

Very interesting

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Buxton Project 424-2104
Narrator's Name: Mr. Herman Brooks
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Interviewers' Names: Elmer and Dorothy Schwieder

A. I had a book on Buxton. I think I let the girl next door have it, my landlady and she said I didn't. I wanted to give you that but I can't find it no place but she said I didn't give it to her. These are my sisters all in here pictures

Q. *Of Buxton?

A. Of Buxton. See I was raised and born in ~~Mutchakonak~~ ^{Mutchakonak}, Iowa.

Q. What year were you born?

A. 1887

Q. In ~~Mutchakonak~~ ^{Mutch}, you were born in ~~Mutchakonak~~ ^{Mutch} in 1887?

A. December 4, 1887.

Q. And you lived there how long in ~~Mutchakonak~~ ^{Mutch}, when did you move to Buxton?

A. Well my parents lived there for years, that's where I was born. I was between 14 and 15 years old when we moved to Buxton.

Q. Now had you mined in ~~Mutchakonak~~ ^{Mutch} before you moved to Buxton?

A. No, no I didn't work in the mines in ~~Mutchakonak~~ ^{Mutchakonak}, Iowa.

Q. *Was your father a coal miner?

A. Oh yes my father was a coal miner for years.

Q. *And what was his name then?

A. Joseph Brooks.

Q. *Joseph Brooks and your mother's name?

A. Jenny Brooks.

Q. *That's right, that's the name that I remember. Do you remember where your parents came from before they came to ~~Mutchakonak~~ ^{Mutchakonak}?

A. Well he was from Lexington, Missouri. Now I don't know that my father came from there, my father was born in Natchez, but from what he used to tell me he used to work for the James boys' father you know.

Q. *Jessie James?

A. Uh huh.

Q. Oh really?

Q. *The bandits _____ and that would have been in Missouri then.

Answers
A. I don't if he, then I think my father went to Kansas City but I don't know how long he lived in Kansas City and moved to Lexington, Missouri. He stayed there for a while, I don't know for how long but I think that's where he met my mother, in Lexington, Missouri.

Q. *How many children were there in your family then?

A. Well altogether there were 3 brothers and 3 sisters.

Subs
Q. *And you were sort of in the middle or were you at the beginning or at the end?

A. I was the youngest boy. I had one brother, Jessie was the oldest and _____ and then myself.

Q. *Are you the only one out of your family?

A. I'm the only one living, pretty tough too.

Q. *Yeah, I'm sure

A. It's tough to have a lot of nephews and cousins see. I have 3 here, 3 cousins.

Q. *In Chicago?

A. In Chicago and Joe Brooks, my brother's son from Des Moines.

Q. *Oh what does he do there?

A. He's retired now, he worked for the city and he retired from the city, Joe did. See he was named after my father, Joseph Brooks and of course his father is dead now. All of them are dead.

Much
Q. *What do you remember of ^{Mucky} Mutch, if you were about 14 or 15, you're the first person we've talked to that's been old enough to really have any remembrances of ^{Mucky} Mutch.

A. Well ^{Mucky} Mutch was just like any other coal camp and of course I don't know whether you know what it means to live in a coal camp or live on a coal camp but it's only two things to do is work and go to bed.

Q. Cause there's just nothing else to do.

A. Well ^{Ku} Oskuloosa, you know where ^{Ku} Oskuloosa is?

Q. Yeah, uh huh.

A. ^{Ku} Oskuloosa was 5 miles from ^{Mutchakonak} Mutchakonak, see there was ^{PE KAC} Mutchakonak, ^{Colo} PE KAC, ^{Colo} Colo, ^{FWNS} Hawkins, Eddyville, not Eddyville ^{FWNS}, those were all coal mines

Q. A coal mine community?

A. Yeah.

Q. So ^{Mucky} Mutch didn't have a movie, I know movies wouldn't have been _____

A. Oh my God no, then.

Q. *You would have that later in Buxton then but not in ~~Mutcha!~~ ^{Mutchy}

A. We didn't have too much of it in Buxton but we did have a little of it.

Q. *How big do you remember ~~Mutcha~~ ^{Mutchy} as being?

A. Well I'll tell you that's a little hard to describe because ~~Mutcha~~ ^{Mutchy} in itself it wasn't too big but it was a lot of farm land around, it was ~~peity~~ ^{peice} of land, land around ~~Mutcha~~ ^{Mutchy} see and you didn't have to go very far to buy chicken and all like that you know and you just had to go a little ~~peice~~ ^{peice} because it was surrounded with big farms.

Q. *I see. Like in houses would you say it was maybe 50 houses or a hundred, how many houses was the coal miners?

A. Let's see, well ~~Mutcha~~ ^{Mutchy} I would say, I guess there was about a population of about 1500 see, that is the coal miners, those that work in the mines and in the store and in the drugstore, they had a drugstore and then the ~~salone!~~ ^{salones} ~~the beer~~ ^{the beer} better than it is now. In ~~Osculoosa~~ ^{Osculoosa} well they had brewry there and you could smell that beer from ~~Osculoosa~~ ^{Osculoosa} way down to ~~Mutehakonak~~ ^{Mutehakonak} if the wind was blowing you know, it'd smell so good.

Q. It might, I ~~never~~ ^{never} thought of that.

*Was ~~Mutehakonak~~ ^{Mutehakonak} mostly black people?

A. Oh no.

Q. *It was a mixture of black and white?

A. There was Irish, Welch, ^{Swedes}, Germans, Polish and we didn't know what color was. We all danced together, we worked together, we ate together, we played ball together, of course at that time I was too small see but they had the team there what they called the Big Ten in ~~Mutcha~~ ^{Mutchy} and of course I was too small to play then see. And of course I remember quite a few of those names but we never had anything that wasn't mixed.

Q. *You mean it was segregated?

A. No, we didn't know what that word meant.

Q. Then they had churches, you went to church together?

A. Oh yeah, ~~we~~ ^{we} even went to church together, and we danced together and everything. We danced together and played ball, they played ball together ~~everything~~.

Q. Did any of the ~~Mutcha~~ ^{Mutchy} ball players that moved to Buxton become part of the Wonders?

A. Well yes, let me say yes because there were quite a few.

Q. Do you remember any of their names?

A. Yes I do. Way back long time ago.

Q. Yes that's been a long time ago.

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A. B.F. Cooper was the manager of the Big Ten I think they call them the White Socks, the Red Socks or something in Mutchah. And let me see now, well of course he was a very young man at that time. He was ~~druggist~~ ^{druggist} he was from Clinton.

