

You know, it's kind of hard sometimes when you get old, to remember a lot of things, but now this is the one that was, that was printed in the American Poet.

VERY GOOD. (ES)

Before you start with the... But that, to me, is the most beautiful poem.

YES, UH-HUH. (ES)

I'm going to look at Florence's poems. I'm going to disappear, I'm going to get out of the way, so they can...

THAT'S VERY NICE. VERY NICE. (ES)

Do you have a sheet of music that goes? (Dorothy Collier)

Oh, I forgot that. We forgot he was also a musician, he composed music, he had one that...

IS THIS THE SAME ONE? (JH)

Yes, that's the same.

IT'S REALLY NICE. (ES)

Uh-huh. Isn't that wonderful thoughts in there?

I LIKE THAT.

To me it's just beautiful. Well, that was one of his... one that they had put into this book of contemporary poets now. Course, I'll let you see my mother and father's 50th anniversary; look in here, see how they all looked, many years ago. That's all, but one's light and one's dark, I don't know which one they can see the best.

Well, the light one.

Uh-huh, well, it's up to them. Now this is, there's our countryhouse.

OH, THATS YOUR HOME? (ES)

That's our country home, and you can see. . .

MY, THAT IS A SPACIOUS HOME. (ES)

Well, now, it looked altogether different when we left, the trees had grown up, the rose bushes was on trellises, and yard was, you know what I mean, how well kept. It really was a . . .

WHEN WAS THIS TAKEN, THAT THIS THESE TWO PHOTOGRAPHS? (JH)

Well, let me see. Can I tell you? Well, I can tell... let me look

at one of 'em. Give me an idea of our ages.

Got a little speck of _____ on one of 'em. (Collier)

IS THAT RIGHT? (All laugh)

Here I am standing by the post. Now Della, wait a minute. . .

HOW MANY ROOMS ARE IN IT?

Let me see, now. I don't know...Four, five, six rooms and a nice big back porch total. This was taken at least 70 years ago. At least 70 years. Now you can see my, see I'm standing here. Now this little baby here, I believe is Della, and Della is 76, so it must have been taken about 73 years ago.

YOU'RE THE, YOU'RE GIRL TO THE RIGHT.

I'm the girl to the right. Yes, I'm the one standing up by the post. So you see it's been taken at least, it's over 70 years, cause I'm 83, and I know I wasn't 13.

Oh, yes. (Collier)
YEAH. (ES)

Yes, that's been taken...Now this, this house here, this part here. Was the house. This is where two little houses had been joined together. I don't know where they bought them. I don't know where they came from. I don't think they came from Muchakanak.

(Background noise, entrance of non-participant, introduction of interviewers, etc.)

(Conversation between Hraba and Schweider, irrelevant to interview)

Now yesterday I found an envelope of post, of cards. It showed it showed the houses, it showed our neighbors' houses, ah, and then it showed the old store, houses that had been caving in, and it showed the old meat shop on the top of the hill. It showed pictures of that. Well, I had some wonderful pictures and I don't know what I've done with them. I had them in the house.

WELL, THAT'S SAD. (JH)
MAYBE THEY'LL SHOW UP. (ES)

Uh-huh, maybe so. Then it showed, way back in Muchakanak and it showed a tree that my mother had planted when she was a girl.

MY, MY. (ES)

So there really, really was some record there, but I just can't I just don't know what I've done with them. I looked at them all, day yesterday, but then put em up and I don't know where they are.

IS THERE ENOUGH OF A PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD ON THERE THAT... (JH)

IDON'T KNOW, AH... WE CAN WAIT AND SEE, I'M NOT SURE. (ES)

WELL, THANKS FOR THINKING OF US JEANETTE, THAT'S REALLY KIND. (JH)

Anything, anything that I have, that I can help you, I'll be glad to show you. Some of these may not be of any interest to you, but I don't know that. So by showing you. . .

The country home should be, uh-huh.

