I couldn't make my soil, not even working out at old Anderson and that was the railroad mine off of the Rock Island out here. And I rode the miner's train, the miner's train run out there at Knoxville here. And that was about, well around there _____ up over the train it was probably oh 7 miles, maybe 8. But if you go straight through you'd get to the mine within 4 miles. But anyway, this little old country mine out here, one man owned it. He ran a little country mine. It was out on 5 out here about 3 miles from town, maybe not that far. We worked in there, no I worked about 2 weeks until he quit the mine, the old man owned the mine and then he leased his mine to 4 or 5 of the miners there, in his mine. I don't think it was over probably 10 or 11 worked there altogether counting the mule driver. They had one mule driver. He had one mule driver. Well he was one of the leasee, helped to lease it and then there's 4 of them and the diggers. Well he had been on the union, paying the union wage, the old man did, the one that sunk it. But when he dug it these fellows _____ off the union. They were union men too but they wouldn't offer pay. They couldn't keep the union dues up and still be union men. Of course they couldn't attend the local or nothing, have nothing to do with the union at all. But they could keep their union dues up, a lot of them did and got in on this miner's train. But anyway, when they went off the union well my dad and I why we pulled our tools out and quite a few of the others we didn't work anymore. And I went out there at old Anderson _____ and rode the miner's train out and I couldn't make my soil out there. I worked there _____ through the winter until about the latter part of February. I'd come up from Old Buxton. I'd come up and quit a 7.50 day job _____ come up here to starve. That learnt me something. And as I say we had only been married then not quite a year. We was up here. We went back down and I got a job at 19. Now this fellow that I got the job from by that time was mine manager. Got my first job from at 18. They sent him to 19 and made him mine manager. His name was Buckneal, Ed Buckneal, born and raised over there in Beakon.

Q. Buckley?

A. Buckneal.

Q. Buckneal, okay.

A. Ed. Buckneal. But how he come to get that job I'll tell you in 1919. The men come out on strike, both at 19 and at 18 and 4 bosses of course 5 at that time. But to start out with, I hadn't been there long but this happened in 1918. The superintendent, his name was Davis. But my manager in 18, his name was Reese and a brother to John Pete, general manager and was vice president of the coal company. It was his brother, younger brother, he was mine manager at 18 and they had been I guess every since the damn mine was sunk, 6 or 7 years. They'd bought _____ the company did and the 1,000 acres they called it and leased a lot of timber and had people contracted out there cutting it for them. That was mine timber for the mines. _____ timber used down in the mine. Well I suppose there was a _____ the superintendent, this mine manager at 18 and the top boss and they was getting away with a lot of the company's money. By God they carried the whole three of them.

- Q. What were they doing Carl, what do you mean?
- A. They were the board that was looking after the money of this timberland, buying this timber and everything. They made them a lot of money out of that. Had nothing to do with the coal. This was just this timber. That's when they got in the company and I suppose wouldn't sending this money in but the company should have been getting it. Or should have been paying them people out there. So double dealing you know. They canned the superintendent, Joe Davis, and Bill Reese, the mine manager below and I forget what the top
- Q. What year was this Carl?
- A. 1918 that happened. I was in the army then. I was in the army at that time.
- Q. You heard about this?
- A. Oh yes, when I come back. I was there, well I come back here in the fall of 1919 and was there the fall starting the fall
- Q. The three were fired because they
- A. They were all fired.
- Q. They were selling timber to the company. That was illegal?
- A. They were making a lot of money out of it some way and dividing it between their selves . But they was getting away with a lot of money and the timber.
- Q. What they used in the mines Carl?
- A. All used in the mines yeah, mine timber. Your straight timber the room men used and in the entries that was all collar work.
- Q. Did they use particular kind of wood for that?
- A. Mostly for the collar that went across the top next to the slate. They called them collars,
- Q. What kind of wood, any kind of wood?
- A. White oak.
- Q. White oak?
- A. Them mostly all was white oak. That last a lot longer than, it's supposed to, than any other kind of timber. And then they add on for straight timber these. They had hickory. They had other kind of oaks, different kind of oaks to hold these collars up and then these other kinds. They could be oak, could be hickory, could be elm or carbon wood or any damn thing. That was the straight timber that the men used in their rooms. You sat all your own timber in your room. They'd sat timber at the neck of your room, that 9 feet for a collar up there but from there on you timbered your own room , with straight timber up against the slate and down and put pieces over it.