Q. *Clinton, Iowa?

A. Uh huh. Well there was B.F. Cooper, Elmer ~~Askin~~ ^{Askin}, he was white, great big strong. I think Elmer was German, I think he was German. There was Cooper, ~~Askin~~ ^{Askin}, Davis Carter, ~~Willie Preacher~~ ^{Willie Preacher}. ~~Eddie Carter~~ ^{Eddie Carter}.

Q. They were all Red Socks on ~~Mutchah~~ ^{Mutchah} team players?

A. That was the ~~Mutchah~~ ^{Mutchah} team.

Q. And old Cooper had part of the ~~Mutchah~~ ^{Mutchah} team before he moved, he moved there and he had a drugstore in Buxton too.

A. See he was married to my wife.

Q. Oh is that right?

A. Uh huh. I don't know, she had a lot of his pictures but I don't know what became of them. That's Cooper's son.

Q. *Oh so this was after she had been married to Cooper then that you and she was married?

A. Well she was married to Cooper long, I was living in Detroit when she married Cooper. See when we started to going, when I started she was only about 14 or 15 years old then but her parents didn't want me to, my next oldest brother started to going with her next oldest sister and they claimed they didn't want two Brooks in the family. So at that time I left, I went to Detroit.

Q. *How old would you have been at that time?

A. 21 or 22. And then I went to Detroit and so I told them, well they moved to Colfax and then we moved from Buxton to Des Moines and so I worked in the mines, the ~~Shuler~~ ^{Shuler} mines there, maple block.

Q. In Des Moines.

*Yeah, outside of Des Moines.

A. Outside of Des Moines yeah, Maple block. And then I worked in ~~the~~ ^{the} I worked in a ~~couple~~ ^{couple} of mines there.

Q. *What did you do when you went to Detroit, what kind of work did you do then?

A. Well let me say, my first work was construction work. I was working for a big construction company from Cincinnati and then I went in the steel mill and

Q. That's hard tough work that steel mill. I don't know if it's any harder and tougher than the mine though that's tough and hard.

A. Ain't nothing no tougher the mines.

Q. I don't think so.

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A. Well a lot of people they can't imagine, they can't visualize what the mines look like but the mines is laid off just like a city. Now you see you take Cottage Grove, take Cottage Grove well alright, there's only two sides to the mine at any given time, east side, west side, north side or south side and the main entrance. See the main entrance only run one way and just like Cottage Grove would be the main entrance say Cottage Grove in the mine would run maybe a mile, a mile and a half, two miles all depends on how much territory that the company owned see they had a limit see they couldn't go pass they limit. And from Cottage Grove and maybe run about a mile $\frac{1}{2}$ or two miles, then they would turn ~~entrances~~ ^{off} off of Cottage Grove, just like see, 50th Street, 50th Place, 51st and then they would what you would call, and then they would, then we would have rooms. That's where the miners would work see that was your spot to work. Well in about 20 or 25 or 30 feet on the other side another man would have a room because they couldn't be too close you know, they couldn't be too close together and then maybe 25 or 30 feet another man would have a room see. All those rooms maybe would go north, all of them would go north see and then on the next, on 51st Street all the rooms would go that way, they'd turn rooms to go off that way. And I think the width of your room was 27 feet I think.

see

Q. And that was your territory to mine?

A. It was your territory.

Q. *Now were you a digger, is that what you did in the mine or were you a company man?

A. I dug coal, I trapped, I ran motor, electric motor ^{I drove mules} to , I done everything down there.

Q. *What did you like the best?

A. None.

Q. *Getting out.

*phys
med
sweet*

A. That's very dangerous. I got that wrist broken driving mules. This part of my wrist was shoved under here and this part was back up here and I had to walk, that was in Buxton, and I had to walk oh I guess a couple of miles to camp to downtown where the doctor was. The doctor at that time was named Edward Carter, Eddie Carter and that night I came up, it was raining and storming. Well they had a little boxcar where with material for men the next day. They had a box car where they would go at lunchtime and eat. So when they brought me up out of the mines when I got hurt, well it wasn't but one way for me to get to the doctor was walk and I walked on and I had to cross a corn field, I was carrying mud on my feet that thick, across that corn field and it was raining and then when I got down to the doctor's office, I went by the doctor's house first but he wouldn't do anything for me that night. He wouldn't set it.

Q. *Why wouldn't he?

A. I don't know and he lived right at the office.

Q. *He did have his office in his house?

A. No, his office and his house was about, well it wasn't as far as from here to the car out there. It wasn't quite that far. It was just a short distance, but he wouldn't of course it was late at night you know, but he wouldn't go, he wouldn't do anything for me. So then I had to walk back home in all that mud, dragging mud. Then I think I was staying with my brother, my people were in Des Moines. I came back down to Buxton on the count of this girl and so then I told him okay

Like Adummy

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A. so then I went on home. When I got home it was all swollen like that you know, all the way . So I was staying with my brother and he was a blacksmith. One of my brothers was a blacksmith and one was a engineer, . So well he got a little peeved at me but you know knocking on the door that time of night you know. And so I told him I said well I'm hurt. Well I couldn't even take my clothes off. I couldn't take my clothes off. So I don't know if I, some way or another I got my shoes off, I didn't want to carry the mud in the house, I just left my shoes outdoors and I laid down on the kitchen floor. So his wife didn't hear me I wasn't making any noise and so she got up and came downstairs to see what was wrong. Well I was laying in the middle of the floor. So I said Ruth, she was very nice, I said I'm hurt. I said I got my wrist broke and she she commensed to screaming see and then my brother ran down and so he said why didn't you tell me you was hurt. I said you knew something was wrong with me. I said I think I did tell you, I said but that's quite alright. It'll be alright. I was so mad, I said I won't be with you very long. I said I'll find some other place to stay. So then Ruth me upstairs, so I stayed 2 or 3 days and then I went on across the street to stay with another boy friend of mine. His picture is on the basketball team, Lennord Curry. So I went over and stayed with him. So then I got a rib broke. When I was with him, I got hurt one night. I got a rib broke, that was in the day time. So after I got the rib broke and I got alright then I went home, come back to Des Moines. I had enough of Buxton. But we used to have some good old times there.

Baseball wonder

Q. One of the things that I've been really interested in, did you mine all day and then come up and play baseball.

A. Yeah we mined all day and we came up and played baseball.

Q. You didn't get any extra pay for playing baseball?

A. Oh no.

Q. Now when you went on a road trip, did you loose your money that you would earn mining then?

Expenses

A. Well I tell you what, Saturdays and Sundays was the only time that we went on the road. Now if we were going to play a team Sunday, we probably would leave Saturday around 3 or 4 oclock in the morning. Of course we had to drive see we went by, not wagon but, it wasn't no automobiles then you see. You had to drive see and there was a fellow there that had a great big, oh I don't know what you would call it but it would seat about 10 and he hauled us all the time.