YES, THE COUNTRY HOME. VERY INTERESTING. (ES)

But it looks so different from when it did when I left. Cause I left when I was 17. So you see, there was quite an improvement, the trees. The trees had grown. . .

QUITE A WHILE AGO, UH-HUH.

I'll just take these on out of your way, now.

(Background noise)

THANKS VERY MUCH FOR SHARING THEM.

Just keep them right there if they're not in the way. Instead of carrying them.

Now if any help I can be to you, call me.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

(Background noise)

Hazel Stapleton talking:

Well, they got me on trial now. I hope I don't get life.(All laugh)

I don't think so.

WELL, YOU WANT TO START, ELMER? NO, YOU GO AHEAD, JOE.

IT'S ALREADY ON. HAZEL, RIGHT? HAZEL, YOU WERE ~~HERE~~ A WHILE AGO, WHILE WE WERE HERE ON SATURDAY.

Yes.

SO YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP TO, AND WE HAVE...I'M TRYING TO FIND, ELMER, AND WHAT DID I DO WITH THAT? WE HAVE A SERIES OF QUESTIONS THAT WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT, AH, ABOUT BUXTON. I'LL BE READY IN JUST A SECOND. OKAY. I'D LIKE TO KNOW FIRST OF ALL WHEN YOU WERE BORN AND WHERE YOU WERE BORN.

Buxton, Iowa.

AND WHAT'S THE DATE?

1902, July the 10th.

JULY 10, 1902. OKAY, AH, IS THAT, HOW LONG DID YOU LIVE IN BUXTON?

Well, the first time... well I was born there. And I think I was about maybe 5 or 6 when we moved away the first time.

OKAY, I CANT RECALL NOW HAZEL, WHERE DID YOU GO THE FIRST TIME, WHERE DID THE FAMILY GO? THIS MOVE WHEN YOU WERE 5 OR 6?

To Des Moines.

TO DES MOINES.

Uh-huh.

THEN YOU RETURNED, DIDN'T YOU?

Yes, yes.

HOW LONG WERE YOU IN DES MOINES IN THAT INTERIM?

Up until I was about 13. *HS*

OKAY, FROM 5 OR 6 UNTIL YOU WERE 13.

I was 13 when we moved here the last time.

YOU MOVED BACK TO BUXTON WHEN YOU WERE 13?

No. We moved from Buxton here when I was 13.

OKAY, I'M A LITTLE CONFUSED NOW. THERE WERE TWO MOVES. *JH*

Yes.

THE FIRST ONE WAS WHEN YOU WERE 5 OR 6.

5 or 6.

YOU CAME TO DES MOINES AT THAT TIME?

Yes.

HOW LONG DID YOU STAY HERE?

Well, I imagine about a year.

ABOUT A YEAR AND THEN RETURNED TO BUXTON.

Yes.

AND THEN CAME BACK UP HERE WHEN YOU WERE ABOUT 13. OKAY. GOOD. AH, AND THEN YOU SPENT, HAVE YOU SPENT MOST OF YOUR LIFE HERE IN DES MOINES SINCE THEN?

Well, yes, except for the times when I was married and lived in Chicago.

YEAH, HOW LONG, WHEN WAS THAT?

Well, let's see, I guess I lived in Chicago around 35 years. But I was home look like every two months. I want to visit. I been then. I left Chicago and came back to Des Moines. I been here now for about 13 years.

AND DID YOU, WHAT, DID YOU COME BACK HERE TO DES MOINES AFTER YOUR HUSBAND DIED?

After he died, uh-huh.

WHAT DID HE DO IN CHICAGO?

Well, he ran a barbeque place.

UH-HUH.
WAS HE A MINER? (ES)

No, no.

HE NEVER MINED...? (ES)

No. They had a farm in Missouri.

SO HE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BUXTON?

No, nothing about Buxton.

WHERE WAS, WHERE WAS HE FROM?

Let's see. What part of Missouri? Glasgow.