Q. You were married in Buxton, Carl?

A. I was, she was born there, this girl.

Q. What year was that that you were married?

A. I was married in 20.

Q. 1920?

A. Yeah.

Q. And you left Buxton for a short while to work up here?

A. Yeah, I worked, well I'd say I just worked in this little country mine, it was union though. I never did work one day in an ununion mine and neither did my brothers. We always work and they put in, the other two just older than me put in from 1908. One of them start in 7 and one of them start in 8 and they worked there until 49, them other two brothers. I quit the mine in 31.

Q. I want to trace your life there Carl a little bit. You left Buxton and you came up here in 1921 and worked here that winter?

A. That winter.

Q. Did you return to Buxton?

A. I did go right back.

Q. When, in March?

A. About yeah.

Q. About March?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay, you and your wife lived there until.

A. We had left our furniture down there. We were living with her dad here and his wife. We had just left our

Q. You had your own home then by then?

A. Well no, it was a company house, we rented.

Q. It was a company house?

A. Yeah, we rented.

Q. How much did rent cost you?

A. \$8.00

Q. A week?

A. A month.

Q. Okay, \$8 a month?

A. Uh huh.

Q. Okay. Now when you returned to Buxton and you stayed how much longer in Buxton?

A. I stayed from that .

Q. 1921?

A. That was the second time now there until August 1923.

Q. Okay, that's right. And this girl was born in Buxton?

A. 22, in ~~December~~.

Q. Was this your first child?

A. No. No, I've got an older girl. She was born the latter part of 20. This girl was born December ~~in~~ 22.

Q. She was also born in Buxton then?

A. No she wasn't. She was born here with her grandmother in Knoxville. But we were living in Buxton. That's the oldest one. But when we went back down there this second time, this girl was born in 22 and she wouldn't quite a year old when we come back up here.

Q. You had two children?

A. Oh I got, hell we had 6, my wife and I. I lost a little boy just a block from here, living in another house and he was just 2 years and about 3 months old. Then when we lost that boy, we had another girl in 26 in December.

Q. What was her name?

A. Betty.

Q. Betty?

A. The oldest one was Lorene. This one is and Betty. Then was the three. They run in line in ages too, Lorene, next and next Betty. But before then we got this boy in between this one and Betty in 24.

Q. What was his name?

A. That's one of them grandchildren. I've got a son lives right here.

Q. Okay, so who is next then after Betty?

A. After Betty, Robert.

Q. Robert and you live next door here?

A. No he lives in Glenwood. His wife _____ he called me and she's been a nurse. She started out there as a nurse at that state insitution at Glenwood. _____ She started as a nurse oh way back here 12 or 13 years ago. They lived at Red Oak at that time and he _____ . He run a _____ there for about 10 or 11 years and she drove it before they moved to Glenwood, she drove it. Oh gosh I don't know how many years she did drive it, about 28 miles from Red Oaks to Glenwood, drove back and forward. When she first started she was a nurse. She was a graduating nurse and she worked a while at the Red Oak Hospital and she found out she could get about a thousand dollars more a year out there and she started to driving out there. It wouldn't too long. I don't think it was a year or two they made her supervisor. Of course she got a promotion in pay you know. I don't know how many promotions but she's right next to the superintendent. She just got two just here lately, Bob told me she's just under the superintendent. She's over four areas, Bob's wife. They've got two children, a boy and a girl. Girl got married last year. They boy, he's 19 and was going to get married a little while back had the thing all sat and we was going and they called it off. The boy's 19 and she's about 21. But they're married and got a little baby here this fall.

Q. Did you belong to any of the lodges in Buxton?

A. No I didn't belong to no lodge in Buxton. I belong to the lodge here when I was working at Pershing. I belonged to the Egale for about 2 years and they broke up here. I could have went over to Oskaloosa and transferred over there. They've had one for years there, a big lodge.