Q. Kind of like a

A. Yeah, that's right , yeah. And then if we would play on a Saturday, we would leave on a Friday night and we would stay where we were going we'd stay all night on Saturday night and we play that Sunday and then after Sunday game we would leave and be back and ready to go to work Monday.

Q. *Now who would pay for your room and board where you were staying out at, would you have to pay your meals, would the company pay that?

A. No, the company didn't pay anything. The teams that we played, the teams that we were going to play, they bared all the expenses.

Q. Oh really, I see.

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- A. They bared all the expenses, now of course I don't know it cost 35¢ for people to get in you know. You had to have an awful lot of people you know to make any money but of course at that time things were cheap you know, things didn't cost very much. But then we really didn't play for money. All we wanted was expenses guaranteed and have a good time and play ball. We ~~learned~~ the sports you see.
- Q. Who paid for your uniforms then? Did Cooper pay for any of them or did anybody
- A. The players would chip in and buy uniforms and sometimes the company would buy them.
- Q. The Merchantile Company, the Consolidated Coal Company would buy them?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. That's the only thing they did for you, they bought your uniform then?
- A. Well they were pretty nice, they were pretty nice to the people, it wasn't but one thing that they could be and that was be nice because that's the way they made their money by people digging their coal you know.
- Q. *What years did you play on the ball team?
- A. Oh my God.
- Q. Or close to, approximately.
*Or approximately or how old were you when you started playing and how old were you when you stopped playing?
- A. Well I was around about 18 or 19 when I started.
- Q. *And you played what position again?
- A. Well I pitched.
- Q. *You were the pitcher?
- A. Uh huh.
- Q. *Were you always the pitcher then?
- A. Up until I got that wrist broke. And then I used to play canterfield but most of the time
- Q. You were pitching?
- A. Uh huh.
- Q. *Can you remember how long you played with the team then?
- A. Well I guess about 6 or 7 years. See at one time we had two teams in Buxton. We had a YMCA team. They YMCA team is a better team than the Buxton Wonders.
- Q. Really, they were. That's a surprise.
*Did they have a special name or were they just called the YMCA team?
- A. Just the YMCA and they would, we would play exhibition games there and well we would win most of the games, sometimes they win. Sometimes they would win. So

Wonders
A. then they found out B.F. Cooper, the manager, he found out that the younger players were the best see and then so he began to take one or two from the YMCA put them on the Buxton Wonders and then well when it come down to the final analysis the YMCA team didn't have no members, the Buxton Wonders had them all.

Q. *He just gradually got them over to the other team? Did the YMCA team travel to other towns and play too?

A. Oh yes we went all around just the same as the Buxton Wonders. But we never played to be frank with you, when I played basketball and baseball, we never played a colored team. Only one colored team we ever played.

Q. Who was that?

A. That was a team from Chicago. They would play in Buxton on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of every July. That was the only colored team we ever played.

Q. They'd come from Chicago to Buxton?

A. Oh yeah.

Q. Do you remember the name of the team?

A. I don't know if they was the White Socks at that time, that's been so long.

Q. But on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th there'd be a traveling colored team from Chicago, there'd be a read woops ~~do~~ ^{try do}.

A. Oh yeah, everybody, there'd be people they would come from all, the company would give us, the company gave us a ball park.

Q. *The company donated the land for the ball park, did the company build the bleaches then?

A. Oh yeah, the company built. I guess it would hold about 12 or 13 hundred because people would come from all over Osculoosa, Beaman and all around you know.

Q. Now this is long before lighted fields isn't it?

A. Huh?

Q. They didn't have any lights?

A. Oh my God no.

Q. This was way before lights, daytime only?

A. When the sun went down it was too bad.

Q. *You had to quit when the sun went down?

A. That was it when the sun went down.

Q. *Well now the Buxton team then, what would they play ball teams in other coal camps, like Hykeman?

A. Oh yeah, Hykeman, Hawkins, and Evans oh yeah, we'd go all around Bussy.

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Q. *Did you go out of state then much? Did you play teams out of Iowa or did you mainly play these teams at the other coal camps?

A. At the other coal camps. Now see now Bussy, Eddyville, Evans, Evans was a coal camp, Bussy was a farm town but them old farmer boys could play ball though.

Q. *I've got to ask you, do you remember ever watching or playing with a man called Milo Package? Now he would have been maybe it's too late, Milo was a European, he came as a young boy from Europe and he lived in a coal camp called Carnie, which was north of Des Moines and he was quite a pitcher I guess and I just thought maybe you might have come up, the name might ring a bell with him.

He played for the Carnie team?

*Well he played for the coal camp team, later he played for the Slater team.

A. I think there was a little, Carnie, I think there was a little coal camp above Des Moines about 6 or 7 miles from Des Moines by the name of Carnie.

Q. *That's the one. That's where he lived.

A. I was trying to figure the one, the mines that I worked in when I was living in Des Moines. I guess it will come to me, it's been so long.

Q. *Do you remember how long the Buxton Wonders continued as a ball team or about the time that the team would have broken up?

A. Well the Buxton Wonders they strung along for a good many years as a team and now the fellow that owned the colored team here, Ruth Foster, Ruth Foster he had the colored team, they had a good baseball team and I was, he had hired me to come to Chicago to pitch for him.

Q. Oh really.

A. Yeah, Ruth Foster did.

Q. That was before you got your arm hurt?

A. Yeah. And then just a little bit before I got ready to go I got that wrist broke and then I could grip. And it was broke, well it was broke quite a while and it hurt me and pained me so. It begin to grow back this way so I kept going down to the doctor and going down to the doctor cause of the coal mine, those doctors way back then they had nothing to work with. So it was I think there was 2 white doctors and 1 colored and so I had said to this colored doctor, I said, look, I said this thing is paining me, I can't sleep at night, I said it's mending I said but my hand is going back this way. So he said let me unwrap it and take a look at it. So he took me on in the little operating room that they had a 2 by 4 room and he said and then he called the other two doctors. He said _____ it's got to be broke over. I said yeah. Well during the time that I had my wrist broke, a boy by the name of Reiss Triggs, I don't know what they were going to do to him but anyhow they had him sitting up in a chair like this and of course at that time, what was it they gave you?

Q. Ether.

A. Ether and I guess they took that thing across there too many times see, he never wake up. And when they got ready to operate on him, they tried to wake him but he was gone.

Q. *He was dead.

A. And so I tolé him I said well I said doctor you'll never give me no ethyl. He said Herman what we gonna do, we got to break it over. I said I'll tell you what you do, go out in the street, go over there to the company store it was right across from the company store and a lot of times when the mines wouldn't working, everybody hung out at the company store you know. So I think they went over there and I think they got 1, 2

Q. *I know what you're gonna say

A. 3,

Q. *People

A. 4, 5, so they put a man on this leg, put a man on this leg

Q. *I knew it.

my throat
A. Sit a man across here, sit a man across there and sit across, so he laid my arm out like that and took that rubber mallet and broke it.