OKAY. AND HAD BEEN A FARMER.

Yes, his people had.

AH. WELL WE ALREADY KNOW THE NAMES OF YOUR PARENTS AND WHERE THEY CAME FROM. UH...ELMER DO YOU REMEMBER HOW MANY CHILDREN THERE WERE?

NO, I DON'T. (ES)

I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE IT, YOUR SIBLINGS IN THE FAMILY.

Let me see.

THERE WAS JEANETTE, AND YOU...

There was seven of us. Three boys and four girls.

WHAT WERE THERE NAMES?

Compton, Lawrence, well, I should name Jeanette first, but Lawrence, then Hazel, Della, Rosie, and Johnny.

DID ANY OF THE BOYS WORK IN THE MINES?

My oldest brother Compton.

BUT THAT'S BEFORE YOU MOVED HERE AT 13. OR DID HE STAY HERE? AFTER YOU MOVED BACK?

Let me see...I think when we moved back he worked in the mines before he moved here this last time I know, cause he and my father stayed there for awhile and worked.

OKAY, WAS HE A MINER, OR DID HE HELP YOUR FATHER?

Well, he mined but he was under my father's supervision. So he must have worked at the same time my father did. (HAZEL)

FOR HOW LONG DID HE WORK IN THE MINES? DO YOU REMEMBER?

Well, I think up until he was about 16.

STARTED WHEN? WHEN HE WAS ABOUT...12, 13?

Well, let's see. Well he, well he no he was a little older then. He stayed a little longer than 16. When he started, he must have been about, I imagine about 14 or 15. When he started. He started very young, with my father.

HE WAS FINISHED WITH HIS SCHOOLING AT THAT TIME, HUH? WHEN HE STARTED THE MINES. OR DID HE...?

Well, he worked there during the school, during vacation times.

UH-HUH, ON A PART TIME BASIS, REALLY.

Uh-huh, and then when he was ready for high school, there was no high school there for them to go to, cause it had burned down.

DID YOU GO TO HIGH SCHOOL?

No, I'm a drop-out. (laughs)

HOW MUCH EDUC...HOW MUCH FORMAL SCHOOLING DID YOU HAVE?

Well, I just finished public school, is all. I didn't get to high school.

WAS THAT EIGHT GRADES?

Yes, uh-huh.

EIGHT GRADES. AND THAT WAS ALL DONE IN, WELL, NOT ALL OF IT; SOME OF IT HERE IN DESMOINES.

Yes, here in Des Moines. Clarkson school.

OKAY. GOOD. AH. WE ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THE HOUSING OF THE FAMILY.

Yes.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT YOU REMEMBER ABOUT LOOKING BACK AT BUXTON?

A big, a train accident they had there.

WHEN WAS THIS?

Ah, that was in front of our place, but our place was outsettled by Forsom (?) here, almost to Corning. The trains ran together.

HEAD ON.

Oh, yes. And the, the coal train had stopped, see. They had about 10 or 12 cars of coal, and the train that was coming from the junction was the water train had three, ah, three flats of water, they carried water then, and when they hit this train, of course the coal trian couldn't expand, and the water train hit it, and they both just bounced up like that. And the man that was, the engineer at the water train. He didn't get hurt. But the man, but the fireman on the coal train, he jumped out, then when he warned this other fella, he couldn't hear so good, and then when he went to jump, he was caught between the tender (2) and the engine and he got burnt awful bad. In fact when they did get him out, when they pulled his

shoes off they just pulled off a, a shoe full of flesh. And of course he lived, I guess for a week or ten days there, but, cause my father went to see him. Well, I used to... I wouldn't say I was bad, but I used to hop the trains, because the men back in those days were different now, they used to take us up in thier arms and throw us up in the trains. Cause the trains passed by our place and they would come home from school, we could get right off, and run up the hill to our house. HS

UH-HUH.

Uh-huh,

WHEN WAS THIS WRECK?