Q. Carl, did the company houses, or any of the houses there in Buxton have foundations?

A. It was a cellar, the people that lived in them made just a cellar in order to keep their vegetables or milk.

Q. _____ sat on logs?

A. Huh?

Q. On logs?

A. I'm talking about the company houses. I think the Swedes, they probably had foundations in them. I believe they did, all of them and built their house on them foundations. But the company houses didn't have foundations. They just had _____. That was their foundation, no basement. By golly listen, some of them was higher. The first house I boarded in I bet you was at least 7 feet one side of it off of the ground. Of course that was boarded.

Q. Most of them were sat on piling?

A. Sat on piling. And they done the same thing out, no they didn't, some of them out at Haydah when they moved the town out was sat on piling, a whole lot of them, I think the most of them was sat on foundations. I don't know whether the basements of them or not but they had cement foundations. They're still there yet. My wife and I used to go _____. I had a nehpew had a farm right there run right up against the town. His land, he had 254 acres. That

- A. was my oldest brother's boy. He farmed down there. He still owns the farm but he lives in Lavilla and has the last couple, 3 years. But he owns the land. There 254 acres in there. He had a lot of coal under it too. We'd go down here to scrap that big mine just below his farm, lease some of it and he went in there and caved the damn thing in. He caved another place in over across the road. Opened up too much territory. He used them big bolts. Opened up a big wide territory, had them big cutting machines you know. Them bolts are alright where the good slate at. They ain't no good for Iowa. You need timber under that slate in Iowa coal. _____ he run the machine. Another fellow right up the street Rowling, he _____ one out by the thousand acres. Well his ain't far _____ but it's off more southwest. And Williams' is west too, a little east of south, southeast I think. _____ a mine like that and you sat off and got one of these great big digging machines, not a cutting machine but a digging machine, just dig your coal out, go back on the conveyor into the buggies they have and take it out to the bottom dumped into a big _____ and _____ it up. He was _____ a thousand ton of coal, so was Williams a day. But Williams just had cutting machines and had loaders in there to load it in the buggies. But this guy had, sent off to Pennsylvania or something and got one of them great big diggers and took down in there and put it up and I met him up there one day. I worked with him at one time. He worked on my ward out there at the hospital just before he started to mining. He went out here first _____ bought a mine out there him and another fellow and then he went from there when it played out over in the edge of _____ and he sunk a shaft in there.
- Q. Okay, Carl do you remember the company store there in Buxton?
- A. Yes I do. I've been in it many and many and many a times.
- Q. Describe it to me.
- A. I stood right over it about 2 years ago. Me and Logan, you met him you say, _____ he took me down there and I stood right up on the foundation and looked down in the basement. It had a full basement. That damn thing would cover a good 2/3 of a block, that company store.
- Q. What could you buy there?
- A. Any damn thing you wanted, from a needle to order an automobile.
- Q. And they would just check off?
- A. That's right, the coal company would check you off through the coal.
- Q. Were the prices high?
- A. About high as _____
- Q. Really?
- A. Oh yes, you could go to Albia and buy your stuff cheaper, if you had a way to get to Albia. There wouldn't nobody, very few people got cars, that's along in 20, very few. I don't suppose there's a half a dozen people in Buxton, oh maybe a few more _____ that owned cars, had cars. Had Model T, _____ and big guys had buicks or _____ or something like that. Armstrong's son he had a big one. Of course his old man could afford it _____. He lived right across from me. I lived in one of his houses. He owned several, old Mutchakinok

- A. houses the brought over.
- Q. You lived right across the street from Hope Armstrong?
- A. Just across the road, that's the Albia and Oskaloosa road.
- Q. Well tell me about the Armsgrong family.
- A. Well I can tell you of them that I know, and I knew them all that I know of but two. It was a big family of boys and girls.
- Q. How big a family, tell me their names?
- A. Alright, the oldest one is Charlie, he run the butcher shop.
- Q. Charlie ran the butcher shop.
- A. The old man owned the butcher shop but Charlie run it. And the coal company checked off for him.
- Q. Oh really?
- A. Just like the company store. He checked off for Armstrong. I could tell you a lot about Armstrong, old man Armstrong when he first come into Mutchakinok. He went down and got these negroes I was telling you about to break the strike.
- Q. Why'd he do that?
- A. Cause the company paid him enough money to do it. He never did belong to no union. He come from down in the sticks there and married a white woman around Oskaloosa then.
- Q. Where was Hope Armstrong from?
- A. Down in the south somewhere, I can't tell you just what state he was from.
- Q. And the company had him go, what year was that when they brought the?
- A. Oh I suppose it was around in the, around probably in the latter 80's or around 90, 18, the latter 80's after they had been in there quite a while.
- Q. The 1880's.
- A. Probably in the early 80's, it might have been in the later 80's. When they were trying to form the union here. But that was all the way from 80 on up until they got. But I don't think they fold _____ the unions until somewhere up in the first part of 90's.
- Q. Did they use blacks as strike breakers?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Where at?