Q. *Could they hold you down?

A. Oh yeah, it was those men on me that held me down, I couldn't move they had a man on each leg. Man sitting on each leg. They were sitting on the legs. They were sitting across here see and they had me stretched out, they had a table there, they had me stretched out and so he just laid my arm out like that and come down with that rubber mallet and broke it.

Q. Did it heal right the second time?

*Yeah, did they get it sat right then?

A. No, it's stiff and sore. Stiff and sore for years and years and years, just like that.

Q. *So if you had come to Chicago then you would have become a professional ball player?

A. Oh yes.

Q. Do you remember just out off curiosity what did he offer you to come to play ball, I'm wondering what salaries would be like back then?

A. Well I think he offered me something like \$40 a week.

Q. *And wouldn't that have been very good money at that time?

A. Yeah.

Q. *Very good money.

A. That was big money then, \$40 would buy more than \$100 would buy now.

Q. \$40 a week for the season, for the baseball season or for a year?

A. Oh no that was weekly.

Q. For how many weeks, the whole year?

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- A. Yeah, the whole season.
- Q. Just the baseball season?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. *So then you couldn't, there was no way you could go then?
- A. Oh no, no way. I tried to play a little bit after that but I couldn't you know. I see these pitcher here today, I could pitch a whole lot more ball than they could.
- Q. *I'll bet you could.
- A. I see these boys the way they pitch and one thing another, and then I could throw overhanded, I could throw side ways, I could throw underhanded.
- Q. All three?
- A. I would throw all three.
- Q. At the same time, you'd confuse them like you wouldn't believe it.
- A. Yeah, I could throw all three, overhanded and underhanded and side ways.
- Q. What was your best pitch?
- A. Well my ~~fast~~ ball, I really had a fast ball.
- Q. Really had a fast ball.
*You could strike them out.
- A. I wouldn't miss a team. I think when ^{Ruth} Ruth Foster them played, it's only one fellow that I know, I don't know if Joe Green is living or not, he was living down on 35th Street, boy he was a heavy hitter, he was short and stocky. I fanned him in _____ in those days they didn't have a whole lot of pitchers, a lot of times you had to pitch two days at a time.
- Q. *I think your arm hurt after that.
- A. Oh yeah it hurt but after you got you know, but of course we were very musky then because we worked in the mines and my muscles used to sit way up like that. I could stoop down and reach up and lift up 500 pounds when I was in the mine.
- Q. Now get back to this Green, now you fanned him a couple of times when they
- A. I fanned him every time he came to bat.
- Q. Every time he came up you fanned him.
- A. Every time he came to the bat. One boy Lennord Curry, he's on that basketball team, he was our manager. He used to say, how're gonna hit it when you cant see it,
- Q. *It went by so fast.
How you gonna get it when you can't see it, I like that.

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Q. *Just let me see now if we've got it straight. You were born in ^{Mutchy} Mutchy, you moved to Buxton in 1900, 1901?

When you were 15.

*You would have moved to Buxton about the time that Buxton got started though. That would have been about 1900.

A. Oh yeah. Well now the people that moved from ^{Mutchy} Mutchy, everybody didn't move at one time you see because they couldn't build the houses fast enough. They'd have to get so many houses built see. And then you would get your orders to move.

Q. *Okay, and then would the company move you then, on boxcars and rail road cars?

A. On railroad cars.

Q. *Did they move any of the houses in ^{Mutchy} Mutchy to Buxton?

A. No.

Q. *They didn't move any, they built all new?

A. ^{Mutchy} Mutchy, a lot of the people owned their own homes on the coal camp. Now my father owned his home see ~~anymore~~ all of ~~it~~ ^{it}.

Q. *How much land did you have, acres?

A. Oh my God don't say nothing about land. Had land a plenty.

Q. *Land a plenty, like 2 acres, 3 acres?

A. Where the house would sit?

Q. Yeah, where the house was.

A. Yeah. One little house would sit on as much land as this, more than what this building is on. Cause we raised corn, peas, cabbage, we raised tomatoes, potatoes, we raised everything and we had ducks and geese, pigeons.

Q. *Pigs, I suppose a cow.

A. Oh yeah, we used, everybody raised would be ^{Pink} china hogs, great big pig like that and every Thanksgiving they would start killing, neighbors would help one another and everybody had caves then in those days everybody had caves and we never bought any meat amount to anything, never.

Q. *Always had your own?

A. Oh yeah, cause we would kill 4 and 5 of ~~them~~ great big hogs, great big and all the neighbors would help one another. You kill one day and your neighbor would kill the next day and all the neighbors would help and those Swedish people, they really know what to do with a hog.

Q. *And the Swedes would help you, the Swedish families would help you and you would help Swedish families?

Mutchy A. Oh yes.

Q. *Now in *Mutchy* Mutchia did your dad own the land on which his house was or had he built his house on company land and then maybe they paid rent?

A. I think my father paid a dollar a month for the land,

Q. *He didn't acutally own the land, uh huh? And you think that was the arrangement with most families, they built their own house, or owned the house and rented the land that it was on?

A. The company owned quite a few houses but you see that would be up to you if you felt like you wanted to but the company would, just say practi~~a~~ally give you the land.

Q. If you built the house?

A. Yeah, if you built the house.

Q. *Do you remember much about the company store at *Mutchy* Mutchia, was it anything compared to the later company store at Buxton?

A. Just about.

Q. *Was it?

A. I had that picture, I've looked and I've looked and I can't find it. I just had it a week or so ago.

Q. Of the *Mutchy* Mutchia store?

A. Uh huh but I think my landlord she said I didn't let her have it but I'm sure that I did because my memory isn't that short.

Q. Well your memory is *EXCELLENT MAGNIFICENT* great.

*Well then in Buxton it was quite different wasn't it? Most people in Buxton lived in company houses.

A. Oh yes, practically all of them. Well let me say up in Sweedtown. There was two different Sweedtowns there.

Q. *East Sweedtown and West Sweedtown I think.

Sweedtown A. Yeah. You know they *GREAT* grade on building their own homes you know, they great carpenter yeah they are good carpenters and they would build very few of those Swedish people lived in company houses. There was two different sections there. The Swedish people lived in.

Q. *So they would build their own house and they would rent the land then from the company?

A. Yes.

Q. That's interesting.

*Now the house that you lived in Buxton do you remember how many rooms it had?

House A. Well I soon tell you I think it was 5, but my father built a big kitchen on, he built a big kitchen.