Oh, let me see. That must have been around about 19...That must have been before we moved back the last time. It must be around 1910 or 11, yes. HS

And then I remember once a little boy brought us home from school, and he whistled at me, and I thrilled, I trilled back at him and he was crossing this cow, ah, cow, ah, what do you call it where they keep the...

Cattle barn.

And his foot got hung, you see. And he couldn't get it out. So when the train was coming out of the cut, why he couldn't. They didn't, they didn't see him, then when he just fell back over. They cut his leg off. HS

SECOND SIDE

Domino.

DOMINOES. WHAT OTHER GAMES? DID YOU HAVE DOLLS?

Oh, yes, we had dolls. HS

WHAT WERE THEY MADE OF? WHAT WERE THE DOLLS LIKE? WERE THEY STORE BOUGHT OR HOME, HOME-MADE?

Oh, no. My father bought them in Albia. HS

OKAY. WHAT ABOUT THE BOYS? WHAT DID THEY...

They had wagons and skates and sleds. HS

SKATES... ROLLER SKATES?

Ice skates. HS

ICE SKATES. SO YOU USED A SLED AND ICE SKATED IN THE WINTERTIME?

Yes. Uh-huh

HOW MUCH...WHEN WOULD YOU KIDS PLAY? DID YOU PLAY NEARLY EVERY DAY, OR... HOW MUCH TIME A DAY DID YOU HAVE TO PLAY?

Well, after we'd get out of a little work, the boys had to cut the wood and bring in the coal and the water. HS

AFTER SCHOOL?

After school.

WHAT TIME DID YOU GET OUT OF SCHOOL, HAZEL?

Around 3:30, I believe.

AROUND 3:30. SO YOU'RE HOME, WHAT ,AT ABOUT 4:00?

Yes, around 4.

THEN THE BOYS WOULD WORK FOR, WHAT, AN HOUR OR SO?

Well, until they got all the little coal to bring em in... to buckets about that big, stack em up behind the stove, some. Then they had to split the wood, just in little pieces, about that long.

Okay, HOW LONG DID THAT TAKE EM?

It took them about an hour.

ABOUT AN HOUR. AND THEN YOU COULD PLAY BETWEEN THAT TIME AND SUPPER, HUH?

Yes. Well, we had to help ^{my} mother set the table, ^{and} things that we could do, that kids could do.

OKAY. WHAT TIME WAS SUPPER?

About 5:30, I would say.

5:30. AND THEN YOU WOULD ALL EAT TOGETHER, ISUPPOSE.

Oh, yes, yes, yes. A Big table.

WOULD YOUR FATHER SAY GRACE AT EACH MEAL?

Every meal.

EVERY MEAL.

Up until he died. (laugh)

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE FOODS THAT YOU HAD? ^{ESPECIALLY} DURING THE WEEK. NOT SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

Well, we had lovely, we had plenty of fried chicken, baked chicken, and we had macaroni and then ~~then~~ she'd buy beef and make a nice beef stew. We had string beans, just practically everything. ANYTHING & EVERYTHING, HUH?

DID YOU HAVE A TABLE CLOTH ON THE TABLE? (ES)

We certainly did. ^{It}, it was red and white checked and one was blue and white checked.

UH-HUH, I KNOW THE KIND. Yes.

YES, THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS WE PICKED UP BEFORE, THAT YOU NEVER SET A TABLE WITHOUT A TABLECLOTH. (ES)

No, we certainly didn't. It was a cotton tablecloth.

ANOTHER THING ^{THAT} YOU MENTIONED ABOUT A MINUTE AGO, YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT HAULING WATER. (ES) WAS THERE NO WELL IN THE HOUSE?

Yes, but it was about as far as I'm here to about across the street from the house. Maybe a little further, yes. And in, and in the wintertime, they'd haul it on the sleds. And in the summertime ~~they~~ had wagons, they would haul it up to the house with.