A. At Mutchakinok.

Q. At Mutchakinok.

A. And they never did have a union there, never, all the times they run the mines there. They run the mines there from I think it was around 10 years or maybe a year or 2 longer.

Q. Did that cause a lot of resentment on the part of white miners Carl?

A. I'll tell you what they had in there. I can't call your name, you told me what your name was.

Q. Joe.

A. Just call me your first name, Joe. They had them white men working there you see _____ and when the white men come out on strike that's when most of the Swedes come in.

Q. The Swedes come in?

A. Yeah, and they wouldn't quit work. Hell, they wouldn't quit.

Q. Where did the Swedes come from, where did they get?

A. From all over. Some of them come from Sweden. A lot of them come from Sweden.

Q. They were strike breakers too?

A. Well their fathers did yeah. Well they come there to work along with men but they didn't give a damn, they wanted to work, the Swedes did. I know how they acted down around 18 and 19. They still wouldn't good union men but they was nice people to live by. They was good people to get along with, good neighbors, hard workers.

Q. So the Swedes came in at Mutchakinok too?

A. The Swedes and then the niggers come in. A lot of the niggers come in there was mostly Swedes and negroes, mostly. The white men all got out except the Swedes. Then they tried to organize them, Old Buxton. Now that's not this Buxton superintendent down here, that's his son after they went over into Monroe County. That was his father was superintendent _____ first went and worked with this one down in Monroe, Ben I know what his name was. My book told me what his name was but I can't.

Q. You say your dad was involved in union organizing as early as 1880 here, Carl.

A. When they started organizing he was in with it.

Q. Who were some of the people involved with him?

A. Oh I can't tell them all but I can tell you some of the officers and the _____

Q. Who were they?

A. John L. Lewis' father was one. I had a book that would tell you most of them, John P. White, now they made him district of this Iowa here. His office in Oskaloosa and when they got the whole thing organized they made their national which probably was in Minneapolis, not in Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Indiana for years. That's where they started their national office for all the district and it's just been a few years that they left Indianapolis. It was down in, what's that name you come from where your lived there down in Virginia? What's the name of that? Is that where the United Mine Workers moved in to,

*That's where John Lewis live and T.W. White.

Whether the United Mine Workers over in Alexandria or was it in Washington, D.C.

*John Lewis lived in Alexandria.

He lived in Alexandria yeah.

*Not sure where the office was.

I imagine the national was there too, just over the river from Wastington, D.C.

Q. I know the place,

A. She was there 12 years, worked for the army there. She's a retired government employee.

Q. So both Swedes and Blacks were brought in as strike breakers?

A. Yeah, the Swedes probably come in ahead of the Blacks. But when they the Swedes went back to work.

Q. What happened to Mutchakinok, did the mines peter out there?

A. Yes, the coal petered out.

Q. And then they moved to Buxton?

A. They moved over into Monroe County which was coal. I imagine around 14 miles, which they generally are. Oskaloosa is the county seat and then you go on over to Albia. That'd be the next county seat. So Buxton sat maybe just a little further south of Oskaloosa and then north of Albia. Yes, because it was only about 12 miles from Albia to Buxton, probably about 14 miles, 15 mostly south and maybe a little west. It was a little west, Albia and then Buxton. Buxton sat almost due north of Albia, about 11 miles.

Q. Right, okay.

A. Now I was telling you about that strike. Of course he went to the the

Q. Who did that Hope? Hope Armstrong,

A. The company but he was their representative Buxton, old man, not this Buxton down there, his father,