Q. Added a kitchen on the back?

A. Yeah.

Side Two

A. They would use between 6 and 7 clerks there in the store see daily. See because people didn't have no place to go unless they went to Osculoosa or unless they went to Eddyville to buy something and Eddyville I think was 12 miles from Buxton and they never went to those places to buy anything.

Q. *I suppose it was just too inconvenient, easier to stay home and do your trading.

A. Oh yeah, it was a hard way to get there. And then too at the store you could use script.

Q. A little credit. Do you remember the store being fair about that. We've heard in one place that they charge you a little more because they get off of script and somebody else said no they thought they were about the same price as anybody else You remember hearing your folks or your own remembrance of whether the company store was a little higher or whether they were about even?

A. No I don't think there was any unfairness with the store, I don't think so because things were so cheap at that time see and even if they were the people didn't pay any attention to it because things were so cheap. And at that time you got the best of everything.

Q. *You know that's what we've heard over and over that the company, the best brand of shoes, the best _____ That strikes me somehow as being unusual for a coal camp, for miners to have that kind of money that they could have bought the very best.

A. Well let me say this, there's nothing made today, clothes nor shoes or anything that would compare with the things that you could buy way back then and if you paid \$30 for a suit, boy you were a hot

Q. Hot number.

A. Yeah, \$5 for a pair of shoes.

Q. *Good shoes.

A. And \$5 for a hat, dressed up shoes \$5.

Q. *Did people dress, obviously then people dressed well and took great pride dressing up.

A. Yeah we dressed. They were great dressers. And then the goods and stuff that broad-cloth and all of that you can't buy a broadcloth suit now.

Q. *That's true.

A. You wouldn't know where to go to buy a broad cloth suit.

Q. *Do you remember many times that when you would go to collect your wages that you wouldn't have any wages coming, that you had spent all the money on _____ and therefore

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wings

A. That happened to a lot of them, yes that happened to a lot of them of course it never did happen to my father or to me. See now this is what the young boys would have to do that went in the mines. They'd have to work for their father until they were 21, I worked for my father until I was 21.

Q. *Now when you say working for your father, you mean you worked with him in a room and he

minor
mines

A. He got your turn.

Q. *And he collected your money then?

A. All the money was his.

Q. *And that was just standard practice?

A. Yeah. But the day I was 21, ^{my father gave me} my time, but I never did let my father pay for anything I paid for everything. My father he had to have powder and tools you know to work

Q. with, my father never had to pay for anything like that. I paid for everything and my father's money was clear.

Q. When you were 21 then did you get your own room?

A. No, no.

Q. *You still continued to work with your father?

wings

A. Yes, I said now we worked by tonnage. See my father would get this ^{turn} ton would be his ^{turn} time, the next ^{turn} ton would be mine, the next ^{turn} ton would be his, I get the next ^{turn} ton and then some days I wouldn't pick anything, if the ^{turn} ton was slow, if we wasn't loading a lot of coal because sometimes they wouldn't have the men for the drivers see you have to have men would drive mules and things to pull them out of the rooms and they'd be short on that some days and then the ^{turn} ton would be small. But I wouldn't take anything that day. I didn't have nobody to take care of.

Q. *In other words what you were doing was letting father get the pay for the ^{turn} tonnage on those days when you didn't get too many ^{turn} tons?

A. I used to always like for my father to draw 45 and \$50 every two weeks. That was big money when you could do that. And if I drew around 35 or 40 I didn't have anything to do with it just pay board at home.

Q. *Could you estimate what your average pay check was for two weeks?

Was 45 or 50 exceptionally good week or did you average ^{that} out a lot of time?

A. A lot of times we average ^{that} more. Sometimes it was 60 and 65 and all like that you know, 70.

Q. *And you're talking about 2 weeks?

A. Yes.

Q. I've heard the song 16 tons. Did you load more than 16 tons?

Product

A. Oh yeah a lot of days we load more than 16 tons.

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Q. We had one man tell us that if all I loaded was 16 tons I'd go broke but I had to load more than 16 tons to live and we had another man say oh by the time you figure out the slack and the slag and you took all the slate out and you did some proping and _____ that you were lucky to get 5 tons a day.

product A. You had to take that sulfur out. You couldn't load that because they penalized you

Q. *They called that dirty coal didn't they?

A. Yes, they penalized you. You see you had to take the pick you know and scrape that you know and scrape that and get the sulfur and throw the sulfur away.

Q. How big was the seam, was it 4 foot or just _____

A. Sometimes it would run 3, 5 and 7, 6, it all depends.

Q. 7 foot, you could stand up, that must have been heaven?

A. Oh yes, a lot of places you could stand up.

Q. That laying down and cutting a 3 foot seam, that'll kill you.

A. Well it was rough work.

Q. *Tell us a little bit about social life in Buxton. You were a young man apparently you were a very nice looking young man, from your picture, you worked in the mines, you made pretty good money. What was your social life like as a young man before you got married?

see set A. Well, social life on a coal camp is much different than life in a city. It wasn't too much to do at night and there wasn't too many places to go but only in the summertime well that would be our best time. Well we'd go down to the YMCA, down there at night, work in the gym on Sundays we would go to church. Practically all the boys went to Church you know on Sundays. But then they gave dances about every two weeks they would give dances. They gave dances all the time because the whites would give dances you know and we'd go. We give dances and they would come.

12R Q. *So the whites would come to your dances and you would go to the white dances?

A. Yes.

Q. *Back and forth? What about swimming, did you swim at the Y?

A. No we swim in the creeks.

Q. *I've never heard a person yet who used the swimming pool in the Y. Didn't anybody go

A. We didn't have any.

Q. *Yeah there was a swimming pool.

There was a swimming pool later apparently at the YMCA.

A. Buxton?

Q. *Yeah, we've had people tell us

We've had people, at least a lot of other people remember a pool but they don't remember swimming there.

*They talk about a big Y and a little Y.

A. We had two Ys.

Q. A black Y and a white Y, sometimes they'd call it, sometimes they call it big and little.

A. The two Ys were

Q. Across the street almost from each.

A. Side by side.

Q. *Side by side.

A. And that was for the younger boys, the young kids. You had to be a certain age before you could be in that Y.

Q. *Oh in the big Y? The little Y was for the younger boys and the big Y was for the bigger boys?

A. Yeah.

Q. *I see. But you don't remember a swimming pool.

A. We had showers, we had showers.

Q. *Well maybe they put that in later.

Were you there when the school house burned down? You know they built one and then it burned down I think.

A. No I guess I had gone, I had moved to Des Moines then. Maybe they put that in after I had moved to Des Moines.

Q. That's a possibility.

*What about lodges, did you belong to any lodges?