AND THEN YOU HAD A SISTERN TO PUMP IT UP...(ES)
NO, wedidn't have, we had a real, a real pump, we didn't have no sistern. If we, if my mother would catch the water for washing, so we would have a barrell at the corner of the house.

WHY WERE THEY HAULING WATER ON ~~THE~~ TRAIN? YOU MENTIONED THE WRECK.

Well, I think they took it down to number 10 junction. That was a place.

(click and inaudible conversation)

OH, THATS FOR THE COMPANY STORE, FOR THE COMPANY HOUSES. (ES)
~~THEY'D HAUL WATER + COAL FOR THE COMPANY...~~

Yes, and they would ttake it down to number 10 junction, too.

They want to know how we got our water.

‡ I thought I told them we had a well, uh-huh. We had to bring a pump, to pump it.

YES, YOU HAD SUPPER ABOUT 5:30.

Uh-huh. ~~About~~ 530 .

AND I SUPPOSE THE FAMILY WAS DONE EATING BY A LITTLE AFTER 6, HAZEL. WHAT DID YOU KIDS DO THE REST OF THE EVENING, AND WHAT DID THE PARENTS DO?

Well, ^{now} we would play with our dolls in the wintertime, and play little games. And we had our little, and in the summer time our father, mostly would go out in the garden and work until about dark. In the summertime.

SURE, AND YOUR MOM WOULD WHAT, AH?

Well, sometimes she would go with him, but now my mother practically took care of the chickens, the feeding of the chickens, and of course there were certain times that we had to gather eggs after school.

WHAT, WHAT DID THE , UH, WHAT DID YOUR BROTHERS DO IN THE WINTER TIME? ^{AFTER SUPPER}

They, had to, had to bring in coal, and had to chop the wood, and then my oldest brother and father took care of most of the cleaning of the barn.

DID YOU CHILDREN HAVE TO STUDY ALOT WITH YOUR SCHOOLWORK AT NIGHT?

Well, we well yes, but it wasn't like it is ^{is} today, where it's hard.

OKAY, WHAT TIME DID YOU GO TO BED, THEN?

Oh, I'd say around 8:30. Between 8:30 and 9.o'clock.

BETWEEN 8.30 AND 9 OCLOCK.

In the wintertime. But in the summertime we could stay up until 9:00. We didn't have to be home until 9.

WELL, HAZEL, WERE YOU ABLE TO STAY UP A LITTLE BIT LATER ON THE WEEKENDS?

YES, WE could, on the friday nights...

HOW LATE?

Oh, maybe nine thirty, something like that. We could go out in the yard when the weather was kind of warm, we could go out in the yard and play. And in the wintertime on the weekend, we could go sleigh riding, but it should have to be on the place, we couldn't go away from home, we kids couldn't. My oldest brother, he could go away from home and sleigh ride in the winter time.

HOW OLD WOULD YOU HAVE TO BE BEFORE YOU COULD GET OFF THE PLACE? AND AND DO THAT? GO SLEDDING? HOW OLD WAS HE? BEFORE YOUR PARENTS ALLOWED HIM TO DO THAT?

He, he must be around sixteen, seventeen. Cause he made his own sleds.

SO YOU HAD TO BE A CERTAIN, YOU HAD TO BE A TEENAGER.

Oh, yes. And then he couldn't stay out too late, he could stay out until about ten o'clock.

HAD TO BE HOME BY TEN.

Yes, uh-huh.

WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOUR PARENTS WERE, OH, NOT STRICT, BUT, IS THAT THEY MADE SURE THAT THEY KNEW WHERE YOUR KIDS WERE.

If we, if we would go some place and play, and we wasn't home a certain time, she'd come after us.

YEAH.

Have a little switch in her hand.

OR A shawl. (?)

Yes, or a - shawl (?) Thats right. But she didn't have very much trouble with us, me, coming home on time, because the next time would come, she wouldn't let us go. We had to stay home.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO ON SATURDAYS? HAZEL, AH...