A. So accepted _____ and fellows.

Q. *Which one.

Q. So Accepted Among Brothers and Fellows.

A. I've been tried _____ you want to try me.

Q. *I can't give the right answer.

Masonic.

Masonic lodge.

A. Yeah.

Q. *And did you belong to that as a young man, 20?

A. Well I wasn't too old when I joined. See my father was a 33rd degree mason.

Q. *Oh my.

A. And I had one brother, I had two brothers didn't even belong to any kind of lodge and my father always wanted me to be a mason. I seemed to have been the favorite. Then I had one brother was an Elk and my father didn't believe in that.

Q. Oh really, that's interesting.

A. And so when I joined he wanted me to be a mason.

Q. *Was that an important part of your social life after that then, I mean functions that the masons had?

A. Yeah that's very interesting. At the meetings we used to have a big time you know and after the meetings we would serve drinks and sandwiches and one thing and another. But there wasn't much, well we had roller skating practically 3 nights out of a week, they had roller ring that was in the big Y and baseball, tennis.

Q. Are they selling something?

A. Selling something.

Q. *Did you play basketball then?

A. Oh yeah, that was taken in Buxton.

Q. Oh 1907, is even the , let's see if I can pick you out.

A. That shouldn't be hard. That's right.

Q. *Just a little bit there. You and Valletta look quite a bit alike I think.

A. You think so?

Q. Yeah. Did the basketball team go around to other camps, did other camps have basketball teams?

A. Well practically all of them came to Buxton to play because all the neighboring camps because we had the biggest gym. See we had the best place to you know but we never played a colored team.

Q. *All the other teams were white teams?

A. I've never played a colored team.

Q. Now do you know the names of all the rest of those players?

A. Yeah, all of them are dead too?

Q. Okay, why don't we start up at the top and then we'll just go across. First we'll ask a question. You've got some pictures on Buxton and there's two things we can do, one we'd like to take them with us and get some professionally copied and send them back to you.

*Maybe we should explain what we're going to use them for.

We're trying to get the history of Buxton, the Buxton Club out of Des Moines and some others were trying to get as many pictures and the history of Buxton. Now if you don't want to let the pictures go.

A. Oh yeah I'll let you _____

Q. Okay, otherwise I've got some things in my car that I can try to copy them but I'm not sure I can do a very good job but if we can take them with us and then we'll get them identified and then we'll get the copies made and then we'll mail the pictures or bring them back.

A. I'm sorry I couldn't find that book.

Q. Well maybe it'll come up while we're gone.

*Was it called coal mining in Iowa, it'd have a blue cover?

A. No, I think this had a little brown cover, it was just about that thick.

Q. *Oh well that's something different then yeah, I don't think we've seen that,

A. Valletta had one didn't she, did Valletta have one?

Q. *Valletta had the blue book, _____ Coal Mining In Iowa. I don't think I saw any other books.

A. I've looked and looked and of course since my wife died, why

Q. It may show up yet.

*How long were you married then Mr. Brooks?

A. 54 years.

Q. *54 years. You went to Des Moines, how long did you live in Des Moines then before you finally moved to Chicago?

A. Well I think I got married in 1920 I think, 1918, 1920 and we moved here in 28.

Q. *What did you do after you moved here then?

A. Well I just worked wherever I could get a job, I worked in garages. I was pretty handy with automobiles.

Q. *A good machanic, uh huh.

Wonders

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A. And I worked around the garages see and then I drove out here on the road. I drove for a company so I think some kind of material, roofing material and then I went to work after that for a Russian Jew on the north side. I worked for him 2 or 3 years and then I went out to 95th Street and I worked out there for a German fellow, he was selling fords and he went broke. And then I went to work for the state. My brother-in-law at that time, William Warfield was a coronal ^{GENERAL} so he was living in this building, this was his building and so I came over that morning so he said what you doing Herman, you not working today? I said I haven't got no job. Said you haven't got no job, I said no. I said they're closing my boss up. So he was having his breakfast and so he said you had your breakfast, I said yeah. He said go out and get the car and bring it around to the front. So I went out the garage was back there. It's one out there now but it isn't the same one because my sister-in-law tore that one down and sold it. She's passed now. And I drove the car around and come on back in the house. So he said just as soon as I finish we'll go down to the Armory, drive me down to the Armory, I said okay. So I went on out in the car and sat down and wait until he came out. So I drove him on down to 35th Street there _____ So he didn't tell me he was going to give me a job he just took me back to the custodian, which was at that time was named Capt'in Turpin, so he was the custodian, so he said Turpin here's your engineer. So he said okay coronal ^{GENERAL} and so Captain Turpin told me to sit down. I sit down and so he said, of course he had to make out papers you know to send to Springfield because I was taking another engineer's place that was there. He died, he drank so much whiskey and so he said what relation are you to coronal Aurthur, I said brother-in-law. So he put all that down so we filled out the paper so he said I'll start you to work today. I said today, I said I'm not dressed to do any work today, he said that's alright. You just sign this, he said you start from today on and so I didn't come back home and my wife got a little bit worried and I was so long coming home, she said that, we were living on 56th Street ~~there~~ and I said well I had to put in 8 hours. She said what you mean you had to put in 8 hours. She didn't that _____ had gave me a job, he didn't tell me and I didn't know. So she said I just thought you were fooling around someplace. I said no, she said I thought maybe you were down there gambling. I loved to gamble in those days. I said no, ain't got no gambling money now and so I said I started work for the state today. She said you did, I said yeah. She was at that time she was working for Ben S _____ ^{GENERAL} ~~peace~~ work I think, dress making and she was good at it _____. So I stayed with them and kept that job until I retired. I retired in 89.

Q. *In 69?

A. Huh?

Q. *You retired in what

A. I was 89 when I retired.

Q. You were 89 when you retired.

*So you only retired 2 years

A. See they gave me a big blow out down in Springfield as the Edison ~~gentleman~~ ^{4 JUTANT GENERAL}. I'm the only man they ever gave a big blowout.

Q. 89

A. I was 89.

Q. My what a

A. I had a plaque and my wife's neice took my plaques and things that the state gave me. It hurt me so bad for her to take them, she's in California, she loves all that kind of stuff you know and she took my plaques and one thing and another that the state gave me while I was

Q. Why would she do that?

A. I don't know she just I don't know and it hurt me so bad.

Q. *That's too bad. Did you have any children then Mr. Brooks?

A. No when my first marriage, that's my little daughter, she's passed. I had a son and a daughter, they're both passed. She would have been about 65 now.

Q. *And you say you were married a first time and then

A. In Detroit.

Q. *And had 2 children from that marriage then?

A. Uh huh.

Q. *How long did your children live then?

A. Well they both died pretty young. Catheline was about 5 when she passed and my son died from birth almost, had a terrible time delivering him.