Well, we had our work to do on Saturdays.

LIKE WHAT?

Well, now my mother, she took care of the chickens, and I would help her to put the fresh straw in the nest, and wash the china eggs, and bur the, the well it was full of lights, lice, and I'd burn them, but I always had to have a bucket of water, so if it'd catch on fire, I could take a cup and put it out. And of course my oldest sister, she had to, she worked in the house. Tore it all to pieces cleaning it. (laughs) Wouldn't miss a corner. (And we had our cows to milk, too, in the evening.)

WAS MOST OF YOUR SATURDAY, THE DAYTIME SATURDAY TAKEN UP WITH YOUR CHORES?

Well, practically, well I'd say at least a good half a day. But my mother wasn't hard on us, she'd give us a certain, we had a certain task to do, before we could go play, but when we got that done, then we could go and play. But not until our work was done.

SATURDAY AFTERNOONS YOU'D PLAY?

Yes, right around the little farm we had.

DID YOU GET AN ALLOWANCE AT ALL? (ES)

No, no. But my father, whenever he'd go to Albia, that was about ten miles, he'd always bring us back some candy, or a little bag of peanuts or something. Never missed bringing us something. Apples, or else a little basket of those blue grapes.

OH, YES I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

Yes,

WE, WE HEARD YOU HAD A MOVIE HOUSE IN BUXTON, SUPPOSE YOU WANTED TO GO TO THE MOVIES. DID YOUR FOLKS GIVE YOU THE MONEY? (ES)

I don't remember ever going to the movies. ^{there.} But I'll tell you one thing, whenever the circus came to town, my father would take us. I remember once when he had Della, ah, my Della, in his arms, and had me by the hand. ~~Taking me to the land.~~ Taking me to the circus, just us three. Ringling Brothers.

DID YOUR PARENTS GO TO DANCES AT ALL?

No, onliest thing I know about dancing...I think it was the first time or the last time we moved, they gave mamma a party, and they would...

WHO IS 'THEY'?

(?)

I remember the first time we moved here. Cause I was so little, but I remember the men, they had their hands together going all around the floor, dancing. I guess they called it dancing. And I remember the pieces, someone was playing the organ, I can't think of ~~the~~ the name of it, but it said "Rock Canyon two and two, young lady so's to see" (?) that's all I can remember, the organ was just, everybody was just hopping, no it was the women, they was just hopping around the floor. (Laughs)

THE WOMEN WERE DANCING WITH ONE ANOTHER.

No, with the men.

THE MEN. OKAY. THE MEN AND WOMEN TOGETHER. WHO WAS GIVING THE PARTY FOR YOUR MOTHER? IS THAT, WHO GAVE,

Well, we, let's see, ^{now} who gave it/? I don't know.

YOU DON'T KNOW.

But, ah, ^{it was} Frieda (?) was my mother's sister, she had a little farm next to ours.

7 6 2
WAS IT, WAS IT IN YOUR HOUSE?

In our house, uh-huh. It was in the evening, late in the evening.

INVITED FRIENDS AND OTHER PEOPLE...

Oh, yes, there was maybe around six or eight couples, ^{there} I imagine.

OKAY. GOOD. DO YOU EVER REMEMBER GOING DOWN INTO BUXTON TO SHOP WITH YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER IN THE STORES?

Well, now, my father did lots of the shopping, my mother would tell him what...sometimes ~~in~~ ^{the} ~~store~~ ^{store} and papa would go to Albia, but she mostly, they both couldn't go ^{when} we was kids, so my father would go to Albia, and mother would tell him what to get. And, fact, he shopped just as good as she could shop. He knew what, what to get, and my mother would go down to the company store, and then sometimes ~~there~~ ^{there} was peddlers that would come through with big suitcases and maybe mamma would buy something off of them. And then there was, I think ^{the} John M. Smith, had a big catalog, and she would send and get ^{the} clothes out of the catalog.