Q. *She's a pretty girl.

She's pretty, very pretty girl.

*So then after Detroit then you came back to Buxton again and then later you married a woman by the name, her name was Cooper at that time. That must have been sad to loose 2 children.

A. Of course I haven't wanted to go back to Detroit since.

Q. No, I'll bet not.

A. No.

Q. Maybe we could name some people.

*I've got just a couple of more questions. One of the things that we've really been confused upon is, you talk to some people who lived in Buxton and they say oh it was a tough town, and then you talked to other people who lived there and they say no, Buxton in many ways wasn't any different you know than any other town. Do you remember oh like a lot of gambling or one thing we've heard is on pay day that prostitutes would come in from Des Moines and stay a day or two and then they would leave. Do you remember much of that sort of thing going on?

- Crime*
- A. Well yes but that didn't happen daily, it just happened on pay days and gambling that was one of our biggest sports. We gambled, we just gambled out in the open. See we'd go down in Coopertown and be 2 or 3 crap games up there, shooting craps on big blankets and nobody bothered you.
- Q. *Just out in the open?
- A. It wouldn't no crime to shoot no craps then. Some would be playing cards and poker.
- Q. *Now the people playing would be mostly the people who lived in Buxton?
- A. Oh yeah, all the coal miners.
- Q. *Coal miners themselves. But as far as a lot of drinking or fights, how would you put it into perspective compared with other communities?
- A. Well, ~~now it's~~ *when I was* quite small on Saturday nights on pay day nights. It only happened on payday nights and they would get out and get to drinking, the Swedish, and the Irish, and Welch and all of them drinking together and that was great sports was fist fighting and the best man would win, they'd get out there and fight and no knives or nothing you know, no knives.
- Q. ~~*What in the case~~ *if wasn't because* you were fighting over a disagreement, it was a sport to see who was the best man, to see who was the best fighter.
- A. Just a sport, the best man, yeah. And then the Swedish boys and the Irish boys, the colored boys, they'd get all out there and they'd wrestle you know to see who was the strongest all that kind of sport and somebody would get killed or get shot it was rare.
- Q. *It was rare?
- A. Oh it was rare. Nobody never got, I can't even recall anybody ever getting robbed in Buxton and Muteha, *Muteha*
- Q. They didn't have locks on their doors?
- A. No we never locked our doors, we never locked our doors. Many nights we slept with our doors wide open.
- Q. You wouldn't be afraid to go downtown at night or anything?
- A. No walk anytime, night and day, wouldn't afraid of anything. Never locked the door. Well in Des Moines when we first moved we never locked our doors.
- Q. *That came later then? So in your thinking then Buxton really wasn't any rougher than really any other coal mining camp or any other places?
- A. Oh no. You never heard of no murders and one thing and another like that.
- Q. I wanted to ask you to about your schooling. Now you obviously went to school in *Muteha* for a while or did you have all of your education in *Muteha* before you moved to Buxton?
- A. Well to be frankly, be truthful I had very little schooling.

- Q. Is that right?
- A. Very, very, very little because the winters at that time they were so severe.
- Q. *The winters.
- A. You couldn't get to school in the wintertime only at times. Be so much snow and it'd be so cold see and I think I went to 3rd or 4th grade I think. I know I was the dumbest one in the family. I couldn't write, I couldn't spell, I couldn't figure, My mother used to keep me up half the night.
- Q. *Trying to help you?
- A. And I got P in my report card all the time. I didn't have nothing but Ps, mother would beat me.
- Q. *What did the P stand for?
- A. Poor.
- Q. *Poor.
- A. I got Poor all the times, I never got a good.
- Q. Or a fair?
- A. No I never got fair.
- Q. *Were you just not interested in school then?
- A. Well let me say I was just dumb,
- Q. *I don't buy that, I mean I'm sorry.
- A. I was bad.
- Q. *I don't buy that.
Disinterested, didn't care, that I can buy but not ignorant,
- A. Well the school teacher would always come by and slap my hand, I was always doing something with my hand or bothering somebody, playing. We used to have this quilt you know we shoot, hold up paper and shoot it you know and do everything you know it was out of order. But I had very little schooling but I can recall times that you couldn't even read my writing and I remember very well I went to apply for a job, a chauffeur job, but I was getting pretty well up there then, I was 17 or 18 years old and I call myself answering this ad. So my other brother, my next oldest brother he had a good education and he was a mathematician from the heart. He was a real mathematician and so I showed him, I showed my brother the answer to this letter. So he looked at it and took it, and laid it back down and so he said hot damn Herman, he said this isn't fit to send to nobody. He said why don't you get you a copy from town and learn how to write. So I hung my head, it made me feel bad you know and so I said okay. He said and practice making capital letters and one thing and another and learn to write. He said the man couldn't, he said I wouldn't show this to a dog, he said the man can't even read it. Well then I didn't know what to send or what to do and so I told my mother what my brother had said. Mother didn't raise my next oldest brother, he was raised by my grandmother

School

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A. in Lexington, Missouri. He went to school there.

Q. *Was he sent there so he could go to school then?

A. No she just wanted him see and so mother let him go see and so he had a very good schooling and my sisters all of them they went to high school in Des Moines. I've never seen inside of a high school. Oh I've seen inside of one but I've never gone to any. But I do pretty good, I write pretty good now, I write pretty good.

Q. *I take it that you practiced like he told you to.

A. Oh yeah, yeah some of it. I write pretty good now.

Q. *Oh I'll say that's very good.

Apparently you write back and forth to Valetta.

*I'll say that's good handwriting. What were the names of your brothers and sisters, you mentioned some of them.

A. I just jot these things down, I just sit here at night and jot down things. Well now my brother Jess, they've been dead so long I've almost forgotten their names, Olivia, they lived in Kansas City, they were half brothers and sisters and then my oldest sister was named Bessie and Mary, they died in California. There was Jess, _____ Ed and myself, _____ Herman.

Q. *I see. Were all your other brothers coal miners then at one time or another?

A. Yeah, all but Jess, Jess was a musician. He was a _____ he traveled all over the world, he went all over the world.

Q. *What did he play?

A. Everything, he played any kind of instrument, any kind but his biggest instrument was whiskey. Any kind of instrument. So he got a job in Kansas City, course Jessie was raised and lived there all his life and so he got the job as policeman and had his uniform and everything made. I think he wore it, I think they put him on nights. Jess worked I think about 2 or 3 nights before he said brother I turned that uniform in, he said boy I got so many friends in Kansas City I couldn't arrest none.

Q. *Oh he couldn't arrest any of his friends, so he had to quit.

A. He only worked 2 or 3 nights and quit.

Q. *That's good. A couple of other quick questions here. Does the name George Woodson

A. Oh he was a lawyer there in *Mitcha*.

Q. *Yeah and then didn't he later go over to Buxton also and live in Buxton for a while?

A. Yes he lived in Buxton for a while and then went to Des Moines.

Q. *Oh and practiced law in Des Moines then?

A. He went to Des Moines well of course at that time I think he got stroke by an automobile or something and got badly hurt and he kind of lost his mind.

Q. *Oh, did he live in Des Moines until he died then?

A. He died I think in Des Moines.

Q. *In Des Moines?

A. And I think his wife died there too.

Q. *He was married, he did marry?

A. Oh yes, yeah he did marry yeah.

Q. *Do you remember who he married?

A. No this lady I never had the occasion to meet his wife but she was a big brown skin, she was a nice looking woman at one time but Woodson was a good lawyer.

Q. *I gathered that.

A. Yeah he was a good lawyer, yeah. _____ on one job.

Q. *That's a long time isn't it? Well I'm sure you were able to work longer than most people before you retired.

A. Well I was 89 when I retired.

Q. *Do you remember who this is?

A. That's my sister in Kansas City, I just got through telling you about.

Q. *Oh that's beautiful. Would that have been taken about the time she was in Buxton do you think?

A. ^{mutcha} Mutcha.

Q. ^{mutcha} *Mutcha, that's beautiful.

A. This is Buxton.

Q. That's Buxton.

*Let's see, oh yeah I recognize that.

Do we have that?

*Yeah we do, we have that. We apparently got that from somebody else. I know that we've got that one.

*But this is beautiful, yeah uh huh. But that would be wonderful to have a picture of.

A. You can take it if you want it.

Q. *Okay, that's fine. We just thought we'd

A. You can take anything that you see there.

Q. *Okay, if we can get some identification now like that one.

A. That's in Buxton.

Q. *That's in Buxton?

A. That's our home on 7th Street.

Q. *On 7th Street and can you identify the people in the picture, that's a beautiful picture.

_____ we have that.

*Yeah we have that.

A. These pictures are pretty old, look like

Q. How about that one or some of the other _____

*That'd be beautiful.

Let's see if we can get some identification.

*Oh look at that, _____ his dad.

A. Some of these pictures I've forgotten.

Q. Okay, is your mother on there though?

A. No, mother isn't on here, my sister. I just had one sister _____

Q. *Was that your horse then?

A. Velmont, that was his name Velmont.

Q. *Could you keep the horse right there?

A. Oh yes we had a big yard. We lived down there at the end of the street, if you lived near the end of the street you had a lot of space.

Q. *Oh if you lived near the end of the street then you had a bigger lot and you could keep a horse and I suppose and a cow.

A. Oh yes we had horses and cows.

Q. So that's the company house and I suppose in back then that's a coal shed or an out house?

A. Out-house.

Q. *Out house and you had your own coal shed I suppose and

A. Yeah

Q. *Any kind of a barn at all or shelter?

photos
it

house

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- A. Yeah we had a barn, it was a barn there. But you probably can't see the barn.
- Q. *That is interesting. There're several others here that I'll let you and then we got all the pictures in one place.
*A couple here I wanted to ask about, it says H.W.
- A. That's my brother.
- Q. *Your brother.
- A. That's the one I was telling you about, he was a engineer. He's the one my grandmother raised. His name is Alonzo, Alonzo, W. Brooks.
- Q. *That's quite a picture and then this, we wondered if that was coal mining clothes.
- A. This is when he was firing at, I've forgotten this white boy's name, he was engineering at the mines at that time. That was taken at the mines.
- Q. *At the mines in Buxton. And then there was that, that is really quite a picture.
- A. This is one of my old sweethearts, Judy Pickens is her name.
- Q. *Did she come from Buxton too?
- A. No she came from Chicago.
- Q. *Chicago, my that's a beautiful outfit.
- A. Oh she was some dresser.
- Q. * that hat.
- Now you remember these?
- *Yes, uh huh.
- Okay, cause there's no point in taking them if we've already got a copy. Well we had a delightful time with Valetta. She had a picture of Minnie London and Minnie D. London's mother. Big picture, there're kind of
- *Her mother and grandmother.
- A. I don't have a picture of Aunt Minnie.
- Q. We haven't found anything to take yet have we?
- *Oh yeah, those over there. Now this is good, this is a different ^{Views} ~~end~~ of Buxton of the people, that one we don't have. It is a different view.
- A. Here's my 2 sisters and my mother.
- Q. *Now Valetta had this one. I remember seeing at her house. And this is your mother. Now your mother and Valetta's mother were sisters?
- A. Uh huh.
- Q. Right, okay. Did your mother remain in Des Moines then after her moving to Des Moines?

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A. She died in California, she went to California with my two sisters, they lived in California.

Q. *I see. Oh those nice. Those are nice pictures. I know who that is, that's Valetta.

A. Uh huh, that's Valetta.

Q. That's Valetta and who, her sister?

A. Let me see who that is with her.

Q. *She didn't have a sister.

A. That's my sister.

Q. That's your sister?

A. Uh huh my younger sister.

Q. *That certainly is quite a picture.

A. This my brother there, the one that

Q. *Is the same in that one?

A. Oh he was some dresser.

Q. *My that is really quite a picture. That's about the fanciest outfit I've ever seen any a boy.

A. That was taken in Lexington.

Q. *And that looks like somebody might have been on crutches,

A. Oh that was two boy friends of mines, they're dead now. I think one of these boys got his ankle or leg broke or something, Lennard Walker and I forgot his brother's name. Them are old pictures.

Q. *I'll bet that's you isn't it?

A. That's Herman. I was quite a athlete wasn't I?

Q. *Excellent picture. That is an excellent picture.

A. I was a pretty good athlete.

Q. And couldn't earn \$40 a week until you broke your wrist in the mines, gee wiz

A. I've had some pretty tough gos ^E and I've had some pretty good ones.

Q. It's been a long time ago by golly. Do you remember your time in Buxton as being a pretty good time. Most of the people we talked to said it was almost a Utopia, do you remember it that way?

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Am home of Buxton

- A. Well what could you expect on a coal camp where there was no kind of entertainment you had to make your own fun, so what you gonna do.
- Q. So you remember it and it's good but it wasn't anything special?
- A. No, it was nothing special but well I never was much of a drinker but we would drink and dances as I foresaid you know, but then you had to make your own fun you know.
- Q. You know one of the things we never asked about, was there a police, did the company have a policeman or a sheriff?
- A. Oh yeah.
- Q. *One thing I wanted to ask though, so many of the people who lived in Buxton have commented how it was different in terms of races