DO YOU REMEMBER ^{WHETHER} YOUR DAD, WHEN HE SHOPPED FOR CLOTHES...DID YOUR MOTHER SEW? (ES)

Oh, yes, she...

NOW DID SHE BUY ALL OF THE YARD GOODS, OR WOULD HE BUY THEM? (ES)

Well, yes, and then sometimes Jeanette would go, would bring them home from the store, would shop and buy them. She made us some beautiful clothes, really, beautiful.

DID SHE MAKE MOST OF THE CLOTHES? (JH)

Well, most of our, most of our summer dresses. I remeber she, once she bought us a beautiful serge, bought my sister blue, and mine was brown and it was _____ and brown and looked like roman color. (?) But our coats and things, we bought them.

DID SHE, AH SHE, DID SHE MAKE YOUR FATHER'S CLOTHES AT ALL?

Oh, no, no. She would just patch things and kept ^{pt} the buttons on. And things like that.

WE DONT KNOW MUCH ABOUT SCHOOL THERE IN BUXTON.

Well, yes, I remember the school that I went to,...

WHAT SCHOOL WAS IT?

Let me see, what was the name of that, I don't think it had a name, but it was on fifth street.

FIFTH STREET SCHOOL.

The first school... (The first school they had in Buxton) (sister)

And it was right across from the church that we attended, ^{Baptist} ~~the~~ church.

WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT CHURCH?

I think it was, let's see...I think it was ^{210W} First Baptist, Mt ^{210W} Syne, that's it Mt. Syne ^{210W} -12-

OKAY. OKAY, TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE SCHOOL THERE, IS THAT, AH...MOST OF THE CHILDREN IN YOUR CLASS, WERE THEY BLACK OR WHITE?

They were mixed.

MIXED. ABOUT HOW MANY BLACK AND HOW MANY WHITE? WAS IT MOSTLY BLACK, OR...?

Well, that's, I, that's hard to remember, because, it was mixed. Mostly Swedes, so many Swedes.

THERE WERE SOME SWEDES IN YOUR CLASS?

Yeah, but, yeah, I believe the majority mostly was colored. But there was quite a few Swedes in there, too.

OKAY, DO YOU REMEMBER, DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR FRIENDS IN SCHOOL, YOUR SCHOOLMATES...VERY WELL?

Yes...

WHO WERE YOUR CLOSE FRIENDS?

Tollers. (?)

TOLLERS, HUH?

Yes, they lived out in the country, too.

WERE THESE, WERE THESE GIRLS OR BOYS, THE TOLLERS?

Well, there was, let me see, there was, oh, it was such a big family. Must have been round about four girls and three boys, I think. Or four boys. But they left Des Moines, left Buxton, a little before we did.

A LITTLE BEFORE YOU DID?

Yes, uh-huh.

YOU MENTIONED A TIME OR TWO "A BIG FAMILY". WAS SEVEN A LARGE FAMILY? (ES)

Yes, it was.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF AN AVERAGE FAMILY SIZE? (ES) TWO OR THREE CHILDREN WAS A LOT, AND SEVEN WAS...

Well, I would say from about three to seven, something like that, so many people we know had two and three children, and quite a few that had large families.

DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OVER SEVEN? JUST ANY MINER FAMILY THAT HAD EIGHT OR NINE...?

Well, now let me see. I had a aunt, my father's sister, now how many she had in Buxton, but she was the mother of 22.

MY GOODNESS, 22.

Twenty-two.

DID SHE LIVE IN BUXTON? (JH)

1007
Yes, and the _____ her children died, I do know that. Cause when I was about five, I remember going to a funeral, and sitting on my aunt's lap. One of her kids.

~~SO~~ SIX OR SEVEN WAS A LARGE FAMILY, BUT NOT A HUGE ONE.

Yes, but she had twenty two.

SHE HAD TWENTY TWO... UH-HUH.

DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THE SCHOOL BOOKS THAT YOU HAD IN SCHOOL? HAZEL, AH?